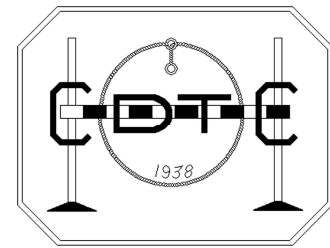


The Monthly Newsletter of the
Capital Dog Training Club, Inc.



Obichaff

May 2011
Volume 67, Issue 4

Jack and Tango go to the races

By Jane Weisemann

It's early March 2011 and 62 teams of dogs are running across Alaska in the 1150 mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Siberian Huskies Jack and Tango are dreaming of racing. No, they are not running in the Iditarod or anything even close. But this year they had their own sled racing adventures.

Last Fall members of the Chesapeake Siberian Husky Club decided to put together teams of dogs to run races in the coming Winter. Some members had raced years ago and a few newer members had started racing over the last couple seasons. Now a dozen people pooled their 20+ dogs and got together to start training. The goal was to run in 'sprint' races. These races are about 4-20 miles in length with the number of miles generally equal to the number of dogs on the team. In November when the weather got cool enough we began training by running the dogs with wheeled rigs on the C & O Canal towpath. The dogs gradually built up stamina, got used to the harnesses and lines, and got used to running alongside the other dogs. Drivers had to learn many things: how to untangle dogs and lines, how to switch dogs around on the lines, how to get the team past people, dogs, squirrels, etc. on the trail, how to turn the team around to go back, how to pull everything out of the canal after the lead dog drags the team and rig in. The helpers learned how to harness the dogs, get them to the lines and hook them up. We trained two or three times a week during November and December. Most training was on



the towpath with wheeled rigs and 4-6 dogs on team. For one training session went to Michaux State Forest in Pennsylvania and ran the dogs with an ATV. This gave the dogs some experience running up and down hills.

Our first race was January 15-16 in Kalkaska, Michigan. We traveled to Michigan in two vans and in a pickup truck with a 'dog box' that could hold ten to twenty dogs. The sled races were part of the 'Kalkaska Winterfest'. This was the largest race we attended, with 144 teams in 4-dog, 6-dog, 8-dog, 10-dog events, various junior events, 2 and 3-dog skijoring classes, and an 'unlimited' race with teams of up to 20 dogs. Our club had 3 6-dog teams (running 6 miles) and one 4-dog team (running 4

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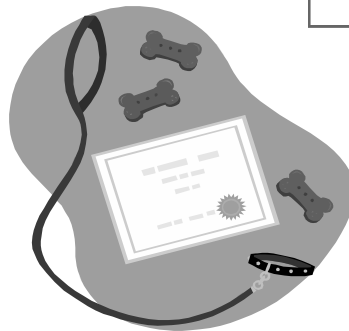
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**From the editor.....**

If you have been a careful reader of *Obichaff*, you will know that you may opt-out of the print edition and instead, read it online. Few people have chosen this option. Whereas as Editor I certainly do not want to decrease readership, I would like to urge you to select this greener and cheaper option: It costs CDTC about one dollar to print each copy, and a further 61 cents in postage, or around \$18 a year for each member. *Obichaff* is viewable on CDTC.org by the 1st of each month. You don't need to remember any passwords to access it, and the only program you need to read the PDF file is Adobe Reader, which is free and easy to download.

Email Marian Hardy at mhzo@aol.com to have your name removed from the mailing list and email me at obieditor@cdtc.org to let me know and I will publish an Honor Roll in the next edition.

Ed.



Obichaff is published monthly, except in January, for the benefit of members of Capital Dog Training Club. Members are encouraged to submit articles that would be of interest to other members. All submissions to *Obichaff* must have the author's name. Previously published material must include permission from the publisher to use the material in *Obichaff*. The Editor has the right to edit for space, content and tone. If significant changes are made (i.e., more than just for clarity, punctuation, spelling, etc.), the author will be given an opportunity to review the edited article. Material published in *Obichaff* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or of CDTC. Newsletters of other clubs may quote any part of this publication, provided proper credit is given and a copy sent to Capital Dog Training Club.



President's Letter

Suzanne Miller

So what's a training group?

