

Celebrating 75 Years

PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Fall 2016

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Photo Courtesy of © Morgaana

"Penny in Autumn" © Morgaana Photography

Calendar of Events

Events are held at the PCOTC facility unless otherwise noted

Sep 18	PCOTC at Puttin' on the Dog, Greenwich	Dec 4	WCRL Rally Trial — PCRE
Oct 1-2	Kris Seiter/Chris Tucci Agility Workshops	Dec 10-11	Mike Muir Disc Dog Workshops
Oct 9	PCOTC at Hounds on the Sound, Mamaroneck	Dec 12	Holiday Party & Club Meeting
Oct 16	White Plains Weekend	Dec 18	White Plains Weekend
Oct 23	Frankie Joiris Tricks Training Seminar	Jan 22	Agility Run-thrus
Oct 26	Howl-o-Ween Party & Club Meeting	Feb 12	WCR Rally Trials — PCRE
Oct 30	WCRL Rally Trials — PCRE	Feb 19	Agility Run-thrus
Nov 5	AKC Rally Trials	Mar 4	AKC Rally Trials
Nov 6	AKC Obedience Trial	Mar 5	AKC Obedience Trials
Nov 13	PCOTC Open House	Mar 19	Agility Run-thrus
Nov 19-20	Bobbie Lyons Canine Conditioning Workshops	May 11-14	PCNUT Agility Trials, FDR Park
Nov 27	White Plains Weekend		

Port Chester Obedience Training Club

AN AKC MEMBER CLUB
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Est. 1940 www.PCOTC.org
Phone: 914-269-8550

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Family Manners

Jenn Michaelis, 406-396-3353

K9 Nose Work

Kathe Baxter, 914-238-6505

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SIT 'N STAY

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

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Next deadline: November 15, 2016

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

President's Message

As we have suffered through the dog days of summer and now dream of Fall and hopefully some cooler, less humid weather, I am writing to update you on progress at the club. I am happy to inform you that the revision of the Bylaws has been submitted to the AKC for their review. Though this arduous task is by no means over, we are one step closer. Depending upon the review and any necessary changes, the next step will be to present the Bylaws to the membership.

Speaking of Fall, many members are already involved in planning the next club year. Trials are being scheduled, meetings being planned, another Open House is being discussed, and workshops and seminars organized. It takes a team of dedicated people to work on these and I know that members will step-up-to-the-plate to volunteer and help out. As a club we have many exciting things to offer in addition to a great variety of classes taught by outstanding instructors. It's encouraging to see the club so active and for that, I thank you all!

— Lynn Lucas, lynnlucas@mac.com



Above: Scenes from PCOTC's 2016 Annual Meeting.

Save the Dates: 2016 Club Meetings/Events

Remaining 2016 Club meetings & events are scheduled for

- Wednesday, October 26 (Howl-o-ween meeting). Dogs dressed up, or down. Great refreshments; spooky surprises!
- Sunday, November 13. PCOTC Open House
- Monday, December 12 (Holiday Party & Club Meeting). A Holiday celebration. Scrumptious food and a guest speaker!

Club Doings

Awards Night 2016: Volunteer Members

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

Supervolunteers. A red asterisk before a volunteer name designates a “super volunteer.” Special recognition is owed to these very special members who go well above and beyond for the club, volunteering for 30 hours and up—way up, in some cases—for the club.

Not on the list? If your name is not on this list and you think it should be, please contact Jeanne Meldrim at jeannemeldrim@gmail.com

Note: Board Members are not eligible for designation as Super Volunteers.

Alemani, Joseph
Amen, Robert
Armisto, Ruth
* Baltz, Barbara
Banaszak, Barbara
Bannon, Anne
Baschiera, Peggy
Berger, George
Berkeley-Weiss, Linda
Berman, Kristin
Bordins, Maureen
Brewer, Adrienne
Burger, Karen
Cardone, Michele
Carter, Alice
Catts, Cynthia
* Cavallero, Lily
Chen, Patricia
Collins, Ellen
Cooke, Ashlin
Cornish, Kelly
Coronetz, Melanie
Danziger, Lucy
DeFonce, Margaret
DeGregorio, Anthony
DeGregorio, Marylyn
* DelRowe, Barbara Verdi
* DeSarno, Demetria
DeSimone, Kelly
DeVito, Denise
Dodds, Barbara
Domenicali, Dena
Dwyer, Cecilia
Dwyer, Darrell
Ebenstein, Peter
Ehrlich, Evelyn
Eisermann, Angela

Eikeland, Eirin
Emert, Ellen Gaw
Emmel, Heather
Fanok, Donna
Farrington, Maureen
Feldman, Lenore
Fessler, Carol
Fiebach, Maryann
Frantzeskarou, Elpida
Frumin, Betsey
Gagnon, Sara
Giddings, Joanna
Granata, Andrea
Gregory, Jason
* Gregory, Kathy
* Grohoski, Cynthia
Gumina, Rachel
Haas, Rickie
* Hagan, Virginia
* Halperin, Ellen
Halpern, Jonathan
Halpern, Lynn
Hanes, Yukiko
Heck, Grace
Hempel, Carolyn
Horton, Michael
Huniyack, Marianne
Hurwitz, Kristen
Hurwitz, Sydney
Johnson, Sarah
Jollyman, Louise
Jones, Elaine
* Jones, Michael
* Kalmanash, Andrew
* Kalmanash, Angela
Kelly, Lawrence
Kelly, Shannon

* Koren, Mary Jane
Kornienko, Olga
Krajewski, Barbara
Krevlin, Sue
Laken, Lorraine
Lau, Jennifer
Lavoie, Sue
Langendoen, Robert
Lebedin, David
Levine, Linda
Lucas, Bryony
Lucas, Chris
Lucas, Lynn
Lynch, Elizabeth
Lynch, Mary Grace
* Mandelbaum, Ann
Mandrus, Janis
Margulis, Ashley
Margulis, Keith
Marlow, Beth
McCarthy, Lisa
McGregor, Jenn
* McKay, Jamie
* McKay, Stephen
McLoughlin, Jane
* Meldrim, Jeanne
Meldrim, Matthew
Menzel, Morgaana
Metzger, Janet
Michaelis, Jenn
Miller, Karen
Mintz, Margaret
Mischel, Susan
Moskovitz, June
* Mulvey, Kristin
Nardi, Gale
* Nardi, Tom

Nelson, Nancy
Ness, Judy
* Nurena, Kathleen
O'Donnell, Katherine
Ouchterloney, Ann
Ouchterloney, Joanne
Paese, Patricia
Pisa, Marianne
Poe, Debbie
Potter, John
Qiu, Shenyuan (Frances)
* Rahner, Priscilla
Rauch, Marcy
Reid, Beverly
Reilly, Karen
Rescigno, Keri
Ripps, Sharon
Ripps, Carolyn
* Ritacco, Nancy
* Ritacco, Rick
* Rocco, Dana
Rogers, Karen
Romania, Bill
Rothschild, Gail
Rubin, Cindy
Rubinstein, Helene
Ryan, Jessica
* Salerno, Deborah
Salerno, Rocco
Sarsgard, Judy
* Savasta, Lisa
Schoeman, Mercia
Schulte, Jessica
Shaw, Scott

* Sheffler, Bruce
Sheffler, Joanne
Sheffler-Carney, Elizabeth
Sherman, Helen
Shinoda, Karen
Siegel, Barbara
Silver, Deborah
Silvera-Quezada, Kim
Simpson, Mary-Elizabeth
Skirchak, Mary
Slyter, Sarah
Soccodato, Jacqueline
* Squillante-Rego, Gigi
Sroka, Barbara
Stein, Lauren
Sweet, Leslie
Topol, Lisa
* Trummer, Michelle
Tucker, Margaret
Turschmann, Jeanne
Turschmann, Michael
Valente, Leslie
Vicari, Kathleen
Wang, Yuanshuo Alice
Wellmaker, Rosanne
Wheeler, Jane
White, Joelle
* Witt, Heather
Wolken, Benjamin R.
Woods, Audrey
Woods, Megan
* Wrey, Karen
Young, Peggy

Welcome New Members

The following members joined during our Summer quarter:

Linda Levine and her Shih Tzu, Ruby

Taylor Macy and her Mini Australian Shepherd, Luna

Jerrilyn Walter and her Boston Terrier, Boogie

Benjamin Wolken and Angela Eisermann and their Labrador Retriever, Bella

Club Doings

PCOTC Annual Awards Night 2016

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

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

Joanna Giddings, aided by Morgaana Menzel, pulled together the award data. The data and photographs for the awards were

turned into a slide show presentation by Sue Krevlin. Title plaques were presented by Morgaana Menzel and Lynn Lucas.

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

The Awards presentations began with the Training Directors' Awards. These annual

awards are determined and presented by each Training Director, to a student who has shown exceptional determination in the pursuit of excellence in her/his discipline—Family Manners, Obedience, Nose Work, and Agility. Next came the presentation of PCOTC's 2016 winner of the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. Last but not least, the winner of this year's President's Award was named.

Family Manners Training Director Award: Mary Grace Lynch

Every dog presents its own set of challenges. Each dog is an individual and requires a unique approach to help a handler reach their goals with their dog. But not every dog is lucky enough to have a handler like Mary Grace Lynch. Mary Grace was nominated for the Family Manners Training Director Award for her hard work and continued devotion with her rescue Papillon, Jack.

With the help and support of her mother, Elizabeth Lynch, Mary Grace has put in countless hours to train and encourage Jack, helping him to overcome his shyness. All of the instructors in the Family Manners program have witnessed Jack blossom through Mary Grace's time spent in a myriad of classes, beginning with Foundations and Skills, progressing through Tricks and CGC Class. She has also had fun taking Jack to many Nose Work and Agility classes.

Mary Grace is patient, kind and compassionate with Jack, allowing him to learn and explore at his own pace, attributes that have allowed him to flourish and gain confidence through his time with her. Mary Grace deserved to be recognized for this faithfulness and labor of love.

— Jenn Michaelis, Family Manners TD



Obedience TD Award: Mike Jones

It is my pleasure this year to honor Mike Jones as the recipient of the Obedience Training Director Award of Merit.

I have known Mike for a number of years through Agility. He was always kind and willing to help. I knew he loved his dogs very much and really wanted the best for them. Mike also dabbled in Obedience. He and Abby came to class wanting to train for their CDX. Mike had a lot of work to do. With guidance, he practically re-trained Abby's heeling and continued to work in Open. Once given the correct information, Mike ran with it. He got his CDX with no issues and decided to go on to Utility.

