

# PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



# Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Summer 2017

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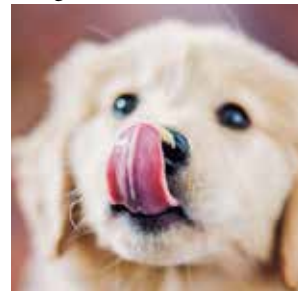
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Kelly Desimone's Max enjoying his pool.

## Calendar of Events

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

Jun 10-11	Anna Eifert Agility Seminars	Oct 7-8	Vicki Ronchette Breed Handling Seminars
Jun 12	Annual Club Meeting	Oct 26	Howl-o-ween Party & Club Meeting
Jul 29	AKC Rally Trials	Nov 5	AKC Obedience Trial
Jul 30	AKC Obedience Trials	Dec 3	WCRL Rally Trials—PCRE
Aug 19-20	Kris Seiter/Chris Tucci Agility Workshops	Dec 5	Holiday Party & Club Meeting
Aug 30	Club Meeting		
Sep 17	PCOTC at Puttin' on the Dog Greenwich, CT		
Sep 16-17	Deb Jones Obedience Seminars		
Oct 1	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, Sara Gagnon, [sara.gagnon13@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gagnon13@gmail.com)  
1st Vice President, Jeanne Meldrim, 914-478-3593  
2nd VP, Grace Heck, [gah210@gmail.com](mailto:gah210@gmail.com)  
Rec. Secretary, Audrey Woods, 914-591-7209  
Corr. Sec., Olga Kornienko, 917-362-3456  
Treasurer, Megan Woods, 914-591-7209

## DIRECTORS

Morgaana Menzel, 914-882-7020  
Barbara Verdi DelRowe, 914-421-7719

## 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

### *Volunteering:*

Sandra Shivers [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,

[jane Wheeler@optimum.net](mailto:jane Wheeler@optimum.net)

OUR STARS, Michelle Trummer,

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

Next deadline: August 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

The bylaws changes have been finalized! After many months of work, the changes have been approved by the PCOTC membership and the AKC. Thank you so much to the Constitution and Bylaws committee, Lisa McCarthy, chairperson, and the committee members, George Berger, Virginia Hagan, Tom Nardi, and Megan Woods. We appreciate your hard work!

There are two changes that will have an immediate effect on the members:

1. We are revising our fiscal year to a calendar year. In order to do this, all membership renewals will be for 1 ½ years, starting in June, 2017, and ending in December, 2018. Volunteer members will need to do 18 volunteer hours during this time period to keep their volunteer status.

2. There are now requirements in order to be a member in good standing. Regular and family members must do one of the following:

(a) volunteer service to the club (12 hours annually for Regular members and 24 hours per family unit for Family members) during the previous calendar year

OR (b) take one session of classes during the calendar year

OR (c) attend three Club meetings, functions, or events

If for some reason, you are unable to fulfill the requirements to remain in good standing, the Board of Directors can waive the requirements on a case-by-case basis.

Our annual awards and election meeting will be held on June 12. Please join us to celebrate our members' accomplishments this year as well as welcome our new Board members!

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



Mary-Elizabeth Simpson's Ani (left) and Emma at Tod's Point

## Save the Dates: 2017 Club Meetings

- 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

## Annual Meeting & Elections

Please plan to attend PCOTC's Annual Meeting on Monday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening will feature the presentation of members' title plaques and tags, including a slide show featuring accomplishments of our dog/handler teams during the club year. Next will be the announcement and presentation of the AKC's Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship. Training Director Awards will be presented in the fields of Obedience and Rally, Agility, Family Manners, and Canine Nose Work. Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded to all members who reported 30 or more volunteer hours during the 2016/2017 club year. Capping the awards presentations will be the annual President's Award.

There will be yearly reports by the club's officers and directors, and we will vote in Board members. This year's nominating committee—Morgaana Menzel, David Lebedin, and Barbara Siegel, with alternates Sarah Johnson and Hadley Allen—has presented the following slate:

- President: Sara Gagnon
- Second Vice President: Grace Heck

- Recording Secretary: Audrey Woods
- Director: Barbara del Rowe

The Nominating Committee slate is unopposed, as no additional nominations were received by May 15.

Very importantly, at this—and all Club Meetings—members are provided a forum to discuss current matters, and to make suggestions for the future.

Jeanne Meldrim will be returning to the First Vice President slot that she was elected to prior to stepping in as President. Jane Wheeler is resigning her Director position a year early, after serving 15 years on the Board, and George Berger, having served on the Board in several capacities for more than 10 years, has chosen to not run again for his current Second VP slot. These changes allow the Board to slim down from 10 members to 8, as specified by our new bylaws.

Since there is no opposition to the nominating committee's slate, we are jumping the gun a bit and including the new Board lineup under the masthead of this issue of *Sit n' Stay*.

## Membership Renewal

Members may now renew their membership online for June, 2017- December, 2018. The deadline is May 31. Note that this is for renewing members only.

Click here for the [Online Membership Renewal Form](#) for club year June, 2017 – December, 2018. With the update to the ByLaws, the new calendar year will run from January to December. As such, this renewal is for one and a half years.

For more information about membership and the renewal process, please visit the "For Members Only" section of our [Membership](#) page, or you may contact Sara Gagnon at [sara.gagnon13@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gagnon13@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Members

- Kathleen and Stuart Freed and their Rottweiler, Harley
- Adam Gankiewicz and Cecilia Sullivan and their Shepadoodle, Bella
- Sigrid Neilson and her Brussels Griffon, Sprout
- Debbie Yaciuk and her Schnoodle, Robin

## Board Members (To Be) Elected

*On this and the next page are short biographies and photographs of the four people who will be elected to office at our Annual Meeting on June 12.*

### Sara Gagnon, President

During the day Sara can be found lurking around a research lab making drugs to cure all sorts of things, but the rest of the time the lab coat disappears and the treat pouch comes out.

Sara has two rescue dogs, a 4 year-old Cattle Dog mix who competes in disc dog, and a 2 year-old "All-American" who dreams of being an agility superstar.

Sara has been a member of PCOTC for over 4 years and has dabbled in many of the sports offered in club classes. She's very excited to be joining the board as President.





# Club Doings



## Grace Heck, Second Vice President

Grace works as a Process Development Engineer in the Resource Management Group in Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, working to track finances, budgets, and create business processes that ensure our science is never limited by resourcing issues. Her interest in dog sports started when she was looking for something to do with her first dog, Riley. They started with agility, and after seeing how much Riley loved it, Grace were hooked. She found PCOTC after moving to New York and was looking for opportunities to continue her agility training.

Grace now has three dogs, two All Americans (Riley a Beagle mix, and Casey, a Corgi mix), and a Border Collie (Fin), all of whom are training in agility. Riley is competing in P3 in USDAA, and Casey is competing at the Starter's level. Fin is just starting his agility journey with foundations training. She also has a young horse, Harvey, who she is training for the Hunter/Jumper ring.

Grace agreed to join the board to help give back to a club that has become a very active part in her life. She brings many valuable skills to this role, and hopes to use them to affect positive change within the club.

## Audrey Woods, Recording Secretary

For over a decade, Audrey was an elementary school Principal, responsible for overseeing and managing a \$2 million budget, supervising, evaluating, and mentoring 25 faculty and staff members and guiding and directing the academic efforts of 10 grades and 260 students.

In addition to working in administration she has nine years of teaching experience in a variety of grades including a Montessori-based Pre-Kindergarten. Prior to teaching, she had corporate business administration experience at the New York Times as an advertising sales manager.

Audrey is New York State certified and holds two Masters degrees in Administration and Supervision and Teaching N-6.

Audrey reside in Irvington, and spends her personal time training and showing pure-bred Bearded Collies with her daughter. She has been a member of PCOTC for 13 years and has trained dogs in Rally, Obedience, Agility and Nose Work.



## Barbara Verdi DelRowe, Director

Barbara has been a member of the PCOTC Registrar Team for the past four years, and a Club member for six years. She currently has two dogs: GiGi, who participated in the Canine Musical Freestyle event, "April in Paris," at PCOTC, and Jed, who has recently discovered the terrific sport of AKC Tracking.

Barbara is a freelance digital media editor. In her free time she volunteers at a couple of area animal shelters, and is also a volunteer math and writing tutor for the Westchester Library System's high school equivalency prep program.

