

DOG SPORTS & TRAINING

# PCOTC

PORT CHESTER OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB



# Sit 'n Stay

Quarterly Newsletter of PCOTC • Winter 2017-18

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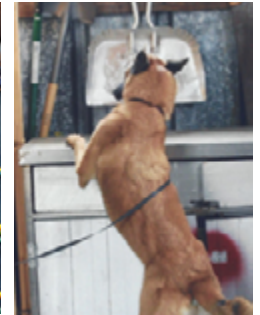
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Asha Catches a Snowball © Heather Emmel

## Calendar of Events

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

2017		2018	
		Apr 28	Club Meeting/Spring Cleanup
Dec 3	AKC Scent Work Trials	May 2	Class Session 3 begins
Dec 5	Holiday Party & Club Meeting	Jun 27	Club Meeting
Dec. 9	Therapy Dog Aptitude Screening	Jul 4	Session 4 begins
Dec. 15	AKC Trick Dogs Titling Event	Aug 28	Club Meeting
		Sep 5	Session 5 begins
		Oct 26	Club Meeting
Jan. 2	Class Session 1 begins	Oct. 29	Session 6 begins
Jan 20	Kathleen Oswald Agility Seminars	Dec 12	Club Meeting
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Mar 4	AKC Obedience Trials		
Mar 5	Class Session 2 begins		
Mar 10	Kamal Fernandez Obedience Seminars		
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# 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  
Katherine O'Donnell, [katheodonnell3@gmail.com](mailto:katheodonnell3@gmail.com)

## 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

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

## Volunteering:

Sandra Shivers, [pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com)

House Manager: Michele Cardone, 914-924-1392

E-blasts: Olga Kornienko, [olga.pcotc@gmail.com](mailto:olga.pcotc@gmail.com)

## Facebook:

Morgaana Menzel, [morgaanamenzel@gmail.com](mailto:morgaanamenzel@gmail.com)

## Sit 'n Stay:

Jane Wheeler, [pcotc.sitnstay@gmail.com](mailto:pcotc.sitnstay@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,  
[trummersrt@yahoo.com](mailto:trummersrt@yahoo.com)

Next deadline: Feb. 20, 2018

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

— Sara Gagnon, [sara.gagnon13@gmail.com](mailto:sara.gagnon13@gmail.com)

## New PCOTC Website Is Live!

We've successfully made the transition! We may experience some blips along the way, so please be understanding, but do alert us if you find a problem: contact Sara Gagnon at [saragagnon13@gmail.com](mailto:saragagnon13@gmail.com) And thank you, Sara, for bringing it home!

## Welcome New Members

- Tim Gardner, Michelle Rago, and Maya Gardner
- Lauren Green and Barbara Napoli
- Tamara Lazarus
- Phyllis Sabin
- Carroll Smith-Rosenberg

## Save the Dates: Club Meetings in 2018

- Saturday, April 28, Club Meeting/Spring Clean-up
  - Wednesday, June 27, Club Meeting
  - Tuesday, August 28, Club Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 26, Howl-a-day Party & Club Meeting
- Wednesday, Dec. 12, Holiday Party & Club Meeting

# Club Doings

## Holiday Party & Club Meeting December 5, 7:30 pm

PCOTC member Katherine O'Donnell will make a presentation on Hope AACR (Animal Assisted Crisis Response), which is an all-volunteer organization located in various regions throughout the country. Hope's mission is to provide emotional comfort and support to people affected by disasters of all types. Support is provided by highly-trained handler and dog teams who become certified to work with victims, first responders and various state and national workers. Katherine has served the organization since 2001 in a variety of capacities such as team member, instructor, and certification evaluator.



Photo: Katherine and her dog Parie on a Hope AACR mission. Parie served at 911 in Manhattan and in Louisiana during Katrina.

## New Board Member Katherine O'Donnell

Katherine O'Donnell, a new Director on the Board, has a sixteen-year history in animal-assisted therapy, beginning with her Newfie, Maddie. She worked with her Golden Retriever, Parie in the 9/11 and Katrina disasters. She took a therapy dog class at PCOTC with George Berger. She also enrolled in nose work classes with her Golden Retriever, Shiloh; the team is getting ready to take the ORT soon. She's a booster of PCOTC: "I am very impressed with the quality of the training, the variety of courses and the instructors. I always recommend PCOTC whenever anyone is looking for training for their dog."

Some of Katherine's first duties with PCOTC included working on public events and procuring speakers that will provide presentations on relevant and interesting topics. Katherine is an evaluator and trainer for Hope Animal Assisted Crisis (AACR) where therapy dogs perform their work in a crisis situation. Katherine currently shares her life with Shiloh, a four-year-old Golden who is a certified therapy dog, and will be attending Hope training shortly.



Katherine O'Donnell

# Agility

## Agility Tip: Three Tricks

by Stefanie Rainer, Agility Training Director, OMD Assistant Coach

With the winter months upon us, I thought I would talk about some of my favorite things to train inside in a small space to keep my agility dogs fit. As we know, agility is just a bunch of “tricks” strung together at very high speed. Therefore, it is beneficial to teach your dogs of any age, from puppy to adult, simple tricks to help with their mental and physical fitness. These tricks will help strengthen you and your dogs’ working relationship and are great to use as a warmup before going into the agility ring. All of these tricks relate to the skills that are needed to succeed in the agility ring.

The first is “through” which is having the dog weave in and out of your legs simulating the weave poles. Start with your dog on your right hand side. You, the handler, will stand in a lunge position with your left leg forward and right leg back. Lure your dog through your legs to your left hand side. I like to start with my dog on my right side because the dog always enters the weave poles on their left leading leg. Once the dog is on your left side, repeat the trick in the other direction. Dog on left, handler puts her right leg forward and left leg back. Lure the dog through your legs to your right side. Repeat this trick over and over simulating the weave poles.

The second is “turn” which is when the dog turns 180 degrees away from the handler when the handler and dog are parallel to one an-

other. Start with the dog lined up at your side and lure the dog 180 degrees away from you. Each time you do this, try to make your arm motion smaller and smaller to ultimately get away from the luring and put this trick purely on a verbal command. Also try to increase the distance between you and your dog, but always start parallel with your dog. This command is useful for a 180 degree away from the handler into a tunnel after a contact.

The final trick is “beep-beep” when the dog backs up away from the handler. Start with the dog lined up in front of you in a stand position. Put a cookie underneath the dog’s nose, keeping the dog’s head low. Step into your dog and when he backs up away from you or moves either of his rear legs, reward that. The idea is to get your dog to back up away from the handler without being lured. If your dog doesn’t back up straight, use a wall or something as a barrier to put a bit of pressure on him, forcing him to go back straight and not veer diagonally from the handler. This is a good rear end awareness trick, which will help with the 2-on 2-off position that is taught on the end of the contacts.

Try to get all of these tricks on a solid verbal command so the dog is not being lured and can work independently from their handler. Have fun with these and happy training!

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## AKC’s ACT Program (Agility Course Test)

The Agility Course Test (ACT) is an entry level agility event designed to introduce and welcome beginning dogs and their handlers to the AKC sport of agility.

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

In addition to showing their dog’s entry level skills, exhibitors will learn to fill out an AKC entry form, check-in at the ring, taking their dog in and out of ring, handling their dog while being judged and other information that will help them when they move on to AKC agility trials with their dog. Dogs must be 15 months old to enter these events. They do not need to be AKC registered at the time of entry.



