



# Obichaff

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



July 2021

Volume 77 - Issue 6

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.

--Andy Rooney

Sit with animals quietly  
and they will show you  
their hearts. Sit with  
them kindly and they  
will help you locate  
yours.



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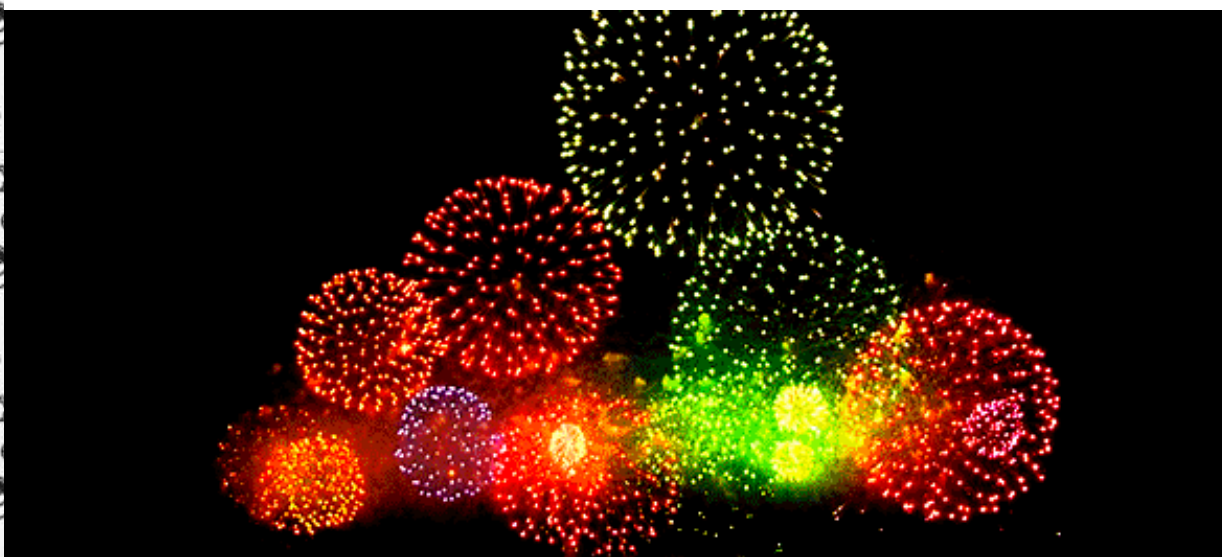


Magic will be 2 years old this month. I am so proud of my little girl. She has grown in confidence and skills. She has solid obedience skills, but, for both of us, agility is still a work in progress. I continue to have high hope for her.

In June we lost one of our members, a friend and instructor Charma Le Edmonds. Her passing was unexpected and tragic. There is a brief article about Charma in this issue. In the next issue I would like to hear from Charma's friends and students. Your thoughts and remembrance need not be long, a few words will suffice. If you have a favorite picture, please include it too.

I am in New York as I write this. Lydia and I are having a post Covid museum weekend in New York. Of course we had to visit the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#). I will have an article on the Museum of the Dog in the next issue of the *Obichaff*. Spoiler alert, it is a fun place and really worth visiting.

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and safe 4th of July.







## President's Message:

Dear Friends,

Each month I struggle to write something that you will find amusing, helpful, or thought-provoking. In recent weeks our membership has endured some upset over several issues that now seem trivial. As I used to say after having survived cancer, "There is nothing like having a life-threatening illness to put things into perspective."

As an aside, I wonder how many of you have ever watched the movie **Buck**. It is a documentary about Buck Brannaman who overcame a childhood of abuse to



become an accomplished trainer. He travels around the country giving workshops in horsemanship, much in the same way our favorite seminar presenters do for us dog trainers. While it is fascinating to watch the work he does with the horses, the real message of the film is that in order to be most effective as a trainer, we must look within ourselves to grow and be better persons. Watch this film and then let's talk about it.

Now I can say that nothing puts things into perspective as much as the sudden loss of a beloved friend and training colleague. My message this month is to ask you to be kind to one another. Serve the task. Look within yourselves to be better for your dogs, and for your friends and fellow dog trainers.

## Charma Le Edmonds

1955-2021



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Charma Le Edmonds. She was a CDTC agility instructor, trainer and a lover of all things having to do with dogs. She helped me train Magic in agility and was a student of mine in Family Dog 2. When I needed help demonstrating agility to my Family Dog 2 students, Charma volunteered to help. She had a good heart and will be deeply missed. You can read her obituary [here](#).

I am planning to write more about Charma in the next issue of the *Obichaff*. If you would like to contribute a memory or a photograph, please send it to me and I will include it in the next issue.

## CDTC Conformation Training Takes Center Stage at WSSCA National Specialty

by Rachel Knotts



This year, the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (WSSCA) hosted its Diamond Anniversary National Specialty in Asheville, North Carolina. Welsh Springer Spaniel owners and enthusiasts traveled from all over the country to partake in this event – with over 150 Welsh Springers being

entered each day of the four-day show cluster. As a rare breed, this is the one time

each year where this many Welsh Springer Spaniels and their owners come together for comradery, sportsmanship, and true competition.