# Agility

## Agility Tip: Training with One Jump

by Stefanie Rainer, Agility Training Director, OMD Assistant Coach

While an agility course is often made up of 18 to 20 obstacles, a lot of really important foundation skills can be taught in a small space on just one jump. Below are two of my favorite skills to train on one jump. Both exercises are appropriate for dogs and handlers at any skill level. Although these are both foundation exercises, they serve as a good warm up and would be good to try at the practice jump before going into the competition ring.

The first exercise teaches the handler to look for commitment to an obstacle. It will also help strengthen the dog's commitment to an obstacle. The second exercise teaches the dog to follow your handling elements. This will help keep the balance between handler focus and obstacle focus.

Remember, when in doubt reward the dog. Happy training!

Exercise 1		-20	-10	0	10	20	30	40	
Commitment to a jump									
90									90
<p>Start with the dog set straight in front of the jump on your right hand side approximately 10ft away from the jump. The handler should stand half way between the dog and jump. Starting with your dog side foot (right leg) back and left foot forward. Release the dog and take one step with your dog side hand and foot (right leg) forward pointing towards the dogs take off point. The moment you see the dog commit to the line (dog looks forward at the jump) execute a 180 degree front cross and run away as if you are going to another obstacle keeping the connection (eyes on the dog) the whole time. While the dog is jumping, throw their reward back to them on the take off side of the left wing to reward the dog for not dropping their commitment to the obstacle just because you the handler are running in another direction. Repeat the exercise on your left hand side as well.</p> <p>Note: The reward should be something the dog can pick up right away such as a tug toy or lotus ball.</p> <p>Troubleshooting: If your dog won't go to the jump with just one step, preplace a reward behind the wing on the landing side of the jump. Option, start closer to the jump. Challenge, build distance from the jump.</p>									80
									70
									60
									50
									40
Exercise 2		-20	-10	0	10	20	30	40	
Following the handling									
30									30
Part A.									20
<p>Start with the dog set 10ft away from the jump in the center of the bar. The handler should lead out to stand an arms length away from the wing. The reward should be preplaced one stride beyond where the dog will land over the bar after jumping. This will vary based on the dog. Starting with the dog on your right, stand with your dog side leg (right) back. When ready, release the dog and take one step forward with your dog side leg (right) to send the dog to its reward.</p>									10
Key: H-Handler D-Dog *-Reward		-10	0	10	20	30	40		

continued next page

# Agility

## Agility Tip: Training with One Jump *(continued)*

Exercise 2		-20	-10	0	10	20	30	40	
Following the handling									
90									90
80									80
<b>Part B.</b>  The setup will remain the same. Dog placed 10ft away from the jump and reward preplaced one stride beyond where the dog will land over the jump. Stand an arms length away from the wing, but this time look over your left shoulder with your dog side foot (left) back. Release the dog and call him/her to your left side. When they reach your leg, take one step forward with your dog side foot (left) giving the dog permission to go grab its preplaced reward. Troubleshooting: If the dog cuts behind you to self reward, don't panic. Call the dog back and don't allow the dog to have its reward until it comes to your left hand side. Make sure the reward is concealed so he/she can't self reward. If possible, have a helper pick up the reward.  Repeat parts A & B on the other side.									
40									40
30									30
20									20
10									10
Key: H-Handling D-Dog *-Reward		-10	0	10	20	30	40		



# 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.

**Note:** Auditing spots are available in all of the workshops. If you want a working spot in any of the workshops, please contact Debbie Poe at [debbie.poe@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.poe@gmail.com) — sometimes working spots open up at the last minute.

### Saturday Morning

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

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

### Saturday 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.

### Sunday 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.

## Seiter/Tucci Agility Workshops Aug. 19–20



Anwar after taking a Third Place in Pentathlon Jumping 1 in Ermelo.



Anwar in the Netherlands, enjoying a break after the World Agility Open.

We have a weekend of workshops scheduled with Kris Seiter and Chris Tucci on August 19–20.

But we don't have all the specifics yet! Sometimes life gets in the way of your plans: forest fires near/on the Seiter/Tucci property in Florida, followed by a little trip to the 2017 World Agility Open in Ermelo, the Netherlands.

We will pin down all the details soon—check our web site and Facebook feed for more information.

In the meantime, enjoy these photos from the Netherlands!

# Obedience

## Get Focused: Deb Jones

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

PCOTC will be hosting a seminar given by Deb Jones Ph.D. on September 16 & 17. Deb Jones is a psychologist who specializes in learning theory and social behavior. She has taught a variety of psychology courses at Kent State University for the past 20 years. She is also an instructor with the Fenzi Academy and co-author, with Denise Fenzi, of the four-book series *Dog Sport Skills*.

In addition to teaching, Deb has been training dogs for performance events for the past 25 years and was an innovator in the use of clicker training techniques in dog training. She has owned and worked with a variety of breeds and has earned top-level titles in agility (MACH), rally (RAE), and obedience (UD) competitions.



Deb Jones

You cannot teach a dog who does not have focus. If your dog is unfocused, you need to identify the reasons why the dog is not engaged with you. Unfocused dogs may suffer from a lack of clarity, a lack of enthusiasm, a lack of control or a lack of confidence. Come join us in learning to diagnose why dogs do not have focus and to tailor a plan for each individual team to have an engaged and focused dog.

Working spots for the seminar are currently filled but there is still plenty of room for auditors. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or, better yet, register and come to the seminar!

HAPPY TRAINING! Rick Pisani

[luv2heel@me.com](mailto:luv2heel@me.com)

## Rally Tip: Signs

by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA



Most of my “Rally Tips” come from what’s happening in class or at recent trials. This Spring’s subject is no exception.

As my students and I were walking the course, tweaking as we went and discussing questions about navigating the various problems the course presented, I found that there were several times when an argument broke out about the design of the signs themselves: “They” should have done this; “they” sometimes put in a stop sign for sit and sometimes don’t; “they” mean one

thing in AKC and something else in WCR; “they” didn’t make it at all clear what you were supposed to do at this station!

Well, that’s all true—or at least arguable. But there really isn’t much point in arguing! The exercises called for in some cases are straight-forward and easily represented graphically (left turn, circle right). But as the tasks become more complex, graphic and/or minimal descriptions must become less satisfactory as actual instructions. How do you adequately depict—so that it can be clearly seen at some distance by a handler approaching with her dog—the instruction to halt at the station, sit the dog, ask the dog to remain seated while the handler runs forward several steps, then, while continuing to run forward, to call the dog and when the dog catches up to heel position, the handler steps back and recalls the dog to sit front?

Really? On an 11” x 8-1/2” sign? No. The signs are clearly not meant to instruct,

but simply to remind the handler of how to perform an exercise that is carefully described in the RULES for the venue in question!

So just as you are responsible for knowing the rules about handling food (if permitted) or whether you should enter “A” or “B” classes, you should know how to perform any exercise represented by any sign that may be used at the level and in the venue you are competing in. Then, when you walk the course you will be thinking about how you and your partner will navigate each station and the path from one to the next—not spending time trying to figure out what a given sign means. And when it is your turn to run the course together, you can concentrate on working together as a team to solve the puzzles the course designer has presented to you, not still trying to remember what the various pieces of the puzzle are.

Have fun!



# Obedience

## Obedience/Rally Trials Scheduled for 2017

### AKC Rally Trials

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

- July 29

### AKC Obedience Trials

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

- July 30
- November 5

### WCR Rally Trials (PCRE):

WCR Rally Trials in 2017 include:

- October 1
- December 3

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# Breed Handling

## Vicki Ronchette Breed Handling Workshops: Show Like the Pros!



Vicki Ronchette will be offering two breed handling workshops at PCOTC on October 7-8. Ms. Ronchette is the author of *Positive Training for Show Dogs: Building a Relationship for Success, From Shy to Showy*.

The Saturday workshop, "Shaping Show Dog Superstars," focuses on training a successful show dog. Workshop participants will learn how progressive training methods are used to train the basic show ring behaviors, including gaiting and stacking, as well as problem solving issues associated with the show ring.

Sunday's workshop, "Mastering Your Dog's Movement and Show-Stopping Stacks" is about taking your dog's show ring performance to the next level. This workshop will cover how to train and perfect your dog's movement as well as learning the key points in how to teach a reliable and dynamic stack.

There is a maximum of 20 working spots each day. Working spots are \$130/day (\$98 for juniors), and \$65/day for auditors (\$49 for juniors).

For more information, go to <http://www.pcotc.org/documents/2017/VickiRonchette2017.pdf>.