Click above to go the American Kennel Club’s ACT Program page for an informative video and other links about the ACT Program of interest to exhibitors, evaluators, and clubs/trainers.

# Agility

## Kathleen Oswald Agility Seminar



The two half-day Kathleen Oswald Agility Seminars on January 20, and full day on January 21, are suitable for those who are sequencing 8-10 obstacles, and are proficient on all equipment.

The Saturday morning seminar *Crosses: Where, When, How and Why?* addresses difficult crosses and provides handlers with the tools you need to handle them effectively. Learn more than ever about front, rear and blind crosses. In this seminar, Kathleen will explain how to use and place each type of cross. Each cross will be broken down with easy to follow guidelines.

The afternoon seminar is *Building Distance Basics*. It focuses on understanding how to build and apply distance handling. With small drills and short sequences, Kathleen will explain how to effectively train and use distance on a variety of obstacles and challenges.

On Sunday, Kathleen will offer a full day workshop on International Prep. Whether you're taking on premier, tryouts or the world, this seminar will help you prepare to do your best! Join Kathleen to walk, talk, and run international courses with a focus

on making the best handling choices for your team. With walk-through handling discussions and split-timing, Kathleen will help each team fine-tune their communication and maximize their speed. To participate, teams should be competing at the Master's level and proficient on all equipment.

To register for a working or an auditing spot, [click here](#) and submit your registration by January 15. For a working spot, you must also fill out our questionnaire.

Fees: Day 1 workshops: Maximum 8 working spots. \$95 for a working spot; \$45 for an auditing spot, each workshop. Day 2 workshop, maximum 8 working spots. \$195 working, \$95 auditing.

For seminar information, or if you need help with registration, please contact Grace at [gah210@gmail.com](mailto:gah210@gmail.com)

### FCI Medalist Kathleen Oswald

With seventeen years in dog agility, Kathleen has run dogs of all shapes, sizes and personalities. She believes that every team is capable of reaching its full potential. With an emphasis on understanding in her

teaching, Kathleen will help you see that the 'why' is just as, if not more, important than the 'how' of training and handling.

Kathleen began agility with a Lhasa Apso and has since run a variety of breeds from a Norfolk terrier to a Doberman pinscher. She is a current AKC World Team Member with her sheltie, Whimzy, and has a young border collie in training.

A few of Kathleen's accomplishments:

- 2014-2017 AKC World Team Member - Whimzy
- 2014 AWC Gold Medalist Team Member - Whimzy
- 2014 AWC Silver Agility Team Medal - Whimzy
- 2015-2017 EO Team Member - Whimzy
- 2015-2016 EO Individual Finalist - Whimzy
- 2014 AKC National 20" P Finalist and second place - Nikki, Doberman
- 2013 EO Individual Finalist - Jenna, Sheltie
- 2012-2013 EO Team Member - Jenna
- 2013 AKC Nationals Finalist - Jenna

# Obedience

## Kamal Fernandez Obedience Seminars in March

Kamal Fernandez returns to PCOTC on March 10–11, 2018! Last spring, in his first seminar at PCOTC, Kamal wowed the crowd with his upbeat, charismatic style. This year, his seminars will focus on ideas for building drive and motivation, and how to reduce dependency on food and treats by tapping into your dog's inner drive.

### *Day 1: Building Motivation & Drive*

We all want a willing and active partner excited to participate in canine performance sports with us. Kamal will guide us in building and improving our dog's drive with a variety of reinforcers. Each working team will discover and improve their dog's hidden drive and increase their motivation to work with us.

### *Day 2: Fading Reinforcers & Ring Prep*

Preparing your dog for the obedience ring requires careful planning and skill. The dog must be able to perform the exercises without reinforcement available. Come explore and develop a plan for your dog's ring experience. We expect that working teams will show a wide range of "ring readiness."

### *Private Lessons: Monday, March 12*

One-hour Privates with Kamal Fernandez, 9am–4pm.

Students who have worked with Kamal Fernandez in the past will have priority. Fee, \$150 per hour. Please contact Rick Pisani for availability at [luv2heel@me.com](mailto:luv2heel@me.com).

*Note: These are positive reinforcement seminars/privates. No pinch collars, choke collars or electronic collars will be permitted.*

### **Registration**

Registration for the seminars will open soon.

Days 1 and 2 run from 9 am to 5 pm. Maximum 12 working spots each day. Fees: \$390 working spot for both days; working teams must attend both days. Auditing spots, each day, \$90 each. If you need help with seminar registration, please contact Joanne at [brilligs@aol.com](mailto:brilligs@aol.com)

### **About Kamal**

Kamal Fernandez is head trainer and owner of East London Dog Training. He 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.



Kamal Fernandez with his dog Scooter

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

– Linda Rutherford, Crufts Dog Supreme Obedience Championships 2007, Crufts Bitch Supreme Obedience Championships 2010.

# Obedience

## Rally Tip: New Rules *by Ann Mandelbaum, CPDT-KA*

As you well know, both AKC and WCRL Rally have changed dramatically! AKC is running under the new rules as of November 1 and WCRL is going to begin using their completely overhauled new rules as of January 1.

I don't want to go into the many changes in each, but I do want to urge you to read and familiarize yourselves with them. Especially if you have never paid much attention to the actual rules before, this is the perfect opportunity to read through them—you'll learn something, I promise! And truly, you should understand the rules of the game you are playing!

AKC has a downloadable summary of changes listed next to the specific portions of the rules they are replacing—very handy. You can find it on the AKC website under: EVENTS, AKC Rally, Rally News and Updates — more, Rally Program Enhancements 03-10-17 in blue near the bottom of the page. WCRL has completely re-written their rulebook, so even if you were pretty familiar with the rules up to the end of 2017, you should read and understand the new edition.

Both venues have posted videos demonstrating how to execute every one of the signs used in their courses. This is extremely valu-

able, particularly in trying to figure out what is expected with the new signs in each (but it doesn't hurt to look at the old ones, too—it may surprise you to see exactly what each exercise is supposed to look like). The signs are posted on YouTube, but if you have trouble finding them:

- For AKC, go to the website, choose events, then AKC Rally, then News and Updates, then AKC videos on YouTube and click on "here."
- For WCRL go to the website ([www.rallydogs.com](http://www.rallydogs.com)), choose the right-hand column, and go to the bottom of the list. Choose exercise video available online. This takes you to a screen that prompts you to click on a YouTube link.

The WCRL videos are particularly helpful (if tedious) because they specify the main part of the exercise and a scale of possible points off for each sign.

With new titles available in both venues, and especially with the Intermediate (on leash) title now being offered by AKC for dogs who have earned the Novice title but are not yet ready to work off lead, there is a lot to look forward to in Rally.

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## AKC Obedience Trials, March 4, 2018

PCOTC has been approved for two AKC obedience trials at our facility on March 4, 2018. Entries open soon and will close on February 14. The event is open to all AKC-registered or listed dogs.

Event Chair is Karen Wrey, 845-592-1722 or [kayray@optonline.net](mailto:kayray@optonline.net). Event Secretary is Lori Carver, [seabreez13@hotmail.com](mailto:seabreez13@hotmail.com).

Judges are Mrs. Lynda S. Moore, Mr. Rick Ritacco, and Mr. Larry Wilson. Classes offered include Novice A & B, Beginner Novice A & B, Obedience Preferred Novice, Open A & B, and Obedience Preferred Open. Utility will not be offered at these trials.

