

**Celebrating 75 Years**

**PCOTC**

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



# Sit 'n Stay

*Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Spring 2017*

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Kathy Foley's Leeza, who now waits at the Rainbow Bridge

## Calendar of Events

*Events are held at the PCOTC facility unless otherwise noted*

Mar 4	AKC Rally Trials	Jun	Anna Eifert Agility Seminars
Mar 5	AKC Obedience Trials	10-11	
Mar	Kamal Fernandez Obedience	Jun 12	Annual Club Meeting
11-12	Seminars	Jul 29	AKC Rally Trials
Mar 19	Agility Run-thrus	Jul 30	AKC Obedience Trials
Mar 26	White Plains Weekends	Aug 30	Club Meeting
Apr 23	White Plains Weekends	Sep	Deb Jones Obedience Semi
Apr 26	Club Meeting	16-17	nars
Apr	Musical Freestyle—	Oct 1	WCRL Rally Trials—PCRE
29-30	SassyT Academy	Oct 26	Howl-o-ween Party & Club
May 6	SPCA Dog Walk/Pet Fair, FDR		Meeting
	Park	Nov 5	AKC Obedience Trial
May	PCNUT Agility Trials, FDR Park	Dec 3	WCRL Rally Trials—PCRE
11-14		Dec 5	Holiday Party & Club Meeting
May 14	WCRL Rally Trials — PCRE		

## Port Chester Obedience Training Club

AN AKC MEMBER CLUB  
220 Ferris Avenue, White Plains, NY  
Est. 1940 [www.PCOTC.org](http://www.PCOTC.org)  
Phone: 914-269-8550

### OFFICERS

President, Jeanne Meldrim, 914-478-3593  
1st Vice President, Open  
2nd VP, George Berger, [gpb37@aol.com](mailto:gpb37@aol.com)  
Rec. Secretary, Audrey Woods, 914-591-7209  
Corr. Sec., Olga Kornienko, 917-362-3456  
Treasurer, Open

### DIRECTORS

Morgaana Menzel, 914-882-7020  
Barbara Verdi DelRowe, 914-421-7719  
Jane Wheeler, Publicity & PR, 845-227-5116  
Megan Woods, House Liaison, 914-591-7209

### AKC DELEGATE

Kathy Gregory, [gregdobs@aol.com](mailto:gregdobs@aol.com)

### TRAINING DIRECTORS

*Competition Obedience & Rally*  
Rick Pisani, 631-581-2834

#### *Agility*

Stefanie Rainer, 631-338-6085

#### *Family Manners*

Jenn Michaelis, 406-396-3353

#### *K9 Nose Work*

Kathe Baxter, 914-238-6505

### WHO TO CONTACT:

PCOTC Message Phone: 914-269-8550

#### *Seminars/Special Events:*

Jane Wheeler, [janewheeler@optimum.net](mailto:janewheeler@optimum.net)

#### *Volunteering:*

Deborah Silver, [pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com)

#### *Facility Emergencies:*

Stephen McKay, 914-835-5487

#### *Registration Questions:*

[dog.class.register@gmail.com](mailto:dog.class.register@gmail.com)

### 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.

EDITOR, George Berger,

914-263-5397, [gpb37@aol.com](mailto:gpb37@aol.com)

MANAGING EDITOR, Jane Wheeler,

[janewheeler@optimum.net](mailto:janewheeler@optimum.net)

OUR STARS, Michelle Trummer,

[trummmrt@yahoo.com](mailto:trummmrt@yahoo.com)

Next deadline: May 15, 2017

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

# President's Message

Nobody is more surprised than I am to be writing to you as President. Although I am happy for Lynn Lucas that she is moving on to an amazing new job, she has left big shoes to fill.

Lynn took over the presidency at a time when the club was in a great deal of turmoil. I think her greatest accomplishment was bringing stability and unity back to the club.

Some of the other things Lynn achieved were:

- Better communication to the membership by sending out timely board meeting minutes as well as increasing the number of e-blasts on various topics.
- The facility was improved with better lighting, security cameras and a stairwell mirror on the way up to the second floor.
- Brought in many new instructors, Stefanie Ranier, Mary Champagne, Lisa Topol, Fran Hellman, Cynthia Grohoski and Virginia Dare. New classes were added and advanced agility classes were reduced from eight students to six so that everyone would have more floor time.
- Along with Debbie Poe, Lynn audited the finances and cleaned up club's bookkeeping.
- Initiated the bylaws revision.
- Optimized the weekend use of the facility with monthly White Plains Weekends agility and obedience run-thrus, and workshops
- Increased volunteer opportunities for members
- Streamlined the registration process and built up the registration team.
- Held open houses to attract new students.

Thank you, Lynn, for all you have done. I look forward to continuing to see you at the club!

— Jeanne Meldrim, [jeannemeldrim@gmail.com](mailto:jeannemeldrim@gmail.com)



Janis Mandrus' "Penny" amid Spring petals

## Save the Dates: 2017 Club Meetings

- Wed., April 26, Club Meeting
- Mon., June 12, Annual Meeting
- Wed., Aug. 30, Club Meeting
- Thur., Oct. 26, Howl-o-ween Party/Club Mtg
- Tues., Dec. 5, Holiday Party/Club Meeting



# Club Doings

## PCOTC Bylaws: 4/26/17 Club Meeting

Good news—The American Kennel club has approved all of the changes in PCOTC's last submittal of new Bylaws, **except** a "Good Standing" clause in the Membership section. We discussed the clause at a club meeting on October 5, but did not have enough members present for a quorum to vote on "Good Standing" rules that would be acceptable to the AKC.

So please **come to our Wednesday, April 26 Club Meeting** to make up a quorum and finish up our Bylaws revisions! Let's get it done!

Two important changes to our Bylaws that will affect members directly:

- Our financial and club year will run from January through December of each calendar year (not June 1 through May 31 of the following year).

**Impact:** To adjust to the new club and financial year, there will be a onetime 1-1/2 year membership fee due June 1, 2017, but that fee will cover June 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. (Our Annual Meeting and Board elections will remain in June of each year.)

The PCOTC membership renewal form will be available soon!

- The Board of Directors is reduced from a membership of ten, to eight. The two slots to be deleted are Directorships (not officers).



**Impact:** This change will be reflected in our Nominating Committee's work this Spring and will take effect as of our June Annual Club Meeting.

Here is a link to our Constitution and Bylaws as approved by the AKC:

[www.pcotc.org/documents/info/Bylaws2016.pdf](http://www.pcotc.org/documents/info/Bylaws2016.pdf)

The "Good Standing" clause that requires a quorum to be approved by PCOTC:

[www.pcotc.org/documents/info/members.pdf](http://www.pcotc.org/documents/info/members.pdf)

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the 2017 Board elections in June, at PCOTC's Annual Meeting, consists of:

- Morgaana Menzel, Chair
- David Lebedin
- Barbara Siegel
- Sarah Johnson (alternate)
- Hadley Allen (alternate)

Before April 30, club members will be notified of the candidates nominated. Other nominations may be made by petition prior to May 15. All such petitions must be signed by five eligible members and accompanied by the written acceptance of the additional nominee. Such petitions should be sent to the Recording Secretary.

Each candidate for office will furnish a biography/statement and picture to be provided to the membership. This information will be sent to the membership prior to the elections.

If there are no nominees in addition to the Nominating Committee slate, the Recording Secretary will cast one vote at the Annual Meeting to elect the slate. If there are any contested seats, the membership will vote on them, in person, at the Annual Meeting.

