

Celebrating 75 Years

PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Spring 2016

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Michele Cardone's Skye enjoys Spring grass and flowers.

Calendar of Events

Events are held at the PCOTC facility unless otherwise noted

Mar 5	AKC Rally Trials	Jun 19	WPW Obedience run-thrus
Mar 6	AKC Obedience Trials	Jun 25-26	Tracy Sklenar agility workshops
Mar 13	Agility run-thrus	Jul 17	WPW Obedience run-thrus
Mar 20	WPW Obedience run-thrus	Jul 30	AKC Rally Trials
Apr 10	PCOTC at Bark for Life	Jul 31	AKC Obedience Trials
Apr 16-17	Suzanne Clothier seminars	Aug 31	Club Meeting
May 1	WPW Obedience run-thrus	Oct 2	WCRL Rally Trials
May 7	PCOTC at SPCA Walkathon & Pet Fair, FDR State Park	Oct 26	Howl-o-Ween Party & Club Meeting
May 12-15	PCNUT Agility Trials, FDR Park, Yorktown Heights, NY	Nov 6	AKC Obedience Trial
May 22	WPW Obedience run-thrus	Nov 12-13	Bobbie Lyons workshops
Jun 5	PCOTC Picnic!	Dec 4	WCRL Rally Trial
Jun 9	Annual Club Meeting	Dec 12	Holiday Party & Club Meeting

Port Chester Obedience Training Club

AN AKC MEMBER CLUB

220 Ferris Avenue, White Plains, NY
Est. 1940 www.PCOTC.org

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SIT 'N STAY

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

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Sit 'n' Stay is produced for online delivery. However, if you need to receive the newsletter in print, please contact Jeanne Turschmann at 914-761-2339.

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Marcy Rauch's Echo Smelling the Flowers in Spring

President's Message

I have previously talked about baby steps ... saying we will get there in the end, but I believe that in the past few months we have taken giant strides towards improving the governance of our club.

Firstly, this past week we completed the financial audit, the results of which have been distributed in its entirety to members. The findings of the audit were positive, assuring us of the financial health and future viability of the club which now allows to take the next steps towards a financial re-organization of the club ... developing spending plans and specifying budgets.

Secondly, the Constitution & By-Laws Committee has reported to the Board of Directors about their re-organization of this important document. From an initial reading of their suggestions to bring our governance up-to-date, it is obvious that a lot of thought, discussion and attention to detail has gone into their work. The Board will now spend time looking carefully at their work before first bringing it to the AKC for their initial approval, and then to the membership.

These are two huge developments and ones that could not have been achieved without the help of certain members. Bob Amen saw us through the audit and I am truly indebted for his expertise and guidance. In addition, I am extremely grateful to members of the Constitution & By-laws Committee: George Berger, Virginia Hagan, Tom Nardi, Megan Woods and especially Lisa McCarthy for chairing this committee.

There is still much work to be done. We continue to take the baby steps, but it is so gratifying to see major progress achieved in such important issues.

— Lynn Lucas, lynnlucas@mac.com

Save the Dates: 2016 Club Meetings

2016 Club meetings are scheduled for

- Tuesday, April 26
- Thursday, June 9 (Annual Meeting)
- Wednesday, August 31
- Wednesday, October 26 (Howl-o-ween meeting)
- Monday, December 12 (Holiday Party & Club Meeting)

Club Doings

New Board Members

Morgaana Menzel



In her professional life, Morgaana Menzel is a producer for CLL Broadway Entertainment Company in Manhattan, and a Vocal Artist. But she has also been a “dog person” all her life. She was “born into Boxerdom,” as her family founded Sirrocco Boxers and has bred conformation and performance boxers for 45 years. She remembers that “From a very young age I helped to breed, whelp, imprint, train, and show dogs.”

Morgaana first heard about PCOTC through longtime member Barbara Dille, as Barbara enjoyed Boxerdom with Morgaana’s mother and boxer breeder, Kathleen Gould. Later on, when Morgaana wanted to expand her knowledge of other dog disciplines, she started in Foundation Agility at PCOTC. She says, “I was thrilled to finally see the facility and was happy taking classes with Stephen McKay and wanted to join in all the fun. So I became a member right away.”

Morgaana has a white boxer named Phouka and they currently enjoy trialing in Agility, Rally, Barn Hunt, and AKC Lure Coursing, and delight in training tricks. Morgaana adds that the team “also enjoys training in the pool and on the beach, and love to swim.” Morgaana is waiting to get a new puppy from the Sirrocco line sometime in the near future. She also recently rescued a Parsons Russell Terrier named

Prince Pippin that she is currently training in Barn Hunt.

Why did Morgaana answer the call to become a PCOTC Board member? “Being a loyal member of PCOTC for over five years and having been a dog enthusiast all my life I feel that with my knowledge and interpersonal skills, having me on the Board of Directors will benefit the club as we look towards the future and evolve with the times. I have proven over the years to be a valuable and enthusiastic member of the club. I am passionate about photography and have taken countless photographs over the years of current events for *Sit n’ Stay* newsletter.”

Morgaana encourages the CGC program and Junior Handler programs. She is a knowledgeable Chief Ring Steward (AKC/WCR/BHA), has been on multiple Trial Committees, is competent in set up, and helps run many of the clubs trials in all disciplines. She says, “I take pride in our club and enjoy being supportive to my fellow members celebrating their successes.” PCOTC awarded Morgaana its AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award in 2015.

Olga Kornienko

Olga Kornienko is a co-owner of a small online digital media security business.

She originally got involved with dogs when her dad brought home a fuzzy little orange Chow Chow puppy, named Chester. She was 14; he was her intro into dogs. Chester, Olga says, was “not a breed one would think of for a first time dog owner; but he was the best first dog.”

Olga got into dog sports with her current dog, Pinot the PBGV (Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen). She was looking for something to do with Pinot that resembled the breed’s original purpose. Nose Work fit the scent hound’s needs wonderfully. And Pinot’s breeder, who is a wonderful source of information about the breed and dogs in general, pulled her into Conformation.

Olga heard about PCOTC from a friend who used to train at the club while she



lived in NY. Olga says, “Once we started taking FM classes, I saw how much all of the people involved with the club love and care about all of the dogs. It also introduced me to a plethora of the wonderful dog sports. Becoming a member of the club was an easy decision, since it allowed me to give back to the club as well as continue to learn about all of the things one can achieve with their dogs.”

Pinot introduced Olga to the world of Nose Work and Conformation. He has earned a Nose Work 2 and a Grand Championship titles. Otherwise, Pinot loves being a pet, while sunning himself on the couch or playing fetch.

For Olga, becoming a board member seemed like the next step in doing her part to make sure the club continues to flourish. While taking Nose Work, she watched dogs come out of their shells to become confident, self assured and independent... She wants “to do everything I can to promote and support the club, that can have such a positive effect in a dog’s life. I find it rewarding to contribute to a club that has such diversity of the classes it offers to new dog owners, as well as those who wish to see their dogs thrive in activities in their chosen sport.”

Club Doings

It's Time to Renew

by Carol Fessler

Membership renewals and club dues for the 2016-17 club year are due by May 31. The new club year begins on June 1, 2016.

As in the past, members have the option of renewing online or on paper. Watch for an e-blast, later this month, announcing the date that online renewals open, with instructions for completing your renewal.

If you are more comfortable using a paper renewal form, it is available on the Membership page of our web site at www.pcotc.org/membership

Any questions about your membership can be directed to the PCOTC membership director, Carol Fessler, at 914-329-3167 or carol.fessler@gmail.com.

Annual Title Rewards

by Carol Fessler

Did your dog earn a new title this year? If so, PCOTC wants to help you celebrate.

Prepare to be honored at the Awards Ceremony at our Annual Club Meeting on June 9. You will receive a wall plaque announcing your achievement and your dog will be featured in a video presentation.

Your title plaque will be engraved with your dog's registered name and any titles earned to date in any titling organization. Once your dog has a plaque, the club will update it each year with an attachable title tag engraved with the dog's new titles.

To receive your wall plaque or tag, and be a part of the awards celebration, just:

- Complete the Annual Title Awards form found at www.pcotc.org/membership or pick one up at the facility.

- Send the completed form to Carol Fessler, 529 Revere Drive, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 or by email to carol.fessler@gmail.com. The completed form must be sent by April 15.

- Send a digital photo and 2-3 sentences about your dog's accomplishments to carol.fessler@gmail.com. This info must be received by May 8th. (Complete instructions are on the Annual Title Awards form.)

Then sit back and enjoy the applause! Any questions, please contact Carol at 914-329-3167 or carol.fessler@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members!

PCOTC welcomes the following new members:

- Karen Burger and Mercia Schoeman with terriers "Fudge" and "Coco"
- Eirin Eikeland with Standard Poodle "Lykke"
- Marie Fay with mixed breed "Gemma"
- Rachel Gumina with Springer Spaniel "Stripes" and mixed breed "Lulu"
- Barbara Krajewski and Maureen Farrington with Boston Terrier "Lily"
- Rachel Lane with mixed breed "Dustin"
- Shenuan Qui (Frances) and her mixed breed "Haku"
- Maura Tracy with Pomeranian "Boris"

Celebrate PCOTC With a 75th Anniversary T-Shirt!

Celebrate Port Chester Obedience Training Club by proudly wearing a PCOTC 75th anniversary logo T-shirt!

Members: Have you picked up your free PCOTC T-shirt? Get your choice of women's or unisex cut, in different sizes, at club meetings and events. And you can buy more T-shirts at \$20 each for family members, friends, and fellow trialers.

Anyone can purchase the handsome black T-shirts with red and gold logo via our registration site. Go to <http://register.asapconnected.com/Default.aspx?org=22> and click "T-Shirts" on the left-hand side of the page to bring up choices of shirt style and size.



Policies & Procedures Manual

An updated Policies & Procedures Manual for PCOTC is now available on our website at http://www.pcotc.org/documents/info/P&P_Feb2016.pdf

Subjects are arranged in alphabetical order to help in searching for specific topics.