To register, go to <https://form.jotform.com/71134557839161>

# Family Manners

## AKC Trick Dog Titles

The American Kennel Club is now offering Trick Dog titles to dogs that have AKC, PAL or AKC Canine Partners numbers. This titling opportunity allows dogs and handlers of all ages and abilities to show off their training skills and earn titles for their efforts.

The AKC is offering titles for the following levels: Novice (TKN), Intermediate (TKI), Advanced (TKA) and Trick Dog Performer (TKP).

For all levels except TKP, the titles may be earned by performing the tricks for an

AKC Approved CGC Evaluator. For TKP titles, the dog and handler team must videotape a routine and submit it to AKC.

For teams who are already involved in teaching tricks and have earned titles through the Do More With Your Dog program, AKC will allow grandfathering of existing titles through the end of 2017. Food and toys may be used as training aids at the Novice level, and, in fact, if your dog has its CGC on AKC record, it need only perform five tricks to earn the Novice Trick Dog title! For levels beyond Novice, teams

must perform 5-10 tricks from a list of tricks for each level, and food and toys may not be used.

Checklists for required tricks at each level can be found on AKC's website. Family Manners Training Director Jenn Michaelis filmed many "How To" videos for AKC's YouTube Channel with her dogs, Terra and Ringo, to help promote the program.

Stay tuned with PCOTC for future trick-training workshops and titling opportunities!!

### Jenn Michaelis Trick Dog Videos



As part of introduction of its new Trick Dog title, the AKC has filmed and made available online a number of "trick" videos with PCOTC instructor Jenn Michaelis. Here are links to nine of them:

- Leave it  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylr6scuE2zY>
- Play Dead  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTmy7EZ47sw>
- Carry a Basket  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIQBP5HIvu8>
- Spin in a Circle  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f\\_Hynf816vw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_Hynf816vw)

- High-Five  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-TeeAhtVzo&t=4s>
- Kiss  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAO5xbj5r0Y>
- Fetch and Give  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbHj0PTseGs>
- Target Pt. 1  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGV4sPWDVbM>
- Target Pt. 2  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rmni9I06U7Y>

# Nose Work

## Update to Nose Work Trends *by Kathy Gregory*

I recently attended a seminar where several new twists on what was the usual Nose Work thinking were presented. I am happy to share these with you.

1) For a successful Container search, you must have a canine partner with a strong, independent hunting behavior, first. Without this, you have nothing. If you don't have this, go back and foster the dog's primal motivators and step away from overtly involving yourself in the search.

2) The value of a short leash while working containers in a small space.

Amy Herot showed several video clips

demonstrating the use of a three-foot leash while navigating a small room packed with many containers. We should all have a variety of leash lengths available to us during a search and be proficient in using them, to efficiently and safely navigate these challenging situations.

3) Teaching one odor at a time is far better than teaching two or three at once.

Our dogs develop fluency with each different odor. Allow them time to linger on each.

4) To not trust your dog when he gives you an indication is an erosion of the rest of the trial.

5) Always give a big reward for a dog who leaves trapping odor to go back to source!

6) You do not need to train with multiple distracters. You need to believe in your dog.

And lastly, there comes a point in a dog's training where the dog makes a leap in searching and the handler still handles the dog like it is less skilled. Watch for this moment in your own partner and be sure to acknowledge this leap by trusting your dog's intelligence and skills.

Happy sniffing!

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## Recipes for Dogs and Their Humans

We've heard from dogs and their humans who really liked the food they ate at PCOTC, so we're sharing the recipes!

### Dog Treat Recipes from Sara Gagnon

Many dogs praised the dog treats that Sara Gagnon prepared for our April club meeting. Here you go, doggies—your humans can now bake the same treats as Sara!

#### **Strawberry Banana Cookies**

- 1 1/2 cup oat flour
- 1 1/2 cup brown rice flour
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup strawberries (fresh or frozen, mashed and pureed)
- 1/2 cup bananas (mashed and pureed)
- 1/2 cup water (add slowly)

Bake at 375. Combine all ingredients together except water. Add water slowly and mix until dough forms. Bake 18-25 minutes until golden brown.

#### **Blueberry Bites**

- 1 1/2 cup oat flour
- 1 1/2 cup brown rice flour
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup water (add slowly)

Combine all ingredients together except water. Add water slowly and mix until dough forms. Bake at 375 for 18-25 minutes until golden brown.

#### **P.B. Banana Drops**

- 1 1/2 cup oat flour
- 1 1/2 cup brown rice flour
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup rolled oats (old fashioned, not instant)
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup bananas (mashed and pureed)
- 1/2 cup water (add slowly)

Combine all ingredients together except water. Add water slowly and mix until dough forms. Bake at 375 for 18-25 minutes until golden brown.

### Requested Recipes from PCOTC's March Obedience Trial Lunch, by Karen Wrey

#### **Weight Watcher Turkey Chili**

Ingredients:

- 1 lb lean ground turkey (I used organic)
- 1 can organic corn (low sodium preferred)
- 1 can stewed tomatoes with green chili or Jalapeno peppers
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can white beans
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 package ranch dip mix
- Cajun seasoning, or chili powder, salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

In a large skillet, cook turkey until done (drain if needed), add all ingredients and simmer about 20-30 minutes. I let it cool,

*continued on p. 13*



# AKC Delegate's Report

*First Quarter 2017 — by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC's AKC Delegate*

The first quarter delegate meeting of 2017 was held during the last winter snowstorm blast of the season, in March. The weather was a real challenge to Delegates traveling from all over the U.S. to vote for future AKC Board members as well as the usual day-to-day business of dog sport procedure.

A survey had been created by the Companion Events Committee to be sent out to a small number of all-breed Performance clubs who had reported they had dropped classic Obedience from their class roster and, for those clubs that did, why they are allowing other, different clubs to offer Obedience at their shows. Discussion revolved around how many clubs the survey should be sent to and how many officers of those clubs should receive them. A vote was taken and passed to move forward with the survey and to have it posted online. The Committee is still trying to put their finger on why some clubs have maintained successful Obedience programs while many have not, and how the AKC can help support this foundation sport that is facing increasing challenges on many fronts.

The AKC Staff reported the following Companion Events Statistics for January 2017 vs 2016:

	2017	2016	
Agility Entries	81,105	89,697	<9.6>%
Obedience	8,423	8,897	<9.3>%
Rally	4,735	4,985	<5.0>%
Tracking	109	137	<20.4>%

A report was given on the upcoming Companion Events Nationals in Perry, Georgia. It is the largest entries for all three events in the history of the Championships.

National Agility Championship: 1,397 entries

National Obedience Championship: 140 entries

Rally National Championship: 400 entries

Hopefully, we will be able to cheer on some PCOTC members at this event!!!

A lengthy discussion on Sits and Downs in Obedience was held. There were very few incidents on Sits and Downs between 2007-2009. It was stated that the recommendations enacted a year and a half ago seemed to have helped, as Novice dogs are allowed to remain leashed, that a four-foot distance be allowed between dogs, and that dogs showing aggression outside the ring be disqualified. Because this issue is so concerning, it will continue to be top-of-mind in all future discussions and will be revisited after the National Obedience Championships. It is possible that additional recommendations will be made at that time, to continue to mitigate concerns surrounding this issue.

## *Two Obedience & Rally Regulation Changes*

Closing of entries. The obedience and rally regulations

were amended to include language for a closing time for entries and the closing time shall be no later than 11:59 p.m. on the third Wednesday prior to the trial for trials held on Friday through Monday. Previously, the regulations governing these sports did not address a closing time for entries, but instead defaulted to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows. Clubs now have the ability to extend the closing hour for their entries at their option following the requirements listed below. If an obedience and/or rally trial is held in conjunction with other club events, the same closing date/time is recommended for all events. This regulation became effective May 1, 2017, and clubs may apply for events with a later closing hour at their option.

## *Rally Regulations – Chapter 1. Section 3. Premium Lists, Closing of Entries and Catalogs. (Insert as paragraph 2)*

Every premium list shall specify the date and time at which entries for a trial shall close. The premium list shall also specify the name and address of the Superintendent or Trial Secretary who is to receive the entries.

For all trials the specified closing date and time must be no later than as outlined in the following schedule:

For a trial which opens on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, entries accepted not later than 11:59 p.m. on the third Wednesday prior to the trial.

For a trial which opens on Tuesday, entries accepted not later than 11:59 p.m. on the third Thursday prior to the trial.

For a trial which opens on Wednesday, entries accepted not later than 11:59 p.m. the third Friday prior to the trial.

For a trial which opens on Thursday, entries accepted not later than 11:59 p.m. on the third Wednesday prior to the trial.