## Club Reminders

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

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

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

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

## Welcome New Members

- Virginia Collins & her Japanese Chin, "Hiro" and Papillon, "Stella"
- Ira J. Lewis & his Standard Poodle, "Tukka"
- Laurel Boylen & her Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, "Tucker"
- Marci Lewis & her Cocker Spaniel, "Max"
- Hadley Allen & her Golden Retriever, "Kippy"

# Agility

## Agility Tip Myth: One Mind Dogs Is Just a Bunch of Fancy Moves

by Stefanie Rainer, Agility Training Director, OMD Assistant Coach

One Mind Dogs exploded on to the agility scene back in 2014. Though the real work began long before that, the phenomenon took the agility community by storm with its fancy twists and turns, demonstrating a new form of communication between dog and handler on course. Maximum results were advertised with minimal training, selling a non-verbal handling system and a method that is based on dogs' natural behaviors. People around the globe jumped at the opportunity to learn the One Mind Dogs methodology and see for themselves what all of the hype was about.

As with anything new, some people were skeptical to try the trendy thing. Though One Mind Dogs made claims to have a handling system that is natural for the dogs, the 32-plus different turning cues made people question how natural this system was. Then, when they heard names like Reverse-V-Set with a Jaakko Turn and Kabai Blind, people grew even more confused about the system. Though the names

of each turn can be daunting, each turning cue does serve a purpose. However, beyond the names, lies the fundamental reason behind the whole system—to give your dog as much information about where it is going on course using cues that are natural to him.

I'm saying that One Mind Dogs is much more than fancy turning cues. It is about learning to look at the agility course from your dog's point of view. When walking a course, rather than looking at the numbers of the sequence and the obstacles, try looking at the path that the dog will be running on. Ask yourself, how can I give my dog the information it needs about where she is going so she can better prepare for each turn on course? The result is shorter lines, faster turns, and a happy and healthier dog. Think about it: if you wait for your dog to be at the obstacle it's turning on to first inform her about the turn, you will most likely find the dog taking a wide turn and doing a number on her body to compen-

sate for your late information. If you were to have planned for that turn during the walk-through, you would have told the dog in advance that she was turning, resulting in a better turn because the dog would have adjusted its striding prior to the obstacle they were turning on. The difference between that tight turn and wide turn could be something as subtle as showing a rhythm change and turning your chest towards your dog, indicating the slow down versus running as quickly as possible at the obstacle showing too much motion causing your dog to take the obstacle in extension, resulting in a wide turn. In a sport where first and second place is often less than a tenth of a second, that one wide turn could be the difference between winning and losing.

So I encourage you to look beyond the fancy moves and explore the world of One Mind Dogs to help better your understanding of agility through your dog's eyes. Your dog will thank you for it.

## May PCNUT Agility Trial at FDR



At last year's PCNUT Trial

Our FDR State Park event will start off the trial year when, on May 11, 12, 13 and 14, PCOTC will once again co-host the 17th Annual PCNUT trial with the Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club.

We will set up the site on Wednesday, May 10, 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 on-line sign-up will be available after final confirmation. We will coach volunteers in any position, so please sign up when available. The premium is on our trial secretary's site, [www.fasttimesagility.com](http://www.fasttimesagility.com).

Mark your calendars for the March 28 opening date, and the April 18 closing.

## New Agility Training Director

Starting February 1, 2017 Stefanie Rainer has taken over the position of Agility Training Director from Kim Seiter.

Due to the increasing demands from her own school in New Jersey, Kim decided to step down as TD. She has helped Stefanie transition into this position and will continue to teach classes at PCOTC.

We would like to thank Kim for all her hard work and to welcome Stefanie as our new Agility Training Director.

— PCOTC Board of Directors

## Agility Run-Thrus

An agility run-thru is scheduled for Sunday, March 19. More run-thrus will be announced as they become firmly scheduled.

# Agility

## Anna Eifert Agility Workshops June 10–11



PCOTC is pleased to offer two half-day and one full-day agility workshops with Anna Eifert, One Mind Dog Coach, on June 10–11.

### **Day 1 - Morning**

**Subject:** OMD basics without obstacles, plus jump game with wings and bar on ground.

**Who's invited:** Puppies/Young Dogs

### Afternoon

**Subject:** Techniques and applications. After a short lecture, we will practice short sequences with a very detailed theory of techniques: where, what, when, why, and how to us.

**Who's invited:** Anyone new to One Mind Dogs, or dogs at least 10 months.

Should have some obstacle experience: jumps and tunnels. Contacts are not required.

### **Day 2**

#### Full Day

**Subject:** A full day of coursework, geared to more advanced teams with OMD experience.

**Who's invited:** Teams that have previously worked with an OMD coach or assistant coach.

### **ANNA EIFERT**

Anna Eifert started doing agility in 1999, with her Miniature Bull Terrier Giovanni; she has been teaching agility seminars since 2007.

Anna was one of the 20-plus world-class agility athletes who traveled to Finland in January 2015 to kick off the yearlong OMD Coach Pilot. She works as a full-time agility trainer in her own company in Hungary. OMD methodology enables her to chase her dreams as it works with all kinds of dogs. Her current dogs are smooth Border Collie, Nevian, and young Miniature Bull

Terrier, Du. She has also run Belgian Shepherds and Schipperke.

Anna is an international competitor, having made the podium at several events on the world stage. Some results with Nevian:

2006 – FCI Agility World Championships, Switzerland, 2nd

2008 – Border Collie Classic, Netherlands, 2nd

2009 – Hungarian National Champion

2010 – Crufts (British Open and International, Great Britain, 1st

2012 – IFCS World Championships, USA, 1st (Biathlon World Champion)

2013 Hungarian National Champion

### **SIGNING UP**

More information and registration for these OMD agility workshops with Anna Eifert will be available soon!



# Obedience

## Kamal Fernandez R+ Seminars

On Saturday and Sunday, March 11-12, Kamal Fernandez will offer two obedience seminars using R+ techniques. On Monday, March 13, he will conduct one-hour private sessions for obedience students. At this time, all working spots and private sessions are full. If you would like to be on the wait-list for a working spot on either Saturday or Sunday, please contact Jane Wheeler at [jane Wheeler@optimum.net](mailto:jane Wheeler@optimum.net). Also, audit spots are available and are a great option!

Day 1 features “Building a Foundation for Heelwork” using Kamal’s R+ techniques. Static Exercises, Food Follows, Freeze Frames and Moving Hand Touch are a few of the techniques that will be covered for those beginning to teach Heelwork to their dogs. The second half of the day will be devoted to watching more advanced techniques and some of Kamal’s online students resolve Heelwork problems. Emphasis will be on building drive for Heelwork using toy and food reinforcement.

On Day 2, “Shaping, Send Aways (Go-Outs) & Retrieves” are all taught with R+ techniques. Kamal will explain and demonstrate his methods for teaching, training and problem solving for each of these exercises. Shaping behaviors allows the dog to learn and discover the joys of working. Send Aways (Go-Outs) are a complex and difficult exercise for many dogs. Kamal uses the dog’s natural tendencies to train this behavior. Retrieves—Kamal breaks down and separates all the complex behaviors that will together add up to a dynamic retrieve: pick-up, swimmer’s turn, running out, the hold and the verbal release.