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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

May PCOTC Agility Trials *by Debbie Poe*

Our FDR State Park event will start off the trial year when, on May 12, 13, 14 and 15, PCOTC will once again co-host the 15th Annual PCNUT trial with the Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club. For Thursday, Friday and Saturday, AKC FAST and both Premier classes will be offered in addition to Standard and Jumpers classes. On Sunday, we'll be offering FAST, T2B, and Premier Jumpers in addition to Standard and Jumpers classes. Our judges will be Sally Gichner and Ronda Bermke.

We will set up the site on Wednesday, May 11, during the late morning/early afternoon. Exhibitors may set up after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. As always, volunteer help is needed for set-up during the four days of trial and post-trial break-down. Our volunteer coordinator is Lisa McCarthy and online sign-up will be available after final confirmation. We will, of course, coach volunteers in any position, so please sign up when available. The premium is on our trial secretary's site, www.fasttimesagility.com. Mark your calendars for the March 29 opening date.

We will once again be participating in Qs for a Cure. See premium for details.



©Debbie Poe



Tracy Sklenar Workshops in June

Tracey Sklenar will offer agility workshops at PCOTC on June 25-26. Tracy has trained, coached, and competed in dog agility for over 10 years, and her dogs have earned numerous wins and placements at local, regional, and national events. She's currently competing with three dogs: Rebound, Export and Matrix.

More information about the workshops will be posted shortly.

March Agility Run-Thrus at PCOTC

An agility run-thru is scheduled for Sunday, March 13, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., with one Standard and one Jumpers course (nested Novice and Open/Exc).

Two minutes are allotted per run, with a maximum of four runs per dog (maximum of two runs per course). Toys and treats are allowed. The run-thru is limited to 100 runs.

Cost per dog: 1 run only, \$10; 2 runs, \$14; 3 runs, \$18; 4 runs, \$22. The last day for entries is March 11, by 5 p.m.

Agility runs are now offered with online entry and payment!

• Online Entry Form:
<https://form.jotform.com/60253844171149>

• Entry information can be confirmed here:
[PCOTC Agility Run Thru Mar 2016 link](#)

Questions? We're happy to help! Email
pcotc.agility.runthru@gmail.com

Agility Tip: Training Accuracy

by Kim Seiter, Agility Training Director

The goal when training anything to your dog is clear communication and understanding. I expect my dog to learn the behavior I am teaching in three repetitions. If my dog can't figure it out, I have chosen too complicated a behavior. My goal then is to break that behavior down until my dog understands the first step. Once that is accomplished, I can teach the next step.

One mistake we make is to try to teach too complicated a skill, then practice too many repetitions. That only results in a frustrated or confused dog. Try also to have the same rule for yourself when you are learning handling. Smaller, accurate skills will lead to much stronger behaviors that you can put together.

Obedience & Rally

AKC Obedience & Rally Trials

On March 5, there will be two AKC Rally trials. The judges are Lynda Moore and Dawn Martin. We will be asking exhibitors and members to donate to the potluck breakfast and lunch. Entry fees are \$30 for each entry. The premium is available at http://www.pcotc.org/documents/2016/PCOTC_MarchRallyPremium.pdf. To volunteer, contact Megan Woods at hollywoods118@aim.com.

Two AKC obedience trials are scheduled for March 6. The judges are Sara Steele and Bob Amen. Classes offered are Beginner Novice A and B, Novice A and B, Open A and B, and Utility A and B. Fees are \$30 for first entry and \$25 for each additional entry per trial. The trials are confirmed/approved by AKC and the premium is available at www.pcotc.org/documents/2015/PCOTCpremium3-6-16.pdf. Cindy Rubin is the chief steward. To volunteer, contact Bruce Sheffler at brilligs2@optonline.net.

White Plains Weekends

White Plains Weekends (obedience run-thrus) are now scheduled for:

- March 20
- June 19
- May 1
- July 17
- May 22

Pre-entry is required. Registration is available through www.dogmatchshows.com. Runs are \$10, with a \$2 convenience fee. Prior to each run-thru, a volunteer signup sheet will be posted.

WCRL Trials in 2016

Upcoming World Cynosport Rally trials are scheduled for Oct. 2 and Dec. 4.

WCRL events at PCOTC are hosted by PCRE. For more information, contact Audrey Woods at ajwx3@aol.com, or www.sites.google.com/site/pcpretrials/home



Obedience Tip: Acclimation

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

Acclimation: the ability to adapt or adjust to the environment or situation.

Focus and engagement are the current buzzwords in canine performance sports. Many dogs naturally come with focus and engagement while others seem to struggle. Do you have a dog that likes to sniff? Visit other people or dogs? Does he leave work and stare off into space so he/she can check out the surroundings? They are born this way and have different needs when it comes to preparation for work.

One of the primary steps to achieving focus and engagement is to allow the dog enough time to acclimate to his or her environment. Arriving an hour or more prior to show time gives you the opportunity to

allow your dog to check out the space. Acclimation simply means allowing the dog to walk around on a loose leash. Observe the environment and sniff. They basically check out everything. There is no formal work or behavior that is being asked of the dog; just get comfortable.

If you are the type of person who tends to arrive only a few minutes prior to working your dog, you may find yourself in a bit of a predicament. Dog will have difficulty coming out of the car or crate and beginning to work. Lack of proper acclimation could lead to a poor performance or failure. Each dog is different in regards to the amount of time he/she needs to become properly adjusted.

If your dog is given adequate time to acclimate and still has difficulty starting work, you may have a dog that is over its behavioral threshold. This means s/he is over-stimulated and aroused to the point where they just cannot focus and work. Pushing your dog over the threshold will result in a dog that may generalize work to discomfort and therefore may shut down and become totally unable to work.

Giving your dogs the proper opportunity to acclimate will hopefully result in a better overall outcome. Dogs that have difficulty in this particular area are not willful or being disobedient, they just need help!

Happy training!

Obedience & Rally

WCRL Annual Rankings for 2015

The WCRL Annual Ranking awards are made in each category for the top 20 exhibitors based on total points earned in the specified rally classes. The following three PCOTC members were included in the top 20 rankings:

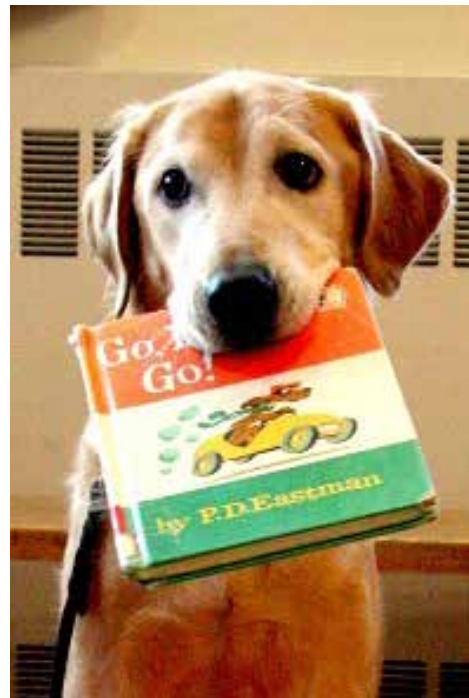
- RL3, 9th, Sarah Johnson, Daisy Furball, All-Breed
- RL2X, 17th, Megan Woods, Britannia Listen to Your Heart ("George"), Bearded Collie
- RL3X, 8th, Patricia Murphy, Hearst, All-Breed

Congratulations!



Left: Sarah Johnson's Daisy Furball

Right: Patti Murphy's Hearst



Rally Tip: Getting Back To Classics

by Anne Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA

I return to a theme I have discussed in this space more than once—why? Because it is the one question that comes up over and over among handlers at all levels of training. How do we keep our dogs engaged, in the game and wanting to work with us especially at the most critical moments such as when we are performing before an audience at a trial?

Certainly it is easy to notice that dogs perform best in the most comfortable, familiar settings. So, OK, be sure to work in a variety of places and under a range of different circumstances. That way, your dog will begin to see external differences as “just as good” as home. No doubt about it, that helps, but it doesn't solve the problem. Get into a high stakes situation and there goes all the happy, confident attitude that you've worked so hard to build. It's STRESS! You feel it—even if you're one of the few lucky enough to be relatively free of stress, the whole atmosphere in the room is drenched in it and your dog picks up on it immediately. What can you do to inoculate your dog so that he can be

the energetic, connected partner you need to compete successfully?

The other day I went to a workshop presented by Mary Horne and she talked a lot about Classical Conditioning. You know, not Operant Conditioning (which we call “Clicker Training”) but the Pavlov's dogs stuff you have probably known about since Psychology 101. This is where you train an involuntary response to a stimulus. Ring the bell and Pavlov's dogs began to salivate because they expected their dinner to arrive. Does your dog love to go for a walk? Does he run to the door and wag all over when you pick up his lead? Classically conditioned response! Does she run and hide under the bed when you pick up the nail clippers? Classically conditioned response!

Now think about using classical conditioning to teach your dog to love some behavior you can insert between a signal that an event he loves is about to occur and the event itself. For instance, signal your dog to spin before

you put his food dish down. Or ask her to jump up and touch your outstretched hand before you clip her lead to her collar and go out for a walk. Pretty soon you can start using the same behavior, cued by a simple hand signal, and rewarded with a short tug session or an active food reward, in other contexts such as entering the ring or coming out of his crate to begin a training session, or any time that your dog doesn't seem eager and relaxed. Continue to reinforce the basic, classically-conditioned behavior in the original setting in which you trained it, and often follow with a quick play session when you use it in other contexts. But also let it help you to make an attitude adjustment in “real” situations where the only “reward” will be a quick “Good Dog! Let's go!” And above all, practice, practice, practice. This is not a skill you put in place and then just count on to be there. It needs to be a part of your life with your performance dog!

Have fun!

Family Manners

Suzanne Clothier Seminar:

“What’s The Problem?”

