

DOG SPORTS & TRAINING

PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Spring 2018

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Command Discrimination Exercise

Order #	In that position the dog will change position	→	#15 feet	→	#50 feet
Order A	→ Sit to Stand	→	→ Stand to Down	→	→ Down to Sit
Order 1	→ Sit to Stand	→	→ Stand to Sit	→	→ Sit to Down
Order 2	→ Sit to Down	→	→ Down to Stand	→	→ Sit to Stand
Order 4 & 5	→ Sit to Down	→	→ Down to Stand	→	→ Stand to Sit

Scent/Nose Work

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Calendar of Events

Events are held at the PCOTC facility unless otherwise noted

Spring!



Jenn Michaelis' Terra with hydrangeas.

- Mar 4 AKC Obedience Trials
- Mar 5 Class Session 2 begins
- Mar 10-11 Kamal Fernandez Seminars
- Mar 18 White Plains Weekends (obedience run-thrus)
- Mar 24-25 Maureen Burke: Canine Fitness Seminars
- Apr 28 Club Meeting/Spring Cleanup
- May 2 Class Session 3 begins
- May 10-12 AKC Agility Trials
- May 19 PCOTC Open House
- Jun 27 Annual Club Meeting
- Jul 4 Session 4 begins
- Jul 29 AKC Obedience Trials
- Aug 28 Club Meeting
- Sep 5 Session 5 begins
- Oct 26 Club Meeting & Howl-o-ween Party
- Oct. 29 Session 6 begins
- Dec 12 Club Meeting & Holiday Party

Port Chester Obedience Training Club

AN AKC MEMBER CLUB
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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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President's Message

Greetings to all old and new PCOTC members! With the start of the new year, we're looking forward to it being a great one with as many exciting events as we can plan. We've got a bunch of different seminars in the works, across a wide range of disciplines, and look forward to adding more. This spring we will be holding another Open House at the club and welcoming the community to come in to learn more about who we are and what we do. I hope we all continue to work together to do everything we can to make our club one that we all can be proud of.

— Sara Gagnon, sara.gagnon13@gmail.com



Heather in the Spring. See page 21

Welcome New Members

- Diane Anderson, German Shepherd Dog
- Eckardt Johanning, German Shepherd Dog
- Barry Rosen & Kay Scott, Golden Retriever, Australian Shepherd
- Kelly Clinchy, Mixed Breed, Border Collie
- Tamara Lazarus, Scottish Terrier
- Phyllis Sabin, Standard Poodle
- Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Dachshund

Save the Dates: Club Meetings in 2018

- Saturday, April 28, Club Meeting/Spring Clean-up
- Wednesday, June 27, Annual Club Meeting
- Tuesday, August 28, Club Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 26, Howl-o-ween Party & Club Meeting
- Wednesday, Dec. 12, Holiday Party & Club Meeting

Club Doings

Open House May 19

PCOTC will present an Open House on May 19 to introduce dog owners to some of the training and sports we offer. We have put on Open Houses for several years now, using a “My Dog Can Do That!” model from the AKC.

The program is free. We will offer four rings that feature different training areas: Family Manners, Obedience/Rally, Agility, and Nose/Scent Work. Instructors and advanced students will take dog/handler teams through courses or experiences intended to give them a brief taste of our offerings.

In some rings, instructors will punctuate the event with short demos to explain some of the finer points of their sports.

More information, including hours, will be published soon.

To the right are photos from past Open Houses, clockwise from top left:

- Rewarding a dog for attempting an agility training obstacle;
- Family Manners ring with Family Manners Training Director Jenn Michaelis;
- Dog checking for scent in the Nose Work ring.



Nominating Committee

On February 27, the PCOTC Board voted to approve the following PCOTC members for the Nominating Committee, which will propose a slate of Board Officers for the club:

- Grace Heck, Committee Chair
- Barbara Seigel, Committee Member
- Virginia Hagan, Committee Member
- Margaret Mintz, Alternate
- Larry Kelly, Alternate

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!

Family Manners

Teaching Polite Dog Play

by Jenn Michaelis, FM Training Director, BA, CPDT-KA, RFE-CI

Polite dog play helps maintain your dog's canine social skills. Impolite play and rude interactions can easily deteriorate his social skills. Your job is to monitor and facilitate fair expectations about play opportunities and make sure your dog is being polite.

When to play:

- If your dog can do a sit or down to earn it. To increase impulse control, ask for 5 or more different behaviors before releasing to play.
- Introduce a playtime release cue: "Go Play!"
- Cheerfully interrupt play occasionally with a collar catch and treat. Dog may return to play after sit/down, and waiting to be released by "Go Play!"
- If your dog can't sit/down, he's too excited. Walk 10 feet away from the action and try again.

Polite Dog Play

- play bows
- gentle hip checks
- paw swatting
- biting/jumping/mounting < 3 seconds
- frequent rests or sniff breaks
- taking turns during chase games
- offense/defense role reversals

Impolite Dog Play

- pinning or neck biting > 3 seconds
- lack of rests/breaks
- lack of play bows
- lack of role reversals (offense-only play)
- constant pestering
- group chase (more than 2 dogs)

Always monitor noise, intensity, excitement, and speed. If any of these are getting on the high side, it's time to intervene and take an obedience break.

If you think the play is too rough, go ahead and interrupt. You can't do any harm by asking for a few obedience behaviors.



Family Manners



Teaching Polite Dog Play *continued*

The photos that accompany this article show dogs playing together politely and happily! Terra (Cane Corso) is Jenn's dog.

The Dogs, Page 4:

- Terry and Buddy (Border Collie)
- Kuma (Akita/Shepherd cross) and Melody (Labrador/Beagle cross)
- Terra and Journey (Bernese Mountain Dog)

Page 5:

- Oliver (Boxer) and Terra
- Pog (English Shepherd), Dilis (Australian Shepherd), and Terra



Family Manners Tip: Keeping Four Feet on the Floor

by Jenn Michaelis, FM Training Director, BA, CPDT-KA, RFE-CI

Teaching your dog to greet people without jumping can be challenging. It involves much preparation, anticipation and guidance from the handler. It involves lots of practice and self-control from the dog. Here are some simple steps to start using right away to improve the situation.