Clubs in a cluster of no more than five consecutive days have the option of closing no later than 11:59 p.m. on the third Wednesday prior to the last trial in the cluster.

Whenever the closing day noted above falls on a postal holiday, entries received in any form up to 24 hours from the published closing date and time may be accepted.

**Transfer of entries in obedience and rally.** The regulations will allow a transfer of an entry from one class to another (rally class to rally class; obedience class to obedience class) at the request of the exhibitor after the closing date for entries, regardless of when the dog earned the title, provided the club allows transfers and only if the class and judge are available. Transfers in both Obedience and Rally were amended and are effective July 1, 2017.

- The club will clearly state in its premium list whether transfers will or will not be allowed. If no statement is provided in the premium list the default is to allow transfers.

- A transfer (i.e., from an obedience class to an obedience class; or a

# AKC Delegate's Report *(continued)*

rally class to a rally class) may be requested if, according to the owner's records the handler and dog are eligible provided the club offers transfers.

- Transfers from an "A" to "B" class at the same level are allowed provided the host club allows transfers. (When a club does not allow transfers, refer to Section 16b. Entry of Ineligible Dog.)
- The request for a transfer must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.
- Clubs may choose to accept transfers prior to the day of the trial and this should be clearly stated in the premium list.
- Transfers may be approved provided the class and judge are available, and the class has not reached its limit.

## ***Rally Regulations – Chapter 1, Section 13. Transfers.***

- The club will clearly state in its premium list whether transfers will or will not be allowed. If no statement is provided in the premium list the default is to allow transfers.
- A transfer from a rally class to a rally class may be requested if, according to the owner's records the handler and dog are eligible, provided the club offers transfers.
- Transfers from an "A" to "B" class at the

same level are allowed provided the host club allows transfers. (When a club does not allow transfers, refer to Section 14. Entry of Ineligible Dog.)

- The request for a transfer must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial.
- Clubs may choose to accept transfers prior to the day of the trial and this should be clearly stated in the premium list.

Transfers may be approved provided the class and judge is available, and the class has not reached its limit.

## ***Of special interest to PCOTC member homeowners:***

The New York Assembly is expected to vote soon on a bill that would prohibit homeowners insurance providers from refusing or cancelling coverage or increasing premiums based solely on the breed of dog owned by the policy owner.

Assembly Bill 4225 prohibits insurers from refusing to issue, renew or cancel or raise premiums for homeowner's insurance based on breed of dog (or mixed-breed) owned by the policyholder. The bill does allow for insurance companies to take these actions if the dog has been declared dangerous based on current law, so long as these actions are based on "sound underwriting and actuarial

principles" that are reasonably related to actual or anticipated loss.

New York state law already expressly prohibits municipalities from passing laws that target specific breeds of dogs. AKC supports AB 4225, which would extend these protections to homeowners, while still holding all dog owners accountable, regardless of the breed they choose to own.

Visit the "Breed-Specific/Dangerous Dog Laws" page in the AKC Legislative Action Center for more talking points on this issue.

AKC Government Relations will continue to closely follow this bill. For questions or more information about who to contact, please call the AKC GR at (919) 816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

Further discussion was also heard about continued efforts to update and make the AKC website more user friendly. As someone who uses the site almost daily, I can say that many times I throw up my hands in frustration when I absolutely cannot find a part of the website I am directed to by a related AKC email. The developers of the site as it stands now, gave a presentation recently, apparently completely unaware of the difficulty the users have in navigating the site. Helpful criticism and enthusiastic suggestions were given by the Delegate body at a recent meeting and it was resolved

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## Recipes for Dogs and Humans *continued from p. 11*

refrigerate it and then transported it in a crockpot for events. For the club, I tripled the recipe and had a 5-quart pot to slowly heat the chili so it was ready for lunch! Not a spoonful was left over! I often add another can of plain stewed tomatoes and extra beans and corn since I'm not much of a meat eater. Play around with the recipe. You can't go wrong.

### **Weight Watcher Curried Chicken Salad**

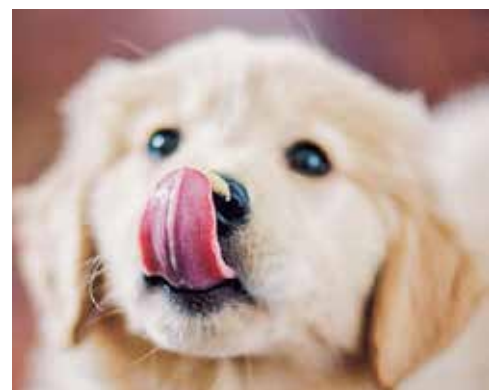
#### **Ingredients:**

1 pound of grilled chicken breasts cut in strips and chopped. (I cheat and use the already grilled packages from BJ's when in a rush which is about two or three 6-ounce

packages)  
½ cup diced organic celery  
2 tablespoons of fresh squeezed lemon juice  
¼ cup of low fat mayo  
1 teaspoon of curry powder (more as you like)  
¼ teaspoon of coarsely ground pepper

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. I usually whisk the dressing ingredients first and add it to the chicken pieces. Stir it all well and place in an airtight container. Chill for at least two hours prior to serving.

For the trial, I quadrupled the recipe and it seemed to be a crowd pleaser. Enjoy!



**Yummy!**

# Book Review: Dog Sports Skills, Book 4: Focus and Engage!

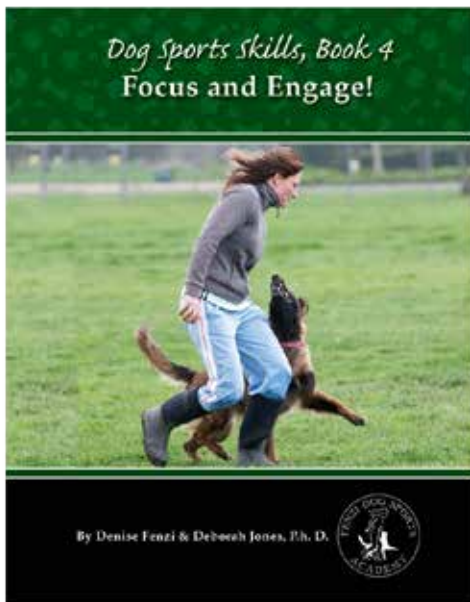
by Joanne Sheffler

The featured book this quarter is *Dog Sports Skills, Book 4: Focus and Engage!*, co-authored by Deb Jones and Denise Fenzi. Denise, founder of Fenzi Dog Sports Academy, has been a seminar guest twice here at PCOTC, to great acclaim. Now you have the opportunity to met Deb Jones. (See Rick Pisani's article, "Get Focused," on page 8)

*Focus and Engage!* follows the syllabus of the co-presented online courses: Denise Fenzi presented the course on *engagement* and Deb Jones with Judy Keller, *focus*. Having taken the double course last year, I can honestly attest to the effectiveness of the book *and* the course. The premise is you cannot teach a dog unless the dog is focused on you. No manner of force or attempting to be more enticing than that squirrel running up the tree can make that dog focus on you or engage in what you are doing with him. The authors define focus as the cognitive "ability to concentrate on the task at hand...(to) ignore other competing demands and attend to just one." Focus is the foundation of engagement being "mutual interaction...only possible once your dog has developed the ability to concentrate and focus on you."

How do we get there?

The exercises in Book 4 are progressively challenging, starting with Focus. But first,



the authors discuss categories of focus issues, including stress, fear, environmental curiosity, etc. Once you can identify your own dog's mindset or temperament, you have a better idea of how to work with him. Starting with *Rapid Fire Treats* (feeding the dog ten treats on rapid succession just for being). Continuing through stationary eye contact to moving focus, adding distractions, and removing reinforcers from trainer, next comes focus games.

Engagement takes a bit more work on the trainer's part. Temperament is innate, but, the authors contend, you control it through

the level of skill building and creative reinforcing play. Obviously, for this you start with focus. The book takes the reader through ways of motivating the dog to start and sustain engagement through various exercises, starting with acclimation to the environment. Just giving the dog enough time to check out his surroundings goes a long way to sustain focus, hence, an engaged dog.

I took the online course and it really helped Beamer, my Border collie, who is talented in *distraction*. The advantage of the book is that it goes into more depth with explanations and definitions. The advantage of the online course is the fully participating Gold Level students submit videos (via YouTube) for a critique of their work for each exercise. These three instructors are remarkable in their timely responses and their in-depth feedback. The obvious advantage of attending Deb's seminar in a working spot is the *immediate* analysis from the instructor. As an auditor, you have the advantage of observing and learning from the working teams without the distraction of your own dog's care and comfort.