One-hour privates with Kamal Fernandez on Monday, March 13 from 9 am-5 pm will give priority to students who have worked with Kamal Fernandez in the past. Please contact Rick Pisani for availability at [luv2heel@me.com](mailto:luv2heel@me.com)

*Note:* These are Positive Reinforcement seminars/privates. No pinch collar, choke collars or electronic collars will be permitted.



Kamal Fernandez

**About Kamal Fernandez:** Head trainer and owner of East London Dog Training, Kamal Fernandez has over 20 years experience training dogs from all walks of life. His current dogs include two Belgian Malinois, two Border Collies, a German Spitz and a Boxer. An internationally renowned seminar instructor, Kamal’s other career highlights include being a Championship Obedience judge and Crufts competitor.

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

Go to [www.pcotc.org/calendar](http://www.pcotc.org/calendar) for more information and registration links.

Fees: Days 1 & 2 run from 9 am to 5 pm. Maximum 12 working spots each day. Each day: \$195 working, \$90 auditing. Privates: \$150/hour.

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**Save the date: Deb Jones obedience seminars just scheduled for Sept. 16–17!**

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## Run-Thrus/Trials Scheduled for 2017

### White Plains Weekends

WPWs—practice for obedience trialing—are scheduled for:

- March 26
- April 23
- May 21

Registration is handled through [www.Dogmatchshows.com](http://www.Dogmatchshows.com). Day of entry slots can be purchased if any slots remain. Volunteers (who volunteer ahead of time) will receive a free run-thru with their dog.

Karen Wrey is the contact person for White Plains Weekends, at 845-592-1722 or [kayray@optonline.net](mailto:kayray@optonline.net). Reach her by phone (preferred) or email for questions or to volunteer; stewards and judges are needed for each WPW.

### AKC Obedience & Rally Trials

*AKC Rally:* AKC rally trials in 2017 are scheduled for:

- March 4
- July 29

*AKC Obedience:* AKC obedience trials in 2017 are scheduled for:

- March 5
- July 30
- November 5

### WCR Rally Trials (PCRE):

- May 14
- October 1
- December 3

# Obedience

## Rally Tip: Trial Prep

by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA

Many of you are marking your calendars to enter trials, or have already sent in your entries. So what kinds of things can you do now to help you prepare so that you and your partner will have fun, have the best chance of success, and come away from the trial looking forward to your next competition?

1. Read—or re-read—the rules! There are lots of venues offering Rally competition and although the basic game is always the same, the rules for each vary slightly. It is up to you to avoid making silly mistakes that result in a big deduction or even an NQ simply because you forgot that you can't slap your thigh to encourage your dog in AKC Excellent (it's OK at lower levels), or follow your verbal "come" cue—which your dog apparently didn't hear—with a big hand signal (deduction for multiple cues in WRCL).

2. Remember the work you put into building value into ring entry and set-up? Now

is a good time to refresh that skill and bring back an eager and expectant attitude at the start of your rally run. No drilling on this behavior! Keep it light and lively with lots of variety and play.

3. Review your use of food and toys during training sessions. Do you routinely keep treats in a pouch of some sort that you wear? Do you tuck a toy into your back pocket or under your arm? In competition you may not be allowed to bring treats or toys into the ring or, if treats are allowed, you will be required to carry them in a pocket. Practice under these conditions. Don't expect your partner to understand the disappearance of these supports just at the point of stress in a trial when he needs all the help possible from you. Because Rally is a sustained, continuous performance of several minutes duration, your dog needs to understand that your verbal encouragement and clear connection throughout the course will lead to a great

celebration/reward when you two leave the ring. Work on varying, sustained periods of performance between rewards and on rewards that happen outside the ring.

4. Take the opportunity to enter a few run-throughs at various training facilities if at all possible. At least set up some courses and run them as you would in competition, just to get a feel for following the actual procedure. Tape it if you can, then take a look at the tape and, perhaps, run the course again—this time in training mode—paying attention to problems you noticed from the video. Watch especially for your path through the course. Could you have been in a better position for the "left about turn"? How about your exit from the "figure 8"? What problems did you not anticipate in the walk-through?

5. Last point to remember: Do not train the day before the trial. If possible have a great, fun day with your dog and get a good night's sleep!

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## Obedience Tip: Ring Nerves

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

It is natural to be excited and even a bit nervous the day of a trial. We all want to do well and give our dogs the opportunity to shine. But being so nervous that it impedes your performance, or if your nerves impact how your dog feels about the ring, are situations that should be addressed long before the day of a trial.

Why do people get so nervous at an obedience trial? Many of the nerves, I believe, come from uncertainty. What is the show environment going to be like? Will there be ample crating? Is there room to warm up? These are valid questions. Most obedience trials are held in the same location year after year. Start a green dog in a location you have been to before or can attend a trial before you enter one at that location. If you can't attend the trial personally, gather information from friends who have been there before. Avoid new and far away loca-

tions until you feel comfortable with your dog's ability to handle a wide variety of trial locations.

Another common reason to be nervous is performance! Are you and your dog prepared to handle and accept common distractions that may happen the day of the show? I find most students are not fully prepared and therefore, don't know how their dog will respond to various environments. Each team has its strengths and weaknesses, but each team should be fully prepared to perform the entire class routine with a judge and without reinforcement. The only way you will know if your team is this proficient is to go to a match and use the ring time to go through a formal run-through. Use the resulting information to address any weaknesses in your performance before mailing your entry to a trial.

Attitude can also affect ring nerves. Many of my obedience students are not nervous when they compete in agility. They often don't mind if the dog doesn't qualify. The experience is about having fun with their dog. What is the difference with obedience? Why can't it be about having fun with your dog? Isn't it about sharing the journey together? Think of an obedience trial as only a way to measure the success of your training and you will see your attitude about trials improve.

If you have a sense of dread that others are watching you, more often people are so intent on their own dogs and performances, no one is watching! Even your friends will get distracted and not watch. So enter the ring like you are at a ring rental all by yourself, smile confidently at your dog and enjoy the journey.

# Family Manners

## New Family Manners Instructor Virginia Dare

Virginia Dare's training career began in 1981. She is a nationally recognized positive reinforcement trainer and seminar presenter, and co-producer of clicker training DVDs that are sold worldwide through [www.takeabowwow.com](http://www.takeabowwow.com). She is a contributing writer for Karen Pryor's Academy of Animal Training & Behavior curriculum, and a Certified Training Partner (CTP). Virginia has been a faculty member of Karen Pryor's ClickerExpos for six years.

From 2007 – 2015, Virginia was head trainer for a pet/prison program called Pixie's Pen Pals, working in numerous prisons in the central Virginia area. Hard-to-adopt shelter dogs are placed with qualified in-

mates, living at the prison 24/7, until ready to be adopted out to the public.

In 2016, she joined The Good Dog Foundation, a Therapy Dog organization, as executive trainer for the Fairfield/Northern Westchester region.