Combine any and all of the below to help your dog be successful during every meet-and-greet:

- * Stash a jar of treats outside, so it is easier to ask Fido to sit as you enter the house.
- * Store treats and leash right next to the front door in case of unexpected visitors.
- * Leash Fido before small, frail, or untrainable humans ("It's ok, I love dogs!") greet Fido. Step on the leash to prevent jumping both in house and outside.
- * Reward with a treat for every second that Fido interacts appropriately with human.
- As he gets better, reward with a treat every 10 seconds of interacting appropriately. Eventually, allow the interaction to be the ultimate reward.
- * Train all humans in the household to:
 - Turn their backs and avert eyes without speaking if Fido jumps.
 - Preemptively pet or ask for a sit before Fido jumps.
- Use a very high-value treat or Kong to distract Fido from the excitement of visitors.
- Practice appropriate door greetings every day when no one is actually visiting.
- Never scold Fido for jumping up. Negative attention can still be rewarding.
- Never allow people to pet Fido for jumping. This actually trains Fido to jump up! Train the human to enter the house with a treat and ask for a sit.

Agility

Agility Tip: Training in Real Life

by Stefanie Rainer, Agility Training Director, OMD Assistant Coach

Many of my students that come to the club to train in agility commute from New York City or live in smaller spaces that don't allow for the storage of agility equipment. These individuals want to know how they can continue to train what they have learned in their weekly classes at home with little to no equipment. The truth is that you don't need any equipment to train your skills. You can easily practice on things that you would find either already in your home or out and about in nature. Some of my favorites include sends around trees, 2 on 2 off on a sidewalk, and a down stay on a towel.

Sending your dog around a tree can translate to jump offering or wrapping a wing jump. You can practice sending your dog around a tree, the same way you would around a jump wing and each time you do so, move a little bit further away from the tree. This will help build obstacle commitment or distance from the dog. I

challenge you to then practice some of your handling skills. You can practice your front crosses, blind crosses, tandem turns, and more! If for whatever reason you don't have any trees in your yard or you're not near a friendly off-leash park, you can easily do all of these things around a trash bin.

When I teach the contact equipment, I follow the method of back chaining the behavior. I teach the end behavior first (the 2 on 2 off) followed by having the dog learn to run across the contact equipment into that end position. Once the dog has a really solid understanding of the 2 on 2 off behavior, it is very easy to get them to perform the whole obstacle at speed and with confidence. So because we are only looking to train the 2 on 2 off, you can have your dog learn to do that behavior on almost anything, but I picked a sidewalk in this case because I imagine most people come across one every day. Practice having

your dog get into position with you ahead of them, behind them, and parallel to them on both your right and left side.

Finally, teach a down stay on a towel. This one is valuable for many reasons. This will help with impulse control and start-line stays. If you have a dog that tends to be "pushy" this can help your dog's understanding of the stay. It is very clear when the dog moves a paw off the towel that would be considered breaking criteria. Remember to always go slowly and build the duration of your dog's stay over time. Don't try to go from a 2 second stay to a 5-minute stay in one training session. Always try your best to set your dog up for success. You can also practice sending your dog to a towel. This will help with obstacle commitment and can translate to your pause table criteria.

Have fun with these exercises and happy training!

Annual AKC Agility Trials May 10, 11 and 12

Port Chester's annual agility trials will be held at FDR Park in Yorktown on May 10, 11 & 12. We will be setting up the site on May 9. Judges will be Stephanie Capkovic and Lisa DiLorenzo. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Debbie Poe at debbie.poe@gmail.com.

The Trial Committee consists of Lisa McCarthy, Trial Chair; Debbie Poe, Barbara Siegel, Tom Nardi, Deborah Salerno.

Barry Rosen will again be our trial photographer. Jamie Yates-Yee of Heaven and Earth will be offering acupressure and massage sessions for people and dogs in addition to her beautiful array of collars and leashes. We will also be doing Qs for the Cure to raise money to fight canine cancer.

We will be recognizing agility teams that are retiring on Saturday for club members and trial participants. If you are interested in reading a blurb about your PAWsome agility team and having us cheer for you, please email Lisa



McCarthy at ptrialchair@gmail.com to sign up. It's free!

Anyone who wishes to purchase agility equipment from MAX200 can email sales@max200.com and pick up their merchandise at the trial.

Volunteering at My First Agility Trial

Written by Sandra Shivers after our 2017 trial

Find lot 2 (at FDR Park) and walk through the woods until you see a white tent. I was a little nervous that I might not find the lot, the forest or the tent, but when I found the lot, I could almost see the tent from the parking lot. All first time volunteers probably are a little nervous. I certainly was. There must have been 20 people working on different things and I had no idea which one might be Lisa, the trial chair. But, I was greeted with a lot of smiles and someone pointed her out. It was set up with no dogs in the ring on the first day I worked. I was assigned to work with someone who was great at explaining what to do.

The next three days were the trial. That's when volunteers are really needed to keep everything running smoothly and on time.

Obedience

Obedience Tip: Command Discrimination Exercise

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

Command Discrimination Exercise

Order #	In Heel position the dog will change position	→	@15 feet	→	@30 feet
Open A Order 1	Sit to Stand	→	Stand to Down	→	Down to Sit
Order 3 & 5	Sit to Stand	→	Stand to Sit	→	Sit to Down
Order 2	Sit to Down	→	Down to Stand	→	Sit to Stand
Order 4 & 6	Sit to Down	→	Down to Stand	→	Stand to Sit

There are new AKC Competition Obedience rules that will be effective on May 1, 2018. One rule change is a Command Discrimination exercise at the Open level. The new exercise eliminates the Group Sit & Down exercises.

Above is a chart of the change of position sequences performed in the Open A and Open B Command Discrimination exercise. There are four different sequences. The order for Open B will be posted at the ring before the class starts.

The goal in teaching the position changes is to do so with minimal or no forward movement as the dog moves from one position into another. Some of these are quite similar to the Utility signal exercise. The biggest challenge, in my opinion, is teaching the Stand from a Sit and the Down to Stand. You may need to re-teach your dog how to Stand from a Sit and a Down. I suggest you proceed slowly and break the behaviors down for your dog to be successful.

Make sure each change of position is reliable on a verbal cue before you add distance between you and the dog. The new rule allows for hand and verbal cues to be given to the dog during the changes. Personally, I plan to use only a verbal cue when the dog is to transition into the Stand. My dog is green in utility and I don't want to cause confusion with the Utility signals at this time.

