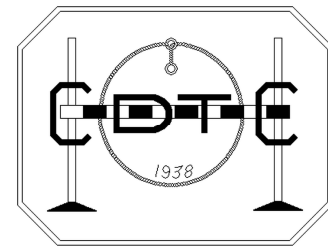


The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Capital Dog Training Club, Inc.



# Obichaff

September 2011  
Volume 67, Issue 8

## The Freestyle Journey *By Sally Kirschenman*

Canine Freestyle is a journey that dogs and handlers take together. That wonderful journey leads to teamwork, a strong bond, and mutual trust and respect.

The Canine Freestyle Federation (CFF) is the original freestyle organization and the training discipline was created by Joan Tennille, a member of Capital. Joan was a dancer and choreographer and had taught at the university level. The first freestyle classes and seminars were held at the club starting in 1994.

CFF is about the movement of the dog. It is a choreographed program with music illustrating the joyful relationship between dog and handler.



Elaine Nabors-Smith and Rhyme

Photo by Jim Poor

The team creates shapes (pictures) moving through the performance space and the dog is always the focus. It is always respected and at no time is asked to perform moves not natural to a canine.

Handlers learn to work at the dog's speed at a trot and programs should always clearly show the dog's athleticism, attentiveness and flexibility. Teamwork is essential. An audience is essential to assure the goals are met and discussion is always a part of class.

We have found that when a dog is familiar with heel and front reference points and has a degree of attentiveness it is ready for a novice freestyle class. At the beginning the team learns a variety of turns, common phrases and how to move forward with confidence in the space using a variety of patterns. Dogs also learn to work on both



Janet McBrien and Dasher

Photo by Jim Poor

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

Lucky for me I had no internet (or phone or tv) for 5 days ... It meant that *Obichaff* was not ready for press when it should have been, so I was able to attend Capital's annual demonstration at the Montgomery County Fair, and write about it in time to catch the press! This was my first time with my dogs at the fair, and it won't be the last: I had so

much fun, and so did my dogs. My little Shih Tzu Ella ran across the teeter-totter like she has never done at the Club! There was a good turn out of about eight dogs of various breeds and abilities who show-cased rally, obedience and agility to the crowd. Unlike the spectators at dog shows, the crowd loved all the mistakes the dogs made, and those who messed up the most got the biggest applause. Those that tried to run out of the ring were the stars. At Capital we are lucky to have many members who help out regularly, and many came without their dogs to help set-up and take-down the agility equipment, who talked to the crowd with and without their dogs, and who made this event possible. It was a real crowd pleaser and a great way of show-casing some of the things our Club does. Remember, the Club exists because of the efforts of each one of you.

We have our annual Obedience and Rally trial coming up on the 8th and 9th of October, so even if your dog is not ready to participate, please volunteer to help. If you have never been to a trial, it is the best way to learn all about it. Please contact our Trial Chair, Burton Goldstein ([burton@bgcommunications.com](mailto:burton@bgcommunications.com)) and offer your help.



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## Notes from the Training Director: Lisa Daniel

### Dog Training Equipment: Know the Options

With very rare exception, every dog in America is going to need to be connected to a leash somehow for at least some of his life, and, in the suburban environment in which we live, this is going to happen frequently. The choice of how to connect that leash to the dog can make a big difference both in how readily you can train your dog and in how safe and pleasant walking him is going to be for both of you.

There are basically three broad categories of equipment you can use to “connect” your dog to a leash. Next month I will discuss electronic collars, which are essentially a substitute for a leash. The three broad categories are: collars, head halters, and harnesses. I will discuss each in turn.

#### Collars

There is more variation in the collar category than in either of the other two. In general, for training, I prefer a collar. There is an old adage: “control the head, control the dog.” In my experience this is true. Of course it applies equally (and maybe even more so) to head harnesses, but in my experience dogs will more easily accept a collar, even a relatively “strong” collar, than a head halter. I also prefer the collar because it allows for straightforward communication and correction with a leash, whereas the head harness requires a little more knowledge on the part of the handler to use safely correctly – I will discuss this more under “head halters.”

**Buckle or “flat” collar:** this is the standard collar that one normally sees, with no bells, whistles, chains or prongs. It is simply a cloth or leather strip that either clicks shut with a plastic clip, or buckles like a belt. For training, I prefer the buckles to the clips because they are less likely to pop open, and they are less likely to loosen over time of their own accord. The typical adjustable nylon collar with a clip fastener tends to loosen over time, which poses the hazard that in a panic a dog can back out of it. The rule of thumb among trainers is that the collar is the correct tightness when you can fit JUST two fingers between the collar and the neck and no more.

