

DOG SPORTS & TRAINING

PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Winter 2018-19

Calendar of Events

Events are held at the PCOTC facility unless otherwise noted

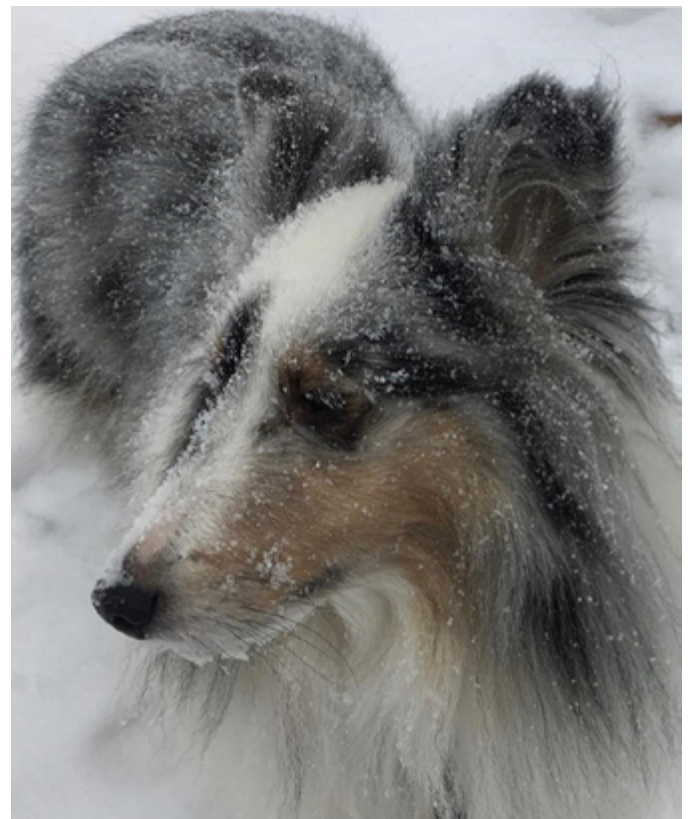
2018

- Dec 9 Happy Ratters Overview/Happy Ratters Trials (FIRST TIME)
- Dec 12 Club Meeting & Holiday Party
- Dec 16 Agility Run-thrus

2019

- Jan 2 Class Session 1 Begins
- Jan 6 White Plains Weekends/Rally Runthrus
- Jan 19 AKC Agility Course Test T Trials (FIRST TIME)
- Feb 9 PCOTC at Meet the Breeds, NYC, Piers 92-94
- Feb 24 White Plains Weekends
- Mar 3 AKC Obedience Trial
- Mar 6 Class Session 2 Begins
- Mar 29 Kamal Fernandez Seminars
–Apr 1 & Privates
- Apr 14 Club Meeting/Spring Cleanup
- Apr 28 WPW & Rally Runthrus
- May 8 Class Session 3 Begins
- May 10 3 days of PCOTC Agility Trials at FDR Park,
–12 Yorktown, NY
- May 19 WPW & Rally Runthrus
- Jun 11 Annual Club Meeting
- Jun 23 WPW & Rally Runthrus
- Jul 9 Class Session 4 Begins
- Jul 21 WPW & Rally Runthrus

- Aug 29 Club Meeting
- Sep 4 Class Session 5 Begins
- Oct 10 Halloween Party & Club Meeting
- Nov 6 Class Session 6 Begins
- Dec 19 Holiday Party & Club Meeting



Maisy, a Sheltie, in serious winter weather. She lives with PCOTC students John and Patricia Taddei.

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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Sit 'n Stay is produced for online delivery.

President's Message



The PCOTC Board of Directors extends our warmest wishes for a happy holiday season to all our club members and their canine companions. May your holidays be filled with lots of happiness, peace, love, and, of course, delicious treats!

Welcome New Members

- Sue Knapp-Cook, Golden Retriever
- Beverly Pietrucha, Doodle
- Alice Reo, Cockapoo
- Bonnie Brenda Scott, Cattle Dog mix

Save the Dates: Club Meetings in 2018-19

- Wednesday, Dec. 12, Holiday Party & Club Meeting
- Sunday, April 14th - Spring Clean Up and Club Meeting
- Tuesday, June 11th - Annual Club Meeting
- Thursday, August 29th - Club Meeting
- Wednesday, October 30th - Halloween Party & Club Meeting
- Thursday, December 19th - Holiday Party & Club Meeting

Thank You, Members!

The board would like to take a minute to recognize those members who dedicated hours on short notice to helping clean up the club following a burst pipe on 12/4. These members came to the club at all hours of the day to help contain and mop up flooding, disinfect flooded areas, and dry out any equipment or furniture impacted, all without disruption to classes!!!

- * Michelle Cardone
- * Morgaana Menzel
- * Marcy Rauch

- * Deb Salerno
- * Bruce Scheffler
- * Kathy Vacari

Club Doings

Howl-i-day Club Meeting Dec. 12

On December 12, come to PCOTC at 7:30 pm to celebrate the seasonal holidays with our dogs! And feel free (you or your dog) to dress in your ugliest Christmas sweaters!

As always, you can count on some good food at PCOTC club meetings, and this season is one of the best for yummy treats.

And yes, there will be a “meeting” portion of the evening. The end of the year is a good time to reflect on our work in 2018 and where we want to move forward in 2019.

So please, let’s all join together on Dec. 12 for good food, good fun, a celebration of the past year, and plans for the New Year!



PCOTC dogs in Winter/Holiday apparel

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!

Volunteer Hours

As of January 1, 2019, the club is changing its financial “year” from a June 1– May 30 year, to a calendar year. The last six months of volunteer hours were added to the June 1, 2017 – May 30, 2018 club year totals to facilitate the changeover.

As a result, to qualify for reduced class fees in the coming calendar year, you must have completed 18 volunteer hours by Dec. 30, 2018. To receive recognition as a Super Volunteer, you must have completed 45 hours by Dec. 30, 2018.

A list of member hours completed for this extended club year is available [here](#) and will be updated periodically until the end of December 2018, so that you can make sure you complete enough hours.

As of Jan. 1, 2019 we will be entering a new club AND calendar year, and the current hour minimums will change back to the usual 12 hours for reduced class fees, and 30 to qualify as a Super Volunteer and be honored at our Annual Meeting.

Agility

Agility Tip: Winter Agility

by Stefanie Rainer, Agility Training Director, OMD Assistant Coach

With winter on the verge, your time to train outside in large spaces may be limited by the cold and snow. Keep your skills sharp by working on these few exercises inside where it's warm and toasty!

Start-line stays: Rehearse your start-line routine by taking out your dog's "show" lead and putting it on them. Get them all worked up the way you would prior to entering the agility ring. You can do your tricks, play tug, et cetera. Finally, go through the motions of what you would do at the start-line and proof the dog to be listening for their release command by saying words other than their release