Sadly, Book 4 is the last in the series., but it was one of the most helpful. I highly recommend reading it and practicing the exercises. And I more than highly recommend attending the Deb Jones seminar, whether as a working team or as an auditor!





# Spring Events

## March Obedience & Rally Trials

*by Karen Wrey, Photographs @ Morgaana Photography*

PCOTC hosted two AKC obedience trials on March 5. Placements and titles for PCOTC members at the trials were as follows:

- Novice B. Ruth Armisto placed 2nd in both trials with her German Shepherd (191, 191 1/2).
- Open A Trial 1. Denise Devito took 2nd place with her Doberman Pinscher in Trial 1 (188).
- In Open A Trial 2, Denise and her Doberman placed third (174). The team completed their CDX.
- Open A Trial 2. Joanne Sheffer and her Border Collie took 2nd place (182). They also completed their CDX at this trial.
- Club member Rick Ritacco received HIT for both trials.



Previous page: Rally course, Figure Eight.

This page, clockwise from top right: Broad Jump, Heel on leash, Retrieve over the jump, Sit front.

See more photos from the March obedience and rally trials [here](#).

# Spring Events

## Kamal Fernandez Seminar Review *by Richard Pisani*

Port Chester Obedience Training Club hosted an obedience seminar given by Kamal Fernandez of East London Dog Training on March 11 & 12.

Kamal is an instructor of the Fenzi Academy as well as a full-time trainer in the UK. There were many club members in attendance with working spots that benefited from Kamal's upbeat and playful style of dog training. The clear message to all participants is that obedience training has to be fun and energizing while being less predictable with the reinforcement. Most trainers rely heavily on food as reinforcement, which can be too predictable and overlook toys and games as reinforcement for the dog.

Day one started with all working teams on the floor for a series of games. "Simon Says" was the first game in which the dogs had to listen and concentrate on the verbal cue rather than rely on physical signals to prompt them. Other games focused on creating a "work is starting" cue and impulse control.

After a brief lecture describing Kamal's heeling method each team got its own chance to try some of the Kamal heel work techniques. Teams who have worked with Kamal through the Fenzi Academy got the chance to problem solve. Day two was a handler's choice in which each team worked on various challenges they were having with Novice, Open or Utility exercises.

The best part of the seminar was watching Kamal train each dog. He was able to get a feel for each dog while demonstrating and giving his expert opinion on the challenges that each team experienced. Having been to many seminars in the past, I felt this was truly a unique and exciting experience. Each working team and auditor came away with new and positive training techniques. Kamal will be returning in March of 2018. If you were unable to attend this last seminar and you want some new and different ideas on how to positively train your dog. I would suggest not missing the next one!





# Spring Events

## April in Paris

by Jenn Michaelis, photography by Morgaana Photography

The weekend of April 29th and 30th held may firsts for PCOTC and the world of canine musical freestyle: The first Rally Freestyle Elements live titling event in New York and the first canine musical freestyle show ever held at PCOTC!

We kicked off the show with a welcoming and encouraging judge's meeting, with all the attending competitors and volunteers. Gay Stahley made everyone feel comfortable and a little less nervous by sharing that she has trained and showed terriers for more than 30 years. "There isn't anything your dog can do in the ring today, that my dogs haven't done to me at some point. Just remember that you are here to have fun."

Both days were filled with terrific, funny, touching and bouncy routines from every level of freestyle. Themes ran the gauntlet from pirates to Star Wars, and from magic acts to Ghostbusters, treating us to every music genre possible: pop, oldies, country, bandstand, soundtracks and world. We watched countless dog-and-handler teams showcase their hidden talents, training, and creativity, as well as their strong relationships with their dogs.

Saturday started with Newcomer and Entry classes, and worked through the levels ending with the Intermediate, Advanced and Veteran Champion classes. Sunday started with the highest-level classes and worked down the levels to Newcomer and Entry.

The show was not without its challenges, but the competitors took it all in stride, supporting their dogs and each other to help them perform. A flurry of dog injuries led to multiple pulled entries both days (Terra, Jambo, Rose), and many of the dogs were slightly distracted in the new venue. All the dogs performed better on Sunday, as evidenced by the boost in higher scores and increased qualifying scores.

The "That's Entertainment" class was very popular at the end of both days. This class allows competitors the subtle use of treats or toys in the ring, which is advantageous for young dogs or dogs new to the sport. Spectators and competitors alike were



doubly supportive of the teams in this class: Jamie Ohman and Kyu, Nancy Marston and Bea, Kathleen Nurena and Shorty, Chelly Campbell and Bunny, Barbara Del Rowe and Gigi, Kathleen Nurena and Shakespeare. These teams receive scores and judge's comments to help them prepare for titling classes in the future.

Spectators and competitors were also treated to some spectacular champion-level routines. Paula Winsor and her Australian shepherd, Talus, performed an energetic pirate-themed routine complete with cut-throat tactics, jumps and swordplay to the soundtrack from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Jamie Ohman and her mixed breed, Risa, performed a very creative Veteran Champion routine that marvelously combined disco with Star Wars! Twelve year-old Risa cheerfully performed send outs around a disco ball and backed away from light sabers, leaving most of the audience with tears in their eyes.

Kathleen Nurena with Shakespeare and Amy Rosebaum with Genevie charmed the audience with their pairs routine, complete with Poodle and Bouvier skirts! They were followed by Rachel Lane and Dustin performing to "Pocketful of Sunshine" and Jessica Schulte and Trix performing to "This

Heart." Caitlin Doody and her bulldog mix danced together to "Shop Around" by the Miracles, and Nancy Marston and her border collie Zoey amazed everyone with their magic-themed routine. There were just too many lovely routines to mention them all!

Congratulations to the following teams on earning new titles: Nancy Marston and Zoe (Musical Freestyle Excellent), Jenn Michaelis and Ringo

(Musical Freestyle Novice), Gay Stahley and Devon (Musical Freestyle Novice), Paula Winsor and Talus (Musical Freestyle Master), Caitlin Doody and Augustus (Musical Freestyle Novice), and Jamie Ohman and Risa (Veteran Musical Freestyle Champion).

The Highest-Scoring Freestyle Award went to Paula Winsor and her Australian shepherd, Talus, for the Sunday performance of their pirate routine, which earned 96/100. Judith Stoodley and her poodle, Luna, earned the Highest Scoring In-Sync Award for their Sunday performance of "Son of a Preacher Man," which earned a respectable 87/100. There was no entry in either Musical Freestyle or In-Sync divisions, so there was no award for Highest Combined Score.

Gay was a wonderful judge, providing helpful feedback and lots of encouragement. She wrote great comments and was supportive of every routine presented to her. Some competitors even took her advice and tweaked their routines overnight, to ensure that their performances would earn better qualifying scores on Sunday. It's easy to have fun in Gay's company—she has

*continued next page*



# Spring Events

## April in Paris (continued)

great stories and a great sense of humor. Each day was completed with placings and score sheets, as well as some very special judge's choice prize awards. Special prizes were also donated by many competitors and awarded for various superlative awards, such as Most Sassy Performance, Team Feeling the Beat, Best Trick, or Coolest Props.

For those who missed seeing this amazing

competition in person, [here is a link to view photos of the event](#), compliments of Morgaana Menzel and Char Smith.

The PCOTC volunteer crew was outstanding: Morgaana Menzel, Margaret Mintz, Cynthia Grohoski, Ashlin Cooke, Helene Rubinstein, Denise DeVito, Barbara Del Rowe, and Kathy Nurena. They helped keep the hospitably table running smoothly, scribed for the judge, organized entries, timed routines, and really pitched in to set up and take down after the event.

Special thanks are in order to Arlene Zingale for doing endless sound checks, organizing countless CDs, running two different CD players, and having the fastest finger in the east to start the music perfectly timed with our music cues. An additional shout out to PCOTC member Caitlin Doody who organized, labeled and kept track of all the special awards and donations, as well as helping to assemble participant goody bags and transform the club with our Parisian decorations.





# Spring Events

## Annual Agility Trial May 11–14 *by Lisa McCarthy*

*Photography by Morgaana Photography*

The PCOTC annual agility trial, in conjunction with the Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club, was held on May 11-14 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights. The weather on Thursday and Friday was just beautiful. Saturday was, shall we say, a bit wet! We had several hundred runs each day judged by Susan Bankauf and Jay Kessel in a variety of events for all classes from Novice to Premier.