**Martingale collar (sometimes called “limited choke” or “check choke” collars):** this is my preferred “starter” collar for puppies and young dogs. There are two basic varieties of martingales, and they also come with and without plastic clip fasteners. All types have the same basic feature, which is that part of the collar tightens when the leash is pulled taut, but you can limit the extent to which it will tighten (unlike a traditional “choke” collar). A martingale is fitted properly when it is able to tighten JUST to the point that it is snug on the dog’s neck and no further. The great advantage of martingales, and why I prefer them to flat collars, is that when the dog pulls, the collar becomes snug, making it close to impossible for the dog to back out of it in a panic. The two varieties of martingales are differentiated only by whether the tightening section is chain or cloth. Both of them are mainly cloth (or leather). I slightly prefer the chain versions because I believe the sound of the chain tightening can also be a cue to the dog.

**“Choke,” “Slip” or “Training” collar:** these collars consist of either nylon, leather, or most commonly, chain, and one end feeds through the other such that the collar tightens (without limit) under leash pressure. You can get essentially the same effect (and it’s good to know in an emergency when you have a leash but no collar) by passing the end of your leash through the leash handle and slipping the resulting loop over your dog’s head. Twenty years ago slip chains used to be the standard “training” collar that everyone used. Now, I rarely recommend these to beginning handlers because it takes some skill to use them correctly such that you are not strangling the dog. Any of these first three types of collars (flat, martingale, choke) WILL put pressure on the dog’s trachea if the dog pulls. Some breeds, especially certain toy breeds and miniature poodles have a tendency to tracheal collapse and I do not recommend any of these collars for those dogs. However, most dogs can and will do fine with them. Nonetheless, there are better options in most cases than the slip collar.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Zephyr's Big Adventure or What I did on my Summer Vacation

*by Donna Cleverdon*

I took my Standard poodle Zephyr to England this July so that we could walk some of the fabulous public footpaths that traverse that country, with the added bonus of being able to attend the week-long training camp held by Sylvia Bishop. Zephyr and I traveled with my friend Missy McMunn and her English cocker spaniel, Indigo.

Of course getting a dog into England is not without difficulty or expense, so I had to start well ahead of our travel date, planning and preparing. England no longer requires a six months quarantine for pets. There are however other requirements one must meet so that a personal pet may travel into the United Kingdom. The pet must first be microchipped and then inoculated for rabies. A certain time must then pass before a blood draw for a titer test for rabies. This must be at least six months prior to travel. You must then complete a form, and have said form checked and stamped by a Veterinarian at the USDA. The last requirement prior to travel is that, between 48 and 24 hours ahead of check-in time at car-



Zephyr enjoying a beautiful English summer's day

go, one must have the pet given a worm treatment and a treatment for external parasites. All these treatments must be noted as to date and time on your forms. Every word on these forms must be taken into account, and each item strictly adhered to, or your animal may be refused entry.

In spite of the onerous paperwork, I was determined to go ahead with my plan. At times, the whole rigmarole seemed like a bad dream, where each hurdle jumped was followed by two larger ones. I was a nervous wreck until we got our dogs out of the Animal Reception Center at Heathrow Airport. At that point, all the trouble and expense and difficulties were forgotten and I looked forward eagerly to our vacation.

We met up in Thornham with our three Irish Water spaniel ladies, Marion from Brighton, Penny from Leicester, and Sharon from Boston, U.K. They took us directly to the beach for a good leg-stretching walk. The beaches in Norfolk are wide sandy expanses, swept that day by a cool on-shore wind. Definitely sweater weather, but the dogs were in heaven. On the beach were the five of us women, and the two American dogs with four Irish water spaniels. The dogs all ran up and down the sand, and in and out of the surf. Lots of other people strolled there too, many with dogs. The groups of dogs either greeted our bunch politely or left us entirely alone. There was no growling or posturing. I felt that American dogs would not have been that well socialized to strangers.



Zephyr, Indigo and their Irish Water Spaniel friends visiting the Queen's Estates at Sandringham

We spent the next several days touring the area, walking the following day at Wells Next the Sea, also on an impressive beach, even wider than that at Thornham. This coast line is directly across the English channel from the Netherlands, and is a gradual shoal depth with shifting sands, treacherous to navigation. Had the wind been off-shore, we may have had a sandy stretch of several miles out to the sea. As it was, there was only about a half mile to walk to the surf. We also walked at Sandringham, the Norfolk retreat of Queen Elizabeth II. It was rather nice to go there and stroll in, as Penny put it, "Queenie's backyard." One heart-warming fact: every summer, the Queen's horses from the Guard at Buckingham Palace get to come to Sandringham and have a week's holiday on the beach there.

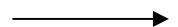
While there we stayed in a nice Bed and Breakfast that took in all our dogs, and we were allowed to have our dogs with us in the pub at dinner. There is another restaurant in the town that not only allowed the dogs into the dining room, but offered a menu for them. We had our choice of three sizes, and three entrees, just for the dogs!