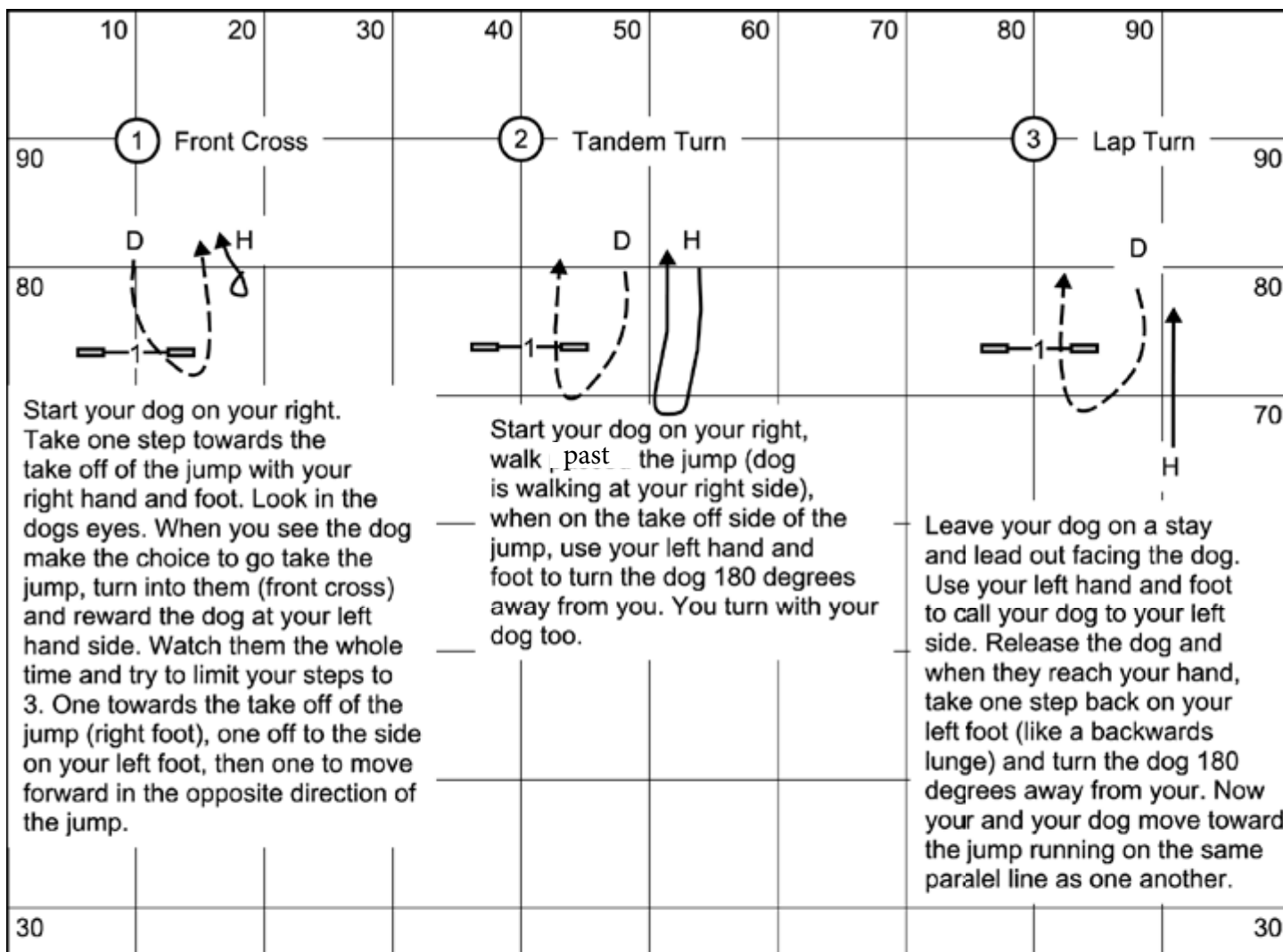
command. For example, I would put my Nike on his slip lead and get him tugging. Next I would take off his lead and have him line up between my legs. Then I would run away (the length of my living room) and say popcorn, snow, and finally his release command, which is "break." I may also try waving my hands or try to fake him out by running part way, stopping, taking a deep breath and finally running again to see if he will release himself on something other than what he has learned, which is to only ever get off the start-line when he hears the word "break."

Two on two off: Work on maintaining your

contact criteria by having your dog do their two-on two-off behaving on the bottom of your stairs, a bucket, or travel plank. You can proof the dog the same way you would the start-line, looking to make sure they will only release on the verbal command they have been taught.

Handling: Practice the mechanics for some of your favorite handling techniques while sending your dog around a cone or bucket. Some of my favorites include the lap turn, tandem turn, and front cross. See the diagram for further instruction.

Have fun and happy training!



Agility

New Agility Instructor: Bronagh Daly

Bronagh Daly started her Agility career at 16. She began by running her Labradoodle, Stella, who achieved top levels in USDAA, AKC, and CPE. Stella, who has both dog and environmental stresses, taught Bronagh about troubleshooting ways to help stressed dogs in class and trial environments. More recently, Bronagh has been competing in Masters/Advanced USDAA levels with her four-year-old Border Collie, Razzle. Together, they recently attended their first Regional, making Steeplechase finals and running clean. Bronagh has now begun a new journey training her young Border Collie, Oz.

Bronagh is a “OneMind Dogs” instructor and is in the final stages of becoming a certified “Control Unleashed” instructor. Her instruction is based on seeing everything from the dog’s perspective, but she doesn’t believe in teaching from a single system. She has recently been training her youngest, Oz, in the systems of Silvia Trkman and “OneMind Dogs.” She loves most to help every team foster their strongest possible connection and level of trust, finding creative solutions and plans that best fit each team.

Bronagh has worked with some of the best trainers in the world, including Tereza Králová, Lisa Frick, Silvia Trkman, Tuulia and Timo Liuhto. Most recently, she



traveled to Finland to work with “OneMind Dogs” creators, Jaakko and Janita Leinonen. In Finland, she was lucky enough to compete and won third place with Razzle.

Contact Bronagh at bronagh.kate@gmail.com

Jan. 19: AKC Agility Course Test (ACT) Trial



Dogs do not need to be AKC registered at the time of entry.

PCOTC will offer its first Agility Course Test (ACT) on January 19, 2019. ACT is an entry level agility event designed to introduce and welcome beginning dogs and their handlers to the AKC sport of agility.

Anita Ambani is the ACT Event Secretary for this trial. Click for the [Premium List](#), and for more information see the [AKC's ACT Calendar](#).

There are two levels of ACT events—ACT1 and ACT2. ACT1 is designed for the beginning level dog to show beginning sequencing and performance skills. ACT2 requires an increased skill level shown by the additional obstacles to be performed.

In addition to showing their dog’s entry level skills, exhibitors will learn to fill out an AKC entry form, check-in at the ring, taking their dog in and out of ring, handling their dog while being judged and other information that will help them when they move on to AKC agility trials with their dog. Dogs must be 15 months old to enter these events.

Dec. 9: Happy Ratters Seminar and Trials

Happy Ratters is a new urban vermin hunting sport. (No rats are harmed; they are safe inside PVC tubes.)

The program at PCOTC begins on Dec. 9 at 8:30 am with a free two-hour seminar, followed by two trials at 11 am to about 4 pm. Dogs entered in the trials must be registered with Happy Ratters. See the Premium List for more information on the trial.

Happy Ratters promotes:

- A fun, trusting environment for dogs and their handlers to hunt vermin in “urban” settings.
- A titling program that allows all dogs to compete toward different level titles.
- A program that encourages camaraderie and support between competitors.

If you’d like to volunteer for the trial committee, contact Jeanne Meldrim at JeanneMeldrim@gmail.com



Agility

May 10–12 PCOTC Agility Trials May 2019

PCOTC will hold three agility trials on May 10-12 at FDR Park in Yorktown, NY, our agility trial venue for a number of years now.

It always seems that a cast of thousands is required to put on agility trials! Though perhaps not quite that many, PCOTC volunteers are definitely needed to staff the event. Please check with Grace Heck at gah210@gmail.com to volunteer, or to ask questions.

Photos from 2018 PCOTC Agility Trials ©barryrosen.com



Obedience

Obedience Tip: Achieving a Positive Ring Experience

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

There are several ways you can manage an obedience trial to achieve a positive experience for you and your dog.

1. Know where you are going. Get to your ring early and watch a few dogs before your turn. Memorize the heeling pattern; know where to set up for each exercise; and get an idea of how the judge communicates to each team. Visualize your team moving smoothly around the ring together before you go in.

2. Have a plan for entering and exiting the ring. Your performance effectively begins before you cross the ring gates and doesn't end until you are well outside the area. Stay connected with your dog throughout.

3. Use the time between exercises in an obedience trial wisely. Take time to connect with your dog and relax him by praising and petting him. Tell him how great he is and if time allows, ask for some

discreet tricks like touch or spin. Stay connected as you move to the next exercise setup. Depending on your dog's temperament and focus, it is best to think of the time between exercises as an extension of the heeling pattern. My Border Collie, Disco, is the type of dog that I have to be very formal with so there is no break from the end of the heeling pattern and when we go into the start of the next exercise. Other dogs with softer temperaments may benefit from an informal "with me" to move between exercises with high hand touches to motivate them.