In trial 1, Mr. Ritacco will judge Novice classes and Mrs. Moore will judge Open classes. In trial 2, Mr. Wilson will judge both Novice and Open classes.



A cozy dog bed in the snow © Kelly DeSimone

# Family Manners

## AKC's S.T.A.R. Puppy Program

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program is a 6-week, positive reinforcement-based training program open to all dogs up to one year old. Click on the slide image at the right to view an AKC video about the S.T.A.R. Puppy Program and learn more about this activity, which teaches your dog basic training skills.

PCOTC offers the S.T.A.R. Puppy Program through its Family Manners program. Your puppy's early months are a critical informative time during which your puppy learns to interact appropriately with different people, dogs and environments that the world has to offer. This class will help you make the most of this developmental window and build the foundation for a friendly, confident, well-mannered adult dog. Off-leash play will be at the discretion of the instructor. *In order to be eligible for the AKC S.T.A.R.® Puppy Test puppies must attend six weeks of classes.* Class limit 8. Please check our class schedule via our website, <http://www.pcotc.org>, for availability/times of STAR Puppy classes.



Scenes from a S.T.A.R. puppy class at PCOTC

Courtesy of Jenn Michaelis





# Family Manners

## AKC Trick Dog Title Evaluations Dec. 15

PCOTC is offering evaluations for AKC Trick Dog titles on Dec. 15 from 4:30–9:00 pm. Evaluations are scheduled in one-hour-long time blocks. Please choose an available time slot to register your dog(s).

The first title test will cost \$15. Each additional title evaluation in the same time slot for the same dog will cost \$10 per title test.

Evaluations will be held for Novice (TKN), Intermediate (TKI), and Advanced (TKA) titles. The Performer title (TKP) will not be evaluated at this event. If you have questions after reading the materials linked in this article, email Jamie McKay at [jamiemckay@optonline.net](mailto:jamiemckay@optonline.net).

### ABOUT TRICK DOG

From the 1920's and 1940's when trick dogs such as Rin Tin Tin and Lassie won people's hearts, trick dog training has become one of the most exciting new areas in dog training today.

AKC Trick Dog titles are official AKC titles listed on the dog's title record.

The processing fee for each title is \$20. Multiple titles for the same dog can be sent in together; each one will be processed in succession after each previous title has

been added and printed.

Dogs must have an AKC, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number to earn a title.

All dogs can get a number including purebreds and mixed breeds.

Dogs that have previously earned a DMWYD (Do More With Your Dog) title may be grandfathered into the Trick Dog titles if the DMWYD title is above Novice. You must send proof of the title (copy of the DMWYD certificate) and pay only a \$20 title fee for the highest level title for which you are applying.

For more information about the Trick Dog Program check out [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### TRICK DOG TITLE INFO

The AKC website provides Tricks Checklists for each level of testing, to be included with the AKC Trick Dog Title Application. These checklists include lists of tricks that may be offered at each level; 10 tricks are required at each level. However, if your dog has earned a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate or title on record at the AKC, the CGC counts as 5 tricks, and you need only perform 5 additional tricks.



Below are links to checklists for the three levels that will be tested on December 15, which include all tricks accepted at each level:

1. [Tricks Checklist: Novice](#)
2. [Tricks Checklist: Intermediate](#)
3. [Tricks Checklist: Advanced](#)

Unlike other AKC trials where trial results are sent to the AKC by the judge, Tricks participants must send the [Trick Dog Title Application](#) to the AKC themselves. The Trick Dog Title Application sheet includes an explanation of all materials that must accompany the application.



Jenn Michaelis and Ringo demonstrate two of the tricks that are included in the AKC's Trick Dog titles: "Sit pretty" (on the list of Intermediate tricks) and "Take a bow" (on the list of Advanced tricks)

### Jenn Michaelis: New Certification

PCOTC Family Manners Training Director Jenn Michaelis recently completed her certification as a Rally Freestyle Elements Certified instructor for teaching the sport of Rally FrEe. Jenn was selected and approved after submitting videos of her dogs, her students, and passing a written test. There are currently 20 certified instructors in the U.S. Jenn is also both an AKC CGC evaluator and an AKC Trick Dog Evaluator.

# Nose/Scent Work

## AKC Scent Work Trials: Know Before You Go

by Cynthia Grohoski, CNWI

Many of our Nose Work students at PCOTC have competed in or volunteered at NACSW trials. A smaller number have competed in other venues—United States Canine Scent Sports and Performance Scent Dogs, for example—and fewer have competed in AKC Scent Work trials. AKC Scent Work is “the buzz” right now, with teams preparing to compete in scent work trials for the first time who may have only competed in NACSW K9 Nose Work® trials to date. Here you will find some tips on the main differences between the venues.

**1. Read the Rule Book. Please.** You would be surprised at how many times this is overlooked, and how frequently new competitors in any venue struggle with the rules on day of trial. Prevent that additional stress! The rules and regulations can be downloaded for free or ordered from the AKC store as a bound, softcover book.

**2. Trial Nerves.** There’s no magic bullet to overcome these, but a great way to gauge your “trial readiness” and experience the pressure of a competition before trialing is to sign up for a NACSW Odor Recognition Test (ORT), or Performance Scent Dog Target Odor Test (TOT). Neither is required for AKC Scent Work trials. However, if you’ve never competed in a Nose Work or Scent Work trial, taking an ORT or TOT can be invaluable. It will be the first time you’ve experienced that wonderful feeling where you are all in, “trusting your dog” in a non-training situation. Since ORTs and TOTs are scheduled fairly regularly in the tri-state area throughout the year, you can gain this experience before driving great distances and spending a lot of money on trial entry fees only to find out your team is not quite ready. Or that you are complete rock stars and gain a huge confidence boost in advance of trialing!

**3. Odor.** AKC uses birch, anise, clove and cypress as target odors. Birch, anise and clove are used in many Nose Work/Scent Work venues. Although cypress is the ‘outlier’ and only used at the most advanced

competition level, that’s not the only difference. AKC regulations state that a single hide (“scent aid”) is two drops of target essential oil applied to the tip of a single Q-tip, cut in half, or cotton ball, placed in a glass jar and allowed to “cook” for at least 24 hours. Compare/contrast that amount of odor with the method for scenting Q-tips in other venues, where several droppers full of oil will be used to scent a jar full of halved Q-tips. The amount of odor on an AKC Q-tip may be greater than multiple Q-tips scented using another method. Train for that, always train for variation in amount and age of odor, and be aware of what your dog looks like when they are working pooling odor.

**4. Containers.** The spacing of containers can be quite a bit tighter in AKC than in NACSW. In AKC, the distance between rows of containers at Novice level is 36”; however, the spacing between containers in a row can be as little as 12”. Be aware of how odor may pool or move throughout the day of trial—odor may skate along slippery floors, pool on adjacent boxes, be absorbed into matting or carpeting. Work with your dog under these conditions, in order to observe how she works these search scenarios.

**5. Distractions.** In AKC Scent Work, distractions can be non-food, food, visual, auditory, mimic or human. You won’t encounter intentional distractions at Novice level. You will only encounter a non-food distraction at Advanced level. At Excellent and Master level, you will encounter two or three distractions in a single search, respectively, which can be a combination of any of the distractors. Your dog must be able to work through the distractors. Faults may be issued if a dog cannot re-focus within a reasonable period, or needs to be redirected physically after encountering a distraction. How does your dog respond to lights, sounds, humans, and stuffed animals? Your dog may respond differently under stress of competition. Train for these search scenarios, and if you are not sure how your

dog will respond to these distractions, work through any challenges without odor before introducing the challenge where odor is present. Avoid creating any negative associations with odor.