World-renowned author, breeder, and trainer Suzanne Clothier will present an exciting new two-day seminar at PCOTC on April 16–17: “What’s the Problem? Unraveling the Puzzles of Behavior, Training & Performance.” The seminar provides attendees with a practical and powerful way of looking at any behavior, training or performance problem, and figuring out what to do.

This systematic approach to unraveling the puzzle will help any handler, novice or expert, identify the areas that need attention, recognize training methods that are effective, and understand their dog as a physical, emotional and mental being.

For the dog lover, this approach helps guide your thinking about behavior and training problems, and helps you identify where to turn for help—and what kind of help you need and want.

For the dog training professional, this approach offers a number of powerful tools for quickly and accurately identifying the issues that may be at the root of any presented problem. This allows trainers to focus on areas that need to be built or that need strengthening or repair.

Above all, how do you know how and what needs work? How do you know if a method or equipment choice is right for you and your dog? There is a bewildering array of options and information available to us all. How do you know which way to go? Suzanne can help you find your way using your own good sense and specific approaches to finding answers.

Topics covered:

- The dog — physical, mental, emotional
- Clothier’s Functional Assessment Tool (FAT)
- The handler — goals, skills, tools
- Control, Connection & Permission —



finding the strengths & gaps

- Training Triage —who, what, where, when, why
- What’s right for you? Creating a framework for assessing tools, methods & results

About Suzanne Clothier

Suzanne Clothier has been working with animals professionally since 1977, with a deep background of experience that includes obedience, agility, puppy testing, breeding, Search and Rescue, conformation, instructing, kennel management and canine midwifery. She is well-respected for her holistic Relationship Centered Training™ approach to dogs and the people who love them. She has taught throughout the world to varied groups on a wide range of topics. Suzanne’s broad knowledge, common sense and humor offer exciting, practical information and approaches that enhance the dog/human relationship.

Her book, *Bones Would Rain from the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships With Dogs* and other videos, books & articles have received widespread praise. An innovative trainer, she continues to create new programs: CAR-AT™ (Clothier Animal Response Assessment Tool), the Clothier Puppy Test & Adult

Test, RAT™ (Relationship Assessment Tool), FAT™ (Functional Assessment Tool), and the Enriched Puppy Protocol™ (EPP).

She has served as a consultant to guide and service dog organizations, bringing her Relationship Centered Training™ approach and her Enriched Puppy Protocol™ to the restructuring of the puppy raising programs.

A long-time German Shepherd breeder, she lives on a working farm in upstate New York with husband John Rice, and their considerable animal family.

Demo Dogs Wanted:

Suzanne needs demo dogs and handlers to work with. If you’re interested, please complete her Case History form, found at <http://suzanneclothier.com/casehistory>. Deadline for submissions is April 1. Suzanne will make the decisions about which dogs to use; there is no extra charge.

For more information, go to <http://www.pcotc.org/documents/clothier16.pdf>. The seminar fee is \$350 for the weekend. To register for the seminar, go to <http://register.asapconnected.com/EventDetail.aspx?pk=529867>

IAABC CEUs 14, CCPDT CEUs spending.

Nose Work

Augustus' First Odor *by Caitlin Doody*

Augustus, a 4-year-old bulldog mix, is the first dog my husband and I have ever had and the first dog I have ever trained, let alone trained for competition.

I was not sure we were ready, but once I finally made the decision to sign up for the Odor Recognition Test (ORT) at Port Chester Obedience Training Club, I became super excited. Then I quickly panicked. Then I was excited again. Those feelings went back and forth and back again right up until the actual test.

Although I was more nervous than excited the morning of the ORT, a friendly volunteer greeted me and made me feel welcome. Even the registration area was reassuring; there were people chatting and laughing and snacking on donuts and other breakfast treats. And most importantly: there was coffee!

Before the actual test began, a briefing was held—a meeting held by the certifying official and judge—to orient the competitors. I walked into the room and realized this was the point of no return. We were going to actually test Augustus's ability to search

in front of people! The heart palpitations began. Well, not really, but my nerves certainly began to kick in.

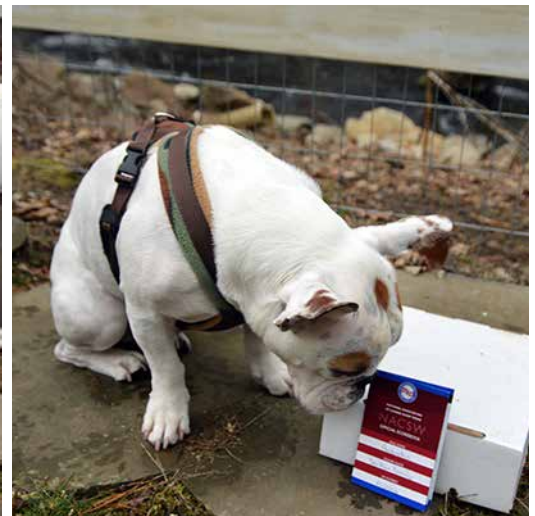
The certifying official began to talk about the procedures and rules for the day and she made sure to let us know that, "the dog always wins," and "every dog is a winner today." Basically, no matter the result of the actual test each dog would get an opportunity to be rewarded (cookies...and lots of them) at the box with odor. Knowing that no matter what happened, my Augustus would be rewarded that day made me happy and relieved. Even if we didn't pass, my dog would leave the room with good associations with the testing environment.

When the time rolled around for our actual test we were allowed to use some quick warm up boxes and then were ushered in by volunteers. The volunteers were kind and generous. They made sure I knew that I didn't need to rush to get to the start line. So I took a little bit of time to get Augustus into his harness and I took three deep breaths. At the start line, Augustus immediately began to pull me toward the boxes. If he could talk, he would have been saying,

"Please, please, please can we start now? What are you waiting for?" Clearly, he was as ready as could be. After one more deep breath, I asked the judges if we could begin. When I heard yes, I let the tension go on the leash.

Augustus ran down one aisle of boxes, paused slightly, but kept going, almost to the end of the line. Suddenly, he whipped his little bulldog body around and ran right back to the point where he had paused. I stood there, for a moment, watching him give the box a sniff. The sniffing became more intense as he ran his nose around the seams of the box. He pawed the box with his foot, and then almost jumped onto the top of the box as he tried to get to the odor inside. He was, I realized, clearly telling me that he found the odor. Without another moment of hesitation I took a leap of faith and trusted Augustus. I said, "alert!" The Judge replied, "Yes" and Gusto got a mouth full of his favorite treats.

What a rush of joy and excitement. From the being to end it was incredibly fun.



Augustus sniffs, then paws a warm-up box, emphatically indicating odor. In the picture on the right, his NACSW ID is on a box.

Nose Work

K9 Nose Work at PCOTC

by Kathe Baxter, Nose Work Training Director

Ron Gaunt, Amy Herot and Jill-Marie O'Brien founded the National Association of Canine Scent Work NACSW™, the official sanctioning and organizing body for the sport of K9 Nose Work, built upon the concept of detection-style training and competition for pet dogs of all ages. The first official trial was held in January 2009 in Southern California with the sport growing tremendously over the course of a year.

Early in 2010, the founders introduced K9 Nose Work throughout the East Coast,

holding Introduction to K9 Nose Work seminars. One of the first was held at PCOTC on March 25 of that year. Fast forward to today: there have been over 135 Nose Work trials in 17 states.

PCOTC embraced the sport and began to offer classes in late 2010. Demand has grown tremendously year after year, with over 15-20 classes held each session, K9 Nose Work seminars held hosting the founders of the organization, and Odor Recognition Tests certifying students to enter a trial held twice a year at the facility.

Beyond the demand for classes, PCOTC students and K9 Nose Work instructors have excelled, competing at all levels of K9 Nose Work including receiving invitations to Nationals several years in a row, exceeding virtually all other dog training centers on the East coast. It is with pleasure to list here the TEAMS and their K9 Nose Work achievements, below.

NACSW K9 Nose Work is stronger than ever at PCOTC, developing and growing every year: 'Go Sniff'!

PCOTC Nose Work Owner/Handlers, Their Dogs & Nose Work ORTs/ Titles

- Peggy Baschiera, Jenna: Birch ORT, NW1
- Kathe Baxter, Gunner: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Kathe Baxter, Karita: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW3 Elite, NW3 Element Title NW3-C (Container), NW3 Element Title NW3-I (Interior), NW3 Element Title NW3-E (Exterior), NW3 Element Title NW3-V (Vehicle)
- Elizabeth Brown, Gee: Birch ORT
- Elizabeth Brown, Jake: Birch ORT, Anise ORT
- Elizabeth Brown, Penny: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT
- Karen Burger, Coco: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT
- Ashlin Cooke, Bo: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior)
- Rhonda Dalton, Leo and Tiara: Clove ORT
- Gail Daly, Herbie: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Lucy Danziger, Niki: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW3 Elite
- Margaret DeFonce, Rufus: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Margaret DeFonce, Liam: Birch ORT, NW1, Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container)

- Barbara DelRowe, Ollie: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Demetria DeSarno, Weber and Uma: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior), Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior)
- Denise DeVito, Sabrina: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Denise DeVito, Damien: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3 Element Title NW3-C (Container)
- Heather Emmel, Asha: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Donna Fanok, Lacy: Birch ORT
- Debi Feliziani, Amos: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT
- Natalie Galdi Weissman, Phoenix: Birch ORT, Anise ORT
- Barbara Gerlach, Camellia: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Kathy Gregory, Nyx: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3 Element Title NW3-C (Container), NW3 Element Title NW3-I (Interior), NW3 Element Title NW3-E (Exterior), NW3 Element Title NW3-V (Vehicle), Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior), Element Specialty Title L1-V (Vehicle)
- Kathy Gregory, Hope: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3