4. Once you begin an exercise you must stay connected to your dog, but also split your attention to react to the judge's commands. If a mistake happens you have two choices. 1) you can verbally use another command to re-cue the dog or 2) ignore the error. A common error of new exhibitors is to slow down to wait for their lagging dog during heeling. It's too late to

fix a training problem when you are in the performance ring. If your dog lags, keep moving and follow the judge's instructions. You also have an option for using a second command to ask your dog to return to heel position.

5. When your performance is over and you leave the ring, don't immediately put the dog away. Pay special attention to him before you reconvene with friends or take a break yourself. Play with him, take him for a walk, and give him a special treat. Each time you show, you are setting up for the next time, so make sure your dog leaves every show with an upbeat attitude.

6. Above all, smile! A trial is a mere test of what you have trained and prepared for. If things don't go as well as you would have liked, this is information for what you need to work on. Don't make the mistake of being upset with your dog. He is only doing what you have prepared him to do.

7. Have fun!

Obedience

Rally Tip: How Do We Wean Off Treats?

by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA

Julie Flanery presented a wonderful seminar at our club this fall, full of energy, joy, training ideas and techniques.

One concept stood out for me. For as long as I have been studying, applying and teaching the R+ approach to training, the question always comes up: if our goal is to compete in obedience and related games (like rally) which are not intrinsically self-rewarding for our partners, how do we wean them off treats, toys, etc. so that we can take them into the competition ring and rely on them to perform?

Julie's answer is simple.

Your goal should never be to reach a point where your dog performs without rewards. Why should you expect him to? Think of rewards as pay for work done. Would you be willing to gradually see your salary decrease as your skill at your job increases so that when you are fully proficient you were expected to work for free? It could happen if your "job" was doing the thing you most loved to do in the world and all the rest of your needs were really well taken care of

but otherwise—not likely.

So Julie emphasized rewards throughout the seminar.

First, she stressed that almost everyone handed out far too few treats. She urged everyone to be generous, to mark and reward at every opportunity rather than waiting for the "best" time to click.

Second, she urged that handlers hone their skills so that their timing was excellent and they were indeed marking the specific behavior they wanted to take a "snapshot" of.

Third, "rewards" should be visibly rewarding to your dog—you should see by looking at his face and body language that a reward gave pleasure, and, furthermore, you should notice some improvement in some aspect of the behavior you are training following the reward.

Fourth, if you run into a glitch in your training progress; if your dog disengages, or makes a mistake more than twice, or seems to think you are speaking Chinese (unless you normally speak to him in

Chinese), break off cheerfully, ask for the simplest behavior you can think of, mark, reward, release and either put him away or let him go sniff around, lie down or whatever while you figure out what went wrong. Most likely you took too big a step from where he was to where you wanted to go, or perhaps you changed something without noticing it. Whatever the problem, find it, fix it, and then go back to training.

As you go forward in training you will begin to chain trained behaviors together so that there will be longer times between markers. That's fine.

Be careful not to overface your dog. You will come to a time when you can do a full routine occasionally with no breaks and just a giant reward/party at the end. Keep these occasions rare. Continue to structure training sessions with many opportunities for marking and rewarding individual behaviors—there are always little things that need touching up and new things to add to your repertoire. Keep it fresh and keep your pay scale high.



Meet the Breeds

Again this year, PCOTC will participate in the AKC's **Meet & Compete** on Saturday, Feb. 9, at Piers 92 and 94 in Manhattan. Agility competition takes place all day, and Meet the Breeds will run from 10 am to 5 pm. As usual, PCOTC's booth will provide both human and canine staffers to help explain to visitors what our club is about. (Don't tell the dogs, but there will be cats there, too.)

To become a part of PCOTC's MTB staff, please contact Jane Wheeler at janewheeler@optimum.net. Dog staffers need to be calm in the presence of both people and other dogs. Humans, too!

Photos: Jane Wheeler, 2018 MTB

Obedience

Obedience & Rally Run-Thrus

“White Plains Weekends” are Obedience Match Shows at Port Chester Obedience Training Club. Our matches run from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm indoors, with AC/heat, on Sundays. Here are our remaining dates for Winter/Spring 2019:

- Jan. 6
- Feb. 24
- April 28
- May 19
- June 23
- July 21

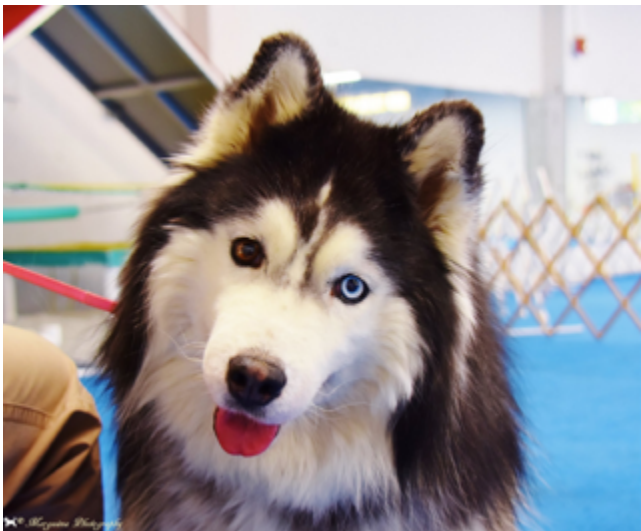
We will offer Novice, Open, and Utility timed entries of 10 minutes each.

Please note that PCOTC will host Obedience trials on March 3. It's a good idea to plan to enter the run-thrus before the trials.

Our run-thrus only work if we have the support of volunteers joining us to steward and judge. Anyone can volunteer and we can teach you how to steward! Volunteer hours and one free run-thru are offered to our volunteers. It is an excellent opportunity to watch training teams up close, both the beginners and those competing on the higher levels of competition. Six volunteers are needed for each match. Contact Karen Wrey at kayray@optonline.net.

This year, again, all registration will be done through Dogmatchshows.com. Each obedience run is \$10 for Novice, Open, and/or Utility, plus a \$2 handling fee. The major advantage is the ability to choose your time slot. In the event that you cannot make your scheduled entry, please send a friend. There will be no refunds or carrying over to the next match.

Any questions? Contact Karen Wrey at kayray@optonline.net



Rally Run-thrus are scheduled at PCOTC on the same day as obedience run-thrus, but are held in the afternoons from 2 to 5 pm. The dates for Winter/Spring 2019, the same as for White Plains Weekends, are:

- Jan. 6
- Feb. 24
- April 28
- May 19
- June 23
- July 21

Registration will be handled via Jotform at \$10 per run, and one free run will be available to volunteers.

Time allotted for run-thrus is depending on the class:

- 5 minutes per run for Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced.
- 7 minutes for Master and Excellent.

There will be a two-ring setup, with Novice through Advanced in one ring and Master-Excellent in the second ring.

Four to six volunteers are needed to run each rally run-thru date. If you'd like to volunteer and earn some hours, please sign up at the Rally Run-Thru Volunteer Sign Up. In addition to credited hours, volunteers may have one free run-thru.

Any questions? Contact Anita Ambani, Rally Run-Thru Coordinator, at pcotc.runthrus@gmail.com



PCOTC Online Membership Renewal Now Open

Members may now renew their membership online for January - December 2019. The deadline is December 31, 2018. Note that this is for renewing members only.

For more information about membership and the renewal process, please visit the “Membership Information” section of our Membership page, or you may contact Olga Kornienko at correspondence@pcotc.org

Obedience

Kamal Fernandez Obedience Seminars & Privates

On March 30 and 31, Kamal Fernandez returns to PCOTC to offer two obedience seminars: “Heeling, Beginning to Advanced,” on March 30 with 14 working spots, and “Handler’s Choice,” on March 31 with 10 working spots. On March 29 and April 1, Kamal will offer one-hour private lessons, five each day, for a total of 10 working spots.