Props are an excellent tool to use when teaching the position changes to prevent forward movement. I would suggest a platform or a PVC chute. You can further generalize the position changes by using stairs, decks and platforms found in the environment.

The rule changes present a new training challenge, but also alters the difficulty of the Open A class. Some argue that the Sit and Down stay were very difficult for some dogs and eliminating them will make showing at the Open level safer for all dogs without the risk of a dog fight or altercation in the group stays. I do agree this is true, but the change certainly increases the difficulty of the Open class. I look forward to working with my own dog and my students' dogs to train these new behaviors.

I will continue to teach long Sit and Down Stays to my personal dogs. A solid stay behavior is important for many everyday life situations as well as other dog performance sports.

Good Luck and Happy Training!

Kamal Fernandez Auditing Spots Available

Working spots for Kamal Fernandez Obedience Seminars, March 10-11, are full, as are private sessions on March 12.

However, auditing spots are still available; to sign up, go to <https://register.asapconnected.com/Courses.aspx?CourseGroupID=34228>

Obedience

Rally Tip: **Getting It Down Cold!** *by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA*

What should a Rally performance look like? Ideally, the partners—human and canine—should move through the course briskly and smoothly in complete harmony, striding along the path indicated, performing the skills called for at each station without loss of contact or rhythm, and crossing the finish line pleased with each other.

Sure.

In order to have a chance to achieve this (really great) outcome, lots of preparation needs to happen and the responsibility for getting it done is yours. Of course, you must learn and teach your dog to perform each of the exercises that may be used at the level you are working at, but there is a step you may not have paid enough attention to:

If you don't recognize all of the signs instantly, at a glance, you are

headed for trouble. Even if your dog knows all the components of a skill, such as Call Front—which always includes a Sit-Finish, or Right, Forward—which means without a sit. If you don't instantly recognize the graphics and words as you approach the sign and have to think, you will lose your contact with your dog, he will notice a lovely scent wafting up from the floor, or decide to count the house, or wonder how much fun it would be to party with that Golden wagging her tail ringside.

So certainly you should have trained each of the exercises that may be included in a course you are entering, but you need to know those signs cold. Your job is to familiarize yourself with the course during the walk through, clarify with the judge any questions you may have, and then to support and have a great time with your partner as you work together through the course the judge has designed for you.

AKC Obedience Trials, Maureen Burke Canine Fitness Seminars March 4, 2018

PCOTC has been approved for two AKC obedience trials at our facility on March 4.

Event Chair is Karen Wrey, 845-592-1722 or kayray@optonline.net. Event Secretary is Lori Carver, seabreez13@hotmail.com.

Judges are Mrs. Lynda S. Moore, Mr. Rick Ritacco, and Mr. Larry Wilson. Classes offered include Novice A & B, Beginner Novice A & B, Obedience Preferred Novice, Open A & B, and Obedience Preferred Open. Utility will not be offered at these trials.

In trial 1, Mr. Ritacco will judge Novice classes and Mrs. Moore will judge Open classes. In trial 2, Mr. Wilson will judge both Novice and Open classes.

Trial Stewards needed as we go to press. Have fun stewarding for your club. See competitors come out and exhibit all their wonderful handling skills. No experience necessary—you will be trained on the spot.

Please contact Chief Steward Morgaana Menzel at morgaanamenzel@gmail.com

Maureen Burke will offer one full-day and two half-day canine conditioning seminars on March 24–25.

On Saturday, Maureen will offer a full-day Intro to Conditioning seminar which will focus on warm-ups, core work, strengthening, and balance work.

On Sunday morning, Advanced Conditioning is offered for teams who already have taken an online class for fitness with their dogs and know their way around some of the equipment. It will focus on strengthening each of the three main parts of your dog's body: core, shoulders and rear.

On Sunday afternoon, Warm Up and Cool Down teaches you how to efficiently warm up your dog before you work him/her, and how to cool down after working.

For more information/to register, click [here](#).

As one of the founders and owners of High Octane Agility in Doyleston, PA, Maureen



brings 20+ years experience training dogs. For the past six years, Maureen and Rhyme, her 9-year-old Border Collie, have been experiencing the wonderful world of fitness! Fitness has helped improve Rhyme's jumping, balance, coordination, and relationship with Maureen. Maureen is also beginning training with her two-year-old BC puppy, Steel, in agility, manners, and fitness.

Maureen helps other teams find success with fitness equipment by teaching seminars using the FitPAWS equipment. In addition, High Octane is now a FitPAWS and a Klimbs dealer. Maureen trains on a regular basis with Bobbie Lyons.

Nose / Scent Work

Two New Scent Skills Instructors

Mary Skirchak ANWI

Mary has always had a passion for animals. When she adopted Emily and Daisy, it blossomed into a full-fledged love affair with dogs. After completing Canine Good Citizen classes with them, she craved more. The trio enrolled in Nose Work courses at PCOTC in 2011. The challenge, teamwork and sense of gratification were felt instantly. After a few years of actively working through the nose work ranks, she began to entertain the idea of teaching, hoping to bring the joy of the sport to others.

Mary completed her CNWI Training in 2017 and has dedicated most of her free time to learning everything she can about nose work and dog training. She is certified as an AKC Scent Work judge for Novice and Advanced levels, as well as a USCSS judge. Prior to obtaining her certifications, Mary enjoyed volunteering for many trials, as it gave her ample opportunity to observe and learn.

She has found that the trust formed between dog and human through nose work can help rehabilitate even the most fearful or reactive dog. With Emily, she has earned the NACSW Elite Champion title, earning the Harry Award in the process. With Daisy as her competition companion, she has earned all four NW3 elements titles, currently working on their NW3 title.

Mary does caution that the bond you will form with your dog is highly addictive and it will bring your relationship with your furry friend to a whole new level of awesome!

Contact Mary at mskirchak@yahoo.com



Kathie Nurena ANWI, KPA-CTP

Kathie has loved animals all her life.

Through years of observation and education, Kathie has become interested in the bond and understanding that develops between a handler/canine team through training and playing together. Her introduction to scent work started at an introductory workshop at PCOTC in 2010. It was clear her dog, Shorty, loved it. Kathie continued her education in Nose Work by attending camps, classes and workshops, and trialing when time allowed. In 2017, she participated in the Certified Nose Work Instructor training course.