This is where Mike's real work was evident. With the help of myself, Rick Ritacco, and Bob Amen, Mike's obedience work was transformed. He studied the rule book and continued to train Abby in all the Utility exercises. To watch Mike train Abby is such a different picture than I remember. Utility is not easy and Mike is digging in and making it happen. I am proud to see him enjoy and excel with the dogs he loves so much.

Congratulations, Mike!

— Rick Pisani, Obedience & Rally TD

Left, top: Mary Grace Lynch receives the Family Manners TD Award from Jenn Michaelis.

Bottom: Mike Jones receives the Obedience & Rally TD Award from Lynn Lucas, on behalf of Rick Pisani.

Club Doings

Annual Awards Night 2016

Nose Work TD Award: Karen Reilly

Jessica Schulte, Nose Work Instructor:

Karen Reilly is receiving the Annual Nose Work Award tonight, but she is so much more than anything a single award could encapsulate. She is a member, an instructor, a leader, a student, and a role model for this club, affecting many changes that aimed to always benefit the dog. It was Karen who spearheaded the Family Manners program, and under her leadership the program developed into a strong and stable mainstay of the club and has continued to flourish as other people took over its stewardship.

Karen has also been a mentor to many of us here—she has unfailingly encouraged and supported me as I became a certified trainer and an instructor. She gives unsparingly of herself (although she would emphatically deny that) and is always there to lend a hand or an ear. Also, Karen has an amazing sense of humor, always willing to be the first to laugh at herself whether taking an obedience class, competing in the rally ring, or trialing in K9 Nose Work.

Karen led the first Nose Work classes at the club and has been an ardent supporter of the activity, the sport, and the role Nose Work plays in shelters. She has brought Nose Work to the Briarcliff SPCA where she heads up the volunteer program and has been instrumental in bringing Nose Work to the Tri-State area.

And don't just take it from me that Karen deserves recognition from this club as the invaluable member, friend, and teacher she is. Here's what some of her colleagues have to say about her:

Kathe Baxter, Nose Work Training Director:

Karen is a genuine friend, mentor and a very special person with a kind, loving and thoughtful heart. She has inspired, guided and supported me through my journey in life with my dogs and individual challenges and achievements. I am forever grateful.

Karen is known throughout the Nose Work community across the country for her dedication, devotion and enthusiasm to the sport both as an instructor and competitor. The memories of Nose Work camp, traveling to seminars, classes and trials together will be forever cherished. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Karen, for making our journey together fun and unforgettable.

George Berger, Nose Work Instructor:

I call Karen "Coach." She introduced me to teaching Nose Work four years ago. I'm still at it, still feeling her guiding hand as I move through each class. I will always be grateful to her for sharing her understanding of this game, but, even more importantly, for her example of showing real interest in, and compassion for, each and every student. Thanks, Coach.

Kathy Gregory, Nose Work Instructor:

Karen has taught countless successful Nose Work classes, giving dozens of students a successful launching into the sport. She attended Nose Work Camp in not one, but two locations, volunteered at countless trials, attended many seminars and has been a constant source of support and encouragement to us all, fellow Instructors and students, since then. Karen's "SNIFF" organization sponsors our bi-annual ORT tests here at the club. I can think of no one who deserves this award more.

Marsha Dominguez, Nose Work Instructor:

Karen, you are deserving of this award for your dedication to Nose Work and the many dogs and people you have touched through the years. You were my teacher from the beginning of my Nose Work journey and I thank you for opening up this world to Brie and me; and for taking my hand as I ventured into it as an instructor. You have been supportive and kind to all your students and co-workers throughout the years, and you have always been there doing the hard stuff. I am lucky to know you and have you as a friend.

Jessica Schulte: Karen couldn't be here tonight. She is flying west to spend time



Jessica Schulte reading Nose Work TD Award text.

with her family and didn't know this award was in the works until this afternoon. I will make sure to give her this award the next time I see her and to make sure she knows how appreciated she is.

Karen's response:

I'm sitting here at the airport reading this, trying to look inconspicuous with the tears in my eyes!

I am so surprised and honored. I was bitten by the bug back in 2010 and have remained addicted ever since. There is nothing more humbling than being allowed to play with others' dogs. Thank you to each of my students and especially those early on who were most patient as we learned on the go.

Thank you Jessica, Kathe, George, Kathy and Marsha for your very kind words and for the nomination.

This sport allows us to learn from and bond with our dogs. They are ecstatic realizing that they get to do what they do best and show us a thing or two or three, etc. Very importantly, the sport builds confidence in those shy and fearful dogs. I value my time at the shelter working with and learning from those homeless souls.

Nose Work rocks!

Club Doings

Annual Awards Night 2016

Agility TD Award: Lisa McCarthy

I am proud to announce that this year's Training Director Agility Award goes to Lisa Eldin McCarthy.

Lisa deserves this award, both for her excellence as a trainer and for her devotion to helping the club above and beyond the call of duty.

As a trainer, Lisa doesn't handle the typical "agility breeds." No, Lisa handles rescue "retired" Greyhounds. And what she does with them is simply incredible.

Sadly for us all, Lisa's beautiful Greyhound, Dali, "the snooker king," just passed away, but not before she took him places no other Greyhound has gone before.

Among their many achievements, Dali and Lisa were invited to the AKC Agility Invitational in Orlando twice. And at the 2015 invitational, Dali received a Special Award of Merit for being the top Greyhound in the Preferred Agility Class.

It's a great accomplishment, and she got there using love, a lot of patience, smarts and, of course, whipped cream. In fact, those students who have had the pleasure of training alongside Lisa have seen the power of whipped cream first hand, and are forever changed for it!

But it's not just her relationship with her dogs where Lisa sets an example. It's her relationship with people. Just look at this year's PCOTC agility trial where Lisa was volunteer coordinator. She did an outstanding job, not only working tirelessly to keep everything running, but she managed to do the impossible—she got people to work with a smile. She made it fun, as she always does.

Lisa even took on the un-glamorous task of chairing the Bylaws committee, and pulled off another "impossible" feat by getting ev-

erybody to work together like a well-oiled machine.

Lisa has a way of doing that. Of spreading happiness, motivation and joy among both furry and human friends. And for that, we are proud to honor her.

—Kim Seiter, Agility TD



President's Award: Kristen Mulvey

The President's Award is presented to an individual who has served the club in special ways over a period of time, and has been particularly helpful to the President.

I can think of so many members that could fit that criterion. I wish I could have awarded all of them, but decided to recognize the outstanding service of one individual who has been extraordinarily helpful to a large number of members and students.

Many know this person through her role as a member of the Registration team. In fact she has worked on registration for the past four years. She's one of many that have answered members' urgent cries of "I can't register and I'm worried I will get shut out of class!" or helped a new student to the club asking which puppy class to take. Throughout the four years, she has been patient, responsive and gone above and beyond in helping members and students.

On a personal basis, she has always been there for me. No task has been too big or too small. She has jumped in whenever needed, constantly sought ways to improve services for members and students, calculated complicated invoices when my head was about to explode over the math and, in every respect, has been a true team player. So, I am extremely delighted and honored to award the 2016 President's Award to Kristin Mulvey.

— Lynn Lucas, President

Left, top: Lisa McCarthy with Morgaana Menzel.

Bottom, from left: Morgaana Menzel and Lynn Lucas with Kristen Mulvey.

Club Doings

Annual Awards Night 2016



From left, Morgaana Menzel and Jeanne Turschmann congratulate Barbara Verdi DelRowe.

2016 AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award: Barbara Verdi DelRowe

At the Annual Club Meeting held on June 16th, Barbara Verdi DelRowe was the recipient of the 2016 AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. The description of the award on the AKC website reads, "In the American Kennel Club's ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate its volunteer club members, The AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award program was established in 2006 to provide each member club with an AKC Medallion to award to one of its own on a yearly basis. This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have

been an active and valued member of an AKC member club."

Barbara displays great sportsmanship toward her fellow classmates and competitors. She is always able to find something positive and upbeat about a dog and handler, no matter what type of night she and her dogs are having. She embraces the relationships between owners and dogs, no matter where they are in their training and/or competing level. As a member of PCOTC, Barbara is an integral part of the registration team, helping students through the detailed process. She is very often seen volunteering for a variety of events, across different disciplines at the club, and serves as a class assistant for Sabine Hellge's Grumpy Growler classes.

Congratulations, Barbara!

— Jeanne Turschmann

Jeanne Meldrim, New Board Member

Jeanne Meldrim became First Vice President on PCOTC's Board of Directors via election at PCOTC's Annual Meeting.

Jeanne got involved with dog sports when she wanted to find some fun activities to do with her dogs. She discovered PCOTC when she was looking for a training facility that offered more than just basic family manners.

She and her husband, Matt, currently have Axe, a four year-old Belgian Malinois; Seraphina, an 11 month-old Dutch Shepherd, and Napalm, a four month-old Dutch Shepherd. Currently, she trains Axe for Barn Hunt and Seraphina for obedience. Matt trains Axe in dock diving and Seraphina and Napalm in French ring sport.

Jeanne wanted to be on the PCOTC Board of Directors to help make the club a better place for all members. Prior to joining the PCOTC Board, she served on the Board of Directors of the North American Ring Association.

In her work life, Jeanne worked in magazine publishing for over 20 years and switched to court reporting six years ago.



Jeanne with Belgian Malinois Axe, doing some French ring training.

Club Doings

Nancy Nelson, New Board Member

Nancy Nelson was elected Treasurer on the PCOTC Board via election at the PCOTC Annual Meeting. As a professional tax accountant and CPA, Nancy Nelson is highly qualified to serve as Treasurer of PCOTC.

Nancy grew up with Miniature Poodles, and her first dog as an adult was an English Springer Spaniel. This dog came with the caveat that she would be bred once, and Nancy's first conformation dog was one of the puppies from that litter. That fine dog completed her championship and produced another group of champions. Knowing that she couldn't keep pace with the competition in Springers, Nancy acquired another conformation dog—a Smooth Collie. That dog became a champion, too.

In time, Nancy fell in love with the face and

ears of the Pumi. She acquired her first of that breed five years ago. The breeder urged her to try agility, which is why Nancy came to PCOTC. As she puts it, "I came for agility training and got involved."

Nancy currently owns three dogs: Smooth Collie, and two Pumik. She trains in agility, obedience and breed handling. All three of her dogs have a CGC, both Pumik are TDI dogs, and Nancy has conformation titles on one of the Pumik. She has legs toward three novice agility titles, but hasn't completed any—yet.

Asked why she answered the call to join the PCOTC Board, Nancy says "I believe that if you want to enjoy the benefits of any organization you have to volunteer."