“Heeling, Beginning to Advanced” requires a strong knowledge of AKC, CDPS, or UKC Obedience. For “Handler’s Choice,” students who have worked with Kamal in the past will have priority. For both seminars, those seeking a working spot should initiate the registration process by filling out a questionnaire:

- [Heeling Questionnaire](#)
- [Handler’s Choice Questionnaire](#)

For private lessons, those who have worked with Kamal Fernandez in the past will have priority. To ask for a spot, send an email directly to Rick Pisani at luv2heel@me.com.

Prices for the seminars and privates are as follows:

- Heeling: maximum 14 working spots, \$175 per person
- Handler’s Choice: 10 working spots, \$220 per person
- Auditors for seminars: \$90 for one day, \$170 for two days
- Privates: \$150/hour

Based on a combination of science and hands-on experience, Kamal has established a reputation for positive training and has championed the use of reward-based methods all over the world.

“Kamal ... has developed a method of training that is underpinned by scientific assessment (of popular methods) and pro-active innovation and implementation of new techniques. He promotes positive reinforcement via a systematic program that is designed to establish the relationship between the handler and dog.... Kamal’s training philosophy is influenced by his love for dogs. Watch him train his dogs. He has designed a training method that achieves a specific objective by creating harmony and synergy between dog and handler. The outcome is an experience that the dog enjoys and the experience commands the dog’s undivided attention whether it involves working on the hallowed green at Crufts or simply crossing the road.”

—Linda Rutherford, Winner of Crufts Dog Supreme Obedience Championships 2007, Winner of Crufts Bitch Supreme Obedience Championships 2010, Crufts World Cup Judge 2011

Below: Kamal Fernandez at 2018 PCOTC seminars.



Family Manners

Family Manners Tip: Impulse Control

by Cindy Rubin, CPDT-KA

Most of the people starting out on the journey of training their dogs have the same concerns: how to train their dogs not to pull on the leash, not to jump on people, not to chase squirrels or cars. Notice a pattern? What is missing from their dog's behavior is self-control.

Impulse control is the dog's ability to resist sudden urges. The dog wants something and doesn't know how to wait for it or how to leave it. As responsible pet owners and trainers we must help the dogs to control themselves.

Dogs have physical, mental and social needs. If these needs aren't met, it will be much harder for the dog to focus and

control itself. Have a daily exercise routine for your dog, long walks, training sessions, playing tug or fetch can all tire your dog physically and mentally. If your dog is still "hyper" by the end of the day it could be that his routine is not enough. Fun classes like Nose Work and Tricks can also give your dog added stimulation.

Teaching your dog to focus on you is the number one step in training and helping to improve impulse control. Start by reinforcing the behavior you want. Every time your dog gives you eye contact mark this behavior with your clicker or your marker word, give a treat, and wait. If your dog looks away, wait and see if he looks back

at you. A perfect opportunity to mark and reward! In the beginning, you may need to prompt eye contact with a sound or slight movement, but once he learns that eye contact gets him a cookie and praise it will be offered. Remember, reward a calm dog that is sitting or standing. Build focus up to 5-10 seconds. Once your dog can focus on you, you can start to work on manners training. Have your dog sit and wait for his leash, the door to open, leaving his crate, and for dinner to be served.

There are other ways to build impulse control such as "Leave It," "Settle," and "Go To Mat." All are helpful with early training.

New Family Manner Instructor, Betsy Schwartz, CPDT-KA

Betsy Schwartz is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed and an evaluator for the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program. She is a member of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers, the Pet Professional Guild and the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. She is committed to only positive, force-free, dog-friendly training methods, which create a bond of trust and foster teamwork. Training is all about relationships and clear, two-way communication between handler and dog. Betsy believes that training should always be enjoyable for both human and animal alike, and she interjects humor and fun into all her classes.

A lifelong animal lover, Betsy has taught pet training classes in Stamford, CT since 2003. She was Training Coordinator and Assistant Trainer for The Good Dog Foundation for Fairfield and Westchester Counties from 1999-2002, and is currently an administrator of the Pet Therapy Program at Kids in Crisis in Cos Cob, CT.



Betsy, along with her husband, Will, and son, James, are the guardians of two Old English Sheepdogs, Rigby and Eleanor (a.k.a. Ellie Belly), two rescued feral cats, Maizey and KitKat, and a clicker-trained horse named Sundance.

Betsy teaches Family Manners and specialty classes, and does in-home private lessons. You can reach her at betsy@whattagooddog.com

Family Manners

S.T.A.R. Puppy & Family Manners Foundation Graduates

Congratulations! What a terrific group of talented puppies and handlers this past session at PCOTC! We could not be more proud of our Graduates!

Come join the fun and all the learning. Have you (or a human friend) welcomed a new furry friend into your home and aren't sure where to start? PCOTC recommends all dogs begin their training journey at our club by attending Family Manners Foundation.

If your dog is too young for Foundations, check out our offerings for puppies:

- Puppy Pre-K (4 week class) For puppies age 10 weeks to 5 months at the start of class. Learn about socialization and safe handling.
- AKC STAR Puppy For puppies age 10 weeks to 5 months at the start of class. Learn basic manners, clicker training, attention, socialization & safe handling.
- Family Manners Foundation For dogs 5 months and older.
- Already taken Family Manner Foundations? Then continue to advance in Family Manner Skills.
- PCOTC offers \$50 class credit, after the first set of classes, for a dog adopted from a shelter or rescue facility in the last 12 months.

See Class Fees & Discounts for complete information. Go to <http://www.pcotc.org/> to register.



Recent Puppy & Family Manners Graduates

AKC Delegate's Report

Third Quarter 2018 — by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC Delegate to AKC

The AKC has announced several brand new, exciting programs that are worth looking into in the New Year:

Free Webinar Series

First, there is a free webinar series on a variety of topics of interest to all dog lovers and competition enthusiasts. It's the **AKC Education Webinar Series** and will usually be held on the last Wednesday of every month, but sometimes more frequently. To find upcoming topics go to the AKC website, **AKC.ORG**. On the top banner select Expert Advice, then scroll down to AKC Public Education Webinar Series. You can ask questions and participate in open discussions. There is no limit to how many club members can join in on the site.

Some of the topics are/were

- The Evolution of Dog Sports (Held on 10/29)
- Show Secretary's Responsibilities
- Website Best Practices
- Using the Online Event Management System
- Misconduct
- Government relations
- Archiving

This is a wonderful opportunity to sit at home in your bunny slippers and participate in interesting discussions on topics you might otherwise always wonder about. Upcoming topics also include how to use social media to get the word out about club events. It's free, so give it a try!

Fit Dog Program

The AKC has also launched a **FIT DOG** program for dog owners who reach a specified fitness goal. Now don't turn off—it's easy to qualify! The AKC and the American Heart Association have joined together to offer a really cute, free magnet for those who exercise regularly by walking with their dogs! The American Heart Association recommends 30-40 minutes of walking per day or 150 minutes per week

and what better way is there to fulfill this recommendation and stay healthy than to walk your dog?

You can order your free magnet when you and your dog have met one of these fitness goals:

1. Walked at least 30 minutes 5 times per week for a total of at least 150 minutes per week for at least 3 months. *For dogs and people in good shape.*
2. Walked at least 15 minutes per session at least 10 times per week (e.g., two 15-min walks per day) for at least 3 months. *For dogs or people who would benefit from a walk that is a shorter duration, e.g., senior dogs.*

How to Get Your Magnet

1. Complete your walks. Keep a record so you will know when you've met your goal.
2. Go to the AKC website and search for the Fit Dog Program
3. Complete the Magnet Order Form. It's that simple!
4. Note: *If you are already taking your dog on regular walks, you may count those.*

Remember that before starting an exercise program for your dog, it is a good idea to consult with your veterinarian.

Detection Dog Program

There was an update on the proposed detection dog program. It was reiterated that the AKC will not be involved in the program unless arrangements are made for lifetime veterinary care of dogs in the program. The four breeds involved at this point are Labs, GSPs, Vizslas and GWPs. The program is moving forward and a specific genome has been identified as being necessary in breeding detection dogs. Sporting dogs are most in demand. This is a very serious effort of the part of many experts in the AKC to work with law enforcement and Homeland Security to fill the great demand for domestically bred

detection dogs. I am proud of the AKC for making this demand and always keeping the health of the dogs first.