At the end of the week, we left Norfolk and traveled to Leicester to stay at Penny's house, so that on Saturday we could go to the National specialty of the Irish Water Spaniel Society. Missy and the other ladies were very interested in this event, being aficionados of the that breed. I was the hanger-on.

The next day Missy and I took off for the South, to Sussex to get to Sylvia Bishop's Dog Camp. My business partner, Jean Redmond, had arrived that day ahead of us. Since the host hotel did not allow the dogs in, they had to bivouac in the vehicle, Zephyr in our rental car, and Indigo in Sylvia's van. This was not what we had planned. Most of the attendees had tents or caravans set up. The caravan promised to us had been stolen, so we stayed in the hotel, while our dogs languished in the cars at night. But we spent four and a half intense days working our dogs under Sylvia's tutelage. It is always fascinating and instructive just to watch her work with others, but to have your own dog is a huge bonus. We had such a good time, and our dogs made real progress.

Sylvia worked the group of about 25 dog/handler teams in classes, then individually. Everybody got a chance to work on whatever we wanted. We each got loads of ring time, and still had lots of discussions and explanations. One whole morning was devoted to scent work. I hope the English people enjoyed having the American style of obedience explained to them. I'm not sure we were too good a model, but it was different anyway. Since obedience in the U.K. is very heavy on heeling, much of the work emphasized that. But every behavior we use in our classes here, was taught: recalls, retrieves, stays, distance control, etc. It was exhausting, but still at the end of the week, I felt sad to leave.

We had good sunny skies for the last leg of our trip, the drive to the west, Cornwall and Devon. Nestled in the farming countryside down a one-lane track, Rezare Farmhouse was lovely. The roads are so narrow, if you meet someone driving the other direction, somebody has to back up. But these narrow roads make wonderful



walks in the mornings, and from the little hub of Rezare, I took Zephyr out each morning in a different direction for little explorations. A nice quiet spot, with wonderful hosts, who accepted our dogs and were most helpful. First of all, they told us about the local butcher so we could buy meat for the dogs. This place should be a tourist attraction in its own right - we never saw such beautiful farm fresh meat, and we fed our dogs for pennies a day.

We needed to make a trip to a Veterinary Clinic in order to get our health certificates for our return journey. So first thing Saturday, we made the journey to Camelford, north of Rezare and very close to Tintagel, one of our "A List" sites. Having completed our business, we scurried off to see this spot, traditionally held to be the original location of Camelot and the Arthurian legends. The west coast is completely different from the Norfolk coast, being high rocky cliffs, with jagged inlets and convoluted contours. There is a Public Footpath that can take one for several hundred

miles around the entire peninsula. We walked a tiny fraction around to the ancient castle ruins to tour the site. What a day we had! The weather sparkled and the temperature was just right. We had to keep the dogs on lead due to the crowded conditions and the precipitous heights. The sea water was so clear, you could see the ocean floor from high above, and watch swimmers (brave souls - its quite cold!) and kayakers play. You pay a small entrance fee to this Great British Heritage Property, but it is well worth the time and effort, a truly magnificent place.

The next day was for Dartmoor! If that name conjures up images of mist and ponies, it could not be more apt. We saw lots of both. Dartmoor is a vast chunk of land that is a National Park, but encompasses many landholdings within. Consequently there is lots of agriculture within the park. Sheep, cattle and horses roam freely everywhere. People are allowed free access to most parts. The animals are quite used to human traffic and are usually completely blasé about your presence. Of course you would be wise to be extra careful during lambing season. Those sheep can be pretty stropy. We had made arrangements through our Rezare host to have a horseback ride up the moor. We stopped for a yummy tea, complete with Devonshire cream, before getting to the stable. The dogs had to stay in the car while we rode for an hour up a very rocky path and galloped over the hills. The horses were all very big, and very well behaved. They gave us a good time and we saw the moor from a different perspective. Later, we walked out to Vixen Tor, one of the weathered outcroppings of granite that dot the landscape. Zephyr and Indigo got to run off lead, getting into a bit of muck in the process. I just hoped the muck wasn't made of cow dung. We explored the Tor and sat for a little while admiring the view. While we sat there, two young men hiked up to our vantage point. The dogs had run to greet them, and came running up, as if showing them the way. It was too cute. It was if the dogs were saying, "Here we are! Did you bring the picnic?" Analyzing the terrain, one could certainly understand how a person could become hopelessly lost here. The area is so vast, the landscape so monotonous and vegetation so featureless. These things combined with the mists, could make a person very confused indeed.