When we think of training opportunities at Capital, we usually think of classes. Classes, groups of students working with an instructor to learn skills at a certain level, are the usual mode of learning. These classes are populated generally by students who have not earned the title being sought and by dogs who definitely haven't.

But there are additional ways to learn and to practice. We also learn from one another and in small group skills-focused settings – these are training groups. Tucked in the hours between classes or in afternoons or any time there is a ring open and no class scheduled, training groups provide a valuable function for the participants.

Organized with no instructor, a group of like-minded people working toward specific goals get together to practice and help one another. Unlike general classes, training group participants have usually already earned the sought-after title, often with multiple dogs. They want to play with techniques, with ideas, and often cross-train, blurring the lines between traditional levels.

So, if you'd like to add to your training experience at Capital and have another venue in addition to your class to practice and hone your skills and your dog's, think about forming a training group. Look at the schedule, find an opening, and contact the Training Director to put your group on the schedule.

There are many ways to learn and practice – and the building's there for you.

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miles). These races were held under rules of the International Sled Dog Racing Association and offered cash prizes to the winners. The races thus attracted very competitive teams. Our teams placed near the bottom in time (not last though). Our dogs tried hard (for the most part) and did well considering it was the first race ever for some of them and the first time running on snow. The dogs finished their races both days and everybody ended up healthy and in one piece and seemed thrilled to be out running.

Over the next two months we traveled to four more races in Pennsylvania and New York. The Jim



Lobdell races in Clarendon, PA, were part of another Winterfest with weight pulling contests, craft fair, and lots of ice fishing. Everywhere we went spectators were excited to visit with our dogs. The hounds, Alaskan huskies and various mixes may be a lot faster, but people seem to be drawn to the traditional 'snow dogs' and our dogs were very happy to be fawned over by crowds of visitors.

AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award Nominees

Nominee: Mary Helen Rice
Nominator: Burton Goldstein

I would like to nominate Mary Helen Rice for this year's A.K.C. Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. No matter what or when Capital does anything, somewhere, behind the scenes, Mary is there, quietly doing whatever she possibly can, without being asked, without having to be directed.

From instructing, to organizing any task, while she might not take the head position, she allows that chairperson to know that anything that Mary puts her name to, will be done, will be done not only correctly, but incredibly. As one of those chairs, I know that with Mary on my "team", I don't have to worry about that part of the program at all.

It is her continuous and tireless effort, over these many years, that has me nominate Mary Helen Rice for this year's Capital Dog Training Club's A.K.C. Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. Thank you.

Nominee: Sandi Atkinson
Nominator: Maurine Atkinson

Sandi started her long association with Capital in 1983 when she took Puppy Kindergarten classes with her first dog, a Basenji. New to obedience training and having a wily and not always willing student, Sandi learned she had to be inventive, flexible, and dedicated in her methods to be successful. And she has been. Sandi became a club member in 1984 and has contributed mightily to Capital and its members and students, both canine and human.

Sandi has trained and titled four dogs in such varied activities as agility, conformation, lure coursing, obedience, rally and tracking.

Zenith, her second Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (CKCS), earned 38 titles from the AKC, UKC, Canadian KC, and CKCS Club, USA. Some of their accomplishments include two MACHs, UDX, breed champion, RAE (first CKCS to earn this award), TDX (second CKCS to earn this award).

In addition to Sandi's achievements with her canine partners, she is dedicated to the promotion of responsible dog ownership and training. In 1993, Sandi started Capital's dog demonstration at the Montgomery County Fair. This has become an annual event and 2011 will mark the 19th anniversary of what has become a very popular exhibition.

Not only is this demo an opportunity to show off our well-trained dogs, it is also a chance to publicize Capital's existence and classes to promote the importance of good dog ownership, which includes training. For several years in addition to the demo, Capital also had a booth at the fair where we handed out flyers and answered questions. Sandi managed the running of the booth from setup to breakdown and everything in

between, including ensuring she had volunteers to staff it during the weeklong fair. This was no easy task!

Sandi planned and managed the demo for many years, while also participating, either with her dog or by acting as the emcee or both.