"Low Entry" Breeds

Addressing another area of concern, Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board Liaison, presented an up-dated analysis of "low-entry" breeds and their gradual disappearance from conformation events between 2010 and 2017. He stated that 2017 represented the 15th consecutive year of decline in conformation entries. Eighty per cent of the 3,500 conformation shows last year had fewer than 1,000 entries. There are approximately 1,400 conformation events/year in the U.S., with an average entry of 852. Each of the new breeds added to the AKC studbooks during the last 10 years demonstrates a decline in numbers of dogs and of litters registered. Limited registrations, which began in 1998 with 275 litters, reached an all-time high in 2017 with 122,500 limited registrations. Dr. Battaglia referenced Dr. Jerold Bell's contention that a breed had to grow and expand to remain healthy.

Canine Insurance

The Delegate's Education portion of our September meeting involved experts from two insurance companies that specialize in insurance for the equine and canine industry. Equisure and McGriff Insurance companies sent representatives to discuss the value of insuring our clubs and businesses against the financial hardship that can be caused by even a small, frivolous claim. They also spoke about a rising concern for clubs, Cyber liability, stemming from the possibility of hackers getting into a club's membership information and using private data for nefarious purposes.

And finally, a word about me.

I have not previously spoken about myself at a Club Member Meeting, but I am going to take that opportunity now. Initially, when I attended the Delegate's meetings, I pretty much kept my mouth closed and my ears open, absorbing all I could about how this huge organization works. I was

AKC Delegate's Report p. 2

assigned a Mentor, Larry Wilson, who some of you might know as an Obedience Judge and Steward of many years experience. Larry introduced me to many of the movers and shakers in the AKC and I gradually got more comfortable with expressing my opinions openly and chiming in on important matters. I spent most of my time attending the Companion Events Committee meetings, as that is where most of the dog sports relevant to our club are discussed: Obedience, Rally and Agility. I started writing for the quarterly Delegates publication, *Perspectives*, about Scent Work and got a lot of positive feedback. At that time, I think Marilyn DeGregorio and I were the only two Delegates in the entire AKC who had even tried Scent Work! I was told that this sport would be eventually housed in the HEC Committee (Herding Earthdog and Coursing), so, when elections for that committee came up, I raised my hand and was elected to the one year term that is typically given to a first time committee member. My one-year term expired in September, and I was re-elected to an additional three year term on this committee.

I am now writing quarterly articles for three dog publications: *Sit 'n Stay*, where I write as a Delegate and contribute periodically with articles about Scent Work and Nose Work trials and Odor Recognition Tests, *Perspectives*, the quarterly of the AKC Delegates, and I also write about Scent Work for the Doberman Pinscher Club of America on their Facebook page.

I was never the Chairman of any dog trial before October 2017 and I find that now, it has become more of a comfortable position for me. The Club recently purchased the program for organizing and holding Scent Work trials and this has made it much easier for those of us on the trial committees to manage things effectively. As always, volunteers are the heart and soul of every trial and we could do nothing without them. That's not to say every event is perfect, because, no matter how hard you try, things can happen! I was also recently asked to Chair the first Scent Work Trial ever held at their Nationals by the Doberman Pinscher Club of America.

I sometimes felt like a duck out of water on this HEC Committee, because herding, earth dog and coursing are events I have not had a lot of experience with, being a Doberman enthusiast, but I have, in this last year, made a point of attending herding and coursing events so that I can have some knowledge to rely on when the committee is discussing and voting on issues of importance to those sports. My favorite breed to watch herd is the Old English Sheepdog with their bouncy enthusiasm. It's amazing to me how different the breeds naturally herd! Serving on this committee has opened up a new world for me in addition to the Obedience, Rally, Agility and the other sports held here at our club.

I look forward to continuing to serve the best interests of the club in all our areas of interest, for all breeds and allbreeds!

Respectfully submitted
Kathy Gregory

AKC: How Old Is My Dog in Human Years?

Since the 1950s, many people have believed there is a 7:1 year age ratio between humans and dogs. But the American Veterinary Medical Association has broken it down more accurately. [Click here](#) to see an AKC report, and take a look at the diagram below showing age of dogs in comparison with their human counterparts.

Note that smaller dogs generally live longer than larger ones—that's why the chart is broken into three dog sizes. As yet, the reason for this is unknown. Generally, large mammals tend to live longer than smaller ones. Large dogs age at an accelerated pace, and "their lives seem to unwind in fast motion," according to researcher Cornelia Kraus of the University of Gottingen.

AGE OF DOG	AGE IN HUMAN YEARS		
	20 lbs or less	21-50 lbs	more than 50 lbs
1 YEAR	15	15	15
2	24	24	24
3	28	28	28
4	32	32	32
5	36	36	36
6	40	42	45
7	44	47	50
8	48	51	55
9	52	56	61
10	56	60	66
11	60	65	72
12	64	69	77
13	68	74	82
14	72	78	88
15	76	83	93
16	80	87	120

Fall Events

Aug 31–Sep.2: Kerry Smith Agility Seminars

On Aug. 31 through Sept. 2, PCOTC hosted three days of seminars with Kerry Smith. Kerry's recent accomplishments include 2016 and 2017 IFCS World Championship USA team member, 2017 WAO USA team member, and 2014 European Open USA team member.

On Friday, Kerry presented "Fundamental Skills and Drills" to help teams learn the foundation skills that will prepare them for agility success. These are skills that agility handlers will use throughout their dogs' agility career and require minimal equipment. The seminar covered drills to improve distance, obstacle/handler focus, commitment, bypassing off-course obstacles, and more.

The slogan of Saturday's seminar was "Work Smarter, *Not* Harder" which focused on developing your skills, reading lines, using motion, improving timing of cues, and using 3D visualization skills. The seminar also focused on mental aspects of agility, handler body awareness, and learning how to know where you are on course so you are able to stay connected with your dog.

Sunday's offering, "Read Between the Lines, (Course Analysis)" focused on course analysis and lines to find the clearest and

fastest path for your dog. The seminar also covered how to choose techniques that will bring out the most speed from the dog. For example, forced front crosses and German turns can create the same path, but one will be faster for some dogs and vice versa. Discussion and practice at the seminar also included personalized strategies and techniques/drills to maximize individual dogs' needs to get the most out of your teammate.

Kerry has a long history of teaching both people and animals. She has a Masters in Education and also trained and competed with horses before agility. In 2002, Kerry started competitive obedience and agility

Kerry's handling is primarily inspired by OMD methods. She has worked with top instructors including Jenny Damm, Marco Giavoni, Timo Liuhto, Tuulia Liuhto, Tobias Wurst, and Daniel Schroder (among others).

Kerry's accomplishments include:

- 2017, 2016 IFCS USA world team member
- 2017 WAO USA world team member
- 2017 US Open gold medalist
- 2015 Americas y el Caribe Agility International – 4th overall large dog



- 2015 Cynosport 2x silver medalist (two different dogs)
- 2014 European Open USA team member
- 2014 FCI Agility World Championships short list

PUTTIN ON THE DOG

Thank you to all the knowledgeable volunteer club members who helped set up and staff the PCOTC booth for the Annual "Puttin' on the Dog," sponsored by Adopt-A-Dog on September 16. The event attracted about 5,000 attendees to Roger Sherman Baldwin Park in CT.

It was a beautiful day and, for part of the day, PCOTC held a very successful "My Dog Can Do That!" demonstration offering dog/handler teams a taste of agility.