Kathie believes all dogs and all handlers can improve their skills and their bond through training together. Helping teams partner and be successful is one of the reasons that Kathie has taken her passion for training with her own dogs, to helping others attain their training goals.

She has competed in agility, nose work and freestyle with her dogs. She knows great dogs come in all shapes and sizes, and has volunteered with Metropolitan Maltese Rescue and American Bouvier Rescue League. She is secretary for Bouvier Owners of New England.

Kathie has completed Karen Pryor Academy's Dog Training Professional course, and the Certified Nose Work Instructor Course. She is a member of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers. She is an evaluator for the AKC's Canine Good Citizen Program and an approved judge for United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS).

Kathie can be reached at krrn27@yahoo.com.



Best of Breed Handling

by Fran Hellman CPDT-KA

A Westminster Dog Show Experience



Fran and her homebred cavalier, CH Sunjays Kiss Me Kate (aka Kate) at the 2018 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Show my show dog at Westminster? Who? Me? No, I don't think so! This is how the conversation would have gone, and only just a year ago. Well, after 32 years of showing my dogs at conformation events, I finally decided to take the plunge. Maybe the deciding factor had something to do with not worrying about what other people say anymore. This is one of the benefits of getting older. The thought of me, an amateur owner-handler, showing my dog amongst top professional handlers is intimidating to say the least! However, there is no rule or law that says you can't. With hard work and determination, and sometimes a bit of luck, an amateur can certainly beat the pro's. The other deciding factor was that my show dog has been doing a fair share of winning and is closing in on her grand championship. So, with the opportunity at hand, I felt it was time to go for it.

The Westminster dog shows are around Valentine's Day every year. The entries open in November of the previous year. Entries are limited so it's advisable to enter on the day the entries open. Champions and non-champions can enter but non-champions must have achieved a major win before the closing date of the show. Once your entry is submitted you wait for about a month to find out if your entry was accepted. Then, about a month later, you receive a packet, which includes the judging program, parking lot tag, exhibitor ticket, and other info. The daytime judging is on Piers 92 and 94 in Manhattan. There are many rules that you must comply with or your entry will be disqualified, i.e. since this is a benched show, your dog must be at its benching area at a certain time and cannot leave until 5:00 pm. They are allowed time off the bench for potty breaks, exercise and, of course, when showing.

Throughout the course of the day there are numerous spectators milling about, asking questions and taking photo's and videos of the dogs. The press is everywhere interviewing exhibitors and spectators. The handlers are dressed to the 9's and the dogs are primed, puffed, fluffed and looking gorgeous.

The benching area is an experience in and of itself. You get to be with other fanciers of your breed where you can chat, snack, and learn from them.

The lucky ones who won Best of Breed get to leave a bit earlier so they can get some rest and get over to Madison Garden for the nighttime Group judging. The rest of us get to go home and celebrate any other winning or just having the experience of the day. That would be me.

Asked if I would do it again, I would say "absolutely!"

AKC Delegate's Report

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

As is customary, the last Delegate meeting of 2017 was held in conjunction with the Royal Canin Invitational in Orlando, Florida. This location provides an excellent opportunity to observe several dog sports I don't usually have the opportunity to see such as Dock Diving and Disc Dog. Although I spent three full days at the site, two of those days were totally devoted to Delegate meetings.

We are coming up on yet another election for the AKC Board of Directors. Many very qualified candidates have been nominated by the Nominating Committee and there have also been a number of last minute write-in candidates. When casting my vote for the club, I always keep in mind the goals of P.C.O.T.C. and our commitment to the bond that exists between dog and handler. It is surprising to me how often this aspect of dog sports is overlooked by all the pre-voting rhetoric. I listen to and read hour after hour of candidates extolling their own education, their career success and the awards they have garnered over their professional lifetimes, but nothing is ever mentioned about how, once elected, they will find a way to work with each other and the other members of the Board to foster the bond that should exist between dogs and their human companions. The function of the Board is to provide governance over the total organization and to consider and opine on recommendations that bubble up from the delegate body, which, supposedly, come to the Delegates thru their relations with the fancy and the public. My own experience has been that, except for the Westminster KC show and the Invitational, Board Members rarely attend any of the member club's public functions. This is a missed opportunity, in my opinion.

Some interesting items discussed at this meeting:

The AKC Director of Education presented an overview of the new on-line education courses and other initiatives offered by her department. By clicking the "Resources" button on the AKC masthead, anyone can avail themselves of valuable information on topics of interest to Breeders, Judges or Groomers. Many of the courses in the basic Breeder's section are free. Courses in the Breed Standard section are available for a fee. Anyone interested in gaining an insight into a specific breed standard will find a wealth of information in these courses, written by acknowledged experts in their field.

Having recently chaired an AKC trial at Port Chester, I am very aware of the cost of the award ribbons given to competitors and how this impacts profitability.

Discussion was held concerning the AKC requirement that the show date must be printed on ribbons. It was suggested that it would save clubs money by not having dates on ribbons as 1) they

would not have to throw away ribbons not awarded 2) they could order in bulk and 3) they could order early; thereby receiving discounts from ribbon companies. Clubs indicated expenses related to shows are extremely important. One Delegate reported that, at her recent show, the cost of ribbons was \$2,240 with dates, without dates the cost dropped to \$1,000. The cost of Rosettes would drop from \$4.00 each with dates to \$1.00 each without dates. This was by ordering from ribbon companies in bulk instead of through the Superintendent of the show. Since the final record of titles won is kept by the AKC, it is thought that stamping the dates on the ribbons is redundant. It was mentioned that in Canada they have baskets at every show where people who wish to donate their ribbons for future use may do so. This suggestion will soon be brought before the Board for a vote.

AKC Government Relations: It was reported that this department worked on 2,000 bills in 2017. Three new employees have been added to their staff.

Achiever Dog Title: This title has generated a great deal of interest and will be re-evaluated in one year.

Puppy of Achievement Title: To date, 510 Puppy of Achievement certificates have been awarded. It is hoped that awarding this certificate will encourage people to continue in competitive dog sports.

Trick Dog Title: VERY popular! From May 1 – November 15, 2017, 100 Trick Dog titles were awarded. It was noted that any CGC Trainer can run a Trick Dog event and they can be run in conjunction with other competitive events.

There has been a realignment of point schedules, approved in November, 2017. The last realignment was in 2012.