Barbara Verdi DelRowe, New Board Member

The PCOTC Board elected Barbara Verdi DelRowe to a Director position on the Board after Olga Kornienko was elected as Corresponding Secretary.

As a child, Barbara had a Cocker Spaniel named Bobo who went with her everywhere. Her dad had a gundog (Leah, a Setter) that lived with them on and off depending on the season. Barbara grew up with the understanding that dogs aren't just for decorative purposes—they need a venue to use their natural abilities. So, when she got her first dog as an adult, dog sports, at a recreational level, naturally followed.

Barbara first came to PCOTC about 15 years ago when she moved to White Plains and looked for dog training classes. She became a PCOTC member about six years ago when she started taking classes more regularly.

Barbara's dogs include:

- 17-year-old Ollie (Ch. Corwnyt's Mr. Ollivander) NW1 HTD1, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi. Ollie had to retire from herding seven years ago when his hips started giving

him problems. Luckily, Barbara and Ollie found Nose Work; Ollie earned his NW1 at age 14. Ollie is now retired from all competition because his hips have made it so difficult. But, Barbara and Ollie still put out hides a couple of times a week.

• 7-year-old GiGi (lurcher-type dog): GiGi, who is a semi-feral dog from rural Arkansas, epitomizes a dog that is a natural "hunting machine." But, in a domestic environment, GiGi is a nervous, hyper-vigilant, jittery dog. After trying just about every discipline PCOTC has to offer (and a few it doesn't), Barbara and GiGi found Canine Musical Freestyle. GiGi can also be seen on a long line in the tall grasses at Purchase College doing what she does best—hunting.



• 2-year-old Jed (pointer mix): Jed is a rescue who joined Barbara's family a year ago. He's an alumnus of the Green Chimneys Dog Interaction program. Jed and Barbara are working toward therapy dog team certification through the Therapy Dog Prep class. In addition, Jed is a fan of Nose Work, and Barbara hopes to be ready for his first ORT in a month or two. Jed is a terrific hiking partner; one of their hiking venues is Rockefeller State Park.

Asked why she agreed to join the Board of Directors, Barbara said, "Well, I'd like the Club to thrive and to be there for me and my dogs, so it seemed only right that I be there for the Club when asked to join the BOD. The caliber of the other current Board members actually made it an easy decision, too."

Barbara volunteers at a couple of local animal shelters. She's also an ESL/literacy volunteer tutor at the Tarrytown Public Library, and a volunteer math and writing tutor for adults seeking to earn their high school equivalency diploma. Barbara is a freelance digital media editor for several college textbook publishers.

Club Doings

PCOTC Open House Nov. 13

PCOTC is planning an Open House for Sunday afternoon, November 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We aim to create a fun atmosphere in which current and prospective students can learn about—and perhaps try out—the range of club offerings, with demos, discussion, and audience participation.

For the Open House, the lower level of our facility will be divided into four rings with a wide aisle between them. Three of the rings will give dogs and their families a chance to try their hand at aspects of the sports of agility, nose work and obedience/rally. A Family Manners ring will offer tricks, advice on leash walking, and general training questions.

PCOTC volunteers are needed to help organize and run this event. Please contact Lynn Lucas at lynnlucas@mac.com.



2015 PCOTC Open House © Debbie Poe

Indoor Club Picnic in June

When inclement weather rained out the club picnic planned for FDR Park, PCOTC club members celebrated the club's 75th anniversary with an indoor "picnic" on June 5. The event included picnic food, an anniversary cake, and rally and agility games.



Photos © Morgaana Photography

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!

Agility

Agility Tip: Failure is Part of Training Success

by Kim Seiter, Agility Training Director

As “agility instructors” we are really human trainers. It is relatively easy to teach most dogs what we want. But as people trainers we sometimes find ourselves having to reinvent methods to help students understand and be able to execute what we are asking.

In the process of learning anything, we all make mistakes, adjustments and then more mistakes. Some of mankind’s best inventions were discovered by accident. When we embrace the “process” and really try to understand the error—whether it is ours, the dogs’, or even possibly the instructors’—we take a

huge step toward achieving our goals.

All instructors and students get frustrated in training, but learning how to understand the error and make an improvement because of it is the goal. I’m always amazed how the dogs continue to take our errors and somehow learn what we want.

In the end, this training we do should be considered an enjoyable learning process in which a great deal of the progress is the result of recognizing error and imperfection. Think of it that way, and you will find success!

Agility Run-Thrus & Trials for 2017

So far, agility run-thrus are scheduled for the following Sundays in 2017:

- January 22
- February 19
- March 19

AKC agility trials (“PCNUT” trials) are scheduled for May 11–14 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights.

AKC Agility Suspends Use of the Collapsed Tunnel

This past week, The American Kennel Club Agility department held their annual field representative meeting. During the meeting, the staff reviewed concerns raised by the Agility community involving the collapsed tunnel. This obstacle has been shown to cause issues as performances have become faster and higher level classes have become more complex.

After their review, the Agility Field Representatives agreed unanimously to suspend the use of the collapsed tunnel effective immediately. Based upon the Agility department’s recommendation, Sports and Events Senior Management contacted the AKC Board of Directors to request immediate action. The Board concurred that the concern regarding the safety of the dogs was the first priority.

As of August 30, 2016, the AKC will suspend the use of the collapsed tunnel in all courses until the concerns can be resolved. Judges will be contacted by their Field Representative to review how to adopt this immediate change.

Thank you to the Agility community for working in partnership with the AKC to bring positive changes to our sport.

— Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility

Lisa Topol, New Agility Instructor

Lisa Topol has been competing in Agility for 10 years. In that time, she has excelled with dogs of multiple breeds and sizes at the highest levels. She is especially proud that she has found her success with rescue dogs.

Competing primarily in USDAA and UKI, as well as AKC, Lisa’s cattle dog mix, “Schmutzy,” has medaled in several major competitions including a gold medal at the Cynosport World Games, silver and bronze at the CCOA/IFCS tryouts, Canadian Regional Biathlon champion, and silver medal in Grand Prix at the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Regionals.

Her newest partner is a little mix (best guess: half rat, half boy) named “Plop.” While she has only had him for a year, he has already brought home the silver in biathlon at the 2016 New England Regionals.

In terms of her own development, Lisa’s biggest influence is Kris Seiter, with



whom she continues to train. She has trained extensively with Mary Ellen Barry, Rachel Sanders, Jen Pinder, Val Henry, as well as the Finnish One Mind team. She has also worked with Linda Mecklenburg and Jennifer Crank.

As such, while Lisa is fluent in the most popular systems used today, she is not beholden to any one training system and strongly believes in supporting whatever methods work best for a particular team. In the end, Lisa believes it really comes down to a strong, happy relationship, and building a great foundation that can grow and strengthen throughout a dog’s career.

Agility

Kris Seiter/Chris Tucci to Return Oct. 1-2

Kris Seiter and Chris Tucci are returning to PCOTC on Oct. 1-2, by popular demand, to offer two new agility seminars:

Saturday, Oct. 1: Young Dog Sequencing (Two half-day seminars). Saturday will be devoted to building the skills and confidence of young dogs (or revisiting fundamentals for more experienced ones) with shorter sequences consisting of jumps and tunnels only. We will focus on skills and independence as we build and increase drive and confidence along the way. Each seminar will be half a day, but sequences will be different in the afternoon for those who want to do an entire day.

Sunday, Oct. 2: Masters/International Handling (Full day seminar). This is where we'll put our skills to the test. Challenging coursework for dogs competing at the masters/excellent level. We will look at different course options as you push yourself beyond your comfort zone and see where it takes you. Courses can be broken down into sections or run in its entirety, as applicable for each student.

Saturday half-day workshops, \$100 each working spot, \$50 auditors.

Sunday full-day workshop, \$200 each working spot, \$100 auditors.



Both Kris Seiter and Chris Tucci taught agility classes at PCOTC in the past, before their move to sunny Florida; Kris was Agility Training Director at PCOTC.

Chris Tucci has been training, competing and professionally handling in agility since 2007. His honors include 2014 US Open Games Gold Medalist, 2015 US Open Master Series Gold Medalist, 2015 European Open USA Team, 2016 USA Team for World Agility Open, 2016 European Open USA Team. Chris is a UKI and USDAA judge and is studying to be an AKC judge. His love of agility, dogs, and teaching shows in his attention to each student to be the best they can be. He maximizes his handling skills with clear handling cues that the dog easily understands.



Kris Seiter began training dogs seriously 18 years ago, and since 1997 has trained and competed in the sport of agility. Kris is a National and International Level competitor and has appeared in the final events of the 2005 and 2007 through 2011 World Games with her Border Collies Lochlan and War. Kris has 10 Individual Medals from the Cynosport World Games and 19 Individual Agility Championships from three different venues. Kris' foundation training builds confidence and motivation through relationship. She sees each dog as an individual and therefore applies different training techniques for all dogs.

To register, go to www.pcotc.org/calendar, find the Kris Seiter/Chris Tucci workshops by date, and click the registration link.

New AKC Agility Title

On June 29, The American Kennel Club announced a title designed to celebrate the lifetime achievement of dogs that excel across all AKC agility classes—the Agility Grand Champion (AGCH).

Dogs must earn a certain number of qualifying scores from Master Standard and Master Jumper with Weaves, Master FAST, Time 2 Beat, and Premier Standard and Premier JWW.

To earn the AGCH title, the following number of qualifying scores must be earned:

- Master Standard & Master Jumper with Weaves – 100 qualifying scores from each class
- Master Fast – 75 qualifying scores
- Time 2 Beat – 75 qualifying scores
- Premier Standard and Premier JWW – 50 qualifying scores from each class

Qualifying scores will be grandfathered and may be earned from either the Regular or Preferred classes, or a combination of these classes.

“This truly is a lifetime achievement

award,” says Carrie DeYoung, AKC Director of Agility. “We are looking forward to recognizing each of the teams who have demonstrated this relationship and depth of skill over their agility career.”

The new title became effective in July. In addition to a title certificate, a plaque will be awarded to each AGCH recipient. Stay tuned for news of the first dogs to achieve this level of excellence.

Obedience & Rally

Obedience Tip: Building Value for Work

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

Does your dog think training is playtime or work? You can increase the joy of working if you pair highly rewarding behaviors with training. List 10 things your dog loves in order of how much he cares for them. The #1 he absolutely loves and #10 is fun but just not quite like number 1 or 2. Now consider how you can control access to the items on the list. Is it readily available? How many times hourly, daily, weekly does he get these for free? Does he like to chase squirrels? Bite the water out of a hose? Go to the park? Swim or chase a ball? How about pairing one of these joyous behaviors with a small bit of work?