I should love to come again with Zephyr and spend several weeks exploring this fascinating area. It is replete with standing stones, and ancient stone hut circles as well as more the modern relics of abandoned tin mines



Donna and Zephyr at Sylvia Bishop's Dog Camp.

and little feats of engineering known as leets. These are manufactured drainage culverts to divert the surface run-off to the mine heads for use in the mining.



Zephyr and Donna with Indigo and Missy McMunn enjoying dinner at a pub

On our way out of the moor, we stopped to see a memorial cross by the road. Walking there was a man who held the leads of four dogs, which looked like lurchers, or cross-bred greyhounds. He wore a game bag across his shoulder. He quickly disappeared down the hill. His activities were probably illegal, blood sport being outlawed. He most likely would not have welcomed our questions regarding his dogs or what he was doing there. He did provide a lot of local color however.

Our last day in Cornwall was spent going to Lostwithiel, the former capital of the area. We went there to look for ancestral history of Jean's family. We found some too, in the churchyard. There is a nice castle, Restormel, above the town, which we explored. Our plan was

to drive into Plymouth, but we scrapped that due to the traffic and went instead to Bodmin moor, west of Dartmoor, to the other side of Rezare. This turned out to be an inspired fall-back plan. We got to see The Hurlers, another famous circle of standing stones, and the Cheesewring, an abandoned mine topped by oddly weathered granite boulders that look as if they were stacked up by giants. Horses abound here, grazing about in dozens, and ruled over by wild looking stallions.

What a week, what a vacation! Zephyr did me proud. If I had thought that we were bonded before this trip, it was nothing to what our relationship is like after. Not only is his obedience better, but his entire outlook changed. I have changed. He is now in my eyes a trusted adult dog, not the puppy I saw before. This alone is worth the freight.



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*(Dog Training Equipment continued)*

The one situation in which I find the slip indispensable is if I am dealing with an aggressive dog that may bite me. It may sound harsh, but because in an extreme situation the choke collar can cut off the dog's ability to breathe, it can save the handler from serious harm. High collaring with a metal or nylon slip can also be effective for dogs with whom one needs a lot of leverage, but this is rarely going to be a strategy for beginning handlers.

Note that there is a correct and an incorrect way to put on a slip collar: the sliding portion of the collar needs to feed over the dog's head toward the handler. If heeling the dog on the left as is traditional, this means the sliding portion will feed OVER the dog's head to the dog's RIGHT. If you put it on backwards, with the sliding portion feeding UNDER the dog's head to the right, the collar will not release (as it should do) once there is slack in the leash.

To properly size a slip collar, measure the dog's head at its widest point, which is just before going over the ears, then add 1 and ½ to 2 inches. Slip collars that are too big are a trip hazard and can also get caught in the dog's jaws. A variation on the slip collar for dogs with large heads and relatively narrow necks (think French bulldogs) has a toggle so that you do not have to put it on over the dog's head.

**“Prong” or “Pinch” collars:** these collars, especially the large standard metal prongs look like torture devices. However, fitted and used properly they are not nearly as harsh as they seem, and were designed to be protective of the dog's trachea. Because the typical metal prong sold in the big pet stores does not have any kind of buckle or quick release, and because undoing the prongs from one another (the only way to open these) is physically challenging, especially when trying to put it on or take it off a squirming dog, one often sees them hanging loosely around the dog's neck because the owner has simply gotten one big enough to fit over the dog's head without undoing it.

**Loose prong collars are a hazard to the dog.**

If you take a prong collar and put it around your arm loosely, you can quickly see that if you jerked your arm suddenly – say in the manner that a dog might move his neck when he leaps after a squirrel – you

risk driving some of the prongs into your flesh. Yikes! On the other hand, if you first put the prong around your arm such that all the prongs are “lightly engaged” on your arm (i.e., there is very little slack in it), and THEN you tighten it, you will discover two things: (1) it tightens evenly all the way around – no prongs are driven into your skin; and (2) it does not feel all that bad, and you don't even have fur on your arm to protect you.

The key here is that the collar must be “lightly engaged” if it is to be a safe fit. This cannot be accomplished without taking the collar apart. There are two types of “quick release” **metal** prong collars that I am aware of. The first, called a “quick release prong” is made by Herm Sprenger and can be ordered on-line from either J&J dog supplies or Leerburg. The second type is custom made with a metal buckle closure just like the plastic buckle clips that we see all the time. The buckle clip is less tricky than the quick – release, which some people have trouble with, and can be ordered on-line from Leashes-by-design. Another type of prong collar to be aware of is the plastic prong developed by the Triple-Crown Dog Training Academy in Hutto, Texas. This collar has undergone several name changes (“Triple-crown,” “Good-dog”, and now “Star-mark.”). This collar is a nice compromise for many dogs, especially dogs with really short hair who may find metal prongs too harsh. It also has the advantage of looking less dire – most people don't even realize that your dog is wearing anything other than a black collar. Three out of my four dogs wear Star-marks on their “fun” walks – it just gives me a little more leverage. The one disadvantage to this collar is that some people find the fastening and unfastening too tricky. The small version is MUCH easier to fasten and unfasten – I generally use the small and just add links to size it to the dog. Note that prong collars, especially metal ones, should be introduced to any dog gently – you do not want to go out and give the dog a sharp correction on a prong collar before it has had any time to get used to the feel of it. I have had a few dogs (usually herding breeds or dogs with very light fur, such as bulldogs) who really were unhappy with the metal prong and did not get used to it. With the sporting breeds (particularly Labs and Retrievers) and hounds I have