As with all Port Chester events, we needed a dedicated, strong team to make the trial run smoothly. For an agility trial, that starts with the Trial Committee: Debbie Poe, Cindy Catts, Deb Salerno, Barbara Siegel, Tom Nardi and myself. All of us wore several hats, with Debbie also being volunteer

coordinator, Tom handling facilities, Barb being a ring steward and Deb and Cindy doing hospitality. Also doing double duty was Morgaana Menzel as both photographer and our other ring steward.

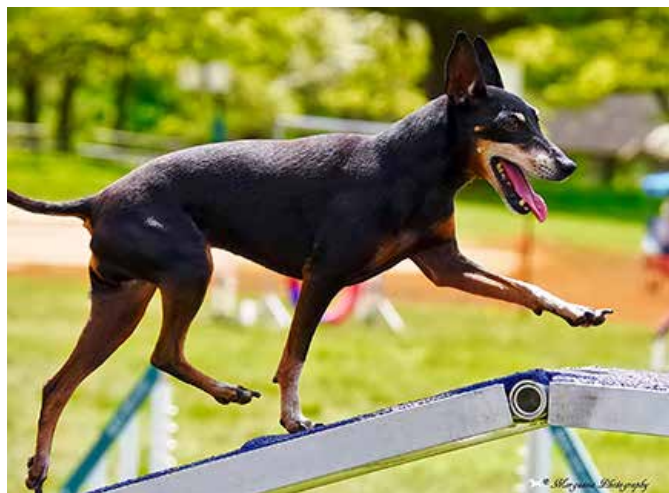
Building all the different courses fell to our chief course builders Russ Thorpe, Fred Brazeil and Stephen McKay. This job is absolutely the most crucial for making the trial run smoothly. Jackie Soccodoto was once again our raffle prize queen, providing all our volunteers with an incentive to help out throughout the trial.

I also want to give a shout out to our super volunteers, who were almost always to be found filling in wherever necessary: Joanne Ouchterloney, Ellen Halperin, Patty Chen,

and Kathy Vicari. We had three great vendors: Jamie Yates-Yee from Heaven and Earth (providing Chinese energy work and awesome collars), the photography awesomeness of Barry Rosen, and agility equipment and toys from Irene Lamphere from Max200.

As a first time agility trial chair, I'd like to personally thank all the former trial chairs who provided me with historical documents, helpful hints and emotional support, including Debbie Poe, Kim Seiter and Stephen McKay.

If you have any comments or suggestions about how to make this trial even better, please email [pctrailchair@gmail.com](mailto:pctrailchair@gmail.com).



Sometimes people think agility is reserved for dogs like Border Collies. These photos prove otherwise. See more photos [here](#).

*continued next page*



# Spring Events

Agility Trial, *continued*





# Spring Events

## SPCA of Westchester Dog Walk/Pet Fair

by Jane Wheeler

Though the weather was threatening prior to the event, it shaped up to be a nice day as the SPCA of Westchester's Dog Walk & Pet Fair began at 10 am on May 6 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights. PCOTC had a booth for information about our classes, and provided two agility demos. Unlike past years, for this year we shared the demo ring with other groups, which meant setting up the ring twice for agility and taking it down twice!

I helped load up at the club and with unloading at the event, then handed the baton to Marcy Rauch. Agility demoers for this event included Darrell Dwyer, Eve Ehrlich, Marci Lewis, Marcy Rauch, and Cindy Rubin. Alberto Ferrer, June Moskovitz, and Sharon Torres handled the booth, and Scott Shaw brought his amazing "it all fits" truck for transporting our equipment.



Photos:

Top, Middle left — Alberto Ferrer  
Middle right, Bottom — Sharon Torres



# Glad Tales

## Hiro

I'm a new member and have a young Japanese Chin named Hiro and a older rescue Papillon, Stella BN RN NA NAJ TDI UCGC.

Recently, Hiro and I went to six confirmation shows and he went BOW for 10 points and 2 majors, never losing. He also went BOB twice and Best Owner-Handled dog twice. We are studying obedience under Ann Mandelbaum and planning on a competition obedience career. Hiro, Dizzy Here's Your Payday!, is entered in the Toy Dog Specialty at the end of the month. We are hoping to finish our championship! At 18 months I'm thrilled with this young dog.

— Virginia Collins



## Brennah's "Last Hurrah"

Brennah (AKC/UKC CH Chimeric Bedazzled at Darboshea THDX TDIRVA) is now 16 years old. On May 8-14, John and I drove down to Asheville, NC for the American Belgian Tervuren Club Nationals, so Brennah could be shown in veterans sweeps and the Honor Parade, and give her last goodbyes to some old friends. We referred to the event, jokingly, as "Brennah's Last Hurrah."

Brennah took 4th in the large 12-and-up veterans sweeps, in which she was the oldest dog by at least a year. She was shown by her breeder and co-owner, Carole Corbin (left). Brennah got a huge hand from the audience. I didn't get pictures of that part because I was crying too hard.

For the Honor Parade (which is not a competition), Brennah was again the oldest dog there. Each honor dog received a big rosette with their own name on it, and there was a special Honor Dogs booklet with a page for each of the dogs. What I wrote about Brennah emphasized her therapy dog work, which she still performs weekly these days at a Cortlandt Manor hospital.

— Jane Wheeler & John Potter



## Glad Tales

*continued*

### Phoenix

Kathie Nurena powers the paddleboard while Phoenix acts as “captain.” They’re looking forward to some more summer fun.

— *Kathleen Nurena*

## New Additions

### Windsor

Windsor is our new puppy, at six month. Here, he is discovering an airplane!

— *Rachel Gumina*



### Lorna

After losing my two oldest Scotties Lillie and Leeza within the past few years I thought it was time to begin the search for another Scottie girl. In February, just three weeks after Leeza’s passing, I heard of a litter that was related to Lillie on the dam’s side and Leeza on the sire’s. I felt it was meant to be and knew immediately that I had to have one of these puppies! On May 16th at exactly twelve weeks old Lorna joined the Foley clan. She has made herself right at home with her Westie brothers Daniel Patrick and Brian and her Scottie cousin Kelly. I hope to have Lorna begin classes at PCOTC in the near future.

— *Kathy Foley*



# Our Stars

## New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 5/20/17

### OBEDIENCE TITLES

#### American Kennel Club (AKC)

##### **AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)**

- 3/5/17 Denise DeVito, Kalora's A Bewitching Kiss, CDX NW2, "Sabrina," Doberman  
3/19/17 Lynn & Jonathan Halpern, Overlook's Sutton Downpour, CDX RE CGC, "William," Golden Retriever

##### **AKC Companion Dog Excellent P (CDX P)**

- 10/30/16 Karen Wrey, Blue Chip Free Reign, "Freida," Doberman Pinscher

##### **AKC Obedience Master 1 (OM1)**

- 2/24/17 Leslie Sweet, Chrisman's Sir Mucho Moxie UD OM1 RA BN CGC, "Moxie," Maltese

##### **AKC NOC National Obedience Championship 2017 3rd Placement in Toy Group**

- 3/25/17 Leslie Sweet, "Moxie," Maltese

### RALLY TITLES

#### American Kennel Club (AKC)

##### **AKC Rally Advanced (RA)**

- 3/4/17 Megan Woods, Britannia Fuzzy Logic RA CGC, "Izzy," Bearded Collie

##### **AKC Rally Excellent (RE)**

- 9/2/16 Karen Wrey, "Freida," Doberman Pinscher  
3/4/17 Audrey Woods, CH Britannia Live Long & Prosper BN RE HT CGC, "PJ," Bearded Collie  
3/4/17 Sarah Johnson (Ramona Ross, Junior Handler), "Sas-safras," All American

#### World C Rally (WCR)

##### **WCRL Rally Level 1 Championship (RL1X)**

- 2/12/17 Sarah Johnson (Ramona Ross, Junior Handler), "Sas-safras," All American

- 2/12/17 Sarah Johnson, "Daisy Furball," All American

##### **WCRL Rally Level 2 (RL2)**

- 2/12/17 Sarah Johnson (Ramona Ross, Junior Handler), "Sas-safras," All American

##### **WCRL Rally Champion (ARCH)**

- 4/9/17 Rachel Lane, Dustin Alexander Lane, "Dustin," All American

### AGILITY TITLES

#### American Kennel Club (AKC)

##### **AKC Master Standard Preferred 2 (MXP2)**

- 10/9/16 Stephen McKay, Brigadoon Have Tux Will Travel, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