Fall Events

Sept. 15–16: Julie Flanery Seminars

Text and Photography © Morgaína Photography

In 2012, Julie developed the sport of Rally FrEe, a dog sport now enjoyed by enthusiasts all over the world. Julie has been an invited workshop and seminar presenter nationally and internationally, and is a highly sought-after instructor at the Fenzi Dog Sports Academy. She currently trains and competes with her Tibetan Terrier. On this September weekend, Julie taught attendees at PCOTC to use tools and strategies that help handlers to communicate more clearly to their dogs, add value to reinforcement and create a thinking partner that chooses to engage in a way that enhances learning. Attendees learned more about:

- Utilizing errorless learning
- Building value in heelwork and other behaviors
- Assessing reinforcement value
- Structured Shaping
- Reducing Reinforcement
- Effective cueing and cue transfer
- The importance of handler mechanics in varied disciplines including Obedience, Rally, and Rally-FrEe.

PCOTC thanks Julie for coming and sharing her wisdom with us! We hope she will return in the near future!

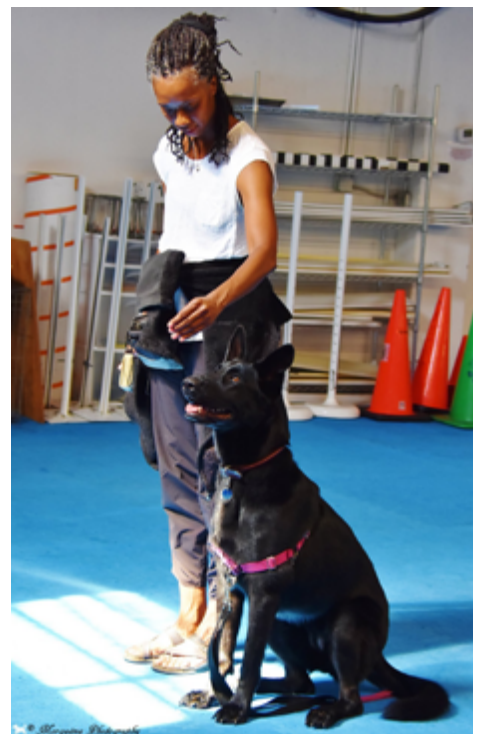
Julie Flanery, CPDT-KA, owner of Wonder Dogs and Creative Canine LLC, has been working professionally with dogs and their owners for over 20 years, focusing on forming strong relationships through clear communication and positive reinforcement strategies.

She has placed Obedience, Freestyle, Rally-Obedience, Rally-FrEe, Agility, Trick Dog and Parkour titles on her dogs and has

earned Championships in Freestyle, Heelwork-to-Music and a Grand Championship MCL in Rally-FrEe. She has achieved both High Technical Merit and High Artistic Merit in both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music several times over, including three prestigious Attila Challenge awards. In 2012 she developed the sport of Rally FrEe, enjoyed by dog sport enthusiasts all over the world.



Above, Julie Flanery at PCOTC



Fall Events

Oct. 6 & 20: Grace Heck Agility Seminars

On two Fall Saturdays, Grace Heck—one of PCOTC's own agility instructors—led two three-hour seminars, one on Jumps and one on Weaves.

On Oct. 6, Grace focused on “Fairly Odd Jumps,” which looked at some of the less common jumps, including the Double, Triple, Broad and Wall jumps. Each team was introduced to the stand-alone jumps, then jumps in short sequences with a focus on ensuring the dog can perform then independently and at speed. Handling considerations for each jump were discussed.

Handlers left with a full set of instructions and drills to work on at home.

Oct. 20's seminar was “Weaves: Love ‘em and Leave ‘em.” Weaves are one of the most

complex behavior chains we train in agility, and for many dogs they become a source of confusion, frustration, and demotivation. This seminar focused on fun games to bring back your dog's love for weaves, or to start a new dog off on the right foot. Grace incorporated games to magnetize dogs to the poles, help them find entries at speed, and learn how to continue weave pole performance independently.

As for the Oct. 6 seminar, handlers left with a full set of instructions and drills to work on at home.

Grace Heck is currently competing with her dog Riley at the Masters level in AKC and USDAA, and has a Corgi mix and a

young Border Collie in training.

Grace is constantly learning, and studying new techniques to be able to apply out-of-the-box methods to training challenges. Most recently, she has been mentoring under multi-year World Team Member Kathleen Oswald (AWC and EO). Grace had the great fortune to assistant teach under One Mind Dogs Assistant Coach Stefanie Rainier, and has trained with other top handlers including Jessica Ajoux, Soshana Dos, and Perry Dewitt among others. Grace does not teach any one method, but rather believes in the power of the right tool, for the right team, at the right time.

Oct. 7: Scent Work Trials

by Kathy Gregory, Scent Work Trial Chair

PCOTC held our second AKC sanctioned Scent Work Trial on Sunday, October 7. It was a bright and sunny day, perfect for almost all dog sports. We offered two trials that day, each containing both Novice and Advanced Container and Buried classes. The available running spots were filled within 48 hours of registration opening, indicating the continued popularity of this new sport. We knew we were in for a busy day!

After having spent the evening before cleaning and setting up the various search areas, our dedicated volunteers arrived to start trial day at 7 am. Judge Gale Meadow was right there in the trenches with us, measuring and discussing and getting our suggestions about how the flow of traffic could be best handled. As is the case with almost every trial I have ever attended, moving teams past each other on their way to and from search areas is always a big concern. Fortunately, we had two traffic flow plans in mind and used both as the day wore on and we needed to

pick up the pace.

We had offered Container searches at our last trial, but the Buried search was new to us. I was very happy that I had the chance to observe how several other clubs had offered this particular element using different types of containers and covers, because I think we came up with a really good solution for PCOTC. We offered the search in regulation size plastic containers with their matching covers removed, covered instead with sturdy but flexible screening secured with brightly colored giant rubber bands. This method allowed for the free flow of odor while providing the benefit of keeping most of the soil medium inside the container if a dog should overturn it. Having to stop everything and clean up a lot of spilled soil contaminating the search area after every run would have significantly slowed the pace of the trial, something we wanted to avoid. Our dedicated “cleanup” volunteer had little to do while this element was being run! This method also just about eliminated the possibility of a team incur-

ring a fault by the dog pawing the soil and spilling the odor onto the search area. Yea!

We certified 117 runs that day. In the first trial, 28 dogs received qualifying scores in the Container element, 9 dogs in the Buried element. In the second Trial, 31 dogs received qualifying scores in the Container element and 9 in the Buried element. Clearly, the Buried element presented more of a challenge. Two competitors completed all their Novice Level elements successfully and received additional ribbons for graduating from that level of competition.

Using the automated trial application the club purchased for this purpose last year is a big help and does all the calculating and document production for us. Obviously, practice makes perfect and, for this team of newbies, we feel more confident than ever that we can continue to provide a fair and welcoming trial experience in this new sport on behalf of the club. We look forward to being able to offer some of the outdoor elements in the future, perhaps in conjunction with other PCOTC trials.

Fall Events

Oct. 26: Howl-O-Ween Party

Photos © Morgaana Photography



Our PCOTC annual Howl-O-Ween Party and Club Meeting was a festive, fun event. We had a costume parade, played agility games and bobbed for apples. Who knew Bullmastiffs were so good at that! It should be an AKC Canine Sport! All the Dog Teams were in costume for the parade: The Ballerina Pomeranian Troupe, The Lion-The King of the Forest, The Referee, The Glam Pitbull, a Rad Skate Boarder, Super Sheroes and Heroes, a Viking, The Karate Kid, Mean Girls, a Magical Unicorn and we even found WALDO!



Fall Events

Oct. 26: Howl-O-Ween Party

Photos © Morgaana Photography



More Scary Stuff from Morgaana!



Fall Events

Oct. 27–28: Vicki Ronchette Breed Handling

by Fran Hellman, © Morgaana Photography

On October 27 & 28, 2018 our club once again hosted breed handling workshops presented by Vicki Ronchette CPDT-KA.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, Vicki presented *From Shy To Showy* based on her popular book. Attendees learned how to read their dog's body language, identify their dog's triggers and how to use behavior modification to change their dog's outlook of the show ring. Vicki's extensive knowledge and experience was evident by how she was able to address all the various issues that the dogs had. It was obvious by how she interacted with each dog and handler team that she has a special gift for working with people and their dogs to achieve the results they need.