Start with something that is mildly chal-

lenging. Do a few steps of heeling and instead of rewarding your dog with a treat, give your dog access to one of the highly valued rewards. Gradually increase the duration of the work before they get to play, but don't be so quick as to steal the joy from the reward. Always consider the dog's point of view about the work and pair that behavior with the appropriate reward. Pair the least enjoyable work with the highest value reward and the less challenging training with lesser value rewards.

If you add work to play, as opposed to adding play to work, your dog will love to work for you.

Nov. AKC Rally & Obedience Trials

On Saturday, Nov. 5, PCOTC will host two AKC rally trials. Judges are Ms. Lynn DePrizio and Ms. Susanne Babcock. Trial chair is Audrey Woods, and Megan Woods is the Trial Secretary. Morgaana Menzel will be Chief Ring Steward. The Rally Trial premium is available at <http://www.pcotc.org/documents/2016/PCOTC-AKCrally-Prem11-5-2016.pdf>.

AKC obedience trials are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 6. Novice A & B, Open A & B, Utility A & B are offered; beginner novice and preferred classes are not offered at this trial. Trial Judges are Charles Marcantonio and Phyllis Broderick. Karen Wrey is the Trial Chair and Cindy Rubin is the Chief Steward, and Joanne Sheffler is Hospitality Chair. The Obedience Trial premium is available at <http://www.pcotc.org/documents/2016/PCOTCobedPremium11-2016.pdf>

Rally entries close Oct. 12; obedience entries, Oct. 19, or when numerical limits are reached.

Rally Tip: Rules, Rules!

by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA

I talk a lot in these notes about you and your dogs and about getting things right between you—and believe me, I understand that's the core of the whole dog game from walks in the spring woods to buying dog food and squeaky toys—and above all training.

But if you have decided to enter trials with your partner, no matter whether you just want to earn a title or you are after top scores, you owe it to you both to *know the rules!*

Rally was designed as a fun sport. You can talk to your dog (indeed you are encouraged to praise and verbally help your dog). Your dog's position in relation to you is defined less rigorously, verbal and hand or body cues may be combined, etc. However, Rally is a game, a sport, and as such it has rules and penalties (which differ somewhat from one venue to another). So far as I know, all Rally venues require that your dog be on leash entering and leaving the ring. All require that each station be attempted in numbered order and that the "Finish" sign be passed (so that time can be recorded). Also, they all require that you know how each station is to be executed and that

you may not ask the judge to explain rules during the walk-through, although you may ask about special circumstances having to do with course layout, etc.

This is a very broad outline. There are many details—a whole Rule Book full! They range from filling out the entry form and the proper class to enter and equipment allowed to how to execute each specific exercise (sign). The complete Rule Book for WCRL or AKC Rally is available online and a printed edition of the AKC Rule Book is available from the AKC store. As soon as you make the decision to start competing in Rally trials, *read the rules! Familiarize yourself with the rules!* Go to a trial and see how it works in real life. Even better, volunteer to steward so that you can get an insider view of what goes on. Then, when you are ready to enter a trial, all you will have to think about is you and your partner and having a great time showing off your skills together. You may make mistakes – no—you *will* make mistakes!—we all do, for heaven's sake. But you won't feel lost and confused and cheated out of performing well because you simply didn't know *that*, whatever *that* was.

White Plains Weekends

WPWs—practice for obedience trialing—are scheduled for Oct. 16, Nov. 27, and Dec. 18, 2016. To volunteer as a steward or a judge, see "Help Wanted" on page 29.

WCRL Trials in 2016

World Cynosport Rally trials are scheduled for Oct. 30 and Dec. 4. For more information, contact Audrey Woods at ajwx3@aol.com.

2017 Obedience & Rally Trials

AKC Rally: AKC rally trials in 2017 are scheduled for March 4 and July 29.

AKC Obedience: AKC obedience trials in 2017 are scheduled for Mar. 5, Jul. 30, and Nov. 5.

WCRL: 2017 World Cynosport Rally trials are scheduled for Feb. 12, May 14, Oct. 1, and Dec. 3.

Family Manners

Surviving Puppy Biting

by Jenn Michaelis

“lab-a-gator”
“doodle-gator”
“mal-i-gator”

Are these new and upcoming dog breeds? Has the public truly lost their mind by demanding some crossbreed between a domestic dog and an alligator? Rest assured, there is no new companion animal showing up in the pet stores that has scales combined with cute floppy puppy ears, curly tails, and requires a kiddie pool instead of a dog crate.

But! This does describe a very trying time in every puppy’s development. When their curious and exploratory nature includes putting their mouth on everything: your hand, your shoe laces, the leash, your scarf, your sleeve... the list goes on and on! We are not talking about chewing, we are talking about puppy mouthing!

Why do puppies do this? Puppies mouth each other during a very special time in their development. This developmental stage is designed to teach them how to be gentle with the sharp weapons that will eventually develop in their eventually very strong jaws. As adults, they will have a bite strength three times that of a human, and they need to know how to be gentle with these weapons, during interactions with both humans and other dogs. The easiest (and sometimes the only) way dogs can learn this is during this special time in their development: through their interactions with other puppies, other adult dogs, and the lucky humans they live with!

Puppies play with their littermates by mouthing, biting and chewing on each other. Throughout this play, the puppies receive feedback about their behavior, whether appropriate or not. Gentle play continues, while a puppy that is too rough will end up with few or no playmates, motivating puppies to mouth and play more gently. So how do we replicate this in a household with only one dog and a few humans? Our main goal is to slowly get rid of inappropriate mouthing over time,



Maligator—there’s even a T-shirt for it!

by providing appropriate mouthy-outlets, coaching family members, and making sure to teach a few self-control exercises along the way.

Here are some tips:

A two-stage process: Stage 1 teaches puppy to be gentle. Stage 2 teaches puppy no teeth at all on human skin. Stage 2 starts when puppy starts getting adult teeth.

Stage 1: Give your puppy a free pass for anything that does not hurt. It’s important they learn to identify gentle. Allow exploratory mouthing, and offer a chew toy as an alternative.

- If it does hurt: say ‘Ouch!’ and remove all fun things for 20 seconds, including petting, talking, eye contact, playtime, laptime, etc.

Stage 2: Act as though it hurts every time she uses her mouth on skin.

- Be proactive during rowdy times: early morning and night. Give extra walks, playdates, training, or fetch games to provide appropriate outlets for this energy.

- Make sure the puppy has 3-5 dog-play opportunities a week. Dogs learn more quickly from other dogs!

- Encourage children/family members to

move arms and hands slowly and calmly when around the puppy. Children must play with a toy with the puppy; no roughhousing or wrestling.

- Offer a variety of textures with play toys and chew toys. Keep one in your pocket! Anytime you are petting or interacting with your puppy, offer a substitute toy instead of your hand.

Training Exercises to Help:

- Hand feed as many meals as possible, encouraging gentle food-taking.
- Teach “touch” and practice twice daily for 5 minutes.
- Teach “tug” “give” and “wait” so you can play a puppy tug game twice daily for 10 minutes.



Terra at ten weeks: Playing tug with mouthing and teething puppies should be done gently, carefully and with rules! Most important: create a “tug” cue-word, teach and use a “give” cue-word, and intersperse simple sits/downs to keep the excitement level manageable. Larger toys are recommended in early stages of mouthing, when the puppy’s aim is poor. Smaller toys can be used as the puppy learns to be more careful about keeping their teeth off human skin.

Family Manners

AKC Freestyle Teamwork Test Event at PCOTC

by Jenn Michaelis

After the AKC Rally Trial on July 30th, PCOTC offered one of the very first AKC Freestyle Teamwork test events. AKC Freestyle Teamwork is in the testing-phase as a canine sport, inspired by the creative obedience showcases put on by obedience exhibitors at the 2015 Westminster event. AKC is now considering adding this sport to its current offerings.

Club member Jenn Michaelis and fellow Freestyle competitor Nancy Marston offered to adjust their current freestyle routines to fit the new AKC guidelines and perform them after the rally trial, allowing Rally Judge, Dawn Martin, to observe and judge the routines within the new guidelines. Spectators were asked to watch the routines and fill out surveys to return to AKC.

AKC is considering offering three levels of AKC Freestyle Teamwork. Each requires heelwork on at least two sides of the handler's body, position changes, retrieves and jumps. At Levels II and III, routines are longer—up to four minutes—and will include distance work, additional heel positions, changes of speed and direction, as well as recalls and send outs. Any move is allowed,

retrieves may be done with an object or prop, and tricks and innovative new moves are encouraged. Music and props are not required, but are strongly encouraged, as performance originality is worth 25/100 of the overall score. Scores are based on five main categories: Teamwork, Willingness & Enjoyment, Technical Execution, Performance Originality, and Presentation.

Nancy and her Border Collie, "Zoe," performed a routine to the Devo version of the song "Working in a Coal Mine." Her creative routine included fun props such as a lunch box, kerchief, pickaxe and a coal miner's hat. Zoe amazed the audience with her crawl, rolling in a blanket, and stealing the kerchief. They received enthusiastic applause and a very strong 97/100.

Jenn and her Cane Corso, "Terra," performed a routine to the Rose Royce song "Car Wash." Her energetic routine included fun props such as a bucket, squeegee, sponges, and of course, a car. Terra carried the bucket a myriad of ways, showcased reverse-front and behind heel positions, and helped push the car. She surprised everyone with a jumping-style spin, and received a perfect 100.

The spectators and judges were very complimentary and the test event had the desired effect, generating interest in this fun canine sport. For more information on scoring and guidelines for AKC Freestyle Teamwork: <http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/Random%20Little%20Tidbits%2023.pdf>

Collage of Jenn Michaelis and her Cane Corso Terra's freestyle routine at the AKC Freestyle Teamwork test at PCOTC on July 30

© Morgaana Photography



Seminars & Workshops

Bobbie Lyons K9 Conditioning

On November 19-20 Bobbie Lyons, Certificate Canine Fitness and FitPaws Master Trainer Course Instructor, will offer two K9 conditioning workshops and six private sessions at PCOTC.

"Strength training is the missing piece of the puzzle for many K9 athletes," Bobbie says. We spend more time and money fixing dogs' injuries than preventing them. Her workshops help handlers learn how to build their dogs' core strength, improve balance, increase flexibility and range of motion, build confidence, increase hind-end awareness, reduce the risk of injury, and improve their dog's overall performance.

On Saturday morning, Bobbie will offer K9 Conditioning I, which introduces participants to equipment, exercises, tricks and stretches that increase range of motion, flexibility, reflexes, and improve muscle tone and endurance. The exercises are



and how to design a program for your dog, pairing equipment in different ways and designing a mentally and physically program that can be done in a small place (living room, spare room, garage, etc.).

designed to reduce the risk of injury and increase balance, core strength, body awareness and overall performance.