##### **AKC Master Silver (MXS)**

- 2/11/17 Stephen McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

##### **AKC Master Jumper Silver (MXJS)**

- 2/11/17 Stephen McKay, "Scorch," Border Collie

#### United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)

##### **USDAA Starters Relay (SR)**

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

##### **Starters Snooker (SS)**

- 7/23/16 Michele Cardone, "Zack," Border Collie

### Jumper Master (JM)

- 4/9/17 Stephen McKay, "Scorch," Border Collie

#### Canine Performance Events (CPE Agility)

##### **CPE Level 1 Fun CTL1 -F**

- 3/26/17 Kathleen Foley, Ch Finishline's Dressed to Kilt CD RAE AXP SE CAX, "Daniel Patrick," Westie

##### **CPE Level 2 Standard (CTLR-2)**

- 3/19/17 Kathleen Foley, "Daniel Patrick," Westie

##### **CPE Champion Standard ChST**

- 12/3/16 Kathleen Foley, Cesare's Rome 'N The Gloamin' CD RE AXP AJP SE CAX, "Brian," Westie

##### **CPE Level 1 Fun (CL1-F)**

- 11/19/16 Karen Rogers, "Brooklyn," Miniature Pinscher

##### **CPE Level 1 Handler (CL1-H)**

- 10/22/16 Karen Rogers, "Brooklyn," Miniature Pinscher

##### **CPE Level 1 Standard (CL1-R)**

- 11/19/16 Karen Rogers, "Brooklyn," Miniature Pinscher

### TRICK DOG TITLES

#### American Kennel Club (AKC)

##### **AKC Novice Trick Dog (TKN)**

- 4/13/17 Jamie McKay, Holther's Well Done, "Scorch," Border Collie

- 4/13/17 Jamie McKay, Brigadoon Have Tux Will Travel, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

- 4/17/17 Jamie McKay, Bare Cove Hair Force One, "Tease," Shetland Sheepdog

- 5/7/17 Michelle Trummer, MACH 16 Corn Cockle Cornelius CDX MXS5 MJC5 FTC1 MFB2 TQX T2B9 TKN, "Corn," Shetland Sheepdog

- 5/7/17 Michelle Trummer, MACH 9 Rockwoods Zig Zag Zoe MXC3 MJS4 SMS4 MXF T2B8 TKN, "Zoe," Shetland Sheepdog

- 5/7/17 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice BN NAJ NF TKN, "Winter," Shetland Sheepdog

##### **AKC Intermediate Trick Dog (TKI)**

- 4/17/17 Jamie McKay, "Scorch," Border Collie

- 4/17/17 Jamie McKay, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

- 5/3/17 Jamie McKay, "Tease," Shetland Sheepdog

##### **AKC Advanced Trick Dog (TKA)**

- 4/20/17 Jamie McKay, "Scorch," Border Collie

- 5/3/17 Jamie McKay, "Derby," Shetland Sheepdog

### NOSE WORK

#### National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)

##### **NACSW Nose Work 1 (NW1)**

- 5/6/17 Carolyn Ripps, Reinwood Hearts Entertained, "Fro-do," Pembroke Welsh Corgi

- 5/6/17 Karen Rogers, "Alex," Miniature Pinscher

##### **NACSW Level 1 Vehicles (L1V)**

- 5/7/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

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

- 10/29/16 Kathy Gregory, Kalora's A Kiss At Midnight, "Nyx," Doberman Pinscher

#### United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS)

##### **UCSS Novice Interior (IN)**

- 2/26/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

## BARN HUNT

*Barn Hunt Association (BHA)*

### Barn Hunt Association Barn Hunt Champion (RATCH)

5/1/17 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's  
Axe du Dantero, "Axe," Belgian  
Malinois

### Barn Hunt Association Crazy 8s Bronze (CZ8B)

4/30/17 Jeanne Meldrim, "Axe," Bel-  
gian Malinois

## HERDING TITLES

*American Kennel Club (AKC)*

11/2016 Audrey and Megan Woods, CH  
Britannia Live Long & Prosper  
BN RE HT CGC, "PJ," Bearded  
Collie

## CONFORMATION TITLES

*American Kennel Club (AKC)*

### AKC Champion (CH)

2/24/17 Janet York, Piccadil's Build Me  
Up Buttercup, "Buttercup,"  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel  
3/16/17 Janet York, Piccadil's Goddess  
of Victory, "Nike," Cavalier King  
Charles Spaniel  
4/6/17 Audrey Woods, CH Britannia  
Fuzzy Logic RA CGC, "Izzy,"  
Bearded Collie

# 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, instruc-  
tors, and membership.

**MailChimp Mailing List:** You can sub-  
scribe 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 infor-  
mation 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 comput-  
er's address book or list, or messages from  
PCOTC may end up in your spam filter.

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

# HELP WANTED

**PUTTIN' ON THE DOG** on Sept. 17.

Volunteers needed for a benefit for Adopt-  
a-Dog in Greenwich, CT. This public event  
will include a PCOTC booth and a "My  
Dog Can Do That!" agility ring. Contact  
Jane Wheeler at [janewheeler@optimum.net](mailto:janewheeler@optimum.net)  
FMI.

**HOUSE DIRECTOR.** The House Director  
oversees the house committee which is  
responsible for daily, weekly, monthly, and  
other maintenance, purchasing, facility re-  
pairs, and bulletin boards. Because the job  
entails a lot of responsibility, PCOTC offers  
some free classes to the house director.  
Please contact Jeanne Meldrim for more  
information at [JeanneMeldrim@gmail.com](mailto:JeanneMeldrim@gmail.com)

**WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS COOR-  
DINATOR.** Volunteer needed to sched-  
ule dates for obedience run-thrus, set  
up registration at [dogmatchshows.com](http://dogmatchshows.com),  
request volunteers for the event as well  
as maintain a list of volunteers, and print  
the schedule for run-thrus. Please contact  
Jeanne Meldrim for more information at  
[JeanneMeldrim@gmail.com](mailto:JeanneMeldrim@gmail.com)

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

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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

# Volunteering Explained

Volunteers run all PCOTC activities except  
dog training, for which we pay qualified in-  
structors. We ask each club member to vol-  
unteer 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 mem-  
bership needs credit for 12 volunteer hours,  
but family members may credit hours to  
another person in the membership.

New club members must complete 6 volun-  
teer hours prior to submitting their applica-  
tion 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 Coor-  
dinator at [pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com).

It is your responsibility to report your volun-  
teer hours via a PCOTC Volunteer Report-  
ing 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.

## Our Stars: Reporting Titles

To submit your dog's new titles/awards for  
publication in the "Our Stars" column in  
this newsletter, please fill out the Our Stars  
form found on our web site at  
[www.pcotc.org/membership](http://www.pcotc.org/membership).

If you do not have web access, you may  
report your new titles by mail (or e-mail),  
to [trummerrmt@yahoo.com](mailto:trummerrmt@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.

# PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

## 2/22/17

**Present:** G. Berger, B. DelRowe, J. Meldrim, M. Woods, A. Woods, O. Kornienko, M. Menzel

This was a special meeting to discuss the financial position open that was recently vacated.

Jeanne produced documents of the timeline of difficulties completing tasks that should have been taken care of in a timely fashion. George suggested all business be put on hold to discuss the treasurer position. With Jeanne as acting president, the president and treasurer needed to be signers on the checks and have access to the online banking as well as Quick books.

A discussion ensued regarding treasurer tasks versus accountant tasks. The group made suggestions to further define the roles and the tasks. Another eblast will go out requesting members to step up and take on one of the vacated positions.

The meeting was adjourned.

## 3/27/17

**Present:** G. Berger, B. DelRowe, S. Gagnon, O. Kornienko, J. Meldrim, M. Menzel, J. Wheeler, A. Woods, M. Woods

**President's report:** Welcomed Sara Gagnon as new 1st VP who will be handling membership.

**Treasurer Report:** Megan contacted Alex at D&B to amend 1099s. Alex put income and expenses together. He is still working on 14-15 taxes and needs to work on 15-16 taxes. Megan will be concentrating on getting Quickbooks up to date.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Non-member people are looking to rent the facility. A discussion ensued and each case will be evaluated separately. The Hudson Valley Golden Retriever Club would like to host a seminar upstairs for Prison Raised Puppies. They are willing to work in the dark week after May. Megan will get back to them.

Nosework would like to have a seminar if space is available.

The results of the recent class survey were 85% positive.

**House:** Front door needs replacement. The locking mechanism does not work properly. The landlord will be contacted.

**Publicity/PR/Website:** There are quite a few seminars on the calendar. The web administrator will no longer do website come September. The new website in the process of being designed uses Squarespace and Jane needs to get the username and password access to continue working on it. Training is also important to keep the website up to date.