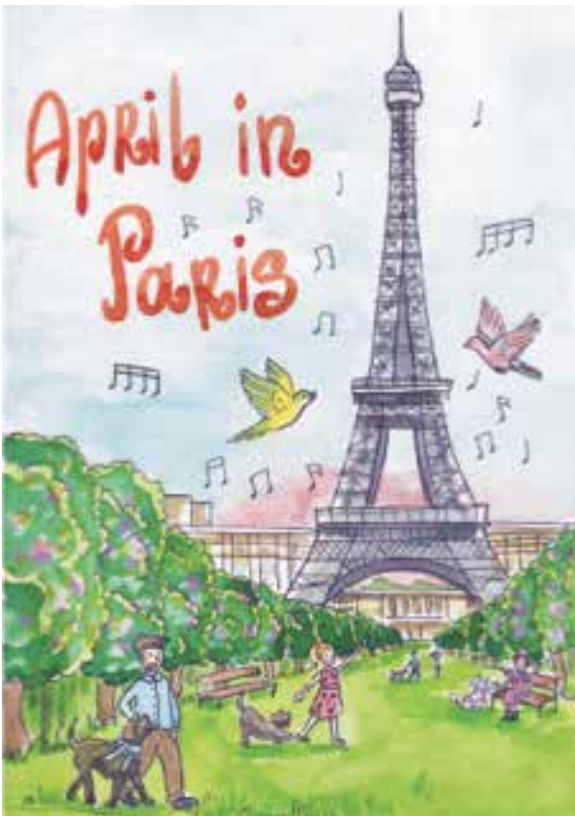
Virginia was part of an army research project where they worked on an automated system for scent detection training in rats.

Virginia's own dogs have been involved in animal acting, herding, agility, and pet therapy visits. The current group consists of a sheltie mix, papillon, min pin, and one agouti (a large South American rodent).



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## Live Musical Freestyle Competition at PCOTC



We are happy to announce that on April 29–30, PCOTC will be the site of the first-ever live musical freestyle competition/titling event under Rally Freestyle Elements.

The event is hosted by SassyT Canine Academy at the PCOTC facility. Thank you to Jenn Michaelis, for setting this historic competition at PCOTC.

The event theme is April in Paris: "This is a feeling that no one can ever reprise." Entries close on April 1, 2017.

For registration/more information please go to:

<http://www.pcotc.org/documents/2017/April-in-Paris-2017.png>

To enter,

- go to [www.rallyfree.com](http://www.rallyfree.com) to log into your member account.
- Click "enter online" next to "April in Paris" in the green events sidebar



# ...And More!

## New Breed Handling Instructor Fran Hellman

Fran Hellman has been handling dogs for over 30 years. Her breeds are Golden Retrievers and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. She has finished nine champions—six, her home-bred Cavaliers—handling some of these dogs to Best of Breed, Group placements, Best Owner/Handler, several Best of Winners, Winners Bitch, Winners Dog, Best Veteran and Best Puppy in Show. Fran has won majors at specialty shows, AKC and CKCSC-USA. She has also, on occasion, handled Goldens and Cavaliers for other people.

Fran has successfully bred Cavaliers for 10 years under the prefix “Sunjays.” Many of those dogs placed with other owners have achieved various titles in different venues, including obedience, agility, and pet therapy. Fran has trained several dogs to various AKC performance titles and has certified several therapy dogs. She is a CPDT-KA and the owner of Four Paws Guidance Dog Training LLC.



## Nose Work Container Donations

by Cynthia Grohoski

One of the staples of nose work searches is the container. A container can mean anything from a cardboard box, to a plastic tote, lunch box, backpack, piece of luggage, or unused paint tin. Throughout the year, containers are typically cycled and recycled through the nose work program, in order to give dogs experience searching a wide variety of items, and to expose the teams to the many different types of containers they might be called upon to search in a nose work trial.

Earlier this year, PCOTC's nose work instructors put out a call for donations of containers, and are pleased to report that members responded with some great items that will be used by students in upcoming classes. Several dozen flat bags, purses, and suitcases were donated, so we're off to a great start in replenishing materials for our nose work teams to work with.

If you missed the email asking for container donations, and have some articles you would



like to donate, please contact Kathe Baxter at [baxterworks@gmail.com](mailto:baxterworks@gmail.com) or Cynthia Grohoski at [cynthia.grohoski@icloud.com](mailto:cynthia.grohoski@icloud.com) who will provide you with information about what and how to donate your items.

We are typically in need of all types of luggage—flat bags, backpacks, hard sided, soft sided; items in good, non-moldy condition—so if you are cleaning closets at any point during the year, please consider donating these items to our nose work program.

Thank you to everyone who donated!

Photo: Nose Work Challenge and Endurance class

# AKC Delegate's Report

*Fourth Quarter 2016 — by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC's AKC Delegate*

As has become customary in recent years, the 4th Quarter Delegate Meeting was held in conjunction with the National Dog Show festivities in Orlando in December. Even though we were in close proximity to the show, Delegates were kept busy with AKC business from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for most of the trip.

AKC Board elections are coming up at the March meeting, and a considerable amount of time was spent listening to candidates who would like the job discussing what they believe their qualifications to be. Many are lawyers, physicians and owners of their own businesses who believe that what they do in their own practices can be easily translated into success on the AKC Board. Emphasis is also placed on how many times a Delegate has attended Delegate meetings and voted.

I learned many important lessons at our last PCOTC election that I believe are helping me decide who to vote for in this instance. For example, it is very nice to have your own successful business where you get to make your own decisions, but how well does someone who has been a "business lone wolf" work with others on a Board where alliances have already been well established and agendas are not always so obvious? How would you, Ms Candidate, persuade established Board Members to listen to you and win others to your side? As with many such elections, a considerable amount of prestige is attached to these positions and I am trying to make my decisions based on fresh ideas and a willingness to be open to trying new things to benefit the fancy, rather than someone's refined education. Representing an all-breed, performance club, I believe I should support candidates who are looking to benefit PCOTC's business practices, trials and general interests.

The AKC has recently begun a strong effort to help and support member clubs such as PCOTC through their website and with one-on-one help. They now have flier templates that clubs can customize for various events, templates for members to use to write to their legislators to support or discourage legal proposals, help with advertising our club's activities, media resources and PR Tips. They have recently formed a "Club Development Department" to help clubs with more challenging situations such as the development of customized educational materials, provide "best practices" suggestions about how to run a club, help with locating show sites, suggestions for special attractions during trials and working in a Code of Sportsmanship.

The AKC has also launched the beginnings of a "Canine College", which right now is being offered on a trial bases to Judges and Delegates, but may soon be open to all. This on-line library of all things doggy contains informational seminars about everything from grooming to basic breed identification to health articles. I believe this is a great idea because of the ease of access on-line courses afford. I also think this is a valuable tool for fanciers to be able to access information usually only available to AKC judges. Maybe we, the competitors, will be better able to understand judges' rulings after we have been able to access some of the information they see.

So far, this site is averaging more than 2,000 hits per week.

The AKC has officially opened a new grooming/doggy day care/boarding facility in a residential building in Manhattan. The AKC is exploring new avenues of revenue and this is one of them. Right now, boarding is only available to tenants of that building, but the day care and grooming are available to the general public. There was much discussion among the Delegates and Board about the wisdom of this venture and what the legal ramification would be if something unforeseen went wrong. The Board assured the Delegate body that every possible consideration was made to set this facility up correctly and safely and that the proper, experienced staff has been hired to run the location. If this is successful, they will consider opening more locations. As was mentioned many times during our meeting, if you don't try something, you will never know if it will work. The AKC logo is prominently displayed at this facility, so, for now, we will have to trust that protecting the brand is foremost in the Board's mind. The Board also sees this as a way to be more actively present in the community, providing educational material to those interested.