**6. Collars, Leashes, Harnesses.** The Scent Work Regulations are very explicit. What’s on your dog’s collar—rabies tag, town or city license, other bling? At an AKC Scent Work trial, nothing can be hanging from a dog’s collar or harness, except a Go Pro camera. Other restrictions are placed on type of harnesses and collars. Make sure you have the right gear in your car the night before your trial.

**7. Trial Venue.** Trials are being held at locations that are used for other Scent Work/Nose Work competitions and classes. NACSW limits the number of times a location can be used for a trial (one year between uses), but AKC currently does not. At AKC trials, you may encounter lingering or residual odor, or even a forgotten scented Q-tip. There is also no prohibition by AKC as to crating dogs adjacent to search areas, or entries and exits to search areas (although individual clubs may impose their own restrictions). If you have a reactive dog, or a dog that is sensitive to the presence of other dogs, groups of people, or situations where there may be canine and human noise, please be kind to your dog and ask the host club in advance of entering if they are able to provide any information about where dogs will be crated relative to search areas.

All Nose Work and Scent Work venues are different enough to have “something for everyone.” Don’t be afraid to try something you haven’t experienced before, but do set your team up to have the most positive experience by being aware of what’s required, and what’s not, before you go. Most of all—share your experiences with your instructors and fellow classmates—we enjoy learning alongside all of you!

# Nose/Scent Work

## Scent Work Trials at PCOTC December 3

Port Chester Obedience Training Club is holding its first AKC Scent Work Trials on Sunday, December 3.

All dogs six months of age or older, purebred or mixed breeds, can participate in AKC Scent Work, provided they are AKC-registered, enrolled with Canine Partners, listed in the Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program, or recorded in the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program.

We will be holding two Novice trials for Container and Interior searches. There will be only one Birch hide to find, either somewhere in the Interior of the club or in one of ten carefully selected, identical Containers. The Novice A Class is for dogs that have not completed any title for that particular element, not completed a comparable title with another organization, and have never worked as a professional detection dog. The Novice B Class is open to all dogs. Females in season may not compete.

Entries for the two trials are closed.



Photos from Scent Work practice and trials, courtesy of the AKC.



Spur & Jack as puppies © Michele Cardone

# AKC Meet & Compete

## Westminster & AKC Hold “Meet & Compete”

The Westminster Kennel Club and American Kennel Club (AKC®) present Meet & Compete, featuring the 5th Annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and AKC Meet the Breeds®. The joint event returns to New York City on Saturday, February 10th at Piers 92 and 94. After a successful return to AKC Meet the Breeds® last year, The International Cat Association® (TICA®) brings cats back to the 2018 event. Attendees also get the chance to see the nation's top canine competitors race against the clock over an obstacle course at the 5th Annual Masters Agility Championship.

“We’re always excited to bring AKC Meet the Breeds to the New York City public as part of Meet & Compete,” said AKC Executive Secretary Gina DiNardo. “We’re thrilled that TICA is joining us again, bringing attendees a fantastic lineup of dog and cat breeds to meet while learning about responsible pet ownership and what breed fits their family and lifestyle.”

“The Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and AKC Meet the Breeds® have proven to be a great fit together, and we’re pleased to again join forces with the American Kennel Club,” said Seán W. McCarthy, President of the Westminster Kennel Club. “Meet & Compete continues to be a successful event, and we’re glad to bring it back to the public for the fourth year.”

The 2018 event marks the ninth AKC Meet the Breeds® and the fourth year that the event is part of the exciting Westminster Week roster. One daytime ticket will grant event-goers access to both AKC Meet the Breeds® and the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster. Attendees will be able to interact with nearly 200 breeds of dogs and cats in elaborately decorated booths that depict fun elements from the breed's history and talk to experts about each breed, as well as see the exciting Agility competition taking place in Pier 94.

The agility competition takes place all day (Preliminary rounds 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. / Finals 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.) in Pier 94, with the finals being televised on FOX Sports 1 Sunday, February 11 from 8-10 p.m. ET. AKC Meet the Breeds® will take place in Piers 92 & 94 from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

In addition to Meet & Compete on Saturday, February 10th, Westminster Week events include the iconic 142nd Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on Monday and Tuesday, February 12-13 and the 3rd Annual Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster on Monday, February 12.

To purchase tickets for Meet & Compete and find additional information about the event, visit [www.westminsterkennelclub.org](http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org)

Rem awaits visitors at our 2017 MTB booth

## PCOTC Booth at Meet the Breeds

As in years past, PCOTC will staff a booth at Meet the Breeds on Saturday, Feb. 10, focusing on our training program and schedule. Those members interested in volunteering at the booth should contact Jane Wheeler at [jane.wheeler@optimum.net](mailto:jane.wheeler@optimum.net).

If you have a well-behaved, people-and-dog friendly dog who can display some short training tips or exercises at the booth, your dog is welcome, too!



## AKC Announces Achiever Dog Certificate Pilot Program

The American Kennel Club is excited to announce the launch of its new Achiever Dog certificate program. The AKC Achiever Dog certificate program is designed to recognize those exhibitors and dogs who participate in multiple sports. A dog will receive an AKC Achiever Dog certificate when they have been awarded a placement or earned a qualifying score in three different sports. Dogs can start earning AKC Achiever Dog certificates December 1, 2017.

“Many exhibitors are interested in participating in different sports,” said Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board Member. “The AKC Achiever Dog program is designed to encourage owners to try a variety of sports, finding those they enjoy and realizing success. Both are winners!”

AKC is launching the Achiever Dog as a pilot program. At the end of one year, all owners who have received a certificate will be surveyed to determine the success of the

program. Opportunities for improvement will be identified and could lead to a more refined program that recognizes these versatile dogs. The survey finding will help to shape the future of the AKC Achiever Dog certificate program. For more information on this program, visit

<http://www.akc.org/events/achiever-dog/>  
or email [achieverdog@akc.org](mailto:achieverdog@akc.org).

# AKC Delegate's Report

*Fourth Quarter 2017 — by Kathy Gregory, PCOTC Delegate to AKC*

The world of competitive dog shows took a hit in registrations in the first seven months of 2017 due primarily to the threat of canine influenza, as evidenced by recently reported statistics released by the AKC.

Agility	712,099 entries	(.07%)
Obedience	71,525 entries	(4%)
Rally	44,922 entries	(.09%)
Tracking	967 entries	(8.3%)
Totals	829,513 entries	(8.7%)

## Shows cancelled

Obedience - 13  
Rally - 17  
Agility - 6

Hopefully, we will see a rebound in participation in the last five months of the year as vaccinations continue to be administered and competitors continue to take precautions against the spread of this disease.