- Element Title NW3-E (Exterior), NW3 Element Title NW3-V (Vehicle), Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior)
- Kathy Gregory, Dante: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3
- Lynda Griek, Sara: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Cynthia Grohoski, Blossom: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW3 Elite, NW3 Element Title NW3-C (Container), NW3 Element Title NW3-I (Interior), NW3 Element Title NW3-E (Exterior), NW3 Element Title NW3-V (Vehicle), Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior), Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior)
- Cynthia Grohoski, Emma: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW3 Element Title NW3-C (Container), NW3 Element Title NW3-I (Interior), NW3 Element Title NW3-E (Exterior), NW3 Element Title NW3-V (Vehicle), Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior), Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior)
- Rachel Gumina, Lulu: Anise ORT
- Mary Knoll, Nick: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Mary Knoll, Nick: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Bill Kroohs, Reggie: Birch ORT, NW1

Nose Work

PCOTC Nose Work Owner/Handlers, Their Dogs & Nose Work ORTs/ Titles *(continued)*

- Lynn Lucas, Bryn: Birch ORT
- Lynn Lucas, Jenny: Birch ORT, Anise ORT
- Melissa Luthi, Tessie: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Elizabeth Lynch, Jack: Birch ORT
- Elizabeth Lynch, Coconut: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW3 Elite, Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior), Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior)
- Annmarie McCarthy, Kathleen Francis Hoover The Brave aka Katie: Birch ORT
- Jenn Michaelis, Terra: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1
- Melinda Moscow, Woody: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Sasha Nahr, Molly: Birch ORT
- Barbara Napoli, Xola: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior)
- Anne Persico, Brodie: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1
- Karen Reilly, Suka: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Karen Reilly, Leo: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Karen Reilly, Yukon: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1, Harry Award
- Carolyn Ripps, Pippin: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Element Specialty Title L1-V (Vehicle)
- Carolyn Ripps, Ginger: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1
- Karen Roger, Alex: Birch ORT
- Jessica Ryan, Jackie & Ukee: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1, NW2
- Judy Sarsgard, Pi: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Lisa Savasta, Denali: Birch ORT
- Mercia Schoeman, Fudge: Birch ORT, Anise ORT
- Jessica Schulte, Trix: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container), Element Specialty Title L1-I (Interior), Element Specialty Title L1-E (Exterior)
- Barbara Siegel, Ivan: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, NW1, Element Specialty Title L1-C (Container)
- Mary Skirchak, Emily & Daisy: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW3 Elite, NW3 Element Title NW3-C (Container), NW3 Element Title NW3-I (Interior), NW3 Element Title NW3-E (Exterior), NW3 Element Title NW3-V (Vehicle), Harry Award
- Tim Supple, Oscar: Birch ORT
- Nina Tornabene, Mia: Birch ORT
- Jeanne Turschmann, Dublin: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Rosanne Wellmake, Roxanne & Cyrano: Birch ORT, Anise ORT, Clove ORT, NW1, NW2
- Jane Wheeler, Erik: Birch ORT
- Jane Wheeler, Haiku: Birch ORT

Six PCOTC Teams Achieve Nose Work Elite Titles

by Elizabeth Lynch

In the summer of 2010, Family Manners Instructor, Karen Reilly, introduced K9 Nose Work to PCOTC. Lucy Danziger with her German Shepard, Niki; Marsha Dominguez with her Portuguese Water Dog, Brie; and myself and Coconut, my mixed breed, were some of Karen's first students. Fast forward to 2016. We now have six teams at PCOTC who have achieved the rare title of Nose Work 3 Elite.

To reach Elite status, the team must attain three Nose Work 3 (NW3) titles. To give you an idea of how hard this can be, the Nose Work 1 title has been compared to paddling in a kiddie pool, Nose Work 2 like swimming laps in an Olympic pool, while Nose Work 3 is like swimming the English Channel. Success at the Nose Work 3 level takes physical and mental preparation, plus a dose of luck.

Reactions to achieving the Elite title range from elation, to surprise, to disbelief. Kathe Baxter was so proud the day that Karita,

her Norwegian Elkhound, earned her Elite title: Karita prevailed in spite of her need for daily seizure medication. Kathe and Karita were the only team to pass that day, winning the first place ribbon and qualifying for the National Association of Canine Scent Work's Invitational.

Lucy Danziger says her reaction to Niki's title was "Disbelief... wonderment at my dog's talent... thrilled and relieved."

Marsha Dominquez was so excited when she got her title, "I hugged Wendy Kriebel, who was the Certifying Official, even though that wasn't something she particularly likes, but she handled it well."

Mary Skirchak was surprised when she got a call from the trial host, wondering why she had left without her ribbon. Mary hadn't realized that she and Emily, her mixed breed, had titled! I felt the same way, I wouldn't believe that we were going to get the coveted Elite ribbon until I held it in my hand.



Elizabeth Lynch & Coconut on a vehicle search.

continued next page

Nose Work

Cynthia Grohoski, who completed her Elite title in three straight trials, says she was, “Exhilarated, and emotional, in equal measure, and almost bursting with pride over Blossom’s achievement. Even after the awards ceremony, I still couldn’t believe that we’d earned the Elite title that day. It took a while to comprehend, and in some ways, I am still processing it.”

In order to progress in Nose Work it helps to have a sense of humor. The dog knows more than you do. Marsha Dominguez remembers training with Brie, in a local park. Marsha had planted multiple hides, high and low. She explains, “I also had one high up on the basketball pole, just behind the table. When my dog alerted on the picnic table, I had totally forgotten about that one, and thought it was the high one on the pole. I said; ‘Really Brie, I don’t think so.’ She went under the table and threw the tin down on the ground with the Q-tips landing all over. She made me laugh!!!”

Mary Skirchak describes searching at a trial when, just as she called “Alert,” Emily had pulled the hide out from under the chair and dropped it on the judge’s foot. The look on her face was priceless.

Kathe Baxter recounts a trial memory: “We had an ‘off’ day as we headed into an NW3 exterior search area. Karita worked and worked to find the hide and then came the 30 second warning. Continuing to search before the dreaded ‘time’ call, I



Mary Skirchak’s Emily on a vehicle search

called ‘Clear!’ (Note: an exterior search area cannot be clear. There is at least one hide!) I saw the bewilderment on the faces of the judge and volunteers. I turned to everyone and said ‘It’s clear for us today!’ and everyone laughed.”

Cynthia Grohoski remembers the antics of Blossom, her English springer spaniel, at the end of a very long trial day. “It was our last search of the day. It was a dining hall with a big open area in the middle. Blossom was doing some of her freestyle moves as she was going through the open area, searching for hides. Most dogs and handlers are fatigued at that point in a trial—it is a really long day—but Blossom was dancing.”

My dog, Coconut, used to run in large wide circles, jumping in and out of the ring, and sailing over the ring gates. He eventually got down to the business of searching, but

I loved to watch his joy at being free.

All teams at some point in their trial-ing career will hit a stumbling block. Some handlers, like Mary Skirchak, admit that their mental foibles, like taking things too seriously and struggling with mental management, get in the way of enjoying the

sport. Marsha Dominguez laments nerves getting the best of her and calling the alert too soon. Many of us had trouble espousing the Nose Work mantra of “Trust Your Dog” because of false alerts. Lucy Danziger’s Niki would false alert if crowded too much. I also had problems with false alerts. When we encountered “distractions” in the containers at the higher

levels, Coconut would always seek out the bagel or donut distraction and sell me on it! Kathe Baxter also had problems with false alerts, but as she says, “It was my inability to discern when Karita was ‘done’ searching an area, thereby asking her to continue to search, resulting in false alerts.”

All the teams trained with PCOTC instructors. Mary Skirchak valued the innovative training techniques that Kathe Baxter and Jessica Schulte brought to class. Can you imagine searching a room with your dog in complete darkness? It’s a great way to really focus on your dog’s breathing patterns while they are working a hide. Most teams practiced with other teams outside of class as well. It’s important to get your dog accustomed to searching in novel locations, all types of weather, different types of surfaces and environmental distractions like animals and animal scents. Many of the Elites attended seminars presented by the founders of the National Association of Canine Scent Work and some attended Nose Work camp, a week-long working seminar with your dog, which Marsha Dominguez highly recommends. Cynthia Grohoski is currently enrolled in NACSW’s Canine Nose Work Instructor training program, and has an impressive list of workshops and seminars that she felt helped her to attain the Elite title. Kathe Baxter and Lucy Danziger emphasized the value of observing other teams. So if you are aspiring to higher levels in Nose Work, volunteering at a trial or Odor Recognition Test for a few hours is a good investment.

Attaining Nose Work Elite is a long journey and handlers spend a lot of time with their



Kathy Gregory and Dante demonstrate an interior search.

Nose Work

dogs traveling, training and trialing. The sport requires keen powers of observation as you “read” your dog’s indications of being in odor and when they have found the source. It also demands that handlers evaluate their impact on the team’s success. You learn a lot about yourself in Nose Work. I discovered that I am a determined person who likes to finish what I start. I need closure! Lucy Danziger realized, “I was not a calm person, but need to be for my dog.”

Marsha Dominguez says, “I have had moments when I doubted myself, and thought I may not have the persistence to succeed. I learn more from our mistakes than our successes.”

in Nose Work, we offer these pearls of wisdom:

Mary Skirchak: “Have fun, it’s a game. If you have a good time searching, it will be easier to practice and get better at it; otherwise it is a job.”

Cynthia Grohoski: “Love the one you’re with.” All dogs are born with the same olfactory capabilities. Nose Work is all about the team, especially so at the more advanced levels.

Handlers who can embrace all of the mo-

ments along the way – all of the No’s as well as all of the Yes’s, all of their dog’s idiosyncrasies, and maintain a sense of humor—will ultimately deepen their relationships with their dogs in ways they can’t imagine at the outset.