generally had absolutely no problem in acceptance. It is also well-known among trainers that metal prongs can exacerbate aggression or reactivity in dogs that are already exhibiting those behaviors; for that reason they are not recommended for such dogs.

**Mini-prongs:** You may ask, and I have, why on earth one would put a prong collar on a toy dog? The answers may surprise you. First, many toy dogs have sensitive tracheas and the prong collar is tracheal-protective. Second, think for a minute about a young toy dog on a conventional buckle collar or a harness. As the handler is attempting to get the darting dog to move in the desired direction, leash pressure is likely to cause it to raise one or more feet off the ground or even to lose its footing. With a mini-prong, you can get the dog's attention with a tiny movement of your finger that does NOT yank the dog's neck at all or cause it to come anywhere close to losing its balance. I submit to you that it is a DELICATE tool for a delicate dog.

### Head Halters

There are a number of head halters on the market, but my discussion is based on the two most common: the Gentle Leader and the Halti. All head halters are designed basically on the premise discussed earlier: "control the head, control the dog." They are essentially derived from and work on the same principle as a horse harness. In my view they are more useful as management tools than as training tools. Head harnesses can be very effective at discouraging pulling on a leash and also can help "tame" a difficult dog. People sometimes confuse them with muzzles because of the strap that goes over the dog's nose. Although they are NOT muzzles, it is the case that pulling a Halti taut will cause the dog to close its mouth somewhat and this can be useful with aggressive dogs. In situations where the handler needs more leverage with a dog and for whatever reason (reactivity of the dog perhaps, or discomfort of the handler) a prong is not appropriate, the head halter can be a solution. Disadvantages include resistance by the dog (some dogs really respond poorly to them, but this can usually be worked through) and the inability to use standard leash corrections. One should never administer a "leash pop" (jerk the leash) when the dog is on a head collar because you can injure the dog's neck. To cor-

rect a dog from pulling when on a head halter, one pulls UP on the leash with slow steady pressure – never a sharp movement.

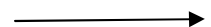
### Body Harnesses/Halters

It is useful to recognize that standard harnesses – i.e., harnesses that are not specifically designed and designated as "no pull" or something along those lines, were designed for the purpose of hitching dogs up to pull something. Thus, not surprisingly, they are not generally very effective for teaching a dog not to pull on a leash. Also, because any type of communication down the leash (such as a pulse or a pop) is diffused around the whole body of the dog, it is typically not perceived as communication, but just something annoying to be resisted. That is, harnesses were designed to activate "opposition reflex" in dogs and thus tend to be poor training tools.

There are, however, a number of harnesses sold specifically to discourage pulling. I do not have experience with all of them, but I will talk about one that I like and think is quite an effective management tool: the Sporn Halter; and one that I have concerns about: the Premier Easy Walk Harness.

The Sporn Halter is halter that consists of a collar with strap attachments that go around each front leg. The leash attaches to the straps where they come together on the dog's back, and as the leash tightens it puts even pressure on the chest and shoulders. I have had students use this successfully on dogs ranging from Bull Mastiffs to Westhighland terriers. Again, I view this more as a management tool for a dog that pulls, than a training tool. In cases where the dog simply overwhelms the owner by sheer strength, it can be a wonderful thing. I have sometimes had students double-leash the dog, having the Sporn halter for control, but also a leash attached to one or another type of collar (perhaps a martingale) for communication.

The Premier Easy Walk Harness is fairly popular judging by how many students bring their dogs to class on it. If I had a nickel for every dog on a Premier who has dragged its owner across the training ring and jumped up on me (the instructor), I would at least be able to go out to a nice dinner on it. These harnesses, fitted properly, can reduce pulling. However, they are tricky to fit properly – I usually see them way too loose and virtually falling off the dog. Second, the harness sits way down on the dog's neck such that



there is no “control the head”, and hence little control of the dog. Third, because the leash attaches to the FRONT of the harness, if the handler typically walks the dog on only one side (traditionally the left), there is constant pressure pulling forward on the dog’s shoulder on the far side (the dog’s left if he is being walked on the left). I and other trainers have seen lameness result. Fourth, again, the front clip leash

attachment, especially if the harness is hanging low, can cause the dog to somersault if he leaps forward suddenly – obviously a risky proposition for the dog. Note that Sporn also makes a mesh-type no-pull (back clip) harness for little dogs, that I have not used myself, but which appears to be a good choice if one wants to avoid tracheal pressure and does not want to use a mini-prong.