"Fitness in Small Places" is the topic on Sunday morning. This workshop concentrates on equipment combinations

Those in working spots should prepare by taking K9 Conditioning I or by taking one of Bobbie Lyons' online classes before attending.

Three one-hour private or shared sessions will be available on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Private session participants receive a basic evaluation of their dog and a beginner workout designed for them and the equipment they have. Post-session follow-up is included.

Bobbie Lyons writes for Clean Run, teaches private lessons, online classes, and workshops across the country, educating others on how to condition their dogs to prepare for and prevent injuries. She started teaching in the Daisy Peel Classroom in January of 2012. She has also co-taught classes with Dr. Debbie Gross Saunders of Wizard of Paws.

More info and a link to registration will be available shortly on our website Calendar, www.pcotc.org/calendar.

Mark Muir Disc Dog Seminar in December

Eleven years ago, Mark Muir was drawn into the sport of Disc Dogging by accident, and when he reached out for help he encountered some styles of teaching he was not fond of. He told himself if he ever achieved a level where he could give back to the sport, he would.

Now, Mark teaches Disc Dogging based on a positive approach, putting as much emphasis on mental training of human and dog as on the physical training. Mark mostly self-taught himself everything in the sport and, so far, has earned 7-plus World Championship Titles and 14-time World Championships runners-up in different categories. He has recently retired as a career firefighter/medic and still managed to teach and judge over 40 international events in the past six years.

Mark limits the number of seminars he gives as he loves to compete himself. He has eight Border Collies in his house and he always feels the best comment he hears is that people cannot believe how well-behaved and happy his dogs are.

Day One of the seminar will briefly cover the history of the sport, and an understanding of the disc and why it does the things it does in flight. We will go on to many drills that involve throwing the disc, and drills to prepare your dog to be a better disc-catching dog. Mark will bring one of his pups with him to teach with,

and will let you practice some skills with his dog. During the day, we will have several segments of at least five minutes with each team, in which you tell Mark something you want to learn, and Mark suggests and shares what he would do. These are great learning sessions for all to learn from.

Mark would prefer that, at the very least, your dog has some drive for toys, but if not, he will give it his best shot with your pup.

Day Two will start with more advanced throws, more advanced freestyle, competition readiness and anything else you wish. In the afternoon, we will set up for a super-relaxed fun disc competition, and Mark will give tips along the way.

More information and a registration link for the seminars will be posted soon via the Calendar section of PCOTC's web site.



Seminars & Workshops

Frankie Joiris Tricks Seminar Oct. 23



training than roll over and shake hands!" she says. This seminar will expand your team's horizons with fun, easy to teach tricks like bowling and ring toss, as well as learning the skills you need to teach some much more complex performances.

Trick training is not just fun stuff; it's also a great way to:

- improve proprioception, core strength and flexibility
- bond with your dog
- hone your training techniques
- learn new training techniques
- gain insight and understanding into your dog's learning style

Frankie Joiris trains animal actors (birds, farm animals, turtles, cats and dogs) for television, film and print advertisements in addition to

teaching competitive agility and disc dog. She teaches and presents seminars internationally and is one of the top presenters at canine training camps across the country.

She has competed with dogs in virtually every venue in AKC as well as with dogs in every height category.

Frankie has been the Team Manager for the USA/AKC World Agility Junior Team for the past three years. She writes on the subject of animal training for several publications, including Clean Run, American Animal Trainer, Pet Bird Report, and Companion Parrot Quarterly. She also hosts a widely read blog at <http://fjoiris.livejournal.com>. Her style of training is eclectic and conversational and is focused on an individual approach to each animal. Frankie is a popular instructor since she works with and excels at training non-traditional performance breeds using many non-traditional methods.

A link to student testimonials can be found at <http://home.netcom.com/~joiris/id13.html>

Shortly, an informational flyer will be posted on PCOTC's web site calendar, and event registration will open.

On Sunday, October 23, world-renowned animal trainer and author Frankie Joiris of Speedoggie Performance Dog Training will present "The Total Team Trick Seminar" at PCOTC. "There is much more to trick

Public Events

Two Fall Public Events

This Fall, we have two major public events scheduled.

On Sunday, September 18, we will need booth staff and agility demo-ers for "Puttin' on the Dog," an annual benefit for Adopt-a-Dog in Greenwich, CT. The event includes demonstrations, competitions, displays, and fun activities for children and the entire family. PCOTC will provide a "My Dog Can Do That!" for agility. To volunteer, please contact event coordinator Gigi Squillante-Rego at fashionbiz@me.com

On Sunday, October 9, we will staff a booth and offer an agility "My Dog Can Do That!" at "Hounds on the Sound" at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. This event is a benefit for the New Rochelle Humane Society and Pet Rescue. To volunteer, contact Jane Wheeler at jane Wheeler@optimum.net

Volunteers are needed for both events. To participate, your dog (and you!) should be people-friendly and civil to other dogs.

My Dog Can Do That! at Hounds on the Sound, 2015 Photo: Bill Romania



Book Reviews

“Only Have Eyes for You” *reviewed by Joanne Sheffler*

Linda Case has come out with yet another succinct, timely, well-researched (and footnoted) and fascinating book on everything dogs. Her latest, *Only Have Eyes For You: Exploring Canine Research with The Science Dog*, in 219 pages in 32 chapters, covers food, canine cognition, behavior, and training, and controversial and/or hot topics of debate.

Each chapter lays out the latest research on a topic, how it can apply to dog people, and ends with Case's personal opinion.

For example, from Part 1, the chapter titled “Got Gullet?” The thyroid gland wraps around the trachea. Although banned for human consumption, trachea and esophagus parts are used in animal foods, including chews. Thyroid tissue contains the hormone thyroxine. As it is not destroyed by the dog's gastric acid or digestive enzymes, it gets absorbed into the body and remains active—playing havoc with the dog's thyroid hormone levels. And there you have—hyperthyroidism. This is of concern for those feeding raw diets or chews.

The four studies cited are footnoted at the end of the chapter and include a study reported in the Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association. Takeaway for dog people: diet-induced hyperthyroidism is a health risk that warrants further study. Case's opinion: This is not new information. It has been well-documented in human beings; hence the ban on human consumption. Case suggests pet owners should insist on the manufacturers' full disclosure of the source and quality of all ingredients. If they cannot guarantee their food has no thyroid tissue present, switch companies.

The chapter “Only Have Eyes For You” was a, well, eye opener. There have been oodles of studies done recently of how and why dogs can follow a human's gaze or finger



pointing. Among the theories of why some dogs don't follow a point include that they live with humans who continuously gaze at stuff and so, it's irrelevant to follow the gaze. A contradictory theory maintains that dogs look to their owners for help or direction and become better, not worse, at following a gaze. My favorite theory involving the point/gaze is in formal training, we teach our dogs to “watch,” to give eye contact. Looking directly into the owner's eyes is heavily reinforced and competes directly with the natural inclination to look where the owner is looking/pointing. As in “I know—you're proofing me!”

This comes back to bite the owner-trainer in such exercises where the dog needs to be taught to look away—the Go Outs, the Directed Retrieve, the Directed jump. Look. See? Mark! Nah—you're proofing me again. Studies are cited: trained dogs, untrained dogs, control groups. The takeaway for dog people is that while dogs living in homes respond to our pointing and gazing, eye contact training does inhibit the ability of

at least some dogs with their natural ability to follow gaze. Case's opinion is that we need to seek a balance between training activities that require our dogs' undivided attention and those in which we encourage dogs to use their cognitive skills and work independently.

Another chapter, “The Perfect Dog,” compares what people in the United Kingdom, Australia, and Italy consider their ideal dog. Tops on the list were medium-sized, short-haired, de-sexed, and housetrained, good with children, obedient and healthy. The researchers point out that the dogs that live with people today were historically bred for working purposes. Their bred in the bone traits may not jibe with people's expectations of how a dog should behave and respond to today's life styles. Their recommendations are, first, people need education to understand the normal behavior of dogs and the dogs' need for training. Secondly, breeders need to selectively breed dogs that will meet the expectations of owners as far as behavior goes, rather than physical appearance.

To this, Case is concerned by what she calls “the disconnect between what people identified as their ideal dog and the degree to which (if at all) they perceived their own responsibility in trying to achieve that ideal. Case agrees owners' unrealistic expectations of dogs need to be corrected through education, But Case says “it is illogical to follow this by suggesting that breeders attempt to create dogs who meet these unrealistic expectations.”

All in all, this is a thought-provoking read. Linda Case's background as a dog trainer, canine nutritionist, and science writer, with her education degrees of a B.S in Animal Science (Cornell) and her M.S. in Canine/Feline Nutrition (U of Illinois), make her uniquely qualified as an author in her field. Her writing style is very reader friendly, factual, but entertaining. I look forward to her next book.

AKC Delegate's Report

by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC's AKC Delegate

Dennis Sprung, President of the AKC, announced that all AKC judges are now covered by a \$1,000,000 insurance policy in effect from the time they leave their front door until they return from a judging assignment. So, if a judge is in a car accident or is bitten by a dog, expenses are covered up to \$1,000,000. All costs relating to this coverage will be paid by the AKC. The AKC will be disseminating information about this shortly.

The Board of Directors approved a new procedure for the reinstatement of dogs who have been disqualified. Previously, as you may already know, a judge or show committee could disqualify a dog for a number of reasons. Usually, this would most likely be for a dog that showed aggression or actually bit a person. One such re-instatement test was supposed to be performed at a recent conformation show. The test would be conducted by an AKC rep and three judges. All parties were assembled, but the show committee would not allow the test to be conducted on their site, citing legal liability, and this potential liability to the host club continues to be a real concern.

Because of this, the Board recently approved a change to this re-instatement testing. If a dog is DQ, a swab test must be done on the dog at that time. The club and reps will have the swab kit and the owner will perform the test on the dog. The dog will then immediately leave the show grounds. When the AKC receives a request for a re-instatement test, a mutually agreed upon location will be chosen.

A club will be asked two weeks prior to have a re-instatement test performed at their show/trial. It will occur first thing in the morning and be conducted by a Rep and three judges, as before. The dog being tested will be given another swab test, the evaluation will be conducted and the dog will again immediately leave the grounds. The owner will be notified of the results by mail. The cost for this procedure is \$500, paid in advance by the owner. If the dog fails the test, no refund will be given. If the dog was not swab tested at the time of the DQ, no re-instatement will be possible.