Jane put out an eblast looking for people from each training area to work with the respective TD on workshops and seminars. She received no replies from instructors and no replies from students.

**Membership:** a new member Adam Gankowitz was put up for vote. Motion was made to accept his membership application, seconded and all were in favor.

Since we are moving to a calendar year, the renewal for membership will be 1 ½ years. Concurrently volunteer hours must follow suit.

**Registration:** Barbara handed out two reports explaining how many students registered in a specific discipline and how many were member volunteers. There is a need for financial analysis to determine if each discipline supports itself with current pricing. There is also a need to look at the current discounts and the amount of hours members volunteer. Right now a member doing 12 hours gets 25% discount and a member volunteering 50 hours gets 25% discount.

ASAP is not the best software for PCOTC purposes. In the coming weeks a search for more "dog related" registration software will be looked at in terms of whether it can tell how many volunteers, class credits, credit card payments, etc. Once Quickbooks is up to date we can do a better analysis.

**By-Laws:** The by-laws have been approved by the AKC except for the need to add one

additional clause which will be voted on at the next club meeting if we have a quorum.

**Kim Seiter:** is leaving and Lisa Topol will be taking on her classes.

**New Jumps:** discussed the need for new jumps in agility since the AKC has created a new one. Obedience does not need additional jumps as there are jumps in the closet that are not being used.

**Karen Wray:** Sent a recap of the recent Obedience trial with some suggestions for the future. These will be taken under advisement.

**Office Employee:** The group was tasked with the mission to determine what they would use an office employee for, determine how many hours/day, how many days/week and whether we can afford to add this position. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

**Kathy Gregory:** will be scheduled next week to talk to the Board about Independent Contractors vs. Employees.

**Parking:** the club has 4 spots that can be used by instructors and handicapped individuals displaying the handicap sign.

**House Director:** We have a candidate for the position and will send him a list of duties shortly.

**AKC Scent Work:** An application to become an official AKC Scentwork club requires only the submission of a paper application. A motion was made to move forward with the application process given that we are an AKC club, it was seconded and all were in favor.

Next general club meeting is April 26 at which we need a quorum to vote on the last piece of the by-laws. A guest speaker and/or raffle is planned.

Meeting adjourned.

## 4/18/17

### Special Meeting of the Board

**Present:** G. Berger, B. DelRowe, S. Gagnon, O. Kornienko, J. Meldrim, M. Menzel, J. Wheeler, A. Woods, M. Woods.



# PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

## Fire Safety

- The door in the back of the room downstairs should be changed out to a push bar to make exit easier in case of a fire and bring it up to code.
- There should be no storage of any kind within 3 feet of the electrical panel in the supply room.
- The sump pump in the supply room should have a metal grate over it.
- Carbon Dioxide extinguishers should be hung and marked in the supply closet.
- A Dry Chem Extinguisher is needed to be hung and marked upstairs and inspected.
- The second floor's emergency lighting needs to be upgraded. The landlord will be contacted to determine if this is his responsibility or ours.
- Exit signs need to be upgraded to the light-up kind.
- Each area needs a diagram of fire exit and plan for safe evacuation.
- The fire department has suggested a "knock box" which would contain a key and code for the fire department to get in the building in case of a fire. This is estimated to cost between \$250-\$400.
- It is recommended that our current water fire extinguishers be changed out for A/B/C extinguishers which will cover all types of fires.

## Mat Cleaning

- This is happening Thursday during the dark week.

## Rally

- There is no Chairperson and day of Secretary for the July rally trials. Application have been submitted and approved and the judge; Nancy Withers has already been contracted.
- Jeanne will reach out again to find a chair and day of secretary otherwise there will not be any rally trials going forward.
- The club needs another rally instructor. Jeanne will reach out to the contact given to Rick.

## Agility

- Kim Seiter will no longer be teaching at PCOTC and we will need another instructor for Kim's Tuesday evening classes.
- Jeanne ordered new qualifying ribbons for agility.
- A name for a possible instructor was given and she will be considered.

## Front Door

- Is still not working properly. Jeanne will contact the landlord about replacing the door as it is a serious security issue.

## April Club Meeting

- The board will coordinate the food and will send out an agenda for the evening. By law's clause vote will come before speaker so that members can leave if they so chose after the meeting.

## Nosework:

- Kathe Baxter updated the board regarding needs, concerns etc. for the Nose Work program. When asked about the profit and loss, more analysis needs to be made since out of 80 enrollments, 50 were members getting 25% discount. Also need to look at improving profitability of those classes with are less than ½ filled.

4/24/17

## PCOTC Telephone Board Conference

**Present on the call were:** J. Meldrim, J. Wheeler, O. Kornienko, B. DelRowe, M. Menzel, S. Gagnon, A. Woods, M. Woods

The topic was to approve paying course builders at the agility trials in May. It was approved.

Also, discussed and determined that if the landlord replaced the front door with one that had a divider running through the middle, agility equipment would not fit through the door.

5/2/17

**Present:** J. Meldrim, B. DelRowe, O. Kornienko, M. Menzel, A. Woods, M. Woods, J. Wheeler

**Fire Safety:** We will do an initial inspection before the real one to eliminate any safety concerns and the landlord will be present as well.

**Rally Trial:** will be cancelled as no one came forward to chair or be secretary. One more eblast will go out.

Rally instructor contacted does not seem to be interested. Will talk to Rick about getting an additional instructor and see where more classes at night can be scheduled.

**Agility:** the trials have a low entry. People are more interested in indoor trials. Discussion is being had at the trial committee level to cut the number of courses (may need fewer course builders as a result). The trial will stay the way it is this year but there will be changes for next year.

New agility instructor is needed. Will ask candidate to do a demo interview with some board students.

**Barn Hunt:** Went to Stone Henge Kennel. We can pay her to let us do a trial but why should we since we can enter the trials that are there.

**Front Door:** The landlord will be replacing the door. The idea of having a divider was shot down because of the inability to get equipment in and out. Building Management will get back to the board.

## New Business

**Help for Megan:** Will get Dee Dee to help with deposits, etc. Also need help with Elavon since it gets lumped together and coded as Family Manners. Need to determine what gets allocated to what category.

**June Club Meeting:** Using JotForm for awards. Membership renewal will be going through Stripe. The TDs will need to nominate someone for their awards; the president will nominate someone for the President's Awards and the Board will determine the AKC Sportman's Award.

**AKC Tricks:** The AKC is now offering titling for Dog Tricks.

Meeting adjourned.

# PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes

## 4/26/17

**Present:** 40 club members including G. Berger, J. Meldrim, J. Wheeler, S. Gagnon, A. Woods, M. Woods, B. DelRowe, M. Menzel

**Recording Secretary:** made a motion to suspend reading of the minutes since they were posted in the Spring *Sit N Stay*. Motion was seconded and all were in favor.

**President Report:** welcomed members. Currently looking for a House Director to take care of the facility. This position was vacated by Megan Woods who took on the Treasurer role. In addition the club is in need of a volunteer coordinator. Moreover, the board is currently looking for an additional agility instructor.

**Corresponding Secretary:** reports of upcoming meetings will be sent by email rather than snail mail. A request was made to update emails on the website.

**Treasurer:** Currently there is \$55,000 in the checking account and registration is still coming in.

**Membership:** Last year there were 312 members. This year there are 225 members.

**Seminars & Website:** Need people to demo agility at the SPCA Dog Walk and Pet

Fair. This will be held on Saturday, May 6. In addition, there are a number of events coming up; Rally Freestyle, PC Nut Agility Trial, Anna Eifert Seminar OMD, Vicki Rochette Breed Handling.

**Website:** will be done by August and is being worked on by Jane, Sara, Jeanne, and Morgaana.

**Registration:** In 2016 the club averaged 420/session. This year the club is averaging 430/session in Family Manners, Nose Work and Agility. The club is currently looking into new registration software.

**AKC Delegate:** The AKC is making itself more relevant and up to date to help clubs and people. They are creating a library of information for consumers to use. In 2016 the AKC showed an 8% increase in business.

**Bylaws Vote:** At the time of the vote, the club had a quorum of members. A motion was made to vote on the exemption clause as written. It was seconded and by show of hands all were in favor.

**AKC Scent Work:** Kathy Gregory introduced the new AKC Scent Work. She explained about trials, the scents used and what was involved. Instructors will begin incorporating AKC scentwork into classes.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

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## 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!