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## More Notes from the Training Director: Lisa Daniel

### Meeting for Instructors and Assistants 2:00pm Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

After a discussion at the last general meeting, it was decided to call a meeting of CDTC Instructors to discuss a number of issues about exactly what classes we, as a club, should be offering, and when. This arose in part from a discussion about the new optional titling classes being offered by the AKC. But it also raises the larger issue of how we balance classes designed for club members who are competition-focused vs. classes for the general public, which are not only part of our mission, but are largely what we count on for revenue.

I actually am hoping this will just be the FIRST of a number of meetings where CDTC Instructors share ideas about issues germane to all of us. For the moment, to keep the group from being too huge to have a meaningful conversation, I would like to limit attendance to those who have taught for the club within the past two years, but I am including assistants. If you have strong feelings about our curriculum, but do not fall into the category of invited people, please feel free to either call (301-564-3159) or email me ([cdtctrainingdirector@gmail.com](mailto:cdtctrainingdirector@gmail.com)) and bend my ear, and I will take your comments to the meeting.

Similarly, if you are interested and meet the criteria, but cannot attend for some other reason, please feel free to let me know your views.

The meeting will be 2:00pm on Sunday, Sept. 11th at the clubhouse. Keep in mind that we need to be out by a little before 4:00pm to make way for Agility.

Looking forward to a lively exchange of views!

*(The Freestyle Journey continued)*

sides of the handler and begin to "feel heel". Both signals and verbal cues are given and training is always positive. Choreographic principles are discussed and explored.

The novice level of CFF calls for forward movement with drive, pace changes, turns, and heel work right and left.

The intermediate level adds backing and lateral work on one side to the list and the advanced level adds laterals on both sides and distance work. Each class calls for longer performances.

As the team progresses the dog is systematically prepared to meet the mental and physical demands of the work ahead. At the same time, the handler is developing the ability to choreograph and the team ultimately becomes very fluid. They are truly "free" and programs are beautiful.



Marilyn Hulme and Pande

Photo by Jim Poor

## CDTC's 66th Annual Obedience Trial and 7th Annual Rally Trial

The Rally Trial will be held Saturday, October 8th, in the evening and the Obedience Trial will be held Sunday, October 9th.

As in previous years, the location is Catoctin Kennel club Training Facility, 4016 Rock Hall Road, Point of Rocks, MD 21777

The Judges will be Louise Botko, Phyllis Broderick, Kent Delaney and Rhea McCaffree

All Regular AND optional titling obedience classes are being offered, as well as some fun, non-regular classes (brace, team, veterans, wildcard novice, wildcard open, wildcard utility).

The premium is available for download on the website of the show secretary, Rhonda Toren at: <http://www.clantyre.net>

Members are needed to help as ring-stewards, timers etc. Please contact our Trial Chair, Burton Goldstein ([burton@bgcommunications.com](mailto:burton@bgcommunications.com)) with offers of help.

## Who Does What at CDTC?

For changes and corrections, please email [ObiEditor@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.CDTC.org).

Club Historian	Joan Adler	
Webmaster	Deb Jackson	
Key System Manager	Shirley Harry	
Keeper of the Hard (non-electronic) Building Key	Donna Cleverdon	<a href="mailto:clvrdog@verizon.net">clvrdog@verizon.net</a>
Keeper of the Yahoo Mailing Lists	Shannon Hall	<a href="mailto:shandavegh@gmail.com">shandavegh@gmail.com</a>
CGC/TDI Test Coordinator	Shannon Hall	<a href="mailto:shandavegh@gmail.com">shandavegh@gmail.com</a>
Online Membership Roster	Marcia Bresson	
<i>Obichaff</i> Labels	Marian Hardy	<a href="mailto:mhzoo@aol.com">mhzoo@aol.com</a>
<i>Obichaff</i> Mailing	Jamie Kirkpatrick	
New Member Coordinator	MaryBeth Ardike	<a href="mailto:Bob.Marybeth@verizon.net">Bob.Marybeth@verizon.net</a>
Training Secretary (class registration)	Shannon Hall	<a href="mailto:shandavegh@gmail.com">shandavegh@gmail.com</a>
Training Director (class scheduling, seminars/ special events)	Lisa Daniel	<a href="mailto:cdtcTrainingDirector@gmail.com">cdtcTrainingDirector@gmail.com</a>
Ordering Collars, Gentle Leaders, PK Books	Karen Christenson	
Maker of Leashes	Jerusha Gurvin	
Volunteer Points coordinator	Melitta Carter	<a href="mailto:ObiEditor@gmail.com">ObiEditor@gmail.com</a>
Agility Class Contact	Abigail Carter	<a href="mailto:cdtcAgility@gmail.com">cdtcAgility@gmail.com</a>
Librarian	Mary Carson	
Facilities Manager	Carrie Solomon	<a href="mailto:cssolomon@mmm.com">cssolomon@mmm.com</a>
Sunshine Lady (sender of cards)	Cinda Verbin	<a href="mailto:cindaverbin@verizon.net">cindaverbin@verizon.net</a>