At the Delegate's meeting, several Delegates asked for the floor to state that if a re-instatement test was scheduled at their show for a dog that had bitten someone, the club could face a lawsuit for being the location where a dangerous dog was erroneously found to be safe to compete again. These Delegates stated that their clubs would not agree to be the site for a re-instatement. A Board Member stated that no such incident had occurred in the past 60 years. Regardless, these Delegates stated that no re-instatement would occur at their show. In my opinion, this is a legitimate concern for clubs, and that way around this might be for the AKC to insure all parts of this re-instatement procedure so clubs have no liability in this regard. I am sure this discussion will continue until it is resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

AKC Farm Dog Certification



On June 7, the AKC launched a new program called the Farm Dog Certified (FDC) test. Dogs will work through a series of 12 exercises that represent situations they may come across in a farm environment, and must display trainability, self-control, confidence and trust in their owner throughout the experience.

"A wide variety of dogs live in rural areas, so the FDC test is intended to demonstrate good behavior in these settings," said Alison Ruhe, AKC Executive Field Represen-

tative for Herding. "In addition, we view this new class as an opportunity to benefit our herding clubs by attracting new dog owners to their events, introducing them to the fascinating sport of herding."

About the Test

The test is a non-competitive pass/fail evaluation designed to assess the overall conduct of a dog. The dog must demonstrate self-control when exposed to livestock and other unique sights, sounds and scents. The dog should exhibit confidence and a willingness to comply with instructions when confronted with a variety of situations within farm type surroundings.

Who can participate?

The FDC test is open to all dogs at least 9 months of age that are individually registered with the AKC, recorded in the FSS program, listed with a PAL number,

or enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners Program.

"The FDC test provides an opportunity for dogs to apply their basic training in a unique environment. One can think of it as a Canine Good Citizen test on a farm," said Doug Ljungren, V.P. for Sports & Events. "In addition to promoting responsible dog ownership, the basic manners needed for the FDC test will prepare them for many other AKC activities."

Club Involvement

AKC Clubs currently licensed for AKC Herding will be allowed to hold Farm Dog Certified tests. The FDC test can be held as a class at a Herding event or may be held as a stand-alone test. Clubs not licensed for herding may be approved by the Performance Events Department to hold FDC tests in unique situations such as county fairs and community dog events.

Summer Events

Seiter/Tucci June Agility Workshops

by Jethro Poe

My old instructors, Kris Seiter and Chris Tucci, came back to PCOTC to teach a weekend of agility workshops in June. It was so nice to see them again, and everyone had a great time. We all learned a lot, ran a lot, and even ate a lot!

On Saturday morning, Kris taught a Green Dogs & Puppies seminar; I got to audit it from my crate. Some of the dogs and handlers in this seminar had a little bit of agility training, but most didn't. Kris taught them a lot of very important things like shaping, how to get drive out of your dog, and how to collect. All of the dogs got to do some single-jump work, and they even got to run through a tunnel. The humans learned how to do a front cross.

Chris taught a Precision workshop on Saturday afternoon. I got to participate in this one! Chris set up a really challenging course. In one place, we had to take the backside of a jump instead of the tunnel

that was very close by. In the beginning, a lot of us took the tunnel because our humans weren't giving us the correct information when we needed it. Also, who doesn't love a tunnel?! Chris worked with every human to make them more aware that the little details in their body positions (like, where their feet or hands are) affect what their dogs will do. By the end of the day the humans did a much better job at giving us information, so everyone was successful when we ran the whole course.

Kris' Sunday morning seminar was called "Which Skill Works Best?" The teams in this seminar got to run several sections of the course using different moves each time. This way, the humans could find out which handling choice was the best one for them and their dogs. It was interesting to see some humans discover that a move they didn't think would work actually worked very well, after all. As an auditor, an important thing I learned is that the human should always try to make sure that

their handling choice keeps them ahead of their dog. If the dog gets too far ahead then things could go really wrong.

Because I like to jump off the dog walk without touching the yellow part, I was signed up for Chris' Contacts workshop on Sunday afternoon. It's really important for dogs of all sizes to learn independent contacts. That way, if our humans have to leave us to get to the next obstacle, which could be a long ways away, we will still complete the contact successfully. The big dogs were a lot better at this than us small dogs. I hate when that happens! There was also a super hard teeter-weave-jump-tunnel sequence in the course that none of us got the first time.

We were all sad when the seminars ended and Kris and Chris had to leave. Not even Lisa Topol's cake message, written in delicious but sinister blood-red frosting could get them to stay! But there's good news: Kris and Chris are coming back to teach more seminars in October! I can't wait!



Photos @ Debbie Poe

Summer Events

July 30 Rally Trials

Photos © Morgaana Photography

A great time was had by all exhibitors at the AKC Rally Trial on July 30. Rally is a fun and exciting team sport for dogs and their handlers! Dog and handler teams navigate a course at a brisk, continuous pace, with numbered signs indicating different exercises to perform such as Sit-Down-Sit, Straight Figure Eight, Send Over Jump, Pivot 180° Right, Spiral Right with Dog on the Outside, Side Step Right, and Drop on Recall. It is a fun test of obedience and the trust in the relationship between dog and handler.



Summer Events

July 31 AKC Obedience Trials

by Joanne Sheffler

PCOTC held AKC Beginner Novice and Novice Obedience trials on Sunday, July 31 with 24 entries for each trial. We were fortunate to have two excellent judges, Lynda Moore and Esther Zimmerman.

The high scoring PCOTC winners were:

Trial 1

Novice A: Rickie Haas and Nautilus He's a Quiet One

Novice B: Joanne Sheffler and Golden Flyer's Beamish Boy RE

Trial 2

Beginner Novice A: Rickie Haas and Nautilus He Has a Nose For Trouble

Beginner Novice B: Pat Paese and Isengard's Jesse James Is In Town

Novice B: Bruce Sheffler and Golden Flyer's Zig Zag Zeke RA

(No name for a class signifies there was no club member qualifying.)

Special thanks go to Cindy Rubin for doing double duty as Chief Ring Steward and Show Secretary. Thanks also to our dedicated stewards who not only served in the ring but also assisted in breaking down the rings afterwards: Bob Amen, Kathy Vicari, MaryAnn Huniyack, Nancy Ritacco, Jon and Lyn Halpern, and Alice Carter.

It was a perfect trial for beginning competitors as it was small and quiet, with judges who were patient and accommodating to everyone, from the most seasoned competitors to the very new first timers.



Above: Pat Paese and Isengard's Jesse James Is In Town, Beginner Novice B, highest scoring PCOTC member in Trial 2

Left:

On the left, Joanne Sheffler and Beamer, Novice B PCOTC highest-scoring member in Trial 1

On the right, Bruce Sheffler and Zeke, Novice B highest-scoring PCOTC member in Trial 2



Summer Events

Mary Champagne August Workshops

Mary Champagne, an agility instructor at PCOTC and head of The Agility Facility in Southeastern Connecticut, offered two Sunday agility workshops at PCOTC in August. "Techniques in Sequence" on August 7, and "Coursework with International Flair" on August 21, used One Mind Dog-inspired techniques.

These photos were taken during the "Coursework with International Flair" workshop. Photos © Morgaana Photography



Glad Tales

Mary Grace & “Jack”

I received Jack through PapHaven, a national Papillon breed rescue group. He was four years old and on his fourth home. He was supposed to be my replacement therapy dog in training, but when I met the transporter in the parking lot, the first thing Jack did was bite me. He was definitely NOT therapy dog material. He was very shy and fearful, but I agreed to foster him until an appropriate home could be found.

Jack gravitated toward my youngest daughter, then 8-year-old Mary Grace. The two became inseparable. We failed fostering 101 and kept Jack. Mary Grace has worked very hard over the past 2 years to build Jack's confidence. We took Family Manners Foundation twice and Skills twice (with 4 different instructors!), Jamie McKay's shy dog class and Nancy Field's recalls and loose leash walking. We dabbled in agility and nose work. We enrolled in the CGC class to see if Jack could get his certification. Although Jack has great obedience skills, he is still a very shy dog and cringes when strangers try to pet him.

Mary Grace worked diligently to desensitize Jack to strangers approaching him and trained him to sit and stay in order to tolerate a pat on his head. Mary Grace has great sympathy for Jack's fearfulness since she, herself, suffers from generalized anxiety disorder. Together they conquered their mutual fear of strangers and both



became more comfortable around people.

Jack is Mary Grace's Emotional Support Animal, and travels with her wherever she goes. I can't think of a better handler for such a shy and sensitive little dog

— Elizabeth Lynch



Meg

It was a good summer for Meg.

UpDog Challenge, July 16: 1st in regular Frizgility, 4Way-Play, and ThrowNGo, 3rd in TimeWarp. High score for the day (they called it Grand Champion)

Skyhoundz Disc Dogathon, Aug 14: Qualified for Worlds in Spot Landing, Time Trial, 3rd in Pairs

UpDog Challenge, Aug 21: 1st in regular ThrowNGo, Far Out, 2nd in Pairs ThrowNGo, 3rd in Frizgility. High score (Grand Champion) for the day.

She is a marvelous competitor.

— Marty Levy

Glad Tales



Fen Earns CGC, TDI

My Sheltie Fen and I did Canine Good Citizen training at Camp Gone to the Dogs this June. He is now officially a Canine Good Citizen and passed testing for Therapy Dog International. We are visiting a local rehab hospital and hope to volunteer as 'Tail Waggin' Tutors at our local library in September. This is his TDI photo.

— *Judy Sarsgard*

Ace Earns RN Title (right)

On July 30, Ace completed his RN title, a first for both of us! So proud of my boy who now has titles at both ends of his name!

— *Lenore Feldman*



Jenna Earns NW2 Title

My GSD, Jenna, earned her NW2 title on May 7, 2016

— *Peggy Baschiera*

Glad Tales

“Abbie Einstein,” Cancer Survivor, Pays It Forward as Bark for Life Grand Marshall

By: Ranny Green | May. 18, 2016
From AKC News

Abbie Einstein's resumé would put most of us to shame. And her newest credential added in early April is simply a reflection—and recognition—of all of the others.

Abbie, a 9-year-old Golden Retriever owned by Mike and Elaine Jones, of Somers, New York, was the Grand Marshal for the American Cancer Society's Westchester Bark for Life event April 10, and is a cancer survivor herself.

But the affable, 50-pound Golden is much more. She's a certified therapy dog, a Reading with Rover partner, and a multi-titled AKC obedience, rally, and agility performer.

“Each year we elect a special dog to be our Grand Marshal and lead our walking event,” said Janis Castaldi, of the American Cancer Society. “We are so proud that Abbie Einstein fulfilled that role this year.”