And finally, the AKC has totally revamped their website—again. It was acknowledged that the last revamping—done two years ago—was unsuccessful due to the emphasis placed on the general dog-owning public and the resulting chaos competitors had to navigate through to look for topics interesting to them such as points and awards, and the locations of shows and trials. I must admit that, having been told that a one-hour class was available for all Delegates to learn about the new site at our last meeting, I felt that this new site must be really complicated if I needed an hour to learn how to navigate the changes. I was very pleased to experience the class and discover that I was wrong. The new site is colorful, direct, easy to navigate and full of information not previously available on the old site! However, this new site was supposed to be unveiled in January. We are now at the beginning of March!

Winter Events

AKC Scent Work Trials

by Kathy Gregory Photography © Morgaana Photography

The club hosted its very first AKC Scent Work Trial on December 3. Despite all the worrying that we would have snow, the day dawned bright and sunny and unseasonably warm. As with many of the other events we hold at the club, parking was available on nearby streets. Competitor registration, and hospitality for the many

volunteers helping that day, was held on the Upper Level.

We held two separate trials, each consisting of two Novice level elements: Containers and Interiors. 116 of a maximum of 125 dogs ran that Sunday. Of the 116 teams that ran, 76, or about 66%, achieved a Qualifying score. Successfully moving the teams

to and from the search areas without too much confusion or mishaps was of prime importance and, due to the invaluable oversight of our wonderful volunteers, we had no unpleasant incidents.

Based on the success of this event, we are already planning our next Scent Work Trial for next Fall.



Winter Events

Holiday Party Presentation



At PCOTC's Holiday Party on December 5, Katherine O'Donnell, a new PCOTC Board member and owner of a Hope AACR-certified dog, described Hope AACR's work.

Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) is a national all-volunteer, non-profit crisis response organization

with volunteers specially trained in psychological first aid, incident command, and pet first aid, to name a few. Handlers benefit from this training, developing skills that they can employ during a callout. Hope AACR teams are educated to provide comfort and support to people while working in stressful, and unpredictable environments. Agencies such as FEMA call upon Hope AACR teams to provide comfort and support to people affected by disasters. Scientific evidence has shown that animals are a positive factor in helping people cope with traumatic events. Hope teams have brought much comfort and encouragement, while canines absorb the stress of the people that they are interacting with.

Hope was founded in May 1999, responding to a school shooting that left four peo-

ple dead, and twenty-five injured. Students who were traumatized by the event were not responding to traditional methods, and were helped by Hope. The founder came away with the realization that therapy dogs can also bring comfort and support to people suffering from the impact of disasters. However, it was realized that therapy dogs and their handlers would need much more specialized training. Thus, Hope was born.

Hope currently has over 350 registered teams throughout seven regions in the country. Each region has a director who is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations. Crisis response teams are deployed from each region as necessary as well as traveling to other regions. For additional information, and finding out how you and your canine partner might join Hope, please refer to the Hope website:

www.hopeaacr.org

Volunteering at My First Agility Trial *cont. from p. 6*

I thought the best job was the "Ring Crew." You get front row seats inside the ring so you can see all the dogs up close. Your only task is to put bars back on the jumps if they are knocked off or if there is a height change in the middle of the event. Otherwise, you just sit back and relax. After sitting awhile, I needed to move around, so I was assigned to be a "leash runner." When the handler and the dog reach the start line, the handler leaves the leash on the ground or hands it to you. All you have to do is get the leash to the exit. Sounds easy enough, but—you can't start walking if the dog is facing you and could be distracted, then you shouldn't walk in front of cameras, and of course you can't get between the judge and the scribe (another volunteer who writes down the judge's signals). You are almost running an obstacle course yourself. But, you do get good exercise.

If you haven't been to an agility trial, you should volunteer just to see one. It is very fast paced! On one of the days I was working, there were two rings. Each had nine volunteers and a judge. There were first time volunteers like me and some that had been doing it for quite a while. There are the three ring crew volunteers and the leash runner inside the arena with the judge and the dog and the handler. Then there is the gate keeper who does roll call, adjusts the schedule and notifies the assistant scribe (another volunteer) of any changes in order or any no-shows. The assistant scribe makes sure the pre-printed score sheet matches the dog

in the ring and hands it to the scribe. The scribe needs to have a bit of training and is usually an experienced volunteer. They are responsible for accurately marking the judge's signals on the score sheet and getting the correct time from the timer. The timer's job was a little intimidating to me. There is a box that is connected to the start and finish line. You would think that it would be an easy job since the dogs start and stop the clock when they cross their first and last obstacle. But, there is a "ready" buzzer and the timer sets the clock for the handlers to walk the course. The box has a lot of buttons. Definitely, a more experienced volunteer handled the timer job. Now, if you want a lot of exercise, you could sign up for the score runner job. They take the note sheet from the scribe and run it to the "command center" where everything is entered into the official scoring.

There are many great things about volunteering for this event. You get to participate and see the "show" first hand; there are snacks and volunteer raffles with great prizes. You learn all you can possibly handle in one sitting about agility training and competition.

I had a great time, met only friendly, helpful people who always stopped to say how grateful they were that we volunteers were there, and I saw beautiful and talented dogs. I was so busy I didn't realize the day was over. Thank you for inviting me to join the fun.

Winter Events

Trick Dog Title Evaluations

Photography © Morgaana Photography

After a postponement due to poor weather, AKC Trick Dog title evaluations took place on December 23. Family Manners instructor Jamie McKay hosted and was the evaluator.

PCOTC students who earned titles included:

- New member Krystina Murawski and Jaxston the Pomeranian got their Novice Trick Title.

- Deb Salerno and her dogs received titles.
- Jill Newman and Stormy, and Joanne Shefler and Beamer earned Advanced Titles.
- Morgaana Menzel and Rhoswyn Fae and Phouka Punx received their Intermediate and Advanced Titles.

From the 1920's and 1940's when dogs such as Rin Tin Tin and Lassie won peoples' hearts, trick dog training has become

one of the most exciting new areas in dog training.

AKC Trick Dog titles are official AKC titles listed on the dog's title record. The AKC website provides Tricks Checklists for each level of testing (Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced), to be included with the AKC Trick Dog Title Application. These checklists include lists of tricks that may be offered at each level; 10 tricks are required at each level.