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## AKC's New Scent Work Program

*By Kathy Gregory*

The AKC has just released its rulebook for a new AKC sanctioned sport, Scent Work. This urban tracking exercise is similar to Nose Work, but does have some twists, such as using buried hides in the search area and more levels of achievement. Like Nose Work, reactive dogs and handicapped dogs and their handlers are encouraged to participate.

As some of you may know, I have been working with Doug Lundgren, Director of Companion Events and Stephanie Kinnerly, his assistant, in the development of this new offering. Stephanie flew up from Raleigh to spend the a weekend with me to observe my Sunday classes and some of my advanced students. I am very proud of the program they have put together. I think it takes some of the best aspects of Nose Work and is just different enough to attract new students, as well as seasoned veterans looking for something new to do with their dogs.

The official launch date for AKC Scent Work and the earliest date that a club may hold a Scent Work trial is October 1, 2017.

### How Does the AKC Scent Work Program Work?

**The Divisions** AKC Scent Work has two divisions: (1) Odor Search Division: the dog searches for the odor of one or more specific essential oils and (2) Handler Discrimination Division: the dog searches for the scent of their handler.



# AKC's New Scent Work Program *(continued)*

**The Elements** In AKC Scent Work, there are four search environments, or “elements:”

**Container:** the target odor is hidden inside a container, and the dog must indicate in which container the scent is hidden.

**Interior:** the target odor is hidden on or in an object in an indoor search area.

**Exterior:** the target odor is hidden on or in an object in an outdoor search area.

**Buried:** the target odor is hidden inside a small container and buried under the ground.

**Levels of Difficulty** There are four levels of difficulty in each element of the Odor Search Division and the Handler Discrimination Division: Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Master.

Dog-Handler teams begin with the Novice level and move up as they earn titles. Pro-

gressing through the elements may occur at a different rate; for example, a team may compete in Novice Interior class and the Advanced Container class.

**The Odors** AKC Scent Work uses four odors in the Odor Search Division: Birch (*Betula lenta*), Anise (*Pimpinella anisum*), Clove (*Eugenia caryophyllata*), and Peppermint (*Mentha piperita*).

Novice searches are for Birch only; Advanced searches are for Birch and/or Anise; Excellent searches are for Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove, and Master searches are for Birch and/or Anise and/or Clove and/or Peppermint.

**The Detective Class** The Detective Class is the highest level of competition in AKC Scent Work. It is an integrated search environment with an unknown number of hides in a variety of elements. The intent of the Detective Class is to emulate the work

of a true detection dog. In the Detective Class, the dog is searching for one or more essential oil odors and handler scent.

**The Qualifying Performance** In AKC Scent Work, dog-handler teams are judged on a qualify/non-qualify basis. To earn a qualifying leg, the dog-handler team must find and call all hides in a search area within the allotted time without committing any non-qualifying faults. Qualifying teams are ranked 1st through 4th, based on fewest number of faults, and then on time.

**Eligibility** To be eligible to compete in AKC Scent Work, a dog must be Registered with the AKC, or Listed with the AKC Purebred Alternative Listing/Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP), or Listed with the Canine Partners program, and be 6 months of age or older.

For more detailed information, please see the [AKC Scent Work Regulations](#).

## Public Events

### Westchester SPCA Dog Walk/Pet Fair

*by Jane Wheeler*

On May 6, volunteers are needed for PCOTC's participation in the Westchester SPCA's Dog Walk and Pet Fair at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights, NY. In addition to staffing a booth, PCOTC volunteers will provide two agility demos.

To volunteer, please contact Jane Wheeler at [jane Wheeler@optimum.net](mailto:jane Wheeler@optimum.net).

Unfortunately, the American Cancer Society will not be offering the Bark for Life program in our area this year, so we will not be providing a “My Dog Can Do That” event with agility, rally, and nose work rings this year at Lyndhurst.



Last year's PCOTC demo ring at the SPCA of Westchester's Dog Walk and Pet Fair © Liza Wallis Margulies

# *Winter Events*

## **Mark Muir Disc Dog Workshops**

Dec. 10-11, '16  
Photos:  
© Chris Lucas





# Winter Events

## Pixie's Pen Pals Holiday Party Presentation

by Jane Wheeler

On December 12, at PCOTC's Holiday Party, Virginia Dare (see biography on page 8) gave a presentation on Pixie's Pen Pals, a program in Virginia in which prison inmates train shelter dogs to make them more likely to be adopted. The program began in 2001; Virginia was head trainer from 2007 to 2015.

Each facility that joins the program has to provide full warden support with on-site liaisons. Prisoners have to be in cells, versus dorms, and there has to be a fenced area for the dogs. The handler to dog ratio is 2:1. The dogs come from overcrowded area shelters; prison is a step up for many of them.

Dogs have to be assessed to join the program. The prison setting can be tough for some dogs to handle, e.g. if they have "noise issues." The safety of staff and inmates must be assured. New handlers are given "easy" dogs; challenges for the inmate handlers build as their skills rise.

Generally, the dogs provide a stress reducer for staff, other inmates, and the public. The program provides both life skills and, upon release, job skills for inmates. The dogs are adopted—it's an easy choice for adopters to rescue a dog that is trained!

Virginia's role in the program was multi-faceted. For the inmates, she was a consistent, professional educator, and a role model for positive reinforcement with humans. It was extremely important for her to be impartial and show no favoritism among the various inmate handlers. She also tried to make learning fun, and to help build skills that would be useful on the outside.

The interaction between dog and handler can be complex: the dog's behavior can trigger strong emotion. If the dog is aloof, the inmate may feel rejected. If the dog is fearful, it may remind the inmate of his or her own past abuse. If progress is slow, the inmate may feel incompetent and frustrated.

Benefits Virginia saw in inmates involved in Pixie's Pen Pals included:

- Movement from self-focus to other focus
- Team and communication skills were developed
- Confidence rose
- Health improved
- Emotional and behavioral growth was seen
- Participants could understand that learning can be fun

The inmate handlers are involved in the adoption process, as they know the dogs best. They also practice presentation skills and receive first-hand appreciation from the adopters.

Inmate handlers' accounts of their work in the program were insightful and very moving. Virginia provided feedback from one ex-handler who was released from prison:

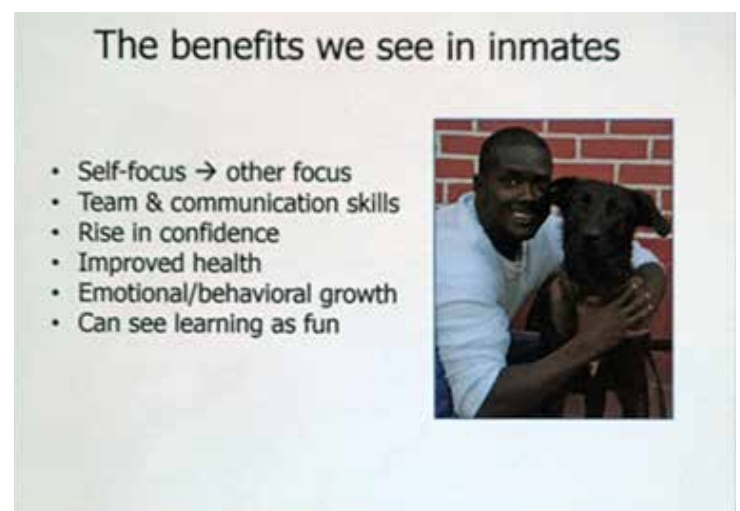
"Rocco was the last dog that I was a part of training before I was released in Oct. 2012, and he adopted me. He has helped tremendously in the transition after 26 years. He makes me laugh, licks my tears and is an amazing dog all around. He is a testament to the phenomenal goodness of the program."