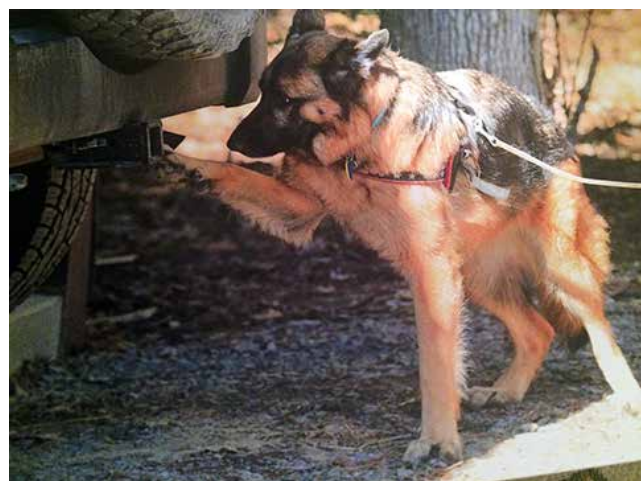
Lucy Danziger: “Hang in there, it takes time, but is an amazing journey. Be open to changing some handling techniques.”

Marsha Dominguez: “Try not to let your nerves get the best of you. You are there to have fun, and your dog doesn’t care about the titles or ribbons,

just being with you. Also, don’t stay in the search area too long. Once you have checked the entire area, get out.”

Elizabeth Lynch: “Support your partner. Nose Work is fun. As a Certifying Official once said, ‘Nobody cries and nobody dies.’ We aren’t searching for bombs. If you hit a training wall, listen to the advice of different instructors and handlers. It’s always good to get a fresh perspective on a problem.”

Kathe Baxter: “Enjoy, have fun, laugh a lot and do not take things too seriously! K9 Nose Work is a journey (take your time) together with your best friend. Enjoy the time together, give them a hug and tell them they are the best dog in the whole world: ‘Go search!’ Nothing else really matters. You will be amazed, it will all come together.”



Lucy Danziger’s Niki on a vehicle search.

“Professionally, I’m a project manager,” explains Cynthia Grohoski. “And that scheduling mindset is hard to let go of. Nose Work, more than other dog sports, is driven by the dog, so I had to learn to step back and let my dogs engage in the activity in their own way, and in their own time.”

You learn a lot about your dog, too. Mary Skirchak affirms that Emily is smarter than she is! Lucy Danziger realized that Niki was happy to work independently and that she was a sensitive dog. I learned how much Coconut uses his nose all the time to navigate the world. Kathe Baxter says, “I learned that Karita’s love for the sport is not only in her joy of the hunt but also the desire to please me. She is my partner, my dear friend and my ‘shining star!’”

From all the years of training and trialing



Kathe Baxter’s Karita on an exterior search.



Cynthia Grohoski’s Blossom on a vehicle search.

We all cherish the human friendships that we forged in Nose Work and the loving, devoted relationships we enjoy with our canine partners. Nose Work is a great confidence builder for any dog. Any dog can do it, so why not get started today?

Spring Public Events

by Jane Wheeler

“Public events” are events that PCOTC participates in, but are organized by other organizations, such as the AKC and rescue/shelter groups. There are two such events scheduled in the Spring of 2016:

- The American Cancer Society’s “Bark for Life” on April 16 at Lyndhurst, Tarrytown, NY. PCOTC will host a booth, and will

offer “My Dog Can Do That!” rings for agility and possibly for other sports such as rally, nose work, or Family Manners. “My Dog Can Do That!” rings let a dog/handler team try out a simple course to get an idea of what a dog sport is like.

- The SPCA of Westchester’s “Walkathon and Pet Fair” on May 7 at FDR Park,

Yorktown Heights, NY. PCOTC will host a booth and provide two agility demos during the event.

To volunteer for any of these events, please contact jane.wheeler@optimum.net who will direct volunteers to the coordinator for each event.

Labrador Retriever Top Dog Again

The American Kennel Club reports that Labrador Retrievers are the most popular breed in the United States for the 25th consecutive year, according to 2015 AKC registration data.

“The versatile, lovable Lab has firmly planted its paw print in AKC’s history,” AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo said. “But keep your eye on the French Bulldog. The Frenchie has risen 32 spots over the past decade and shows no signs of stopping.”

Indeed, the French Bulldog is the most popular breed in New York City—size matters in Manhattan.

The top ten AKC breeds for 2015:

1. Labrador Retrievers
2. German Shepherd Dogs
3. Golden Retrievers
4. Bulldogs
5. Beagles
6. French Bulldogs
7. Yorkshire Terriers
8. Poodles
9. Rottweilers
10. Boxers



Labrador Retriever pups. The Labrador has been on top for many years...



But the French Bulldog is coming on strong in urban areas such as New York City, where it holds the #1 position. Photos: AKC

AKC Delegate's Report

by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC's AKC Delegate

The December AKC Delegates meeting was held, as has become traditional of late, in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. It was a wonderful, information-filled experience! The AKC provides the opportunity for Delegates to book flights and hotel accommodations at discounted prices, and I took advantage of this service.

The Delegates stayed at a hotel right across the street from the show venue. Although our days were filled with AKC business from 7:30 a.m. till 5 p.m., I did have a chance to pop in to the show during breaks and before my return flight to watch some of the Agility, Obedience and Conformation events. The huge convention center was a beehive of activity the likes of which I had never seen. The Agility rings were large and well-surfaced. The Conformation rings in the middle of the convention center had lots of seating available and the Obedience rings were very well attended. The attention to detail of this show was impressive. The flow of the classes, the PA systems announcements, the location of the vendors and the availability of AKC information booths allowed for the informed flow of participants and spectators alike. For such a large venue, it seemed to me that all events were placed logically and everyone was having a wonderful time.

Report of the Delegate's Meeting

The first order of business was the introduction of the proposed candidates for the three vacancies on the Board of Directors for the class of 2020, to be filled at our next meeting in March. Seven Delegates were proposed, all of whom had many years of experience serving in various capacities to the AKC as judges, long-time Board members of their clubs and Delegates to the AKC. Most had more than 50 years in the fancy. Each Delegate was allowed to speak for three minutes. The similarities among these candidates were their dedication to the AKC as the premier advocate for dogs, their avowed openness to considering and accepting new ideas, and their belief that the AKC must be a vital force in the future. Differences, as can be imagined, were in



Kathy's Dante

how the AKC can fulfill those ambitions. Ideas expressed were that the AKC should make it easier for clubs to maintain their membership with no mandated events, that there be closer relations between "the fancy" and the dog-owning public and that the AKC be relevant to both, particularly regarding the promotion of health and soundness in dogs when acquired under the medallion of AKC registration. Mention was made of the importance of protecting the characteristics of individual purpose-bred dogs

It was interesting to me that one Delegate expressed the opinion that the world sees the "Golden Age of Dogs" to have been in the '40s and '50s. Personally, I feel that, while this may be true of strictly Conformation competitors, the rise of all the related dog sports: Agility, Rally, Obedience, Earth-dog Trails, Barn Hunt and the new training methods available to the family who just wants to have a good home companion, have made the current decades more of a "Golden Age" for all lovers of dogs in all their canine capacities.

These prospective candidates will be voted on at the March Delegate meeting.

After this, new Delegates were introduced and four new clubs were admitted.

Of interest to our club, several previously published proposed amendments were voted on including one to eliminate term limits for the Board of Directors (defeated), and three to allow clubs to utilize electronic documents for premiums, judging programs and catalogues (all approved).

An AKC Visionary Award was established to "celebrate individuals whose vision and contributions have been responsible for change and forward movement in the organization."

Dr. Jerry Klein was appointed to the new office of Chief Veterinary Officer, whose mission is to educate the general public and fellow Veterinarians with the AKC's activities in improving the health of dogs.

The MTA has always allowed dogs to travel its rails, but one Delegate noted that AMTRAK is now allowing the same, both within certain restrictions. Please visit the respective web sites of these two railroads for specifics.

There is now an all-dog, all-day television network, FIDO-TV. Please check your local listings for further information.

At the January Board of Director's meeting, an Agility Grand Championship title was established to recognize the lifetime achievement of dogs that excel across designated agility titles. The AGCH designation will begin to be awarded in July of 2016.

The stated focus of the AKC continues to be being relevant to all dog owners, the enthusiastic inclusion of new participants in all dog activities and the espousal of good health and soundness in all dogs.

Susan O'Connor

PCOTC member Fran Hellman has provided this information to the club:

Past PCOTC member Susan O'Connor passed away in December 2015. Susan bred Golden Retrievers under the affix "Topsail." She finished championships on both her homebred and acquired Goldens.

Susan had a great affection for both Golden Retrievers and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. She enjoyed showing her Cavaliers as well and attained championships on a number of them. Susan was survived by her husband Tony, daughter Perri and son Tony Jr. All reside in North Carolina.

Skeptvet.com

by Joanne Sheffler

I could find no new good dog books to review for this issue of *Sit 'n Stay*. Sorry, I tried. Serendipitously, I came across a scientific evidence-based blog that cuts through the baloney, using peer-reviewed scientific studies, footnoted, while being enjoyable to read.

I was curious about the efficacy of Dr. Jean Dodds' NutriScan. In short, your dog chews on a piece of rope that collects the saliva. Sent back to NutriScan, the test results indicate to which of 24 foods the dog may show food intolerances and sensitivities. The "introductory" price increased on February 1, to \$298, and it is suggested that it be repeated annually.

Curiosity led to a Google search taking me to Skeptvet.com, a blog written by Brennen McKenzie, MA, VMD, a small animal veterinarian in private practice in California. Promoting science-based veterinary medicine, he was President of the Evidence-Based Veterinary Medical Association from 2012 to 2014. Traveling around his blog can be likened to reading a thousand-plus page book, justifying a book review.

The home page presents his most recent blogs. February 15, 2016's blog is titled "Is Evidence-based Medicine a Dead End?" The question was posed by the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association (AHVMA), whom McKenzie contends accepts only scientific evidence that supports its own claims, which scientific evidence often fails to do. One of the points from the AHVMA is that studying groups as scientific research does, is not applicable to individuals. Come again? Corporations may not be people, but groups—of people—are. McKenzie elaborates more eloquently.