For two years Sandi served on Capital's board as editor of *Obichaff*. She made the newsletter fun and interesting to read with her creativity and innovativeness evident on every page. As editor, she helped Capital go green and save money by encouraging members to access the newsletter via Capital's Web site.

Sandi has taught numerous agility, obedience, and rally classes for CDTC. As an AKC and UKC obedience and rally judge, Sandi's knowledge and vast experience are invaluable.

I have been a student in Sandi's classes. And when I taught a Basic class and no assistant had been assigned to me, Sandi generously stepped up to assist.

As if the above wasn't enough, Sandi has also donated her time over the years to Capital's agility, obedience, rally and tracking trials, matches and run thrus. She has coordinated two AKC rally seminars held at CDTC.

Sandi has been an outstanding member of Capital and advocate for dog training and I can think of no one more deserving of receiving the AKC Outstanding Sportmanship Award.



Obichaff Print Edition Opt-Out



Don't want to receive a copy of *Obichaff* in the mail? No problem. Just email Marian Hardy at mhzoo@aol.com and ask to have your name removed from the *Obichaff* mailing list. All club members subscribed to the CDTC listserv will receive notification when the PDF of *Obichaff* is posted to the web site.

Crufts Show 2011

By Donna Cleverdon

Several of your fellow CDTC members have recently returned from trips to England which included attendance at the world's largest dog show, "Crufts." This show is called Crufts after Charles Cruft who held a dog show at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington, London in February 1891. That show had some 2000 dogs entered. Today, the show attracts over ten times that number. This is truly a monumental doggie event, one that every dog lover should attend at least once in a lifetime. This was my second trip to see the show, and I enjoyed it just as much this time. Here's why.

Unlike The Westminster Kennel Club show, Crufts is not just for Champions of Record. There are many classes for every breed, so you can see dogs in all stages of development and of varying quality. Professional handlers are a rarity, as opposed to the norm. You will see children exhibiting the family pet alongside veteran breeder-exhibitors. The veteran handlers afford all respect and courtesy to the newcomers and children just as they do to everyone else.

There are no ropes or gates separating the dogs and exhibitors from the spectators. Handlers bring their exhibits into the ring in any order and from any corner of the ring. The rings are huge and carpeted, not just with rubber mats around the perimeter and from corner to corner.

At most of the rings, there is a booth set up by the club or association for the breed being shown, and you can buy useful knick-knacks like tote bags and hats or maybe a year-book for that breed.

This benefits the breed club and gives you a nice souvenir.

At Crufts, there is an educational feature called "Discover Dogs." This is an area set up with aisles and aisles of booths, each about 10 feet square. There is a booth for every breed shown. These booths are staffed by enthusiasts of the breed. Attendees can talk to the people there, see individuals of the breeds, and learn about them. They can take home literature about the breeds, and even names of breeders. They quite likely will have made new friends there.

The show is on for FOUR days, and all day, each day, there are held various demonstrations of working dogs, and recreational dog activities. These include not only Agility and Heelwork to Music, Flyball, but Police work demonstrations, Military dog demonstrations, Rescue dog demonstrations, Gundog demonstrations. Additionally, on Thursday which was the Gundog Group (our Sporting Group) there were classes for Game-



keepers! There is a whole arena for the “Young Kennel Club” with activities geared for children.

Shopping at Crufts is amazing. Imagine the biggest home show you’ve ever seen, and double it. Now think of anything having to do with dogs, not just stuff you’ve seen, but stuff you’d LIKE to see. You can get it at Crufts. Not only are there vendors for the usual equipment you can get at dog shows in the U.S., and vendors for items we don’t have here, there are whole categories of equipment unknown to dog people in the States. For instance, if you want your dogs to ride in your car here, you have a choice of putting your regular crate into your car, or having someone build a box for your car, or simply putting in a barrier across the back of your wagon. I saw at least four different vendors for custom crate systems to build into any automobile that not only controls the dog, but protects the dog and the human if an accident occurs. Remember, the average English car is more compact than ours; however they actually can carry more dogs with their systems.