— Teresa

Pixie's Pen Pals, indeed, is a program that benefits everyone involved!



Virginia Dare presentation



A slide on benefits seen in inmates

# Winter Events

## WCRL Rally Trial, Feb. 12

Photos © Morgaana Photography





# Winter Events

## PCOTC Booth at Meet the Breeds

by Jane Wheeler

While numerous PCOTC members were competing in agility, obedience, or in the show ring, and staffing breed booths, a small group of PCOTC members staffed a PCOTC booth at Meet the Breeds on Saturday, February 11 at the Piers in Manhattan. Our purpose, each year, is to offer information about our training program and to answer some general training questions.

This year in particular, people who came to our booth had a wide range of interests. We were asked about breed handling, therapy dogs, first training classes, agility—it's hard to think of any part of our training program that we were not asked about. We gave away many

class schedules and hope to see some of our visitors at PCOTC!

The people who staffed our booth, part-time or all day, included Anne Bannon, Rachel Lane, Scott Shaw, Jane Wheeler, and Joelle White. John Potter helped Jane pick up our materials at PCOTC and set up at the Piers, then reverse to deliver materials back to the club.

The “stars” of our booth, however, were Anne Bannon’s Maltese, Rem, and Scott Shaw’s Bernese Mountain Dog, Fin. These friendly and well-behaved dogs of vastly different sizes enticed people to our booth and brought smiles to everyone’s faces.



Clockwise from top left:

- Rem awaits visitors on our booth tabletop.
- Visitors to our booth.
- Fin greets visitors from the floor in front of our booth.
- Our booth ready for action.





# Glad Tales

## Stephen, Scorch & Derby at Westminster KC Agility

*Photos by Morgaana Photography*

PCOTC Agility Instructor Stephen McKay, CPDT-KSA had a successful time of it at The Westminster Kennel Club's 4th Masters Agility Championship on February 11. His Border Collie, Scorch, took a Double Q with Standard and Jumpers with Weaves and

Twelfth out of 100 teams in JWW and 13th in Standard! For the cherry on top Stephen took 2nd Place in Standard with his Shetland Sheepdog Derby! Way to go Stephen!



Jacqueline Soccodato (foreground) and Stephen McKay (behind Jacqueline) walk the course prior to a run.



# Glad Tales

## Corn Retires!

MACH 16 Corn Cockle Cornelius retired from agility on Saturday, 2/11/17 at the Indian River Dog Training Club's Agility trial in Vero Beach, FL. It was a great journey with a once-in-a-lifetime dog.

"It's a journey. No one is ahead of you or behind you. You are not more "advanced" or less enlightened. You are exactly where you need to be. It is not a contest. It's life. We are all teachers and we are all students." (taken from Yoga Inspirations).

— *Michelle Trummer*



## Winter's First BN Trial

Winter's first Obedience BN trial was at the Obedience Club of Palm Beach County Jan 14-15, 2017. First day, First Place that resulted in him going into the ring again for a run off, which he won! Second day, Winter placed 4th! Having lots of fun with this guy!

— *Michelle Trummer*



## William Earns Two CDX Legs

William (Overlook's Sutton Downpour RE, CD, CGC) achieved his first two legs toward his CDX title with a respectable showing at the January trials of the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County. He had a brief "hiccup" on Sunday in the figure eight, but despite that, finished in second place in both of our January trials. We are looking forward to getting his final leg, and then we will move on to Utility.

— *Lynn and Jonathan Halpern*

# Sad Tales

## **Ch Firehearts Mona Lisa UD RAE SE MACH 2 CT-ATCH 2 ARCHEX**

**12/15/2001 - 2/2/2017**

With a heavy heart I had to say goodbye to my little Leeza. She chose me to be her person when she was just a puppy and we had been inseparable for the past 15 years. She was the first dog I ever competed with yet she excelled at every sport we tried. She had a wonderful, long and full life, yet for me it was over way too soon. When she left she took a piece of me with her. She will always and forever be in my heart.

— *Kathy Foley*

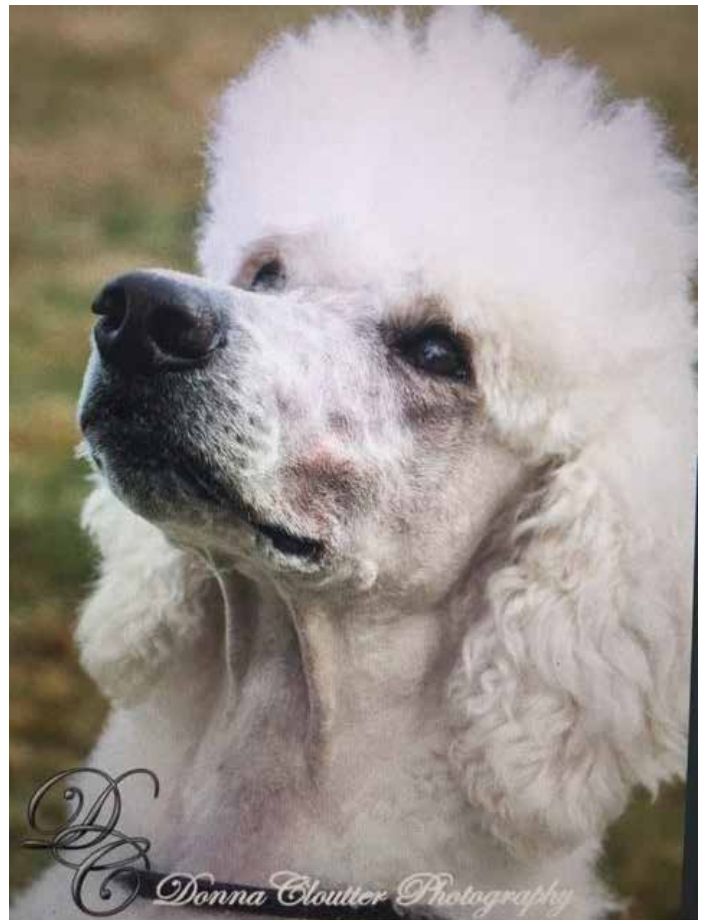


## **GCH Sapphire Hollywood Scandal (Rumor) 12/7/12 – 1/18/17**

Marlene Slades generously sent Scandal (who we called Rumor) to live with us and start an obedience career. It would not have seemed possible that we would have her for less than two years all in all.

She was the most inquisitive dog I've ever known—always responding to every movement or noise, needing to find out “what was that?”, “where did it come from?”, “what happened to it?” Her energy was boundless. If she was awake she was ready to move. As an obedience prospect she was unique in my experience. She was always willing to try, but somehow she was not necessarily willing to learn. It wasn't lack of intelligence—far from it, but rather that she had to put it together to make sense to her before she could commit to a new behavior. Hard to explain without sounding anthropomorphic—it's just that time after time she wouldn't get something for as long as a couple of weeks and then, suddenly, there it would be. She was playful, and loving. She was mine as much as I was hers. Her sudden collapse and death from angiosarcoma has left our home too quiet. She gloried in running, waiting for a car to come around the corner by the back gate and racing it to the fence at the other end of the lawn (I know, I know—fence running, but she loved it). She played a little tug, tossed toys around, but loved just to play and jump with us. She loved to watch the TV—especially basketball and baseball. She tried (unsuccessfully) to grab the ball and she never figured out where players went when they disappeared off the edges of the screen. Some things apparently are beyond even the cleverest of Poodles.