A column of categories on the right side of the page is ripe for exploration. Book Reviews caught my eye. Two most recent I had reviewed for the *Sit 'n Stay*. And—wonder of wonders!—he confirms my thoughts/fears concerning the books. First was Dodds' *Canine Nutrigenomics*. Of Dodds he writes:

"While Dr. Dodds' book is a mixture of fact and fiction, science and pseudoscience, plausible ideas and outright nonsense, overall the work is deeply misleading."

Next book, *Dog Food Logic* by Linda Case, McKenzie says "...cuts through the noise and chaos and provides pet owners with a rational, science-based approach to evaluating their pets' dietary needs and their feeding choices....comprehensible guide to the three main subjects we must understand in order to make sound feeding choices: the science of canine nutrition, the nature of the dog food industry, and the pitfalls in our own ways of thinking that make us susceptible to marketing hype and irrational decisions."

Skeptvet believes if we expand this approach to training, behavior, veterinary care, we will have healthier and happier pets. All of his blogs are followed by responses from readers. In turn, he gives each a thoughtful extensive reply.

Fifteen categories, hundreds of entries. Something for everyone to agree with, get angry over, gain a new perspective.

Coconut oil: a fad rather than a miracle cure. It's a fat. Consider pancreatitis.

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Tumeric: While containing a number of potentially useful chemical compounds, for example curcumin, There is still no clinical research in companion animals, and what there is does not support claims of benefit from turmeric. So much for yellow paste.

Homeopathy: for trauma and shock, heart worm, canine parvo and distemper is dangerous and unethical.

Pox parties: concept of exposing unvaccinated pups to areas of known raccoon distemper outbreaks or frequenting dog parks for greater chance of distemper/parvo exposure to instill natural immunity instead of vaccinating, McKenzie says is irresponsible and dangerous.

Fish oil: fortunately, beneficial for certain issues.

Bach Remedies: How many of us use Rescue Remedy? Developed by physician and homeopath Dr. Edward Bach in the late 1800's and early 1900's, he identified "...the healing properties of specific flowers intuitively, by touching a flower or putting a petal on his tongue and then observing changes in his own feelings." I can validate that concept. Put a leaf of cilantro on my tongue and I have been known to become a raging beast. Compiling an extensive list of specific flowers and combinations indicated for specific emotions and situations, Bach initially treated patients with dew collected from flowers, beginning by soaking flower petals, later mixing the water with brandy (limited amount of dew). Bach's Rescue Remedy is mixture of five flower essences purported to promote calm during sudden emotional crises. The extreme dilution of the flower essence, McKenzie says, is unlikely to have anything other than a placebo effect. Contrary to Bach's beliefs, McKenzie finds "There is no evidence to support the notion that disease is caused primarily by spiritual and emotional imbalances or that flowers contain any mysterious energy that can correct these imbalances and improve health or treat illness."

What about NutriScan? According to Skeptvet, mainstream veterinary nutritionists and dermatologists do not accept the legitimacy of Dodds' tests because there's no controlled evidence to show it is useful and accurate. In Dodds' article for JAHVMA, her first citation is her own article, then two presentations she made at AHVMA meetings, and her own book, and "...it is not considered legitimate to support your opinions in a scientific publication by citing your own opinions printed elsewhere." No formal controlled studies were done to prove NutriScan reliable. The one informal study done by a veterinary dermatologist, with Dodds' approval, had many false results. McKenzie writes this "...casts serious doubt on this supposed new 'gold-standard' allergy test." Very disappointing if not disillusioning.

This review was certainly not intended to be a take down of Dr. Dodds. The blog does show the progression of McKenzie's thoughts, opinions, and research into pertinent topics. Whether you scan through his battles with complementary alternative medicine vets, topics in homeopathy, facts about vaccines, issues in law, etc, this blog can easily take you through the rest of the winter.

Winter Events

PCOTC at Meet the Breeds

by Jane Wheeler

Meet the Breeds, on February 13, was much less crowded than last year—which helped us greatly, even though PCOTC had a relatively large space last year: people were much happier with the entire event. There were four booth staffers: Jane Wheeler, Joelle White with her Belgian Tervuren Wisp, Ann Bannon and her Maltese Rem, and Janis Mandrus. The two dogs were magnets for passers-by. They were very friendly and well-behaved, a great advertisement for the club.

All the staffers had good conversations with people about puppy classes, Family Manners, therapy dog training, agility, Grumpy Growlers, and so on.

Besides class schedules for March-April, we gave out PCOTC pens, flyers about the upcoming Suzanne Clothier seminar, a flyer about our AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy® classes, and a discount coupon for those who haven't taken classes at PCOTC before.

We had people looking for FM, puppy classes, agility, therapy dog, breed handling, and grumpy growlers. A number of people took the discount coupon and seemed very pleased that it was offered.

The PCOTC staffers enjoyed the event and felt the effort was very worthwhile for the club!



Maltese Rem in front of PCOTC banner, at Meet the Breeds, with Joelle White on the right. Photo: Ann Bannon



December "Puppy Panel"

by Jane Wheeler

On December 9, 2015, prior to its club meeting, PCOTC hosted a panel discussion on "Puppy Training." Panelists included Rick Pisani, Obedience Training Director; Jenn Michaelis, Family Manners Training Director; George Berger, Nose Work and Therapy Dog instructor; and Karen Reilly, Nose Work and former Family Manners instructor.

Panelists fielded such questions as what author or book(s) they would you recommend for puppy training insights, how often/when to engage in training sessions as the puppy grows, and favorite training techniques.

The panelists gave a unanimous response to the question "What is the most important thing to teach a puppy?" It was "come," because a dog's life may depend upon it. Jenn recommended that handlers begin recall training when a puppy is really young, perhaps using a hide and seek game.

An enthusiastic audience followed up with questions from the floor, and expressed appreciation for the panel.

Photo: AKC

Winter Events

Agility Run Thru Photos

by Debbie Poe

On January 31, PCOTC hosted an agility run-thru at our facility. The photos on this page are just a few of those taken by Debbie Poe during the run-thru.



Winter Events

WCRL Trial Photos

by Morgaana Menzel

On February 14, PCRE hosted a "Valentine's Day" WCRL Rally Trial at the PCOTC facility. The photos on this page were taken by Morgaana Menzel.



Glad Tales

Three Outstanding PCOTC Teams

Mike Jones and “Abbie”

Mike Jones’ Golden Retriever “Abbie Einstein” has been chosen to serve as the Grand Marshall for the American Cancer Society’s Westchester “Bark for Life” event on April 10 at Lyndhurst in Tarrytown—with Mike as her escort, of course. Each year the local ACS elects a special dog to be the Grand Marshall at Bark for Life and to lead the walking event.

Abbie is indeed a special dog! A cancer survivor herself, Abbie is a Certified Therapy Dog, and has earned numerous rally, obedience and agility titles. She has worked as a therapy dog for seven years, visiting nursing homes, hospitals, and halfway homes and doing grief counseling.

Abbie currently works at the Kent Library’s Reading to Rover Program, visits the home of an Alzheimer’s patient in Mahopac, and has worked with the Girl Scouts of Somers and North Salem. She also visits patients who are undergoing dialysis in Yorktown and serves as a therapy dog for the Danbury Music Theatre’s production of the Nutcracker each year.



Rick Ritacco and “Emmie”

2015 was a great year for “Team Emmie” — Rick Ritacco and Golden Retriever AKC/CDSP OTCH Abalee’s Bea Bop A Lula AKC/CDSP UDX OM2 RN CGC AKC/CDSP IN! Rick notes, “Team Emmie qualified in 2015 for our first time to attend the AKC Obedience Classic in Orlando on January 12, 2016, and was invited to the AKC National Obedience Championship in Tulsa on March 19-20, 2016. We also earned our Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH). Emmie is amazing and we hope to reach our full potential in 2016. May this journey continue.” Rick is proud of having made it to this level of obedience, but most of all expects “to treasure and enjoy the moment with Emmie.”

The AKC’s National Obedience Championship, or NOC (formerly the National Obedience Invitational or NOI) is an invitational event, with top obedience teams qualifying by placing in the top four at one of the seven regionals, or by breed standing in obedience by OTCH points earned during the previous year. According to PCOTC member Bob Amen, who qualified for the event 10 years in succession and was on the judging panel in 2014: “The NOC represents competition obedience at its overall finest. It is especially difficult for a Golden Retriever to qualify, since there are so many outstanding dogs of that breed that qualify each year.” At the NOC, the teams work through open and utility level exercises until the Top 10 are selected.

Bob Amen and “Cola”

Bob Amen and Golden Retriever Tanbarks Cola Saranade BN CD (“Cola”) were in the ribbons with a fourth place, out of 72 competitors, in the Novice division at the AKC Obedience Classic in Orlando on January 12.

Bob Amen said, “I had qualified for the National Obedience Championship for 10 years in a row, and qualified for the last three AKC Obedience Classics, but this was the first AKC national tournament in which we placed for a ribbon from the top four placements. Cola had three outstanding Novice classes, living up to the potential I knew she had in her. And we just missed beating her breeder, Yvonne Peifer, who finished third!”



Click image to start a video of Bob and Cola engaged in off-leash heeling



Glad Tales



Zoe MACH8, Corn MACH 15!

Zoe earned her MACH8 in Miami, FL on Dec. 5, 2015 and Corn got his MACH15 in Ft. Pierce, FL on Jan 9, 2016. It was a good end of the year and beginning of the New Year! Then, on Feb. 11, 2016, Zoe earned her T2B7 title.