In September 2015, Jones, 67, as a Port Chester Obedience Training Club member, volunteered to do a demonstration of “AKC's My Dog Can Do That” for a festival in Greenwich, Connecticut. During a lull in the action, he worked with Abbie on Utility exercises. A month later, he received an e-mail from the Westchester Bark for Life event chair, Georjean Squillante-Rego, stating that she had seen Abbie perform at the event and invited her to be the Grand Marshal of the parade this year.

“Each year I look for a special canine to be our Grand Marshal and your Abbie keeps coming to mind,” Squillante-Rego wrote to Jones. The fact that Abbie is a cancer survivor herself, as well as a certified therapy dog who visits people with illnesses like cancer, makes her the best possible candidate for the job.”

Jones, a retired air-traffic controller and programmer analyst, characterized the invite as “rewarding” and “exhilarating.”



Abbie joined the Jones household as an 8-week-old puppy in 2007, which already had another Golden resident, Smartie Jones, named after Smarty Jones, a Thoroughbred race horse who nearly won the 2004 Triple Crown. The couple had previously “been owned” by Border Collies and Irish Setters. Abbie was bred by Judy Breuer, of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, an AKC conformation judge and owner of Copper Lee Goldens.

“When Judy asked why we wanted Abbie,” Jones remembered, “we responded, ‘1. We wanted a family dog; 2. Since I had just had open-heart surgery and knew firsthand how badly I missed my dog when in the hospital, I wanted to pay it forward and give other people the chance to enjoy the girls as therapy dogs; and 3. I wanted to compete in the performance arena with them.’”

Even though he was healthy at the time, Jones's daughters, Michelle and Jeanine, convinced him to undergo a routine physical exam that revealed a heart abnormality prompting surgery and five weeks of hospitalization at Albert Einstein Hospital in the Bronx (for which Abbie was named) in July 2006.

“After the surgery when I was out of the ICU, Elaine would walk Smartie across the street from the hospital,” Jones said. “Since

we lived across the street, she was able to do this daily. Initially, just seeing my dog was sufficient, but eventually I wanted to touch and hug her. Since we knew the nurse, I was allowed a one-time visit to the rear entrance accompanied by the head nurse and a heart monitor to interact with Smartie.

“I cried with joy and even today I am filled

with emotion when I think about it. This was a life-changing moment and why I decided to pay it forward. Abbie's name is a constant reminder of this commitment and my way of honoring doctors and nurses everywhere.”

And that same dynamic segued into the veterinary profession, too, after the vibrant, one-year-old dog was diagnosed with cancer.

That chapter began in 2008 when Michelle detected a tiny dot between Abbie's front teeth. A trip to the vet resulted in a precautionary biopsy being taken. Three days later the Joneses were advised to see a veterinary oncologist, Dr. Daniel Carmichael, at the Veterinary Medical Center of Long Island.

After diagnosing the aggressive Squamous cell carcinoma, which is usually seen in older dogs, Dr. Carmichael performed surgery that involved removing four teeth and a portion of the jaw to which they were linked.

“When Elaine and I first were told about Abbie's cancer, we were devastated,” Jones said. “Every time each of us looked at her, we started crying. We could not believe that we might lose this wonderful, lovable puppy so soon.”

Continued next page

Glad Tales

Abbie Einstein *continued*

“But thankfully the surgery was a total success, as Dr. Carmichael was able to achieve clean margins in the affected area. Abbie survived and has been able to enjoy a normal doggie life.”

This year marks eight years from her surgery. And so far this year, Abbie completed her first Utility competition and she revisited the oncologist. “It was a happy reunion,” Jones said.

Abbie Einstein and the 12-year-old Smartie Jones have lived busy schedules the past seven years. Both are Therapy Dog International certified, visiting nursing homes, hospitals, autism halfway homes, and performing grief counseling in Newtown, Connecticut (following the December 2012 Sandy Hook

school shootings) and in Somers.

Currently, Abbie visits the Reading to Rover program every Monday for an hour in Kent, New York, and does a home visit to an Alzheimer’s patient in Mahopac, New York, each Friday. And if that isn’t enough, she is involved in the initial implementation of therapy dogs in a dialysis unit at the Yorktown Artificial Kidney Center in Yorktown, New York, every Wednesday and Thursday for 90 minutes each day.

She also enjoys serving as a therapy dog for the Danbury Music Centre annual production of “The Nutcracker.” The cast of 200 young adults rehearse each weekend from September through November and perform in four productions in December.

Abbie’s well-rounded mix of activities are accented with plenty of special memories

for those receiving her greetings from cuddles to kisses.

Jones has his share of them, too. Here’s one of his favorites:

“She was a demo dog at Meet the Breeds in New York City and was executing the retrieve over the high jump. I had thrown the dumbbell out to the ring gates and when I released her she ran immediately to it. Oh, wait, she saw the children lined up along the ring gates and immediately forgot the dumbbell and started licking them. Based on incidents like this, I knew Abbie possessed the temperament to be special.”

Throughout her life, Abbie has overcome every obstacle in her path while making a difference in the lives of other. And isn’t that exactly what you’d expect from an ACS Bark For Life Grand Marshal?

Locked in Basement for Years, Rescued Dog Becomes Honored Therapy Dog

By: Penny Leigh, AKC Canine Partners

Coconut THDD CGC spent his first three years of life in a basement until his owner turned him over to a shelter. Dr. Elizabeth Lynch of Greenwich, CT, saw something special in Coco and took him home. With a lot of love, training and trust building, Coco has become a wonderful therapy dog and recently received the AKC title of Therapy Dog Distinguished for making more than 400 visits to help others! Elizabeth tells their story:

I adopted Coconut from the Yonkers, NY, Animal Shelter, where he was owner relinquished after being locked in a basement for three years. I was looking for my next therapy dog, and I thought that I saw something good in his face. He was completely untrained, missing a lot a hair, bow legged, and wild. He came with the name Coco, but my kids promptly added the “nut” to the end because he was so crazy.

We trained in the Family Manners Obedience classes at Port Chester Obedience Training Club in White Plains, NY, an

AKC affiliate club. We repeated many classes, but managed to advance slowly through the sequence. With exercise and care, his legs straightened out, and his hair grew back in, revealing a small golden heart on his chest. It was a sign!

One year after his adoption, Coconut passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test and went on to be registered as a therapy dog with the Good Dog Foundation and Pet Partners (previously the Delta Society). Today he visits in two hospitals, including intensive care, cardiology and a cancer center, as well as several schools as a reading therapy dog.

Once he caught on to clicker training, he was a joy to train and enjoys dancing to the beat in canine freestyle, participating in



rally freestyle, and learning new tricks. He is a Nose Work Level 3 Elite dog and on his way to getting his Barn Hunt Novice title.

I was so lucky to find Coco, and he is happy making other people happy. What a great job to have in life.

Coco is a member of the AKC Canine Partners program for all dogs, including mixed-breeds and rescues.

Sad Tales



Maggie May

AX AXJ OF AD OA AG AJ AS RN RL1 RL2

6/02/07 – 8/23/16

Maggie May lost her battle with cancer on August 23. She fought a good battle since being diagnosed this past March, but this disease was much stronger than she was, staying hidden in her body for a long time before rearing its ugly head. Bob and I helped Maggie to cross the Rainbow Bridge this afternoon. I hope she has found her older sister Tanya and all the other friends she's known along her life who have lost their battles. I see her as being fully sighted, happy and healthy, running through fields and on agility courses and swimming every day. She was my first agility dog as well as my first Golden Retriever. We had a wonderful journey together, one that I will never forget. Even after losing her eye years ago she still wanted to play the agility game with me. No matter what was going on she was always happy and gave us unconditional love for all these years.

— *Barbara Siegel*

Halligan

We lost Halligan on July 8th, just a few weeks before his tenth birthday when he succumbed to a recurring tumor. Halligan's primary activity was French ring sport. He was the 2009 level 1 Eastern Regional champion and placed third in the Nationals at level 2 in 2012. Unfortunately, a spinal injury ended his French ring career. In 2015, Halligan started a second career in Barn Hunt where he received his RATI and RATN. Over the course of his lifetime he also dabbled in Nose Work and dock diving. He is greatly missed.

— *Matt and Jeanne Meldrim*



Our Stars

New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 8/20/16

RALLY TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Rally Novice (RN)

7/30/16 Lenore Feldman, Ace

AGILITY TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Novice Jumpers (NAJ)

6/25/16 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice, "Winter,"
Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Novice Jumpers Preferred (NJP)

8/5/16 Sarah Johnson, Daisy Furball, "Daisy," All American
Aussie

AKC Novice Fast (NF)

7/23/16 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice NAJ NF "Win-
ter," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Open Fast Preferred (OFP)

5/27/16 Karen Shinoda, CH Deerhaven Bonnie Wee Macal-
lan RA OA AXJ NJP NF OFP JE CGC RATO ROM
PROMX, "Callie," Westie

6/3/16 Karen Shinoda, CH PACH BonnieWee Sandy's Balve-
nie BN RAE MX MXB MXJ MXP4 MXPB MJP2 MJPB
NF OFP PAX ME CA CGC RATS, "Sandy," Westie

7/10/16 Sarah Johnson, "Sassafras," All American

AKC Master Fast (MXF)

6/12/16 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Bor-
der Collie

AKC Master Standard Preferred (MXP)

6/18/16 Stephen McKay, Brigadoon Have Tux Will Travel,
"Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Jumpers Preferred (MJP)

6/12/16 Stephen McKay, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Agility Champion 9 (MACH 9)

6/24/16 Michelle Trummer, MACH 9 Rockwoods Zig Zag Zoe
MXG3 MJB4 MXF T2B8, "Zoe," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Agility Champion 16 (MACH 16)

6/25/16 Michelle Trummer, MACH 16 Corn Cockle Cornelius
CDX MXB5 MJG5 FTC1 MFB2 TXQ T2B9, "Corn,"
Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Preferred Agility Excellent (PAX)

6/3/16 Karen Shinoda, CH PACH BonnieWee Sandy's Balve-
nie BN RAE MX MXB MXJ MXP4 MXPB MJP2 MJPB
NF OFP PAX ME CA CGC RATS, "Sandy," Westie

AKC Preferred Agility Champion (PACH)

6/3/16 Karen Shinoda, "Sandy," Westie

United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)

USDAA Starters Snooker (SS)

6/4/16 Michele Cardone, Keepemgoing's Gone But Not
Forgotten, "Zack," Border Collie

USDAA Gamblers Master (GM)

7/10/16 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," BC

Canine Performance Events (CPE)

CPE Fun Level 4, CTL4-F

7/2/16 Debbie Poe, Neguinho Maluco, "Jethro," Pomeranian

CPE Strategy Level 4, CTL4-S

7/9/16 Debbie Poe, Neguinho Maluco, "Jethro," Pomeranian

CPE Champion Jumpers ChJU

8/7/16 Ann Ouchterloney, Mercury's Next Edition, "Indy,"
Shetland Sheepdog

CPE Champion Colors, ChCL

4/15/16 Ann Ouchterloney, Mercury's Next Edition, "Indy,"
Shetland Sheepdog

UK Agility International (UKI)

UKI International Senior Dog, ISD

6/25/16 Virginia Hagan, Cinder Glo You're the One, "Robbie,"
Shetland Sheepdog

BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt Association (BHA)

BHA Novice Barn Hunt (RATN)

7/31/16 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Dantero, "Axe,"
Belgian Malinois

BHA Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI)

7/31/16 Jeanne Meldrim, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

NOSE WORK

National Association of Canine Illlill (NACSW)

NACSW Nose Work 3 (NW3)

7/8/16 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggles Merriment, "Emma,"
English Springer Spaniel

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN, THERAPY DOG

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

6/16 Judy Sarsgard, Fen, Sheltie

Therapy Dog International (TDI) licensed

6/16 Judy Sarsgard, Fen, Sheltie

CONFORMATION TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Grand Champion (GCH)

5/29/16 Janet York, Piccadil's From Russia With Love, "Giyp-
sy," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

07/30/16 Janet York, Piccadil's When Your A Jet CD NA NJ,
"Jet," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

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 (www.pcotc.org/membership).