— *Ann Mandelbaum*





# Sad Tales



## Kloie

On December 16th, I put my best friend to sleep. Kloie, my twelve-year-old Chesapeake Bay Retriever, was suffering in pain and unable to move after a visit to the chiropractor. My heart is broken; she took a piece of it with her, I loved her so much.

So I have been asking myself, what made Kloie so special to me? She was a difficult puppy; into everything and would not stop! Kloie as a true Chessie was stubborn; what Chessie breeders call focused. She loved to play with me. We played at agility, dock dog diving, rally, and most recently tracking. She loved learning new things and playing them with me. She would rather do that than play with other dogs. Her favorite thing in the world was retrieving, especially water retrieving with a tennis ball. When I got tired of throwing the ball for her, she would take it to someone else and throw it at them.

Kloie was very attuned to the special people in her life. She loved me and my daughter, Kelley. She would listen to us and understand what we were saying. One look meant she needed to go out. Just sitting on the couch, I could say Kloie, get your bone. She would look at me, look for her bones, get one and bring it over so I could throw it for her, after some serious head-shaking of the bone. She told me when her brother, Flynn, was about to throw up. She was afraid of people hiccupping and would go upstairs to hide and peek around the corner looking at them. She had the cutest way of cocking her head when people were talking to her.

Kloie was active, she was smart and she wanted to be doing things with the people she loved. She liked to be mentally challenged. She enjoyed figuring out Nina Ottosson dog puzzles. Short walks around the block bored her and she showed it.

At agility, she was fast. She took off from the start line like she was fired out of a cannon. She did not like to turn sharply. She was not always right (which was usually my fault), but she did have fun and enjoyed agility. Like almost everything she did, Kloie gave agility 110%. She competed at the highest level in AKC and also competed in CPE and limited in USDAA.

Part of her tenaciousness was even harmful. Kloie persisted in Dock Dog Diving—her longest jump was 18' 6"—even with four bloody feet. Of course I stopped her once I realized she was injured. She wore the pads of her feet off on the black top.

When I decided to retire Kloie from agility we tried rally. Kloie passed her Level 1, 2 and 3 titles (levels 1 & 2 were awarded with excellence) and earned an ARCH (APDT Rally Champion) all in one year and we attended very few trials. People watching frequently commented on her enthusiasm and the joyful manner in which she competed.

Kloie was a special dog. I am glad that I had the privilege of having her in my life for twelve years. She will have a piece of my heart forever! RIP Kloie.

— *Priscilla Rahner*

# Our Stars

## New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 2/15/17

### RALLY TITLES

*World Cynosport Rally CR (AKC)*

#### **WCR Rally Champion (ARCH)**

10/30/16 Sarah Johnson, Daisy Furball, "Daisy," All American

### AGILITY TITLES

*American Kennel Club (AKC)*

#### **AKC Master Preferred Jumpers Bronze**

12/10/16 Stephen McKay, Brigadoon Have Tux Will Travel, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

*United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)*

#### **USDAA Standard Agility Master (SAM)**

1/1/17 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

*(Canine Performance Events (CPE Agility)*

#### **CPE Level 1 CTL-H**

2/4/17 Kathleen Foley, Ch Finishlines Dressed to Kilt CD RAE AXP SE CAX, "Daniel Patrick," Westie

### BARN HUNT

*Barn Hunt Association (BHA)*

#### **BHA Barn Hunter Master (RATM)**

1/14/17 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Dantero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

### NOSE WORK

*National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)*

#### **NACSW Level 1 Exterior Element Specialty L1E**

9/18/16 Jenn Michaelis, Grizzly Mountain's Terremoto, "Terra," cane corso

#### **NACSW Level 2 Element Specialty: Containers (L2C)**

12/4/16 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

#### **NACSW Nose Work 3 (NW3)**

11/20/16 Heather Emmel and Barbara Napoli, "Xola," Rhodesian Ridgeback

12/18/16 Jeanne Turschmann, Bonnie Blu Ode to Ulysses, "Dublin," Kerry Blue Terrier

1/2/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

#### **NACSW NW3 Exteriors**

11/13/16 Heather Emmel, "Xola," Rhodesian Ridgeback

12/18/16 Jeanne Turschmann, Bonnie Blu Ode to Ulysses, "Dublin," Kerry Blue Terrier

#### **NACSW NW3 Interiors**

10/30/16 Jeanne Turschmann, Bonnie Blu Ode to Ulysses, "Dublin," Kerry Blue Terrier

11/19/16 Heather Emmel, "Asha," Rhodesian Ridgeback

#### **NACSW NW3 Vehicles**

11/19/16 Heather Emmel, "Asha," Rhodesian Ridgeback

12/18/16 Jeanne Turschmann, Bonnie Blu Ode to Ulysses, "Dublin," Kerry Blue Terrier

#### **NACSW NW3 Containers**

11/19/16 Heather Emmel, "Asha," Rhodesian Ridgeback

12/18/16 Jeanne Turschmann, Bonnie Blu Ode to Ulysses, "Dublin," Kerry Blue Terrier

#### **NACSW Nose Work 3 Elite (NW3 Elite)**

1/2/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

#### **NACSW Elite Division - Elite 1 (ELT1)**

11/5/16 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggle Oceana, "Blossom"



© Morgaana Photography

## 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](http://www.pcotc.org/membership)).

If you do not have web access, you may report your new titles by mail (or e-mail), to [trummermrt@yahoo.com](mailto:trummermrt@yahoo.com) or to Michelle Trummer. Summer home: 11 Lakeview Rd., North Salem, NY 10560. Winter Home: 11988 61<sup>st</sup> Street North, West Palm Beach, FL 33412.



# Volunteering Explained

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# HELP WANTED

**AKC OBEDIENCE TRIALS, Mar. 5.** Steward positions filled! Other volunteers should contact Karen Wrey by phone (preferred) or email; 845-592-1722 or [kayray@optonline.net](mailto:kayray@optonline.net)

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

**WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS (Obedience run-thrus),** March 26, April 23, and May 21. Stewards and judges needed. Contact Karen Wrey to volunteer by phone (preferred) or email; [kayray@optonline.net](mailto:kayray@optonline.net), 845-592-1722 (home, preferred), or 914-494-6508 (cell).

**PUBLIC EVENTS, SPCA of Westchester Walkathon & Pet Fair, May 6.** Staff PCOTC booth, provide agility demos. Contact [janevwheeler@optimum.net](mailto:janevwheeler@optimum.net)

**AKC RALLY TRIAL CHAIR, COMMITTEE** needed for July 29th trial. Please contact Audrey Woods at [ajwx3@aol.com](mailto:ajwx3@aol.com)

**SEMINAR/WORKSHOP COORDINATORS** for Agility, Obedience, Family Manners, and Nose Work (1 for each area). Please contact Jane Wheeler at [janevwheeler@optimum.net](mailto:janevwheeler@optimum.net)

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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

# Keeping in Touch with PCOTC

**PCOTC's Web Site:** Go to [www.TeachRover.com](http://www.TeachRover.com) or [www.pcotc.org](http://www.pcotc.org) for class registration and information about our classes, special events, facility, instructors, and membership.