—Michelle Trummer

Kloie Earns WCRL Rally Champion (ARCH)

I entered Kloie in Novice Rally for the Chesapeake Bay Retriever specialty show held on the East Coast in October 2014. We refined our Snooker skills of staying close into a heel. After the specialty, I decided to continue Rally in the World CynoSport Rally venue. Kloie earned her Rally level 1 title in July 2015 with an Award of Excellence. In October 2015 she obtained her Rally Level 2 title with an Award of Excellence. In October 2015 Koie earned her Rally Champion (ARCH) title in 5 straight trials! This met the goal I established at the beginning of the year. I decided to go for the Rally level 3 title and obtained that in December 2015. I am very PROUD of my retired agility competitor and 11-year-old Chessie who obtained 4 Rally titles in one year with a novice and inexperienced Rally handler! She LOVES to perform and to learn new things. Next activity for Kloie is tracking.

—Priscilla Rahner



Sad Tales

Jake CGC

It's with a very sad heart that I have to report that my wonderful 13-year-old mini blue poodle boy was put to sleep on January 20, 2016. Jake was diagnosed with a brain tumor on January 5, 2016.

Jake had started growling and snapping at dogs not in his pack. Jake never bit, snapped, or growled at a human being including vets, techs, groomers or his many fans where we live.

—E. "Sue" Brown, proud poodle mom of Jake CGC at the Rainbow Bridge, Penny CGC, Gee CGC.

Family Additions

Perry. I am the proud owner of a male Golden Retriever name “Perry.” Perry is from Gold Love Golden in Newton, NJ and she is 17 months old.

We are currently taking Nose Work Classes with Kathy Gregory. In addition, we plan to explore multiple sports! Can’t wait!

On Saturday, Perry passed his Certification for Therapy Dog with Alliance of Therapy Dogs (formerly called Therapy Dog, Inc).

We look forward to serving our community.

—*Jackie Purcell*



Sera. Introducing Princess Seraphina of Carmel, aka Seraphina or Sera. Our new family addition is from Big Fluffy Dog Rescue in Tennessee. Sera is an Aussie/cattle mix and arrived in NY on December 19, 2015. She is a wonderful fit for our family.

—*Barbara Siegel*

Gizzmo. I adopted Gizzmo on December 12 from the New Rochelle Humane Society. He is black, tan and white and is about 1 year old. Thanks to Dana for helping me pick out my next agility dog! Pictured with Kloie and Flynn.

—*Priscilla Rahner*



Our Stars

New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 2/16/15

AGILITY TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Novice Standard (NA)

08/15/15 Joseph Alemani, "Penny," Doberman Pinscher

AKC Novice Fast (NF)

11/29/15 Jacqueline Soccodato, Soccodato's Buster, "Buster," All American

AKC Master Jumpers Preferred (NJP)

10/24/15 Karen Shinoda, CH BonnieWee Sandy's Balvenie, "Sandy," Westie

11/29/15 Sarah Johnson, "Sassafras," All American Plott Hound

AKC Master Jumpers (MXJ)

2/7/16 Debbie Poe, "Maybelle," All-American

AKC Master Century Standard (MXC)

12/5/15 Stephen McKay, Brigadoon Have Tux Will Travel, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Century Jumper 3 (MJC3)

10/11/15 Michelle Trummer, MACH 7 Rockwoods Zig Zag Zoe MXS3 MJG3 MXF T2B6, "Zoe," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Agility Champion 8 (MACH 8)

12/5/15 Michelle Trummer, MACH 8 Rockwoods Zig Zag Zoe MXS3 MJC3 MXF T2B6, "Zoe," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Agility Champion 15 (MACH 15)

1/9/16 Michelle Trummer, MACH 15 Corn Cockle Cornelius CDX MXC4 MJS5 FTC1 MFB2 TQX T2B7, "Corn," Shetland Sheepdog

AKC Master Standard Preferred Bronze

11/28/15 Karen Shinoda, CH BonnieWee Sandy's Balvenie, "Sandy," Westie

AKC Master Jumpers Preferred Bronze (MJPB)

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

AKC Time to Beat 7 (T2B7)

2/11/16 Michelle Trummer, MACH8 Zoe, Shetland Sheepdog

United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)

USDAA Master Agility Dog (MAD)

1/2/16 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

USDAA Performance Relay Champion Bronze (PRCH - Bronze)

1/17/16 Lauren M. Stein, Hailey McBean, "Hailey," Catahoula Leopard Dog

USDAA Performance Snooker Master (PKM)

1/17/16 Lauren M. Stein, Texas Lone Star's Empire State of Mind, "Pi," Catahoula Leopard Dog

USDAA Advanced Performance Dog (APD)

1/03/16 Lauren M. Stein, Texas Lone Star's Empire State of Mind, "Pi," Catahoula Leopard Dog

USDAA Advanced Performance Standard (APS)

1/3/16 Lauren M. Stein, Texas Lone Star's Empire State of Mind, "Pi," Catahoula Leopard Dog

USDAA Performance Jumpers Master (PJM)

1/2/16 Lauren M. Stein, Texas Lone Star's Empire State of Mind, "Pi," Catahoula Leopard Dog

Canine Performance Events (CPE)

CPE Agility Trial Champion (C-ATCH)

11/29/15 Kathleen Foley, "Brian," Westie

NOSE WORK TITLES

National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)

NACSW Level 3 Interiors (NW3-I)

12/4/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggles's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

9/27/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggles Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

NACSW Level 3 Exteriors (NW3-E)

9/27/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggles Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

NACSW Level 3 Containers (NW3-C)

9/27/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggles Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

NACSW Level 3 Elite (NW3-Elite)

9/27/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggles Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

NACSW Level 3 (NW3)

12/4/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggles's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

9/27/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggles Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

NACSW Level 3 Vehicles (NW3-V)

9/27/15 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggles Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

BARN HUNT

Barn Hunt Association

BHA Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI)

12/7/12 Elizabeth Lynch, Coconut, "Coco," Mixed

RALLY TITLES

World Cynosport Rally (WCRL)

WCRL RLIX Championship

10/25/15 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer

COURSING TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

AKC Lure Coursing (CA)

11/14/15 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer

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 trumtermrt@yahoo.com or to Michelle Trummer. Summer home: 11 Lakeview Rd., North Salem, NY 10560. Winter Home: 11988 61st Street North, West Palm Beach, FL 33412.

Volunteering Explained

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

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

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

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

You can find volunteer opportunities in the Help Wanted column and on the PCOTC Events bulletin board at the facility or by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator. You may also join the PCOTC group E-mail list to receive periodic requests for volunteers when they are needed.

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.

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.

HELP WANTED

PCOTC at PUBLIC EVENTS:

Volunteers needed for public demos, ring guides, booth duty, transport and setup:

- Bark for Life, Tarrytown, NY, April 16
- SPCA of Westchester, May

See article on page 14. To volunteer, contact Jane Wheeler at jane Wheeler@optimum.net.

AGILITY RUN-THRUS, Mar. 13. On-line volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted prior to the date.

WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS, Mar. 20, May 1, May 22, Jun. 19, Jul. 17. Volunteer signup instructions will be posted prior to each weekend.

AKC RALLY TRIALS, Mar. 5

AKC OBEDIENCE TRIALS, Mar. 6

Rally volunteers on Mar. 5 should contact Megan Woods at hollywoods118@aim.com

Need volunteer hours? Come steward at the AKC Obedience Trials on Sunday, March 6. Observe the competitors, our club members among them, as they come out and exhibit all their wonderful obedience handling skills. 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) pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com (volunteers) and Carol Fessler, carol.fessler@gmail.com (membership).

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 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 List: This e-mail list is by subscription only and for members only. If you want to hear about volunteer opportunities as they come up, be sure you are subscribed to this list. Subscribe via

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pcotc> or pcotc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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.



Georgie and Megan discuss their team strategy © Morgaana Menzel

PCOTC Club Meetings Minutes

12/09/15

19 members signed the Attendance sheet

Board members: G. Berger, C. Fessler, G. Heck, L. Lucas, J. Turschmann, J. Wheeler

Reading of Minutes of Last Meeting
10/29/15

- Minutes were distributed to the Membership electronically; no amendments

Report of the President

- Deborah Silver new volunteer coordinator; will be sending eblasts to inform members/students about volunteer opportunities

- Social Media consolidation of sites used; streamline how we get information to members and students; currently we use Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo! Groups

- White Plains Weekends monthly dates have been scheduled through July 2016; Karen Wrey is working on moving registration online through www.dogmatchshows.com; Mike Jones will coordinate "day of" activities; eblast will be sent out with registration information and volunteer coordination

- Agility RunThrus scheduled for January and March 2016; the January runthrus are full

- Open House will be planned for 2016

- Class Assistants November/December class session has been a trial of this new opportunity; feedback will be received from instructors and students in class; based on feedback, process will be improved for 2016

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

- Eblasts 20 eblasts have been sent since the last club meeting on 10/29/15; 9 eblasts have been sent to members only; 11 eblasts have been sent to the entire list (2,765 subscribers)

- Class Surveys will be sent out for November/December class session on/about 12/17/15; data collection will be sent to Training Directors, Instructors, and Board on/about midJanuary; data will also be shared with membership at club meetings

Report of the Treasurer

- Audit is currently underway; reportings will be shared with the Board of Directors in January 2016; audit will provide updated practices and moving more documentation online

- Looking for a new bookkeeper

Report of Committees

- Membership 291 members; Red Book will be sent out in January 2016; Membership Drive will take place in first half of 2016 year; will look for volunteers to help visit entry level classes to talk about Membership

- Constitution & Bylaws committee continues to review line by line; recommending and compiling changes; once complete, changes will need to be brought forward to Board of Directors, Membership, and AKC

Report of Working Groups

- **Publicity Sit 'n Stay** was sent electronically to membership last week; information and registration information regarding Suzanne Clothier workshop will be sent out by the end of the year.