Some upcoming specialty showcase competitions:

Obedience Classic in Orlando	December 16-17
Agility International	December 15-17
National Agility Championship – Reno	March 23-25

Scent Work Update:

134 clubs are currently licensed to hold Scent Work trials  
229 Scent Work licensed judges  
106 events are scheduled for Q4 of 2017

## Eukanuba Performance Games

I had the unforgettable opportunity to attend this very interesting competition in Columbus, Ohio, in September. It was amazing to see every breed and All-American combinations show their hearts out in all the sports that were simultaneously held in this park-like setting. Dock Diving, Fast CAT, Agility, Barn Hunt, Disc Dog and Scent Work competitions were all held under the bright Ohio sun in four days of exciting events. Sponsored by Eukanuba, there were plenty of give-aways and prizes to be won and a host of professionals available to discuss the offered sports and how you could get started. I watched a Yorkshire Terrier bravely do her first dock dive into a small pool that must have looked like an ocean to her. All types of dogs ran their first run in the Fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test) competition, to the enthusiastic shouts of spectators. The indoor Agility ring kept everyone cool and protected from the strong outdoor sun. Athletic dogs of all types entertained the crowds with their Disc Dog gymnastics. Many competitors did their first Scent Work run with their canine pals. Humans watched in amazement as their canine partners ran their first Fast CAT run with joy and great enthusiasm. Yes, scheduling was a bit of a challenge, but the staff was very flexible about moving teams around to accommodate conflicts.

One of the aspects of this event I enjoyed the most was seeing so many people having fun with their dogs. For some, winning a new title was most important, but for most, it was an opportunity to try something new. Small Dachshunds ran Fast Cat, elegant Borzois tried Scent Work, white fluffy Coton de Tulear did Barn Hunt, Clumbers did Agility and Papillon leapt to catch flying discs.

If there is ever an opportunity for you to attend one of these multi event games, please do, as they were an eye-opener, even to someone like me who has attended many trials before.

The Trick Dog program, launched on May 1 of this year, has been very successful. Three levels of titling are available to enthusiasts and clubs offering classes instructing in this sport report that they are very popular. Thirty percent of dogs passing the first level of competition are participating in the world of canine sport for the very first time. This can be a nice welcoming entry into all the other sports we offer at PCOTC.

The Companion Events Committee continued to discuss proposed changes to the Group Exercises in Obedience, but nothing has been finalized as of this writing. I know that many in the club are anxiously awaiting a decision in this regard and I will report as soon as any decisions are finalized. Any changes would go into effect as of March, 2018.

One hundred, fifty Farm Dog events were successfully held in 2017 drawing more than 3,000 entries.

Once again, the AKC is updating its website to make it more user friendly. I am attending a two-hour introduction seminar on this new site in December and will report back on my experience. My feeling at this time is that if I need two hours on instruction on how to navigate this site, I do not expect it to be more user-friendly than it is now, but we shall see!



# Fall Events

## Breed Handling Workshops with Vicki Ronchette

by Fran Hellman, Photography © Morgaana Photography

On October 7 and 8, our club hosted breed handling workshops led by Vicki Ronchette CPDT, CAP2. Vicki captured everyone's attention as she guided us with her incredible knowledge of the sport of conformation with the use of positive reinforcement training methods. On Saturday, attendees learned how to shape show dogs at the Shaping Show Dog Superstars workshop. On Sunday, we learned the best ways to move our dogs and to hand and free stack at the Mastering Your Dog's Movement,

and Show Stopping Stacks workshops.

As members, we all know that PCOTC has always been on the cutting edge of dog training. Our club sets the bar high for class instruction, seminars and workshops. Vicki Ronchette's workshops have certainly measured up to that high standard.

Vicki Ronchette is the owner of Braveheart Dog Training school in California, where she teaches conformation classes. She is the author of *Positive Training for Show Dogs*,

*From Shy to Showy: Help for Your Shy Show Dog*. Her most recent book is *Ready? Set. SHOW!* Vicki has successfully owner-handled several dogs over the course of 30 years. She is also the Facebook list owner of Positive Training for Show Dogs.

To learn more about Vicki Ronchette and her online webinars go to <http://www.braveheartdogtraining.com>



Clockwise from top left: Seminar participant & dog gaiting, Fran Hellman, with Vicki as judge, stacking her dog on table for examination, group instruction with Vicki

# Fall Events

## Public Event: Puttin' on the Dog



A team of PCOTC members staffed a booth and ran a “My Dog Can Do That—Agility” ring at Adopt-a-Dog’s annual event, “Puttin’ on the Dog” on Sept. 17 in Greenwich, CT. PCOTC’s booth was open throughout the event, while the MDCDT ring was open from 2:30 pm until the end of the event.

PCOTC staffers included Alberto Ferrer, Betsey Frumin, Lindsey Jimenez, Jennifer Lau, Tamara Lazarus, Sharon Ripps, Jacqueline Soccodato (and Karen Shinoda?)

This year, we moved to the demo area in front of the stage, which was shared with other groups. In previous years, we were stationed away from the main space, next to the water. The staffers discovered that there is now an area of three smaller rings, so they spoke to Adopt-a-Dog about using one of the small rings next year, with our booth nearby. That would let us run MDCDT throughout the day, with booth staffers able to help people sign up.

A new publicity piece, a two-sided postcard devised by Mary Rauch and Jane Wheeler, was used for the first time at this event. The postcard proved very effective, and PCOTC staffers reported that the two pieces most visitors took were a class schedule and a postcard. These postcards are easy to individualize for different events, so we expect to use them more in the future.

The staffers reported that they experienced the same problem as at many events in the past: people had trouble understanding where the club is, Port Chester or White Plains? Suggestions were offered for how to make it more clear. Other suggestions:

- Obedience is a sport, not the first class to take. Family Manners is where you bring your puppy or new dog. Use “competition obedience” to help clear that up?
- More emphasis could be placed on the facts that the MDCDT experience is *free*, and that PCOTC is a not-for-profit club.

# Fall Events

## Howl-o-ween Party *Photography © Morgaana Photography*

Everyone had a howlin' good time at PCOTC's annual Howl-o-ween Party and Club Meeting! Be sure to be there next year!



Clockwise from top left: Bobbing for Apples, Devil Dog, Princess Leia~ "May The Course Be With You!", and Lumberjack Dog.



# Fall Events

## Howl-o-ween Party (continued)



Clockwise from top left: Pumpkin "dog," Bumble Bee Papillon, Table and Play Area, Skateboarder, Puppy Flower, and Unicorn Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen meets a Ballerina Poodle

# Fall Events

## Nov. 5 AKC Obedience Trials

By Bruce Sheffler Photography © Morgaana Photography

On November 5, PCOTC held two obedience trials concurrently. All regular classes and preferred classes were offered in both trials. There were 51 entries in one trial, 47 in the other. The trials ran efficiently and smoothly due in large part to our excellent judges, Frank Cardillino and Bob Amen, and to our wonderful stewards, all PCOTC members, under the careful oversight of our Chief Steward, Morgaana Menzel. PCOTC members were well represented in both trials and were very successful. Rick Ritacco and his incomparable partner Emmi won High in Trial (awarded to the

team with the highest score of all classes) in one trial and High Combined (awarded to the team with the highest combined scores from the Open B and Utility B classes) in the other. Dana Rocco also got in on the action with a first place in Trial 1 and a Novice title with Sweet. Not to be outdone, Dana and Charlee also got a Novice title and a first place in Trial 2.

Thanks to all who contributed to making the trials a success: Karen Wrey, trial chairperson, Joanne Sheffler, hospitality, Bruce Sheffler grounds, Morgaana Menzel, Chief

Steward and photographer supreme, and all who helped in stewarding and in setting up and breaking down the trial site.

A special thanks is owed to Bob Amen. Bob has been a marvelous judge, competitor, AKC delegate and Board member and a tireless supporter of the sport of obedience for many years as well as an active member and contributor to PCOTC. His long time service in the interests of our sport was recognized during the trials with a special thank you cake and the heartfelt appreciation of all who were present.