On Sunday, Oct. 28, Vicki presented *Polishing Your Performance*. This workshop offered many handling tips and tricks. We learned how to showcase our dog's virtues and how to train for a reliable and showy performance. We used training equipment such as stacking blocks, stacking boxes and cavalettis. Vicki also covered conditioning for show dogs. Conditioning equipment was taught and enjoyed by all the dogs.

The weekend was full of information and working with our dogs. I could see tails wagging and people having "aha" moments. As a breed handling instructor, and CPDT-KA, it was great to be able to extend my knowledge from a true expert in the

field. All attendees went home with lots of gleaned knowledge and skills. I'm happy to report that these workshops were awesome!

Vicki is the owner of Braveheart Dog Training School in California, where she teaches conformation classes. She is the author of *Positive Training for Show Dogs*, *From Shy To Showy: Help for your Shy Show Dog* and *Ready? Set. SHOW!* She has a huge following on Facebook, Positive Training for Show Dogs and has just recently launched an on-line show handling school named Show Dog Prep School:

www.showdogprepschool.com

www.braveheartdogtraining.com



Vicki Ronchette & Fran Hellman working with Fran's dog

Fall Events

Nov 3: Rally Trial

by Anne Mandelbaum, Rally Chair © Morgaana Photography

PCOTC's November AKC Rally Trials were held on Saturday the 3rd, followed by AKC Obedience Trials on Sunday the 4th. Holding two sets of trials over a weekend works well for the club since we can combine our efforts and provide a welcoming environment for our exhibitors. That said, it still takes a lot of planning and hard work by many volunteer to present events that live up to our own high standards. Many thanks to Chief Steward and site decorator Morgaana Menzel and to the great group of stewards, many of whom were first-timers, who helped keep the trials running smoothly. Linda Seaver provided breakfast and lunch for all which included donations from members. The food was

great and many exhibitors were surprised and delighted. We hope this will become a traditional part of our Rally Trials. Meg Tucker was in charge of preparing the ring on Friday night so that we could just walk in Saturday morning and get started. Maureen Bordins, volunteering for the second time, handled the Secretary-on-the-Day duties like a pro.

Our judge, Joyce Rienzo, has stewarded for PCOTC several years ago. Now she is beginning her judging career and provided fair and interesting courses, well nested, throughout the day.

We had some excitement when Bob Fullum from Staten Island and his wonderful black

Lab Zoro earned his second perfect score of the day in the afternoon Master class, completing his RACH (Rally Championship), probably the first team in the country to earn this title. Congratulations to this great working team.

To cap the day off, several of our members and their dogs completed titles:

Morganna Menzel and her Boxer, Rhoswyn moved up from Novice to Intermediate as did Meg Tucker and Labrador mix, Sashi. Heidi Wise and her little Pomeranian, Chantilly also earned their Novice title. And Linda Seaver and Bernese Mountain Dog Xodi finished their Excellent title. Our congratulations to them all.



Fall Events

Nov. 4: Obedience Trial © Morgaana Photography

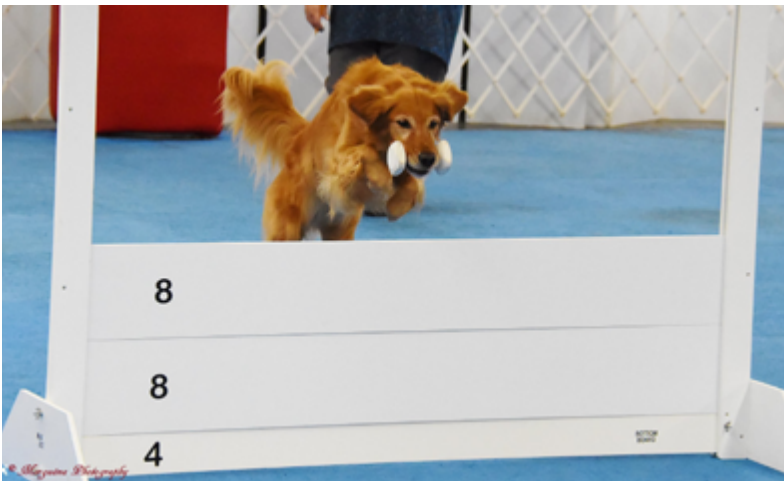
Obedience Trials demonstrate the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring and emphasize the usefulness of the dog as a companion to humankind.

Each level of obedience competition —Novice, Open, and Utility—requires mastering a specific skill set, which increase in difficulty, before advancing to the next level.

The Novice class demonstrates good canine companion skills such as heeling, both with and without a leash, coming when called, standing for a simple physical examination, and staying in both a sit and a down position with a group of dogs.

The Open class is more challenging as more exercises are done off-leash, and retrieving and jumping challenges are added.

The Utility class, which includes scent discrimination, directed retrieves, jumping and silent signal exercises, is the most challenging class.



Glad Tales



PLOP Qs for WAO Team

Well, my little dude Plop struck again! This year the UKI US Open was in Jacksonville, FL (November 8-11). The event doubles as a tryout for the UKI WAO (World Agility Open) Championships, which will be held this coming May in Ermelo, the Netherlands, and features the world's best teams. Plop and I had an amazing weekend and we won a spot on the US team!! So excited and so proud of Plop. All the way from a shelter dog to a world team dog! He really didn't put a paw out of place, and it earned us a "super win on" spot which means we get to compete in every event when we get there. So, lots of pressure, but also lots of fun. My students at PCOTC really were a huge motivation, sending me texts and support throughout the weekend. I feel glad I came through for them! They really are family.

— Lisa Topol

Rhoswyn: Rally & Obedience Titles

Morgaana Menzel is very thankful this holiday season for her Boxer's accomplishments at the November AKC Rally and AKC Obedience Trials hosted by PCOTC. She says "I had to breathe through my ring nerves, which I did as my boxer deserves a calm and collected handler."

Sirrocco's Song Of The Sea "Rhoswyn" earned her RN Title with a 1st place finish at the Rally Trials and at the Obedience Trials got her BN Title with 2 first place finishes and their team's very first Q with a 1st place finish towards their CD!

She wishes to thank Judges: Mrs. Joyce E. Rienzo, Mrs. Sandra Walker, and Ms. Jeanne M. Charest.

— Morgaana Menzel



Glad Tales

Zachary at H2D2 Disc Trial

Finally home from the second day at H2D2 updog. I'm tired and mister "I slept all the way home" is ready to play!

Two personal bests and second place in Four Way for our team! Makes for our best weekend at disc so far. Really proud of how far we have come!

— *Michele Cardone*



© M. Nicole Fischer

Sad Tales



Brodie Dodds

Oct. 9, 2005- Sept. 28, 2018

My handsome, smart, loving boy crossed over the Rainbow Bridge and waits for me.

— *Barbara Dodds*

Our Stars

New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 11/30/18

OBEDIENCE

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Beginner Novice (BN)

11/04/18 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Song Of The Sea CGC, BN, RN, TKN, TKI, TKA, WCRP, RL1 "Rhoswyn," Boxer

RALLY

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Rally Novice (RN)

7/28/18 Barbara Siegel, Springhill Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, "Ivan," Mudi

11/03/18 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Song Of The Sea CGC, BN, RN, TKN, TKI, TKA, WCRP, RL1 "Rhoswyn," Boxer

AGILITY

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Open Standard (OA)

10/13/18 Jamie McKay, Bare Cove Hair Force One, "Tease," Shetland Sheepdog

USDAA

Preferred Snooker (PS)

7/8/18 Barbara Siegel, Springhill Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, "Ivan," Mudi

SCENT WORK

National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)

Interior Novice (SIN)

9/22/18 Barbara Siegel, Springhill Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, "Ivan," Mudi

Elite Division Level 3, ELT 3

10/20/18 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

Container Novice (SCN)

11/11/18 Barbara Siegel, Springhill Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, "Ivan," Mudi

BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt Association (BHA)

Rat Champion x 4 RATCHX4

9/29/18 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Danetero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

Rat Champion x 5 RATCHX5

10/28/18 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Danetero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

Crazy 8s Platinum Silver (CZ8PS)

9/29/18 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe Du Danetero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

Crazy 8s Platinum Gold (CZ8PG)

10/28/18 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Danetero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

CONFORMATION TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

Champion (CH)

10/7/18 Janet York, Piccadil's Six Pack St. Paulie Girl, "Paulie," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

10/20/18 Janet York, Piccadil's Harley Davidsons Leader of The Pack, "Leader," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

10/26/18 Janet York, Piccadil's Stepping Out to Fox Trot, "Foxy," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

10/27/18 Janet York, Piccadil's Stepping out to Tango, "Tango," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Certificate of Conformation (CCA)

10/18/18 Barbara Siegel, Springhill Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, "Ivan," Mudi

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 trumpetvine55@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.