There is also obedience at Crufts, which of course Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show does not have. The obedience tests are very prestigious, and are considered to be the National Championships. I will not go into detail here, if you want to get a description of the test levels and the exercises there-in, go to The Kennel Club web site and look it up. I watched the competition in several levels and was pretty impressed, particularly with the so called “Ticket Level” competitors on Friday and Saturday. The judging is critical, points being taken for nothing I could see from my vantage point. The dogs all



worked with loads of enthusiasm and the handlers looked very smooth.

There are several important differences between the UK and the US styles of obedience. There is no jumping at any level in the UK. Heelwork is very demanding, with the teams executing most of the pattern at normal, fast and slow pace for a total of 7 to 8 minutes of heelwork. At Ticket Level, the dogs only have to do one “front” and the handlers get a lot more lee-way in how they set up their dogs. The scent exercise is very different in that the dog must distinguish not the handler’s scent, but the judge’s scent from neutral items and two decoy scented items as well. The retrieve is done using an item provided by the judge. This is usually an item that the dog would normally be tempted to play with, like a toy or a household item. One class I watched used a loofa sponge back brush! It is really fun to watch these teams work as they obviously have a great deal of rapport and the training is at a very high level. I came away with a new ideal performance.

Who Does What at CDTC?

For changes and corrections, please email ObiEditor@gmail.com. For a list of the duties of CDTC Officers, please refer to the October 2010 *Obichaff* which you can find at www.CDTC.org.

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Keeper of the Yahoo Mailing Lists	Shannon Hall	shandavegh@gmail.com
CGC/TDI Test Coordinator	Shannon Hall	shandavegh@gmail.com
Online Membership Roster	Marcia Bresson	
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<i>Obichaff</i> Mailing	Jamie Kirkpatrick	
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Training Director (class scheduling, seminars/ special events)	Lisa Daniel	cdtcTrainingDirector@gmail.com
Ordering Collars, Gentle Leaders, PK Books	Karen Christenson	
Maker of Leashes	Jerusha Gurvin	
Volunteer Points coordinator	Donna Dwyer	
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Librarian	Mary Carson	
Facilities Manager	Carrie Solomon	cssolomon@mmm.com
Sunshine Lady (sender of cards)	Cinda Verbin	cinda@verbinassociates.com



Braggs!

Gabi Golec's German Shepherd, sixteen months old Zepher Vom Eichenluft BH, completed her TD (tracking dog) title at the Oriole Dog Club tracking trial on April 3. There were 12 TD tracks and only two were able to finish. It was a good day for Zepher who got every turn and never went off track.



Building Blocks of Success: Seminar At Capital May 14-15

Sarah Wilson, author of "My Smart Puppy", will be giving a seminar broken into four blocks, two on Saturday and two on Sunday. Each block may be attended separately, or two -or-more combined. This seminar is particularly aimed at lower-level instructors addressing issues in PK, Basic and Advanced Basic classes. This seminar will also be useful for owners who have dogs with issues such as shyness, reactivity and aggression. Discounts will be offered for Capital instructors. To register, go to CDTC.org and click on Events. For questions contact Lisa Daniel, by email at cdtcTrainingDirector@gmail.com or phone 301-928-8870.

There will be a CGC Test on Sunday, May 1st. If you can help, or if you want to enter your dog, please email Shannon at shandavegh@gmail.com.

Class Schedules

Time	Class	Instructor	Ring
MONDAY			
10-11:30	Freestyle TG	Ely	2-3
6-7:15	Open	LaDieu	2-3
7:15-8:05	SN	Adler/Dwyer	1
7:30-8:30	Novice	Golec	3
8:15-9:15	Utility	Adler	1-2
8:30-9:20	Basic 4/18-6/6	Hall	3
TUESDAY			
a.m	Building Cleaning		
6-6:50	AB 3/22-5/17	Daniel	1
6-7	PK	Hathaway	3
7-8	Novice	Merchant	1
8-10 2 nd Tues.	Club Meeting		Bldg
4 th Tues.	Board Meeting		Bldg
WEDNESDAY			
11-12	Clicker 2	Riley	2-3
12-2:30	Ob. Skills TG	Spodak	1-2
7-8:30	Agility (Handl.)	Briefel	1-2-3
THURSDAY			
9:30-10:30	SN	Adler	1-2
9:30-10:30	Novice	Holt	3
11:30-12:20	AB 3/22-5/5	Christenson	
12:30-3:00	Open/Utility TG	Goldstein	1-2-3
6-7	Novice	Gurvin	1-2
6-7	Utility Prep	Harry	3
7-7:50	Basic	Miller	1
7-8	Utility	Harry	2
8-9	SN	Dornak	3
8-9	Open	Harry	1-2