Clockwise from above: Bob Amen with thank-you cake, dumbbell retrieve, broad jump, bar jump.



# Fall Events

## Judy Reilly Agility Seminars

by Grace Heck, Photography © Morgaana Photography

Judy Reilly, 2017 IFCS Team member, visited PCOTC over Thanksgiving weekend, to help agility teams at every stage of their journey improve their connection, and take their teamwork to the next level.

We started with a half-day, Young Dog Foundations seminar on Saturday morning. Here, Judy helped teams just starting out in the sport with several foundational skills that will have a lasting impact on their agility training. She demonstrated with her World Team dog, Tempest, to show where these simple techniques will take these new teams, and how they will

help build a stronger connection, and more efficient training with your dog.

On Saturday afternoon, more experienced teams participated in the Green Dog seminar. Using a simple 4- obstacle sequence, Judy worked on ensuring dogs could drive ahead down a straight line, follow handling rather than patterning, and taught the handlers multiple different handling options for each scenario. All teams had a blast, and Judy was impressed with the caliber of skills these teams possessed.

On Sunday, Judy set up four full courses

for the teams in the International Courses seminar to work through. During the walk-throughs, Judy focused on evaluating the fastest line for each team, then determining what handling technique to use to create that line. Judy was meticulous in each of her critiques, pushing all teams to perfect their sequences. This was a jam-packed day, and teams got tons of floor time and individual coaching from Judy.

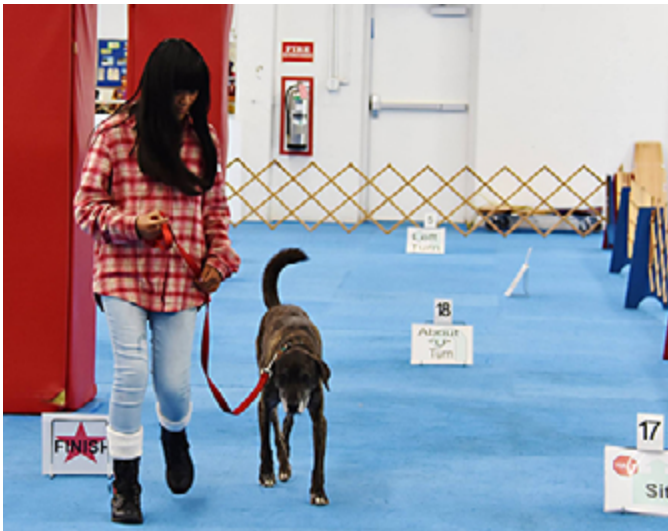
Overall, the seminar was a huge success, and we hope to have Judy return in the future!



# Fall Events

## WCRL Rally Trials

Photography © Morgaana Photography



# Glad Tales

## Titles Won at PCOTC Trials!

Photography © Morgaana Photography

### Teddy Earns CDX

I'm thrilled to share that Teddy achieved his AKC Obedience CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) title at Port Chester Obedience and Training Club today under Judge Frank Cardillino. We were the only team that qualified in our class, consequently placing 1st with 185 out of a possible 200 points. Thanks to my Obedience teachers, Linda S. Brennan and Rick Pisani for your guidance. Hearty thanks to Karen Wrey, Joanne and Bruce Sheffler, the stewards and my special friend, Morgaana Menzel who was the chief steward and talented photographer that created the wonderful collage of Teddy and me! It was great to see many wonderful teams working together and to see friends today! I'm so proud of Teddy and treasure him beyond words.

—Barbara Sroka



### Rhoswyn Earns RL1

Sirrocco's Song of the Sea "Rhoswyn" had a successful time of it at World Cynosport Rally Trials hosted by PCRE at PCOTC. Wynnie took first place in both Trials competing in the RL1 Class with respectable scores of 203 and 207 and got her RL1 Title!

Thank you Judge Sara Jacobs and Judge Natalene Lamming. I am so very proud of my one-year-old baby girl.

— Morgaana Menzel

# Glad Tales

## Seraphina's French Ring Wins

We are very proud of Seraphina's accomplishments in her first two French ring sport trials. In her first trial she passed her CSAU, Brevet and first leg of Ring 1. In her second trial, she received her Ring 1 title and won the Eastern Regional Championship. We are looking forward to the trial season next year!

— *Matt and Jeanne Meldrim*

## Penny and Louie

Penny and Louie have their open titles in Barn Hunt and are doing very well. Louie has his Novice and Intermediate Trick Dog titles.

(No photo)

— *Elizabeth Brown*



# Family Additions

## AVA

Our new puppy, Ava, (aka McMurphy One Touch of Venus) came home with us on March 19, 2017. She was 3 months old. She is a wheaten Scottish Terrier and we are already taking classes at PCOTC.

— *Lenore Feldman and family.*



## BG

Our newest member of the Woods household, BG, Britannia Rings Around the Moon.

— *Audrey & Megan Woods*



# Sad Tales

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## Cedarcrest's One More Time "Jaz"

2/24/2003 to 10/25/2017



This is an announcement that I never wanted to write. My beloved Terv Jaz has had health issues over the last several years from the bone chip in his spine and arthritis to laryngeal paralysis.

I had to put Jaz down. He was 14 years, 8 months and 1 day of age. He was diagnosed with laryngeal paralysis in January 2016. Weekly laser treatments eased the pain of arthritis and assisted the weekly acupuncture treatments in healing the laryngeal paralysis which could have killed him by itself. Nothing could heal the slow nerve degeneration that followed it. When steroids stopped helping him not knuckle when he walked, his doctor and I decided that it was time. We decided 21 months ago when we got the confirmed laryngeal paralysis diagnosis that when it was time, we would put him down in the backyard that he loved so much.

Doc arrived with the vet tech who has been giving Jaz weekly laser treatments. His upper body was in my arms. Doc basically held me for moral support while the tech put the needle in his arm. Although it was her day off, she readily agreed to come. She and I were both crying. He went peacefully.

Doc put him in my car as he has done for 2 previous dogs, and I drove him to Hartsdale Pet Cemetery for a private cremation. He is back home with me now and will soon take his place of honor on the shelf with his 2 brothers and 2 sisters (cats) all in their matching though differently sized urns.

— Fran Weston

## AKC/UKC CH Chimeric's Bedazzled at Darboshea THDX TDIRVA (Brennah)

May 14, 2001 – June 19, 2017

In the June issue of *Sit 'n Stay*, I talked about Brennah's "Last Hurrah" at the American Belgian Tervuren Club National in Ashville, NC in May. It was indeed her last hurrah, as she died a little more than a month later, at 16 years, 1 month and change. She had continued on with her therapy dog work, which she loved, until she physically was not able to walk through a hospital visit (nor, really, from one part of our house to the other).

We miss Brennah terribly! My husband John Potter and I, and our other dogs, are finally beginning to adjust to her absence.