Keeping in Touch with PCOTC

PCOTC's Web Site: Go to 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.

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

MEET THE BREEDS, Feb. 9, 2019. PCOTC will need booth staff, including dogs with suitable temperament, for the AKC’s “Meet the Breeds” event at Piers 92 and 94 in New York, NY, 10 am to 5:00 pm.

To volunteer, please contact Jane Wheeler at jane Wheeler@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

CLASS SCHEDULE COORDINATOR

The Class Schedule Coordinator is responsible for soliciting, compiling, reviewing, and posting the class schedule each session. Additionally, they respond to any follow up questions, or schedule changes as the session progresses.

Must Have: Strong communication, organization skills and self motivation. Must be comfortable working in excel, google docs, posting to square space, and communicating via email.

Time Commitment: Responsibilities for this position ebb and flow, but generally there is 6-8 hour per week time commitment for about 3 weeks leading up to registration opening.

Benefits: 1 free class per session.

Contact Grace Heck at gah210@gmail.com for additional information.

CLASS ASSISTANTS, JAN-FEB. Session:

This volunteer opportunity is for members of PCOTC that have a strong training background and plenty of experience in the relevant discipline.

The assistant’s role will be to help set up and take down any equipment or ring gates, help direct flow of students in between classes, relay student questions to the instructor, and other duties requested by the instructor. It is important to note that assistants should not be instructing students, however with the instructor’s permission, they may offer feedback on the specific task being worked on.

Written guidelines will be provided prior to the class. Assistants must commit to attend all classes for the session. In return, the assistant receives volunteer hours and the opportunity to learn.

If you are interested in being considered for this role or have further questions, please send an email to Class Assistant Coordinator Fran Hellman at sunjaysgrs@aol.com by January 3 with the following information:

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

The relevant instructor and coordinator will review applications, as we try to pair you with an instructor.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES arise from time to time. Contact Joan Kaufman, Volunteer Coordinator at:

pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com

PARKING ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to bring a few parking related items to everyone’s attention:

1. It seems that the work being conducted on the tracks by the club has left some students blocked in. Please note, that while track work is being conducted, it is best to avoid parking in the downstairs lot, because track workers have been know to bring trucks in, block our cars and leave. Building management says that they have the right of way.
2. Please do your best to avoid parking by the White Plains Auto Clinic. The owner of that business prefers that dogs stay away from his property, so we ask everyone to respect that.

PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes

8/30/2018

President –

- Business cards are available
- Volunteer hours in *Sit 'n Stay* and online

Corresponding Secretary –

- Fixed the address problem but AKC uses Corresponding Secretary address for club.
- Class surveys are about to go out.
- Results for the survey regarding the Museum of the Dog plaque came back more than 50% yes and 75% said to spend \$2500
- Will create a form for E blasts and will post it under forms and documents

Membership –

- 231 members
- honoring super volunteers 45+ hours

Registration –

- is opened and closes 9/2

Facility Survey –

- 120 members completed survey
- most said they would drive a distance. Those that take a train would walk.

AKC Delegate –

- discussed the cost of ribbons and how to make it more efficient.
- AKC looking at “Purpose Bred Dogs” for certain uses
- Considering bringing dogs to start lines with halti's and switching out
 - Talked a little about Urban CGC
 - Canine influenza made a big impact on conformation entries.

Treasurer

- Distributed statement of activity
- Still working on splitting income into the various categories
- filing taxes soon for the short year

Credit Card –

- Transferring to a new credit card processor which will save a little bit of money

- Connex point is a change from Elevon happening this November. It will give us better information and save us \$7000/year.

Next club meeting is October 26, 2018

10/26/2018

Board: Sara Gagnon, Audrey Woods, Morgaana Menzel, DeeDee Domenceli

Roll call – sign in sheets.

Reading of the last club meeting's minutes – a motion was made and seconded to

suspend the reading of the minutes. All were in favor.

President – Thanked the events people who scheduled the agility run thrus, rally run thrus etc.

Treasurer – report was given by President in Mary's absence. Overall down. Membership renewal coming up. Mentioned that there may need to be some increases as the board looks into which classes are profitable and which are losing.

Commitees – a blast will go out starting January for membership renewal. Awards will still occur in June. Currently there is 377 members versus 414 last year.

Unfinished business – results of the flooring survey indicate that most like the agiliflex and want blue.

New business – Club will hold its first AKC ACT trial in January

AKC Delegate - AKC has webinars to help educate clubs. Now offering FIT dog which awards an owner for walking their dog 150 minutes a week. You get a magnet. The AKC has determined that Labs, GWP and GSP dogs are best suited for military training. Those canines serving will get Vet care for life. Conformation and performance entries are on the decline. The AKC is also concerned about consistency among these venues.

Next meeting date is December 12, Holiday Party and Club Meeting

Meeting adjourned



PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

8/30/18

Policy for volunteer hours –

Send them in by the end of the year. The board will send a reminder. If they are not in and reported, they cannot be resurrected at a later date.

Members Facebook Page –

• Discussion ensued about a member's page

- It could be a closed group
- have a policy of what can be said and what can't
- more discussion needed

Betsy Schwartz will be teaching in November for the November/December session.

Grace is looking into redoing the schedule to make it more effective.

Next meeting will be October 9, 7:30 pm

10/9/18

Scheduling class versus trial, which should have priority?

Scent trial volunteers were complimented for their helpfulness.

New family member, Jason Gregory, was voted in.

Problems with ASAP reports and if we would be able to obtain a count of students split between non-members, members, and

11/28/18

Present: Sara Gagnon, Jeanne Meldrim, Grace Heck, Olga Kornienko, Morgaana Menzel, Audrey Woods, Mary Skirchak, Deedie Domenicali

Corresponding Secretary – Membership renewals are ready to go out. Olga would like a grid of all the trials in all disciplines for the year so she can forward information that comes from the AKC to the correct party.

Treasurer – There is \$104,000 currently in the operating account from which bills will be paid. Still need to enter the obedience, rally and scent work trials revenue and expenses.

Registration – up to 436 members from 414. There is a new team member for registration – Meika Mustrangi and Alice Wang for ASAP.

Membership - Three new members were voted on at the meeting and the motion carried: Alice Reo, Bonnie Brenda Scott, and Beverly Pietrucha.

Unfinished Business –

- The transfer from ASAP to Connexpoint is done
- \$30 will be added to the class fee for the Therapy Dog manual.
- Membership renewal will begin at 6 am.
- Mileage reimbursements have been eliminated since this is a tax deductible expense

on the part of the instructors.

- ASAP still does not provide an early registration capability but they are working on it.

- Members will still have priority registration of a day ahead.

New Business –

Timers are needed as per AKC specifications for the ACT trials. A motion was made to purchase these, seconded and all were in favor.

We will rent the lower level on a Sunday to the Nutmeg PWD Club for their meeting. Prior to the meeting we will need a copy of their insurance and every participant must sign a waiver. The fee will be \$100/hour.

Since the AKC removed the restriction regarding Obedience and Rally secretaries from showing dogs at trials they are working, we will take our cue from the AKC and allow this. The club never had a restriction and follows the AKC because we are an AKC club.

Dates for next year's sessions were distributed. A motion was made to accept, seconded and passed.

Holiday Party Club Meeting is December 12

Next board meeting is January 17, 2019

Meeting Adjourned.