## Help Needed!

Volunteers are needed for the CGC/TDI Test which will be held on Sunday September the 25th. Please contact Shannon Hall ([shandavegh@gmail.com](mailto:shandavegh@gmail.com)) if you are available to help that day.

**Working Spots still Available for Tracy Sklenar Agility Workshop** on Sunday, October 2nd, Building confidence on Course, appropriate for all levels. Auditing spots available all three days (September 30th, October 1st and 2nd).

Tracy Sklenar is an amazing presenter and terrific handler. Earlier this month she placed 1st in Steeplechase at the USDAA North Central Regionals with her 16" Border Jack Export. Tracy uses positive reinforcement, games and shaping to build brilliant behaviors in the dog which teaching handlers to be consistent and positive. She emphasizes teamwork, consistency, mental focus, play and fun for both the handler and the dog.

Registration forms can be downloaded at [http://cdtc.org/events/Tracy\\_Sklenar.pdf](http://cdtc.org/events/Tracy_Sklenar.pdf) or contact Jill Bond at [Jillbdc33@gmail.com](mailto:Jillbdc33@gmail.com)

## Thanks!

I want to thank Capital Dog Training Club for giving me the honor of receiving AKC's Good Sportsman Award. With so many wonderful hard working members in our club, this was a dream come true. Believe me, the Award has a special place in my home. Thank you again.

*Mary Helen Rice*

## Run-Thru News

2011 Summer Run-Thrus are over. We did three as usual and I want to thank all the wonderful club members who generously gave of their time and expertise to help other dog trainers. Here is the list:

If you were there and your name is not on the list, please accept my apologies.

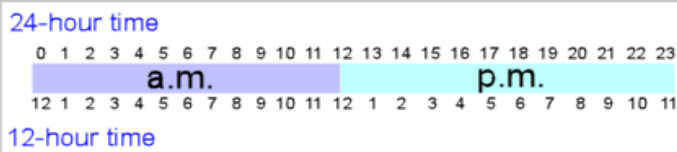
Marybeth Ardike	Rebecca Elliott	Doris Koskos	Carrie Solomon
Mimi Burton	Pepper Guzman	Lisa Lee	Jane Weissman
Pam Coblyn	Dianne Harab	Pam Marshall	Wendy Wilkinson
Joyce Dandrige	Marian Hardy	Terri Marvel	
Lisa Daniel	Brooke Holt	Bonnie Ramsey	
Karen Douglas	Jodie Jeweler	Robin Siegel	

We did raise a few dollars through these events, but mainly we enjoyed a lot of good dog training. I am done with my year of coordinating the Run-Thrus. Several members have already come forward to continue this effort in 2012. As January 1 falls on a Sunday in the coming year, there will only be five available dates for CDTC's practice dog shows. The people responsible for those dates will be needing your help. Updates on this will be forth-coming. Thanks again to all of you who helped. Watch for news in future *Obichaffs*.

*Donna Cleverdon*

## Class Schedules

Time	Class	Instructor	Ring
<b>MONDAY</b>			
10-12	Freestyle TG	Ely	1-2-3
18-19:15	Open	LaDieu	2-3
19:15-20:05	SN	Adler/Dwyer	1
19:30-20:30	Novice	Daniel	3
20:15-21:15	Utility	Adler	1-2
20:30-21:20	Basic 9/26-11/14	Hall	3
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Prior to 8	Building	Cleaning	
10 - 11	Clicker TG		1-2
13-16	Building	Cleaning	
18-18:50	AB 8/30-10/18	Reinhardt	1-2
19-20	Novice	Merchant	1
19-19:50	PK 8/30-10/18	Freedman	2-3
20-21 1st/3rd	TG	Jackson	2-3
20-22 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	Club Meeting		Bldg
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.	Board Meeting		Bldg
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
11-12	Clicker 2	Riley	2-3
12-14	Ob. Skills TG	Spodak	1-2
18-19	Beg. Rally 9/7-11/2	Harab	2-3
19-21:30	Agility		1-2-3
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
9:30-10:30	SN	Adler	3
9:30-10:30	Novice	Holt	1-2
10:30-11:30	Open	Holt	1-2
12:30-15	Open/Utility TG	Goldstein	1-2-3
17-17:50	PK 9/8-10/13	Gurvin	1-2
18-19	Novice	Gurvin	1-2
18-19	Utility Prep	Harry	3
19-20	Basic TBA	Miller	1
19-20	Utility	Harry	2