— Jane Wheeler

Brennah in 2009 © Carole Corbin



# Our Stars

## New Titles & Honors Reported by Club Members As of 11/21/17

### CANINE GOOD CITIZEN

*American Kennel Club (AKC)*

#### AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

- 10/5/17 Kathleen Foley, Destiny & Fireheart's Celtic Magic, "Lorna," Scottish Terrier
- 8/4/17 Nancy Oestreicher, Reddington, "Redd," Italian Spinone
- 8/4/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Song Of The Sea, "Rhoswyn," Boxer
- 7/6/17 Janet York, GCH Piccadil's Build Me Up Buttercup, "Buttercup," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- 4/23/17 Janet York, GCH Piccadil's Goddess of Victory, "Nike," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
- 4/29/17 Matthew Meldrim, Hop River's Napalm, "Napalm," Dutch Shepherd

*Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)*

#### Canadian Good Neighbor (CGN)

- 5/27/17 Katherine Jochen, Shaggybark I Am Not A Mini Cooper, "Cooper," Old English Sheepdog

### RALLY

*World Cynosport Rally (WCRL)*

#### WCR Rally Level 1 (RL1)

- 10/5/17 Morgaana Menzel, "Rhoswyn," Boxer

### AGILITY

*American Kennel Club (AKC)*

#### AKC Novice Agility (NA)

- 10/28/17 Michelle Trummer, Win Winter Solstice BN NA OAJ OF TKN, "Winter," Shetland Sheepdog

*United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)*

#### USDAA Agility Dog

- 10/10/7/17 Michele Cardone, KeepEmGoing's Gone But Not Forgotten, "Zack," Border Collie

#### USDAA Starters Standard Agility

- 10/7/17 Michele Cardone, "Zack," Border Collie

### NOSE WORK

*National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW)*

#### NACSW Elite 1 (ELT1)

- 11/18/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Marshwiggle's Merriment, "Emma," English Springer Spaniel

*United States Canine Scent Sports (USCSS)*

#### USCSS Exterior Novice (EN)

- 11/05/17 Cynthia Grohoski, Aneleh Marshwiggle Oceana, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

#### USCSS Detection Dog Classic Novice (DDCN)

- 11/05/17 Cynthia Grohoski, "Blossom," English Springer Spaniel

#### USCSS Container Novice (CN)

- 7/30/17 Barbara Siegel, "Springhill Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe," Ivan

#### USCSS Exterior Novice (EN)

- 9/23/17 Barbara Siegel, Ivan

### TRICK DOG

*American Kennel Club (AKC)*

#### AKC Novice Trick Dog (TKN)

- 10/11/17 Morgaana Menzel, "Rhoswyn," Boxer
- 9/25/17 Morgaana Menzel, Sirrocco's Private Party, "Phouka," Boxer

- 11/10/17 Audrey and Megan Woods, Britannia Listen To Your Heart BN CD RE NJP RATN, "George," Bearded Collie
- 10/13/17 Megan Woods, CH Britannia Fuzzy Logic RA CGC, "Izzy," Bearded Collie
- 10/13/17 Audrey Woods, CH Britannia Live Long & Prosper BN RE HT CGC, "PJ," Bearded Collie

### BARN HUNT

*Barn Hunt Association (BHA)*

#### BHA Novice RATN

- 10/22/17 Kathleen Foley, Destiny & Fireheart's Celtic Magic, "Lorna," Scottish Terrier

#### BHA Senior RATS

- 10/22/17 Kathleen Foley, CH Finishline's Dressed To Kilt, "Daniel Patrick," West Highland Terrier

#### BHA Crazy Eights Silver (CZY8s)

- 10/28/17 Jeanne Meldrim, D'Meldrim's Axe du Dantero, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

#### BHA RATCHX Rat Champion X

- 11/19/17 Jeanne Meldrim, "Axe," Belgian Malinois

### FARM DOG

#### AKC Farm Dog Certification (FDC)

- 11/12/17 Megan Woods & Audrey Woods, "Izzy," Bearded Collie

### RING SPORTS

#### North American Ring Association Brevet

- 9/9/17 Matthew Meldrim, Hop River's Lucifer's Seraphina, "Seraphina," Dutch Shepherd

#### North American Ring Association French Ring I, FRI

- 10/9/17 Matthew Meldrim, "Seraphina," Dutch Shepherd

#### North American Ring Association Certificat de Sociabilite Aptitude l'Utilisation, CSAU

- 9/9/17 Matthew Meldrim, "Napalm," Dutch Shepherd

- 9/9/17 Matthew Meldrim, "Seraphina," Dutch Shepherd

### CONFORMATION TITLES

American Kennel Club (AKC)

#### AKC Champion (CH)

- 9/17/17 Janet York, CH Piccadil's Breakfast at Tiffany's, "Holly," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

#### AKC Grand Champion Bronze (GCH Bronze)

- 2/5/17 Janet York, GCH Piccadil's For Your Eyes Only NA, "Louis," Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

#### AKC Grand Champion Platinum (GCH Platinum)

- 9/2/20 Janet York, GCH Piccadil's Dream A Little Dream of Me BN RN RA RE CGC, "Catcher," CKCS

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## 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/stars-form](http://www.pcotc.org/stars-form). If you do not have web access, you may report your new titles by mail (or e-mail), to [trummersrt@yahoo.com](mailto:trummersrt@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 are considered “Super Volunteers” who will be honored at the annual club meeting and given a Certificate of Appreciation.

## Change in the Fiscal Year

**Note:** Due to a Bylaws change, our fiscal year has changed from June 1 through May 31, to Jan. 1 through Dec. 30. Our current fiscal “year” extends from June 1, 2017, through Dec. 30, 2018. For this fiscal “year,” volunteers must complete 18 volunteer hours to receive a volunteer discount in the following fiscal year, and super-volunteers, 45 hours.

# HELP WANTED

**WHITE PLAINS WEEKENDS COORDINATOR.** Volunteer needed to schedule dates for obedience run-thrus, set up registration at [www.dogmatchshows.com](http://www.dogmatchshows.com), request volunteers for the event as well as maintain a list of volunteers, and print the schedule for run-thrus.

Please contact Karen Wrey for more information at [kayray@optonline.net](mailto:kayray@optonline.net)

**SCENT WORK TRIAL, Dec. 3.** Volunteers needed for Inaugural PCOTC AKC Scent Work Trial. Please email Ashlin Cooke, Trial Coordinator, at [acooke@me.com](mailto:acooke@me.com)

**AKC OBEDIENCE TRIALS, Mar. 4.** Hospitality, ring set-up, stewarding, clean-up, etc. Contact Morgaana Menzel at [morgaanamenzel@gmail.com](mailto:morgaanamenzel@gmail.com)

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

**CLASS ASSISTANTS, Jan.-Feb. Session:**

Would you like to volunteer as an instructional assistant in a PCOTC training class?

You must be a member of PCOTC, have a strong training background, plenty of experience in the relevant discipline, and be ready to work.

The assistant’s role will be to help set up and take down any equipment or ring gates, be a presence in the ring if the instructor needs to step away briefly, and to provide direct assistance to a working pair while the instructor is engaged with another student.

The assistant will be under the direct supervision of the instructor. Written guidelines will be provided prior to the class. Assistants must commit to attend all meetings of the class they are assisting. In return, the assistant receives volunteer hours and the opportunity to get some hands-on teaching experience.

If you are interested in being considered for this role or have further questions, please email to Class Assistant Coordinator Fran Hellman at [sunjaysgrs@aol.com](mailto:sunjaysgrs@aol.com) by the last day of class registration for January-December, with the following information:

- Your name and contact information
- The Discipline for which you wish to

# 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?* 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.

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

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assist (Family Manners, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Nose Work)

- A particular instructor with whom you wish to work, if any
- Days/times available
- A brief statement of your interest and experience.

The appropriate Training Director and relevant instructor will review applications as we try to pair you with an instructor.