- **Registration** January/February class registration will open for volunteer members on Tuesday December 15th; new class offerings have been added to the schedule

Old Business

- Room Rentals old policy stated 4 days notice must be given, reduced to 48 hours; new calendar team in place (Katie Emerson, Sara Gagnon, Mary Skirchak); entire process will be reviewed; also looking at possibility of replacing Google calendar with app that would allow class schedule, rentals, and payments to be processed online

New Business

- June & August Agility Trials question was raised by Cynthia Catts on why June and September 2016 trials had been cancelled; due to heat/weather, there has been difficulty finding an indoor facility within a 90 minute radius from PCOTC; June agility date also conflicted with Tracy Sklenar Agility workshops; alternative options suggested include possibly changing dates to Fall when weather is not as hot/humid, having another outdoor trial at FDR State

Park, and if there are volunteers available to scout potential trial locations.

- Class Assistants question was raised by Yukiko Haines regarding procedure; see Report of the President above.

Next Meeting Date: April 26, 2016

Meeting was adjourned.

Board Meetings

11/30/15

Minutes of Conference Call:

In a conference call meeting on Monday, November 30, 2015 to discuss ASAP fees, a motion that pending satisfactory solution our concerns about future pricing increases we approve the flat monthly rate for ASAP. It was seconded and all were in favor.

There were no corrections or deletions requested to the previous Club meeting minutes.

12/15/15

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

Minutes of last meeting were accepted and published.

President's report – Nothing new to report

Treasurer's Report – Lynn filled in for Bob and updated the board on the work of the auditor. The auditors came twice. The auditors will give suggestions on best practices moving forward. The Board will be meeting with the auditors January 7.

Quickbooks is up to date. We are still looking into a bookkeeper and Quickbooks online. The auditor will be asked for suggestions.

Guidelines for standard practice of bookkeeping will be developed.

All signatures and passwords have been changed.

continued next page

PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

Continued

Corresponding Secretary –

New Google calendar team are up and running.

Report attached

Report of Special Groups.

Constitution and By Laws Committee – nothing new to report

Membership – Three new members were voted in; Marie Fay, Rachel Gumina, Shenuan Qui (Frances). Motion was made to accept. It was seconded and passed.

House – vacuum is broken again. Will contact Stanton to fix. We are also in need of more vacuum bags.

Publicity – Meet the Breeds will be offering 2x more space than last year. Volunteers are already lined up for this event.

Asked instructors which topic they would like to have Suzanne Clothier speak on when she comes. Her forte is behavior and training.

Registration – opened for the next session.

Unfinished Business

Policy & Procedure Manual – is completed for now. It is a “living” document which can be added to and changed as appropriate. The manual will be distributed to the Board and will be in place by the first of the year. Once approved, it will be posted online.

New Business

1. **Finance Committee –** After the audit a finance committee will be put in place. The board will determine what its purpose is and who will serve.

2. **Business Cards –** it was decided that we would go with a general card – no “names/instructors” on.

3. **Club meetings with speakers –** There are 5 meetings a year and generally 3 speakers. An e-blast will go out looking for someone to coordinate and find speakers for the 3 meetings.

4. **All Breed Match –** a request was made by a Board member to consider hosting an

all breed conformation match. The Board gave the okay to look into it.

Next meeting date will be set after the special auditors meeting in January.

Meeting was adjourned.

1/11/16

Present: B. Amen, G. Berger, C. Fessler, L. Lucas, D. Poe, J. Turschmann, J. Wheeler, A. Woods, M. Woods

Minutes of Last meeting – December 15, 2015 were approved and sent to membership.

Report of the President:

- Class Assistants – there has been great feedback. We need a volunteer coordinator to continue this.

- Poop station – we need someone to help take the bag out and replace. Until we find a volunteer, the facility cleaner will change.

- WPW – the new online system through dogmatchshows.com is working well. There were some snags but they are being worked out. Slots will be added for members who got closed out.

- FDR Park Picnic - We have secured Pavilion 3 for the picnic on June 5. Megan Woods and Morgaana Menzel will solicit additional people to help put this together.

Report of the Acting Treasurer:

- The audit has been completed and the report is being finalized by the outside auditor, Dinowitz and Bove; the board is reviewing the report and the process should be done by the end of January. No material issues were found.

The board is considering hiring the Dinowitz and Bove firm, which also prepares our tax return, for bookkeeping services; they are familiar with our accounting methodology and financial structure.

As part of the discussion on the audit, the topic of cash payments were raised, and the board decided to require “checks only” for Drop-Ins and Room Rentals.

The **Finance Committee** was formed. The members are:

Bob Amen, (chair), George Berger, Carol Fessler, and Lynn Lucas (ex officio member).

Report of Corresponding Secretary – attached

New Business-

- An e-blast will go out for interest in the vacant board director position

- The chair of the nominating committee for the next club year’s Board is Megan Woods. A motion was made to accept her nomination, seconded and all were in favor.

- Under the current registration process, volunteer members get priority registration, then it is opened to non-volunteer members and the general public. Debbie will look into staggering opening times more so that there is more time allowed to solve any registration issues.

Special Groups –

- Constitution and By-laws committee – has not met in a while but would like to have a draft ready sometime in the spring to present to the board, then the members, then the AKC. Presenting the revised by-laws will be done at a separate meeting.

- Membership – 7 new members were presented: Karen Burger and Mercia Schoeman, Eirin Eikeland, Barbara Krajewski and Maureen Farrington, Rachel Lane, and Maura Tracy. A motion was made to accept them, seconded and all were in favor.

- House – Light covers were installed upstairs. The vacuum still needs to be repaired. The front door is breaking again and a locksmith is needed.

- Publicity – Preparing for the Suzanne Clothier seminar which will have a limit of 100. The two days will be \$350 with an early bird registration of \$300. Also this year there will be a Tracy Sklenar seminar. The website group will have a consultant, Chris Lucas, helping on the committee.

PCOTC will be represented at Meet the Breeds and Bark For Life.

- Registration - 452 enrollees this session.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded and all in favor. Next meeting will be 2/24

1/29/15

Special Board Meeting Via Conference Call

Present on the call: L. Lucas, C. Fessler, G. Berger, B. Amen, A. Woods, J. Wheeler, M. Woods, D. Poe

A special board meeting was called via conference call to discuss and vote on the financial report for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2015 presented by the auditing firm Dinowitz and Bove. A motion was made and passed to accept the representation letter and letter to management.

A summary letter with auditors report will go out to the membership shortly.

2/18/16

On the call: George Berger, Jane Wheeler, Carol Fessler, Audrey Woods, Megan Woods, Jeanne Turschmann, Debbie Poe, Lynn Lucas

The board met by telephone conference to discuss bookkeeper needs.

1099s will be processed while a search team led by Debbie Poe vets bookkeepers to handle the day to day bookkeeping needs of the club.

2/29/16

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

In attendance: George Berger, Carol Fessler, Olga Kornienko, Lynn Lucas, Morgaana Menzel, Debbie Poe, Jane Wheeler and Jeanne Turschmann.

A brief meeting was held by conference call to determine spending authorization limits. The following motion was made and seconded:

“Any expenditure by a Board member in excess of \$500 requires the prior approval of the Treasurer or the Finance Committee.”

The motion passed with six in favor and one opposing.

ARE THEY PLAYING OR FIGHTING? A GUIDE TO EVALUATING ROUGH PUP PLAY

Nov 04, 2015 AKC GoodDog! Helpline Trainer Hilarie Erb, American Kennel Club

If two dogs are wrestling and it seems too rough to you, with all that growling and snarling, body-slammings, and biting of each other's necks, should you intervene? Can you tell the difference between playing and fighting?

This is normal dog play. Puppies play with their littermates constantly. From around two weeks, when their eyes open, until they go to their own homes, they spend almost all of their waking hours wrestling with each other. It's a critical time for social development because it is when they learn bite inhibition and good dog manners. It is good exercise and socialization for them and fun for us to watch. But you should learn how to tell the difference between playing and a real fight when adult dogs are involved.

Behaviors that say it's all good fun:

- The play bow – front end down, back end in the air. Sometimes the dog trying to initiate play will slap his front legs down on the ground repeatedly.
- A big, silly open-mouthed grin.
- Exaggerated, bouncy movement. The dogs are acting silly.
- Loud, continuous growling and snarling; again, exaggerated. Play-growling may sound scarier than serious fighting.
- The dogs voluntarily make themselves vulnerable by “falling” down and exposing their bellies and allowing themselves to be caught when playing chase. They take turns chasing each other.
- They keep going back for more. Even the dog that ends up on his back doesn't want to stop playing. They will probably take turns with most play-fighting behaviors.

Behaviors that tell you this is not a game:

- The dogs' bodies get very stiff. Hackles (the hair on a dog's upper back) are raised. You may not be able to see this if the dog has long hair.
- Closed mouth, curled lip, low warning growl.
- Movements will be quick and efficient – no bouncing around, no taking turns.
- Ears will be pinned flat and lips curled back and snarling. No big silly smiles.
- If the dogs get into actual combat, hopefully it will be a short encounter, and the “loser” will try to leave the area. There won't be going back for more play.
- The dog is trying to get away from the other one, and her body language is not happy and bouncy. Tail is tucked. She isn't having fun.

Tips to ensure safe dog-wrestling:

- Not every dog is meant for the dog park, and that's OK. Some breeds are just quick to take offense. They may be better off playing at home with you or with a dog buddy they know well.
- Don't allow a puppy or dog to be ganged up on by other dogs. Even if she doesn't get hurt, a bad experience with other dogs can traumatize her and cause fearfulness that will be hard to overcome.
- Keep food and toys out of the picture. Most dogs are possessive of their food and their stuff. To them, it's worth fighting for.

Have a plan for home and away. If your dog does get into a real fight, do not attempt to separate the dogs by grabbing a collar or using any part of your body. You will likely get bitten. There are safer ways to break them up.

A loud noise might distract the dogs. Keep a small air horn in your car. If a hose is available, spray their heads with water. At home, find something big and flat, like a piece of plywood or a baby gate, which can be put between the dogs.

The best way to avoid a fight is to recognize the signs of potential conflict and act quickly and calmly to separate the dogs before the situation escalates and everyone can continue having a good time.