New titles and awards will be posted periodically at the facility, and will be included in yearly ads that congratulate our members on titles earned.

If you do not have web access, you may report your new titles by mail (or e-mail), to trummersrt@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.

HELP WANTED

PCOTC at PUBLIC EVENTS:

Volunteers needed for booth duty, ring guides, transport and setup. See article p. 16.

- Puttin' on the Dog, Sept. 18, Greenwich CT. To volunteer, contact Gigi Squillante-Rego at fashionbiz@me.com
- Hounds on the Sound, Oct. 9, Mamaroneck, NY. To volunteer, contact Jane Wheeler at janevheeler@optimum.net.

OPEN HOUSE, Nov. 12. See p. 9. Contact Lynn Lucas, lynnlucas@mac.com

WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS, Oct. 16, Nov. 27, Dec. 18. Stewards and judges needed. Contact Karen Wrey at kayray@optonline.net, 845-592-1722 (home, preferred), or 914-494-6508 (cell) and specify morning (8:30-12:30) or afternoon (12-3:30pm) shift.

AGILITY RUN-THRUS, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, 2017. Volunteer signup instructions will be posted prior to each weekend.

AKC RALLY TRIALS, Nov. 5. Contact Audrey Woods at ajwx3@aol.com or Megan Woods at hollywoods118@aim.com

AKC OBEDIENCE TRIALS, Nov. 6. Stewards needed. No experience necessary! Contact Cindy Rubin, chief steward, at rosiesmom@doglover.com. Other obedience volunteers should contact Bruce Sheffler at brilligs2@optonline.net

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

...to volunteer come up periodically. Check with Deborah Silver (volunteer coordinator) at pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com



Volunteering Explained

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photos: Morgaana Photography

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? Missing out on club information? 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.

PCOTC's Yahoo Group E-mail Lists: PCOTC's Yahoo Group lists (General, Agility, and Family Manners) will be closed down this Fall. Mail messages will go through our MailChimp mailing list, so make sure you are subscribed (see above).

Facebook Page: Go to [facebook.com/pcotc](https://www.facebook.com/pcotc) or search for "Port Chester Obedience Training Club" to bring up our page.

Twitter: You can follow PCOTC on Twitter: [@TeachRover](https://twitter.com/TeachRover), for news such as class cancellations, opening or closing dates for trials and seminars, etc.



PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes

6/16/16

Present: L. Lucas, G. Berger, C. Fessler, J. Turschmann, O. Kornienko, M. Menzel, A. Woods, M. Woods, J. Wheeler

President's Report

Detailed the number of things were accomplished this past year:

- Bylaws changes and the work that still needs to be done
 - Work on the new website – programming and layout are completed
 - Facility upgrades – additional lighting and cameras
 - 204 students taking classes, 438 classes, including the new Young Handlers and Therapy Dog classes
 - Many workshops
 - Many public events – 8 plus a visit from the Girl Scouts
 - Agility - new equipment purchased and 3 run throughs held
 - WPW – conducted 8 this year
 - Norework - 2 ORT trial
 - Agility trials = 3
 - Obedience trials = 4
- Looking forward:
- Finish the Bylaws
 - Use budgeting to make decisions
 - Launch new website
 - Find an indoor agility site for trials
 - Plan many more workshops

Corresponding Secretary's Report

- Changed e-blasts to MailChimp
- 193 E Blasts went out since we switched to Mailchimp in August 2015
- Surveys were revamped last fall
- Google calendar allows 48 hour turn-around on online room rentals
- Can now pay online for rentals
- Continue to correspond with the AKC

Treasurer

- Profit and Loss statements are out
- We have slightly under \$200,000 in the reserve account
- Still have 3 Wells Fargo accounts and are looking to consolidate them.
- Dinowitz and Bove have cleaned up the operating account
- Changed phones to save money

Membership

- 312 members (3.3% increase), 233 are in good standing
- The data that has been kept for 6 years indicates that membership has increased steadily.

Committees

- **Constitution and Bylaws:** Put forth an ambitious revision only to find out that the AKC won't allow certain changes (i.e. absentee ballots)
- **Seminars; many seminars, many more planned.** There have been many public events and many more to come. The website is using Squarespace. Newsletter is online and only 10 members are requesting paper versions.

Election of New Officers

With no opposing slate of candidates the Recording Secretary, Audrey Woods, cast one vote to elect the new slate of candidates as presented.

The remainder of the meeting was the slide presentation and presentation of awards, TD awards, President's award and AKC Sportsmanship award.

6/28/16 & 7/12

PCOTC Board Special Meetings

Present: L. Lucas, G. Berger, J. Meldrin, O. Kornienko, J. Wheeler, M. Woods, A. Woods, M. Menzel

Two special meetings were called; one on 6/28 and one on 7/12 to discuss, revise, and edit the Constitution and Bylaws based on the recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, in order to format the documents in the way that would be accepted by the AKC.

The board has been tasked with reading through the edits in order to vote on them at the next meeting 7/26 and then send them off to the AKC for approval.

Board Meeting Minutes

7/26/16

Present: G. Berger, O. Kornienko, L. Lucas, J. Meldrin, M. Menzel, N. Nelson, J. Wheeler, A. Woods, M. Woods

President Report

Agility Schedule:

Kim will now be teaching Tuesday 10am to 2pm.

In addition to her Wednesday schedule, Stefanie Rainer will teach 4 Tuesday evening classes.

Misa – will be adding agility classes on Thursday pm

Agility Survey: Being sent out this week regarding feedback on trials

Trial Chair for May 2017 – Deb Salerno

Room Rental: Sara Gagnon will be reviewing room rental procedures to assess ways to improve on current system.

Training Directors: Working on revising class descriptions for new website

Search Task ForceBlast will be sent out at the end of summer asking for individuals interested in looking into future training facilities

Registration: Sep-Oct registration will open: Wednesday Aug 17 (volunteer members) and Thursday Aug 18 (all others)

Barbara Baltz currently reviewing alternative online registration sites

Kristin Mulvey leaving registration team in September. Karen Rogers has joined the team as her replacement

The building management has given us the key for the poop stations. Unfortunately, they gave the key to someone and we are unable to locate it.

There have been complaints about students taking dogs into the bathroom upstairs. TDs have been asked to remind students. Also affects members renting upper facility.

WPW – reached out to Mike and Karen regarding Fall/Spring dates for WPW. Also,

PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

Agility Run Thrus need to get on the calendar since it is booking up.

Treasurer Report

The budget is being worked up for next year.

Rental rates were reviewed and discussed. There has not been an increase in rental rates since 2006. The cost/hour for the building is \$37. A motion was made to raise the rates to \$30 downstairs and \$24 upstairs. The motion was seconded and all were in favor. We are still losing money on each rental but the new rates will go into effect September 1 and the board will review it on a yearly basis.

Based on what others pay for trials held at the club and taking into account building expenses and lost revenue from not running classes the SNIFF trial rate has been increased. A motion was made to raise the rate, have a signed contract and proof of insurance. It was seconded and approved with one member abstaining from voting.

The rates for Sue Ann Lesser were reviewed and discussed in light of expenses and a motion was made to raise Sue Ann Lessor's rent for July 1 – December 31, 2016 with the board reviewing it after the 6 months. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary

Room rentals can be paid online.

Sent out 10 E-blasts, 20% viewed except for Annual Meeting rate is 50%.

Seminars – A number of public events are coming up; 9/18 Putting on the Dog, 10/9 Hounds on the Sound, Open House TBD, and seminars which are on the website calendar.

Suzanne Clothier will be back in 2017.

Website – getting permission from Joanna Lou to use the wording from the posters on the wall to describe the disciplines on the website.

Membership – 226 members, 75 outstanding. New members presented are:

Benjamin Wolken and Angela Eisermann (Lab), Linda Levine (Shitzu). Motion was made to accept these new members. Sec-

onded and all were in favor.

Facility – Need to service the AC units as per our lease agreement and possibly move the AC thermostat from the outside wall. Insulating the garage door to reduce heat loss/ entry should be investigated. Management has changed all lights in both upper and lower levels to LEDs. The House Committee is being reformed.

During the August dark week the Board will sort through the closets. The TDs have been contacted and have been asked **to tag anything that needs to be retained.**

New Business

The Code of Conduct proposed by the Bylaws Committee was reviewed and a motion to include the new Code of Conduct in the club's Policy and Procedures Manual was made, seconded and all were in favor.

After final review by the Board on the Constitution and Bylaws, a motion was made that subject to reformatting that the Board move to send the documents to the AKC. The motion was seconded and passed with all in favor.

Board Teleconference

8/2/16 @ 8:15 pm

Present: L Lucas, G. Berger, J. Meldrim, O. Kornienko, J. Wheeler, M. Menzel, N. Nelson

Telephone conference was called to discuss appointing Barbara DelRowe to the vacant Director post. A motion was made and approved.

Board Teleconference

8/2/16 @ 8:30 pm

Present: L Lucas, G. Berger, J. Meldrim, O. Kornienko, J. Wheeler, M. Menzel, N. Nelson

Telephone conference was called to discuss appointing Lisa Topol as an agility instructor. A motion was made and approved.