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**OTHER OPPORTUNITIES** arise from time to time. Contact Sandra Shivers, Volunteer Coordinator at: [pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:pcotcvolunteer@gmail.com)



Dog Nose in Snow © Kelly DeSimone

# PCOTC Club Meeting Minutes

## 8/30/17

**Present:** 21 club members including S. Gagnon, J. Meldrim, G. Heck, O. Kornienko, 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 and encouraged them to send any questions they may have. Announced AKC Scent Trial on Dec 3rd.

**Corresponding Secretary** – Class surveys will be sent out. Meeting minutes have been delayed but they will be going on in a timely manner in the future.

**Treasurer (G. Heck)** – From the start of our fiscal year in June we are currently up 13K. G. Heck currently working on the breakdown of expenses and income. For the second half of our first quarter we're up 10K from last year and that is solely due to class income.

**Membership** – Membership renewal has ended for this year. Last year there were 225 members. This year there are 208 members.

**Publicity and PR** – Jane Wheeler is handling volunteers for Puttin on the Dog in September. She also encourages people to check out the Breed Handling workshops by Vicki Ronchette. Seminars have been great, both Tucci/Seiter and Deb Jones seminars sold out. We'll be having Judy Reilly seminars on Nov 25-26.

**Registration:** 2016 July/Aug session had 319 enrollments, 2017 July/Aug had 329 enrollments. Agility and Nose Work classes had an increase in the number of enrollments.

**AKC Delegate (K. Gregory)** – AKC offices are being relocated to NY, Museum of Dog will move as well. Library of AKC will be on Madison Ave. Should happen at the end of 2018, museum first then the AKC. Kathy highly recommends members visit the museum and the library.

AKC Master Veterinarian says they traced Canine Influenza as being brought into the US from dogs imported from China as rescues from meat market. AKC is pushing for all imported dogs for rescues to be health tested.

Dog shortage for dogs in bomb detection/scent work. Inferior dogs are shipped from overseas. AKC would like to help provide

dogs. Search Dog Foundation finds shelter dogs and trains them for search work.

**AKC's response to Houston.** Bob Amen has already donated 10K to help. AKC is providing trailers with supplies and for people to have a safe place to kennel dogs. AKC is matching donations. Kathy recommends everybody get their dogs microchipped, she will make a list of different microchip companies. Suggested the club could think of having a disaster fund.

AKC also has a list of shelters that will house animals in crisis on their website.

**Unfinished Business** – Announced Michele Cardone as the new House Manager and Sandra Shivers as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Informed members new website will go up in September and asked members to send any pictures they would like included on it.

**New Business** - Members asked what our timeline for getting new lower level mats will be. Informed that it will likely be soon, once we have the cost analysis from Marcy Rauch, due to dog beginning to slip on the mats.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next Meeting Date** – October 26th – Halloween Party and Club Meeting

## 10/26/17

**Present:** 21 club members including S. Gagnon, G. Heck, O. Kornienko, and M. Menzel

**Recording Secretary** – Meeting minutes from Aug 30th were read

**President Report** – Announced new website was close to launching.

**Corresponding Secretary** – Class surveys will be sent out. Meeting minutes have been delayed but they will be going on in a timely manner in the future.

**Treasurer** – Currently slightly up from last year at this same time.

**Membership** – Increased to 215 members

**Registration:** 2016 Sep/Oct session had

449 enrollments, 2017 Sept/Oct had 420 enrollments. Moving into Nov/Dec we are seeing strong enrollment. Judy Reilly seminar on Thanksgiving weekend is almost full.

**AKC Delegate (K. Gregory)** – Companion events across the board have seen a decrease in enrollments, but primarily in Obedience. Canine influenza scare may have played a role, multiple trials cancelled due to outbreaks. Scent Work is very popular, our trial alone had over 230 entries.

**Unfinished Business** – Announced Michele Cardone as the new House Manager and Sandra Shivers as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Informed members new website will go up in September and asked members to send any pictures they would like included on it.

**New Business** – Fran requested a hand cart to move ramp for breed handling. It was re-

quested that we look into fixing front gates because many have broken legs.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next Meeting Date** – Dec 5th – Holiday Party and Club Meeting

## Board Meetings

### 9/12/17

**Present:** Sara Gagnon, Grace Heck, Olga Kornienko, Morgaana Menzel, Megan Woods, Audrey Woods, Katherine O'Donnell

**President's Report**

- Deb Jones seminar cancelled due to family issues. Rick wants to hold a training party on that day.

# PCOTC Board Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made that semi-privates be put on instructor's invoices. Sara will tell the instructors to include these on their invoices and remind them what the cost for a rental is.

- Two new members: Tim and Maya Gardener and Michelle Rago, Blaze PWD. A motion was made, seconded and all were in favor.

## Old Business

- *Fire Safety*; new fire extinguishers going up and the back door will be done tomorrow

- *Obedience jump* – Megan reiterated that all they have to do is send her a link to what they want to buy and she will order. This has been said before.

- *WPW* will be once a month and will only go until 12 noon. This gives classes an opportunity to run afterwards.

- *Authorize.net* – trying to determine where and what the fees are and looking for better alternatives as well as whether ASAP interacts with it.

## New Business

- Email regarding a strange encounter with a neighboring business came from a couple of the members and the answer is that we or the neighbor cannot regulate who parks on the street. This is a matter for White Plains municipality.

- *Google Text Accounts*. Sara will take care of setting this up.

- Lisa Topol wants to run a fundraiser to raise \$3,000 for a Clip and Go Dog Walk despite some user problems with the equipment. A new floor take priority to any piece of equipment. However once the floor is underway the fundraiser can be done during a dark week and they must cover the cost by themselves.

- *Floor* March Rauch is getting quotes.

- *Demo at St. Christophers* – to get more information about what is needed and what they may want, Ashlin will be put on the agenda for the next Board Meeting to come and talk to the board.

- Bronagh Daly will be approached to be an agility instructor at the club and be put on the schedule for Tuesday evenings.

- *Training Directors* - definitions for what is needed as a training director will be written and agreed upon by the board. This will include but not limited to gauging the quality of instruction among instructors, curriculum development, cross promoting classes, commitment to progression and annual evaluations of instructors.

**Next Meeting:** October 17th

## 10/17/17

Sara Gagnon, Grace Heck, Jeanne Meldrim, Olga Kornienko, Morgaana Menzel, Katherine O'Donnell, Audrey Woods, Megan Woods

## Report of President –

Vickie Ronchette's seminar went well except for a couple of people who wanted more advanced information.

Nosework has been approved to spend up to \$100 for supplies

Mats – Marcy is still working on getting estimates for mat replacement.

**Report of Treasurer** – Wells Fargo is now in sync with Quickbooks.

An extension will be filed for the taxes.

Megan will send of paper statement of activities to the board members

**Membership** – Three new member applications were received:

Tamara Lazarus – 2 Scotties

Kelly Clinchy – AA

Carol Smith Rosenberg – Dachshund

Motion was made and seconded. All approved as members

## Clip & Go Fundraiser –

The group is going ahead with the fundraiser. They have been given dates for the dark weeks.

## St. Christophers Partnership –

Ashlin Cooke, Barbara Napoli and Karen Reilly presented the information. They would like Nosework events, Meet the Breeds and My Dog Can Do That. Another meeting will be scheduled to find out more about their requests.

## New Business –

The board voted to accept Kathy Baxter as a late renewing member.

The board voted to cap the disc dog class at 6 students

Guidelines were handed in for the TDs job description. Sara will compile and send out to the board so that discussion and decisions can be made and put in place by January.

**Meeting adjourned.** Next meeting November 28.

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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!