New PCOTC member Krystina Murawski and Jaxston the Pomeranian received their Novice Trick Dog title at PCOTC's Dec. 23 event.

Winter Events

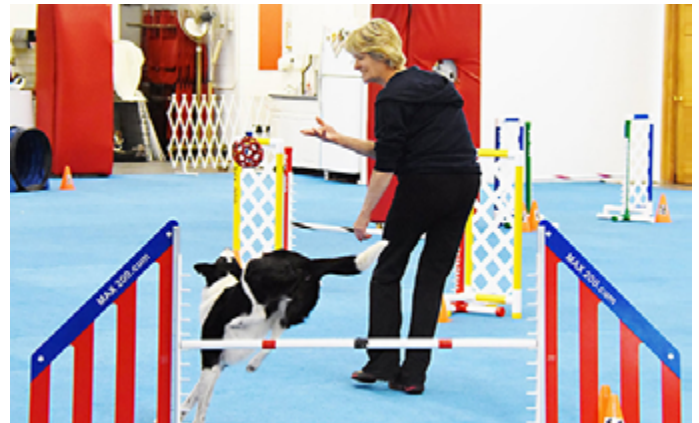
Kathleen Oswald Agility Seminars

by Grace Heck Photography © Morgaana Photography



Clockwise from top left:

- Grace Heck with Kathleen;
- Kathleen Oswald watching a seminar participant
- Sara Gagnon with Kathleen
- Dana Rocco.



In January, four-time EO team member Kathleen Oswald brought her unique insights to teams at Port Chester. She presented two half-day seminars on Saturday, and a full day seminar on Sunday, working with each team on short sequences designed to further their critical understanding and execution of key skills.

The first seminar, “Crosses: Where, When, How, and Why?” was an in depth review of Crosses, covering the decision making process for which technique to employ, as well as how to flawlessly execute them and ensure strong communication with your dog. Participants walked several short sequences, discussing the pro’s and con’s of different handling methods, and then ultimately applied them with their dogs.

In the second seminar, “Building Distance Basics”, Kathleen focused on the impor-

tance of being able to handle at a distance, and drills and sequences to help teams build up these skills. She discussed the different types of distance, Ahead, Behind, Lateral, and Even (ABLE), and how they are additive, creating a greater challenge when paired together, rather than being individual. Teams worked on both short drills, which could be practiced at home, and short sequences, to see how these drills applied to real course challenges.

The third seminar, focused on International Prep, and covered everything from running and analyzing challenging courses, to preparing for a large trial. Participants walked several International Style courses, breaking them down into shorter sequences, and perfecting their handling for both speed and accuracy. Kathleen focused on aspects of course analysis such as knowing when to push for the tightest turn, and when

sacrificing tightness to enable the handler to get to a different critical point was more important. During lunch, Kathleen held a round table discussion, detailing her 4 month plan for preparing for a large event. This comprehensive plan covered everything from fitness and conditioning for human and canine athletes, to research on judges, to preparing for unique trial environments (such as TV crews at Westminster). In the afternoon, teams continued with course analysis, sequences, and drills for obstacle independence.

In each seminar, Kathleen came prepared with a printout detailing the concepts covered, as well as small space drills teams could practice at home. Reviews from the seminar were extremely positive, and we look forward to having Kathleen back at a future date.

Winter Events

Meet the Breeds

By Jane Wheeler Photography © Morgaana Photography and Janis Mandrus

On February 10, a crew of PCOTC members hosted a booth at the AKC's Meet the Breeds event at Piers 92 and 94 in Manhattan. PCOTC was the only training club with a booth at Meet the Breeds, which introduces AKC breeds to the general public.

The PCOTC crew included Jane Wheeler (organizer), Darrell and Cc Dwyer, Janis Mandrus, John Potter, Scott Shaw and Kelly Cornish, and Mary Skirchak. In addition, the following dogs helped visitors see how a well-trained dog is a happier dog and makes a great companion:

Australian Cattle Dog Omar AKA "Omie" (Dwyers). Omar has been doing agility for about four years, and his owners told booth visitors how his agility training

literally changed his life "from being an energy-filled dog who was hard to please to being an enthusiastic performance dog who loves to please."

Bernese Mountain Dogs Fin—male, and Daisy—female, (Shaw/Cornish), were "gentle giants" much enjoyed by event-goers.

Daisy, a mixed breed (Skirchak), has been involved in nose work since 2011. She had a wonderful time at Meet the Breeds and got to kiss all who stopped to meet her. Mary explained how nose work helped Daisy focus, gain confidence, and expend some of her excess energy. Younger couples were also interested in freestyle and dancing with their dogs.

Thanks to the graphic design skills of Mar-

cy Rauch, PCOTC's table had a new look. New two-sided postcards have replaced our former brochures, and a new "events list" display helped publicize upcoming events at PCOTC. The postcard text covers essential points about PCOTC—we began in 1940 in Port Chester but are now located in White Plains; we train dogs and their owners in family manners and many sports; we offer classes days, nights, and weekends; a list of the training categories we offer; we use positive training methods; and we are an AKC member club. We first used a postcard last fall at a public event because we didn't have time to bring our more-complex brochure up to date, and found that event goers really liked the postcard format.



Winter Events

PCOTC at the 5th Annual Masters Agility Championships at Westminster

Photography © Morgaana Photography

PCOTC was well-represented at the Fifth Annual Masters Agility Championships at Westminster, held on Feb. 10 in Manhattan at Pier 92.

PCOTC Agility Instructors who participated were:

- Stefanie Rainer and Nike
- Stephen McKay and Scorch
- Lisa Topol and Schmutzy

PCOTC students who participated were:

- Ellen Halperin and Drew

- Sarah Johnson and Sassafras
- Joanne Ouchterloney and Winky
- Junior Handler Alicia Ouchterloney and Macaroni
- Deborah Salerno and Kyan
- Karen Shinoda and Sandy
- Jacqueline Soccodato and Buster



Clockwise from top left:

Agility Handlers Sarah Johnson with Sassafras, Lisa Topol with Schmutzy, Alicia Ouchterloney with Macaroni, Deb Salerno and Kyan, and Stephen McKay with Scorch

Winter Events

Casey Jones Seminars at PCOTC

Text & Photography © Morgaana Photography

On Saturday, February 24, PCOTC held a very informative seminar with Casey Jones called “Helpful Reinforcement Strategies: Take The Frustration Out of Your Performance Reinforcement.” This was a workshop meant to clean up communication between dog and trainer.