Time	Class	Instructor	Ring
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
20-21	SN	Dornak	3
20-21:15	Open	Harry	1-2
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
10:15-12:30	Freestyle	Ely/ Kirschenman	1-2-3
19-20	SN	Cleverdon	1
19-20:30	CCI***	Hathaway	3
<b>SATURDAY</b>			
7:30-8:20	Good Manners 9/10-11/5	Melchior	2-3
9-9:50	AB 9/10-11/5	Young	2-3
10-10:50	Basic 9/10-11/5	Young	2-3
11-12:30	Freestyle	Guzman	1-2-3
13:30-15	Comp. Rally TG	McAuliffe	2-3
15-15:50	Beg. Rally 10/15-12/10		2-3
16-16:50	Basic 8/27-10/29	Daniel	1-2
18:30-19:30	Beg. Flyball	Lindberg	1-2-3
19:30-20:30	Flyball practice	Dwyer	1-2-3
20:30-21:30	Flyball Comp.	Dwyer	1-2-3
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
16-21:30	Agility		1-2-3

\*\*\* Canine Companions for Independence

### Class Schedules

Day	Date	Time	Instructor
<b>PUPPY</b>			
	<b>KINDER</b>	<b>GARTEN</b>	
Tues	8/30-10/18	19-19:50	Freedman
Thurs	9/8-10/13	17-17:50	Gurvin
<b>BASIC</b>			
Mon	9/26-11/14	20:30-21:20	Hall
Thur	TBA	19-19:50	Miller
Sat	9/10-11/5	10-10:50	Young
Sat	8/27-10/29	16-16:50	Daniel
<b>AB</b>			
Tues	8/30-10/18	18-18:50	Reinhardt
Sat	9/10-11/5	9-9:50	Young
<b>GOOD MANNERS</b>			
Sat	9/10-11/5	7:30-8:20	Melchior
<b>SUB-NOVICE</b>			
Mon	C	19:15-20:05	Adler/Dwyer
Thurs	C	9:30-10:30	Adler
Thurs	C	20-21	Dornak
Fri	C	19-20	Cleverdon
<b>NOVICE</b>			
Mon	C	19:30-20:30	Daniel
Tues	C	19-20	Merchant
Thurs	C	9:30-10:30	Holt
Thurs	C	18-19	Gurvin
<b>OPEN</b>			
Mon	C	18-19:15	LaDieu
Thurs	C	10:30-11:30	Holt
Thurs	C	20-21:15	Harry

Day	Date	Time	Instructor
<b>UTILITY</b>			
Mon	C	20:15-21:15	Adler
Thurs	C	18-19 (prep)	Harry
Thurs	C	19-20	Harry
<b>FREESTYLE</b>			
Mon	C	10-12	Ely
Fri	C	10:15-12:30	Ely/ Kirschenman
Sat	C	11-12:30	Guzman
<b>BEGINNING RALLY</b>			
Sat	10/15-12/10	15-15:50	
Wed	09/07 start	18-19	Harab
<b>TRAINING GROUPS</b>			
Mon	C	10-12	Ely
Tues	C	10-11	
Tues (alt.)	C	20-21	Jackson
Wed	C	12-14 ob.Skills	Spodak
Thurs	C	12:30-15	Goldstein
Sat	C	13:30-15	McAuliffe
<b>FLYBALL</b>			
Sat	C	18:30-21:30	Lindberg/Dwyer
<b>AGILITY</b>			
Wed	8 weeks	19-21:30	
Sun	8 weeks	16-21:30	
<b>OUTSIDE GROUPS</b>			
Fri	C	19-20:30 CCI	Hathaway
<b>BUILDING CLEANING</b>			
Tues	C	Before 8 am And 13-16:00	Montgomery Cleaning Co.

**Special Events**  
 September 11th, 2p.m. Instructors' Meeting  
 September 18th: Grooming Seminar  
 September 25th CGC Test

**Clubhouse phone:**  
(301) 589-2583  
**Information phone for the public (refers people to Capital's website):**  
(301) 587-K9K9  
**Obichaff email:**  
ObiEditor@gmail.com  
**Yahoo! group:**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdtc/>  
**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**

**CGC/TDI test: 21 September**

**Members' Meeting:  
26 September**



**Obichaff**

*The Monthly Newsletter of  
Capital Dog Training Club  
of Washington, D.C., Inc.*

Melitta Carter, Editor  
2758 Garfield Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-1813

***Originators of AKC's Brace  
and  
Graduate Novice classes***