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

*Having trouble receiving e-blasts from PCOTC through MailChimp? Missing out on club information?* Be sure to enter [teachrover@verizon.net](mailto:teachrover@verizon.net) into your computer's address book or list, or messages from PCOTC may end up in your spam filter.

**PCOTC's Yahoo Group E-mail Lists:** PCOTC's Yahoo Group lists are being closed down.

**Facebook Page:** Go to [facebook.com/pcotc](https://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.



Judy Laffey's Norwich Terrier Riley

# PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

## 11/28/16

**Present:** G. Berger, B. DelRowe, L. Lucas, J. Meldrim, M. Menzel, N. Nelson, J. Wheeler, A. Woods, M. Woods

### President's Report

1. The Open House a few weeks ago was once again a success. We had over 30 new dogs and families attend plus many of our current students. The latter group was looking for the next step in training, so hopefully they will explore beyond FM. We had several instructors help—Rick Pisani, Marie Fay, Jenn Michaelis, Ann Mandelbaum and Kathy Gregory. I believe strongly that having instructors present for visitors to chat with was a huge bonus. Many of our members helped organize and run the afternoon. We had a lot of fun and the consensus was that we should do this again in Spring. I am so proud at how well members and instructors pulled together and presented PCOTC as a friendly training facility that has a lot to offer.

2. Marie Fay - looks possible that she will be returning to teach in January.

3. Rally - I've asked Rick to look for an instructor to (hopefully) start in March. Criteria would be for beginners to more advance students. Audrey has provided a name for a potential person.

### Treasurer

The budget is still in progress and tax returns are due. Operating has \$12,104 after rent payment and \$61,315 balance overall.

### New business

#### By-Laws

The AKC requested an addition to the by-laws after sending the revised and voted on document to them. This clause will be voted on at the Holiday Party on December 12. An e-blast and postcard went out to members.

#### Rally Trials

There will be a meeting with Rally people on Friday, December 9 to determine who will chair the future AKC Rally

trials. Audrey and Megan Woods are stepping down but will continue to serve as the Superintendent of these trials – just not “day of” chairperson and secretary. Several Rally trials are on the books including March 4, July 29 and November 4.

#### Holiday Party

7:00 party begins, 7:30 speaker, 8:30 club meeting.

#### Committees

We recently put out an E-blast for a membership committee and for a search committee that had a diverse skill set to look into the possibility of a new facility. In addition a blast went out to restructure the house committee. These blasts went out and more blasts will go out. More response from members needed.

### Membership

New member was presented: Nancy Oestrucker and her Italian Spinone

Motion was made, seconded, all were in favor.

### House

A note “Free - Please Take” will be put on the equipment in the entrance way.

### Website

Looking for text and photos

### Registration

Sep/Oct = 458, Nov/Dec = 408

New class ‘Bridge the Gap’ being offered in January by Rick Pisani as a way of encouraging FM students into Obedience.

## 1/12/17

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

### President's Report –

1. SMK is no longer teaching Wednesday pm. Slots offered to Stefanie Rainer
2. Key Deposit / Rental Waivers now online

<https://form.jotform.com/70054005617143>

Checked with insurance agent regarding insurance needed for room rental. Changed wording to indicate personal (rather than comprehensive) insurance. He suggested leaving it in the form to ensure adequate coverage for club.

**Room keys** – will be managed by Sara Gagnon rather than Megan. She will keep a ‘stock’ of approx. 10 keys to be distributed to new renters.

**Treasurer** – Taxes are being done now by Dinowitz and Bove. 1099s need to be done since they do not do this part. Nancy indicated that the volunteer treasurer position is taking 10-15 hours/week and she needs help. Nancy was asked why D&B were not being used in bookkeeping as arranged.

**Corresponding Secretary** - Will create a narrative about the surveys and the answers given instead of sending out the graphs.

**Membership** - The club currently has 250 members which is off from last year. Jeanne is planning on a membership drive. The following are member applicants:

- **Virginia Collins** with Japanese Chin “Hiro” and Papillion “Stella”

- **Ira J. Lewis** and his Standard Poodle, “Tukka”

- **Laurel Boylen** with Nederlandse Kooikerhondje “Tucker”

- **Marci Lewis** with Cocker Spaniel “Max”

- **Hadley Allen** with Golden Retriever “Kippy”

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

**Website** – Starting to pull the text together coming along. Need photos to go with the text. Once up and running will need to assign jobs to keep the pages up to date. Therefore training on the use of Square-space will need to be given to those who will be responsible for the pages.

**Registration** – Barbara was unable to attend the meeting but sent information regarding class registration and revenue from September/October session



# PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

## OLD BUSINESS

**By-Laws** – Didn't get a quorum at the last club meeting so could not vote on the last line requested by the AKC. The revision that had been voted on has been submitted for final approval by the AKC.

**Nosework** – The board is currently looking into two versus one instructor for nose-work vis-a-vis revenue and pricing from these classes.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Agility** – Kim Seiter is resigning as TD and Stephanie Ranier will take over at the end of the month.

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

**Nominating Committee** – by February the committee should be formed with two members, two alternatives and one board members. Morgaana Menzel will be the

board member for the nominating committee. The positions that are up are:

President, Second VP, Recording Secretary, and two directors.

**Virginia Dare.** Marie Fay may be coming back to teach. Virginia Dare would like to teach at the club.

Motion was made to accept Virginia Dare as an instructor, seconded, and all were in favor.

**Sue Ann Lesser** - A Family Manners Class was disrupted by dogs entering the facility during Sue Lesser's clinic hours at the club. Several alternatives were discussed including seeing whether Sue Ann could move her clinic to Fridays. There was also discussion on trying to find ways that Sue Ann could use the facility that would minimize class disruption.

**Seminar Workshop Committee.** Jane

proposed a new organizational strategy intended to include more member involvement in scheduling, defining the content, and publicizing the events. The TDs will be approached as to their thoughts on this strategy.

**Drop in/Payment online** – a few members asked if drop in payments could be made online. The difficulty is the logistics of how this would be done: before/after the drop in? How to designate on the system? More thought needs to be given and perhaps some ideas from tech savvy individuals.

**Motion to adjourn meeting**

**Next meeting 2/23 at 7:30 PM**

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# PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes

## 12/12/16

**Present:** L. Lucas, G. Berger, A. Woods, M. Woods, M. Menzel, J. Meldrim, J. Wheeler

A quorum of club members was not met.

**President** - The club held an Open House, which was successful. Instructors and club members worked with new people who tried out all disciplines. It was really nice to see everyone pulling together.

Last Friday there was a meeting about the Rally program at the club specifically, discussing an additional teacher for the program and a trial committees for future trials. It was a first step in getting something done.

**Membership** – is still down from last year; 250 this year versus 312 last year. An e-blast went out looking for members to sit on a membership committee but no one responded.

**Seminars etc.** – new edition of Sit N Stay is out. There are a lot of seminars and workshops this winter. In addition, Ann Eifert from Hungary will be coming for an OMD seminar. There is a Rally seminar with judge Lynn Currie on January 14 and Freestyle Competition on April 29-30.

**By-Laws** – the AKC asked that an additional clause be added to the current changes. However, since there was no quorum this addition could not be voted on. A special meeting will need to be called.

**Parking** - Cars are parked in spots marked for the instructors. Before 5:00 pm students need to park on street level. Management will be taking photos of cars parked illegally and may start towing cars.

**Next meeting** is April 26, 2017.

**A motion was made to adjourn, seconded and all were in favor.**