The first half of the day focused on using food, the second half focused on toy skills. Attendees learned about the emotional connection between reinforcement and training outcomes.

The workshop was a mixture of lecture, discussion, and human/dog applications. It addressed questions about why, when, and what to use for reinforcement, and presented some alternative strategies for learning how to be clean, clear, and concise with your reinforcement, thus seeing an instant improvement in behavior and communication with our dogs.



Glad Tales

GCH Izzy is Not Just A Beauty

GCH CH Britannia Fuzzy Logic RA FDC TKN CGC is not yet 3 years old. She was the second of her litter to finish her championship. Her sister was professionally handled. Within 9 months of her championship Izzy earned her Grand Championship with 5 majors and 10 Best of Opposite Sex. Izzy has been completely owner-handled by Megan Woods. Izzy is not just a beauty and has competed in Rally, Obedience, Farm Dog, and Tricks. Once she retires from the conformation ring she will continue in these performance venues.

— *Audrey Wood*



Rhoswyn Fae is Tricky!

Hosted and evaluated by PCOTC Trainer Jamie McKay, the AKC Tricks Titling Event was held on December 23. Thank you, Virginia Dare, for coaching us. We are very proud to say that Rhoswyn Fae got her Intermediate and Advanced Trick Titles!

— *Morgaana Menzel*

Glad Tales

Winter Earns Leg 2

Winter earned his second leg towards his CD Obedience Title at the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County in Lake Park, Florida on January 13, 2018 with a respectable 3rd Place.

— *Michelle Trummer*



Emily Earns NACSW Elite Champion Title

Emily Skirchak earned her Elite Champion title and was top in trial this December.

— *Mary Skirchak*

Sassafras Competes at Westminster

I was thrilled to be able to take Sassafras to compete at the 5th Annual Westminster Masters Agility Championship. She is not one of the fastest agility dogs and the audience was enthusiastically cheering her on. She earned one Q for her standard run although her jumpers run was my favorite. WKC was not something I thought we would ever do so it was all the more of an honor to be able to step to the line with her that day. So many great dogs and handlers, the wonderful crowd, and the PCOTC presence was strong! I was grateful for my trusty assistant, junior handler Ramona Ross. What fun!!

— *Sarah Johnson*



Sad Tales

My Stardust Melody “Heather”

UD RN MH17 QAA WCX CCA 3/3/08 – 12/15/17

Heather loved to “work” and welcomed any kind of purposeful activity. Once in an obedience trial, when she was bouncing happily up and down beside me while heeling, the ever-tolerant judge Pat Scully just smiled and said “Nice spirited dog”. Referring to her energetic happy nature, one of my training partners declared “I know people who would kill for a dog like that”. In spite of her antics, she finished her obedience titles with placements and earned multiple field titles as well. Just after her eighth birthday, she developed lymphoma, and in spite of aggressive treatment during the next 20 months, this miserable, virulent disease consumed her small body and stole the life she loved so much. Even though she had so many achievements, what I miss most is her sweet companionship and loving nature.

— *Sue Handelman*

Sirrocco’s Private Party “Phouka”

12/30/2017

The snow came down December 30th and with it my dear beloved 8-year-old Boxer Dog, Phouka, spoke to me with his eyes. He then told me he had somewhere else to go and other things to do. Phouka peacefully passed in my arms at home with his family surrounding him in song and poetry.

“Sirrocco’s Private Party” was a Versatility and AKC Achiever Boxer Dog. He loved the sports of Agility, Rally, Obedience, Barn Hunt, Lure Coursing and was an Advanced Trick Dog. Phouka also performed in Manhattan on many runs of Shakespeare’s only written canine character “The Two Gentlemen of Verona” in which he played the role of “Crab” and got a Standing Ovation. He had a passion for performing.

He was a true gentleman, my heart dog, companion, and my Champion.

Phouka Punx also enjoyed being around horses, exploring on long hikes with Wynn timer and his Daddy, and hunting for ramps in the deep woods. He really loved going to Agility classes at PCOTC and loved to play the game of Agility. Phouka told me to thank his awesome Agility trainers Stephen McKay, Mary Champagne and Stefanie Rainer for teaching us all the things.

Phouka is survived by Jack Russell Terrier “Prince Pippin” and his beloved niece “Sirrocco’s Song Of The Sea” Rhoswyn, who will miss him dearly and carry on his legacy.

The loss I feel over his death is overwhelming, but this grief is insignificant compared to the happiness I shared with him.

My sweet baby boy—You only broke my heart once.

Goodnight Sweet Prince:

And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

— *Morgaana Menzel*



Our Stars

New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 2/21/17

RALLY

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Rally Novice (RN)

2/9/18 Kathleen Foley, Destiny & Fireheart's Celtic Magic RN
RATO CGC, "Lorna," Scottish Terrier

AGILITY

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Agility Course Test 1 (ACT1)

7/22/17 Sigrid Neilson, "Sprout," Brussels Griffon

AKC Novice Agility (NA)

10/14/17 Janet Metzger, Safranne's Rascal of Redding, "Rascal," Miniature Poodle

AKC Novice Agility Jumpers (NAJ)

12/3/17 Louise Jollyman, SG Brimwyllf Calamity Jane IPO3
CDX NA NAJ AD KKI CGC, "CJ," GSD

AKC Master Agility Excellent Preferred (MXP)

9/8/17 Sarah Johnson, "Sassafras," All American Plottx

AKC Master Excellent Jumper Preferred (MJP)

9/16/17 Sarah Johnson, "Sassafras," All American Plottx

AKC Time to Beat (T2B)

12/3/17 Debbie Poe, "Maybelle," All-American

AKC Excellent FAST (XF)

12/2/17 Debbie Poe, "Maybelle," All-American

Canine Performance Event (CPE)

CPE Agility Level 1 (CL1)

11/12/17 Sigrid Neilson, "Sprout," Brussels Griffon

CPE Jackpot Championship (ChJP)

10/7/17 Debbie Poe, "Maybelle," All-American

NOSE/SCENT WORK

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Scent Work Containers

2/3/18 Audrey Woods, Brianna Listen To Your Heart CD BN
RE NJP TKN RATN, "George," Bearded Collie