Time	Class	Instructor	Ring
FRIDAY			
10:15-12:30	Freestyle	Ely/ Kirschenman	1-2-3
7-8	SN	Cleverdon	1
7-8:30	CCI***	Hathaway	3
SATURDAY			
9-9:50	PK	Solomon	
11-12:30	Freestyle	Guzman	1-2-3
6:30-7:30	Beg. Flyball	Lindberg	1-2-3
7:30-8:30	Flyball practice	Dwyer	1-2-3
SUNDAY			
4-5:15	Agility (Intro 2)	Carter	1-2-3
5:15-6:30	Agility (Beginner)	Maloney	1-2-3
6:30-7:45	Agility (Intro)	Hall	1-2-3

*** Canine Companions for Independence

Class Schedules

Day	Date	Time	Instructor
PUPPY			
	KINDER	GARTEN	
Tues	03/22-10/5	6-6:50	Hathaway
Sat	03/26-5/7	9-9:50	Solomon
BASIC			
Mon	4/18-6/6	8:30-9:20	Hall
Thurs	3/22-5/10	7:00-7:50	Miller
AB			
Tues	3/22-5/17	6-6:50	Daniel
Thurs	3/22-5/5	11:30-12:20	Christenson
SUB-NOVICE			
Mon	C	7:15-8:05	Adler/Dwyer
Thurs	C	9:30-10:30	Adler
Thurs	C	8-9	Dornak
Fri	C	7-8	Cleverdon
NOVICE			
Mon	C	7:30-8:30	Golec
Tues	C	7-8	Merchant
Thurs	C	9:30-10:30	Holt
Thurs	C	6-7	Gurvin
OPEN			
Mon	C	6-7:15	LaDieu
Thurs	C	8-9:15	Harry
UTILITY			
Mon	C	8:15-9:15	Adler
Thurs	C	6-7 (prep)	Harry
Thurs	C	8-9	Harry

Day	Date	Time	Instructor
FREESTYLE			
Mon	C	10-11:30	Ely
Fri	C	10:15-12:30	Ely/ Kirschenman
Sat	C	11-12:30	Guzman
BEGINNING RALLY			
Sat		3/17-5/7	McAuliffe
COMP. RALLY			
Thurs	3/17-5/5	11:30-12:20	Daniel
TRAINING GROUPS			
Mon	C	10-11:30	Ely
Wed	C	12-2:30 Ob.Skills	Spodak
Thurs	C	12:30-3:00	Goldstein
FLYBALL			
Sat	C	6:30-8:30	Lindberg/ Dwyer
OUTSIDE GROUPS			
Fri	C	7-8:30 CCI	Hathaway
BUILDING CLEANING			
Tues	C	a.m	Montgomery Cleaning Co.

Special Events

CGC Testing Sunday May 1st
Sarah Wilson Seminar May 14 & 15

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Clubhouse calendar:
<http://www.cdtc.org>
eCommerce site:
<http://www.CapitalDTC.blogspot.com>

Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC), a member club of the American Kennel Club, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1938 to promote the sport of obedience training through classes offered to its members and the general public. We offer obedience classes from puppy kindergarten through competition obedience. We also offer classes in agility, canine freestyle, flyball, conformation, tracking and rally.

CDTC offers a variety of other activities for dogs and people, including matches, trials and seminars on dog-related topics.

Capital has a fully matted indoor, air-conditioned facility in Silver Spring, Md.

Important Dates at Capital

Tuesday, May 10th, 8 p.m:
Membership Meeting



Obichaff

*The Monthly Newsletter of
Capital Dog Training Club
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**Originators of AKC's Brace
and
Graduate Novice classes**