TRICK DOG

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Trick Dog Novice (TKN)

12/13/17 Sigrid Neilson, "Sprout," Brussels Griffon

1/10/18 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma,"
English Springer Spaniel

1/10/18 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggle Oceana,
"Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

1/22/18 CC Dwyer, Dwyer's Tilly, Cattle Dog X

1/22/18 Darrell Dwyer, Veliraf's High Time for Omar, "Omar,"
Australian Cattle Dog

AKC Trick Dog Intermediate (TKI)

12/14/17 Sigrid Neilson, "Sprout," Brussels Griffon

12/23/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Song Of The Sea
"Rhoswyn," Boxer

12/23/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Private Party, "Phouka,"
Boxer

AKC Trick Dog Advanced (TKA)

12/15/17 Sigrid Neilson, "Sprout," Brussels Griffon

12/23/17 Morgaana Menzel, "Rhoswyn," Boxer

12/23/17 Morgaana Menzel, "Phouka," Boxer

THERAPY DOG

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Therapy Dog Novice (THDN)

12/15/17 Katherine Jochen, Shaggeybark I Am Not A Mini Cooper,
"Cooper," Old English Sheepdog

BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt Association (BHA)

Open Barn Hunt RATO

1/27/17 Kathleen Foley, Destiny & Fireheart's Celtic Magic,
"Lorna," Scottish Terrier

ACHIEVER DOG

American Kennel Club (AKC)

12/3/17 Barbara Siegel, Springhil Sir Wildred of Ivanhoe,
"Ivan," Mudi

1/5/18 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice BN NA OJ OF
TKN, "Winter," Shetland Sheepdog

CONFORMATION TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Grand Champion (GCH)

2/3/18 Audrey Woods, GCH Britannia Fuzzy Logic RA FCD
TKN CGC, "Izzy," Bearded Collie

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 trummerrmt@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.



© Morgaana Photography

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 are 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 has changed from June 1 through May 31, to Jan. 1 through Dec. 30. Our current fiscal “year” extends from June 1, 2017, through Dec. 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

AKC OBEDIENCE TRIAL STEWARDS, Mar. 4. Have fun stewarding for your club. See competitors (including our own members) come out and exhibit all their wonderful handling skills. No experience necessary—you will be trained on the spot.

Please contact Chief Steward Morgaana Menzel at morgaanamenzel@gmail.com

HOUSE HELP. Are you handy? Can you build things? Are you good at organizing? Do like tidying things? Have you seen something around the club that you think you can improve? Then reach out to our House Manager, Michele Cardone at ma.cardone@verizon.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

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

CLASS ASSISTANTS, Mar.-Apr. Session:

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.

If you are interested in being considered for

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

this role or have further questions, please email to Class Assistant Coordinator Fran Hellman at sunjaysgrs@aol.com by the last day of class registration for March-April, 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 Sandra Shivers, Volunteer Coordinator at: pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com

PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes: 12/05/17

Roll Call: Sign in sheet - 15 members present including board members

Board Members Present: Sara Gagnon, Grace Heck, Morgaana Menzel, Megan Woods, Audrey Woods, Katherine O'Donnell.

Katherine gave a talk on the disaster outreach program with dogs assisting.

Reading of Last minutes: A motion was made to waive the reading of the last club meeting since they appeared in an issue of *Sit 'N Stay*. Motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Report of President: Was referred to

later since it would be covered in working groups, and unfinished business.

Report of Corresponding Secretary: Results of surveys will be presented at the next club meeting. In the meantime will be looking into a new provider.

Report of Treasurer: Registration is up over last year but so is the rent.

Report of Committees:

Membership: 215 members

Registration: Went through the categories

Public Outreach: Katherine O'Donnell will

be the new public outreach person taking on public events

Report of AKC Delegate: Not present to give report.

Website: User friendly and up and running. Will be tweaked as we go.

Matting: Marcy gave a report of three choices. Will get samples.

Recap of 2017.

Adjournment.

Next Meeting Date: April 28th, Spring Cleaning and Meeting

PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes: 1/23/18

Present: S. Gagnon, G. Heck, J. Meldrim, M. Woods, A. Woods, O. Kornienko

President's Report

- Kathe Baxter is planning a Nose Work seminar

- President asked for seminar expense report

- Google numbers are on the drive in order to do a group text

Corresponding Secretary: Sending notices consistently. Need to sync with number of members and update Redbook.

If you want to get notices contact Olga.

Treasurer

- Insurance has been renewed
- Alex filed an extension for taxes
- 1099 needs to be done and sent

Registration

- doing well 413 last year versus 443 this year.
- Family Manner is on par everything else is showing a loss.

Two new nose work instructors resumes were presented.

- A motion was made to hire both instructors at the base rate for Nose work. It was seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Facility Search

- turned up 3 possible options
- binder in office should be looked at by

board members and a decision should be made at the next board meeting to present to the membership.

Mats

- give members a choice between Great Mats or Agiliflex
- will be put out to members

Nosework Trial Software

- Kathy G has asked for a subscription for trial software of \$150/year.
- There will be a learning curve for any secretary to use it.
- Considered adding \$.50/entry to pay for it

Motion was made to wait until all paperwork was in for application for upcoming trials. It was seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed.

G Suite

- Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and President should be on as well as registrar.
- Cost is \$5/user \$25/month

Motion was made to get all five licenses. It was seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Obedience Trials

Motion was made to hold 3 Obedience trials in March, July, and November. It was seconded and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Freestyle Competition

- Jenn want to hold this on Saturday and Sunday during a dark week. More infor-

mation, details and pricing need to be had before the board can go forward with this.

Club member requested use of facility for outside group

- Liability to the club. Separate insurance need to be had.
- Board decided this was a no go.

Finance Meeting

- Sara will set up a meeting with Megan and Deedie

Awards Celebration

- December or June?
- Time is needed to order and get plaques back
- We will continue to give out in June but it will reflect the calendar year of January-December. This year as we make the transition to a calendar year it will reflect 9 months.

Ann Mandelbaum's 2PM Class

- has consistently not filled
- will consider putting something else in its place

Breed Handling

- drop ins must sign a liability waiver when taking this class.

Shelter Dog Program

- Jeanne presented this program as a way to use shelter dogs to get them ready for adoption and evaluate the effectiveness of Family Manners.

Next meeting is March 6.