**Martha Perkins, Rachel Knotts, and Jean Lowry** – all students of the CDTC Conformation Training Group taught by **Janice Kopp** – brought their beloved pups to show at this incredible event.

**Moose**, who showed as a 12-18 month class dog, has worked incredibly hard for his success in the ring. Every day he showed his confidence lit up the whole ring, which helped contribute to his first-place win in Sweepstakes on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Moose also took second in his class on May 31<sup>st</sup>, the final day of the specialty. **Martha Perkins** and Beth Holmes, Moose's breeder/co-owner, were an amazing team. The ease in which they prepared and showed five dogs was perfectly coordinated and highlighted the best attributes of each dog.

**Gabriel** (Gabe), who showed as a 6-9 month class dog, did very well in his class and made lots of new red and white friends. On May 28<sup>th</sup> he placed second in his class and on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> he placed third, all while having the time of his life in the ring with **Rachel Knotts**. Each day he wagged his tail and gaited beautifully around the ring, soaking in the applause from the sidelines.

**Seraphim** (Sera), who showed as a 6-9 month class bitch, and won second in her class on May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, beating out six other dogs – the most she has ever competed against. On May 30<sup>th</sup> she took fourth after a very long weekend of shows. **Jean Lowry** worked with Sera every step of the way, keeping Sera happy and focused on the task at hand. Sera's energy knew no bounds, and the joy radiating from her could be felt throughout the whole venue.

**Lili**, a three-year-old Champion, may not have placed in the breed ring; but each day she flew around the ring as if it were what she was born to do. **Rachel Knotts** and Lili have been working as a conformation team since Lili was six months old, with Lili being Rachel's first owner-handled show dog.

**Maia**, a five-year-old Grand Champion, was back in action since having her puppies (**Gabe** and **Sera**) back in September of 2020. Motherhood has been good for her, and it has brought out the best in her personality and her physique. She was pulled in the final lineup on May 30<sup>th</sup> and stood like a Greek statue as the judge examined her to make his final decision. Maia was the first dog to come to CDTC with **Jean Lowry**, who has created a conformation legacy with her puppies.

**Mattie** was the one Welshie that did not show at the event; however, she celebrated much more than a win in the show ring. This golden girl celebrated her sixteenth birthday on May 27<sup>th</sup> and was the talk of the hotel as she toddled down the hallways demanding attention. She loved traveling in her youth and spent her special day lounging on her orthopedic bed admiring the view from the hotel window.

Everyone, particularly the amazing Welsh Springer Spaniels, worked exceptionally hard throughout the weekend. Ribbons were brought home, but, more importantly, the experience for both the dogs and their human counterparts will help shape everyone's journey in Conformation.



# Saying Goodbye to Your Best Friend

Perhaps the hardest thing we must do for our dogs is to decide when it is time to let them go. I have had to euthanatize several dogs in my life. Each dog was mourned and deeply missed, but I never questioned the decision. In each case, I knew it was time to say goodbye.

Euthanasia is often a blessing and gift to a suffering dog. But it is an emotional decision and never an easy one to make. We do not want our best friends to suffer, so when it is their time, we gently put them to sleep.



How do you know when it is time? Every illness is different. There is no single rule that can be followed for when it is time to help your best friend “cross the rainbow bridge.” Certainly, you should start by getting input from your veterinarian on your dog’s specific medical condition and prognosis. You may also benefit from having a caring friend who is not as emotionally involved in the situation as you are to help you gain perspective and really “see” what is happening with your dog.

Dogs live in the moment. One of the wonderful things about dogs is how they embrace the present. Every time I walk into my house, my two Weimaraners throw a party - wag their tails and jump all over me. The fact that I have entered the house thousands of times before, means nothing. I am here, now, and that is all that matters. My being home is all they need to express their joy.

When a dog is suffering, it does not reflect on all the great days it has had or ponder what the future will bring. Your dog only knows how it feels today. By considering this perspective, we can see the world more clearly through our dog’s eyes. And that is what matters. As humans we can determine what the long-





term prognosis is likely to be. Will my dog have a few more good days, or will he continue to suffer?

In making the decision, ask yourself important questions. Sometimes, articulating or writing down your thoughts can make the right path more apparent. Some questions that help dog owners struggling with this decision include:

Why do I think it might be time to euthanize?  
What are my fears and concerns about

euthanizing?

Whose interests, besides those of my dog, am I taking into account?

What are the concerns of the people around me?

Am I making this decision because it is best for my dog, or because it is best for me because I'm not ready to let go?

Measure your dog's quality of life. When I know my dog is near the end of its life, I look for clear signs that it is time to say goodbye. Does my dog still enjoy food? Does it have a quality of life that is acceptable to the dog or is it too sick to enjoy the simple pleasures of life? In the end, my dogs have always let me know when it was time. I think it is better to let a dog go a week too early than a day too late. I love my dogs and do not want to see them suffer. I rely on my vet to help me make the decision. When he comes in with that look on his face, I know I must consider saying goodbye. I take comfort in knowing that my dogs are always with me, they live in my heart forever: Aza, Misia, Gretel, Laszlo, Max and Gunner.

## Funeral Services for Ted deBremond

The Funeral Mass and Burial for our friend, instructor and member Ted deBremond will be on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

The Mass is at 11:00 am  
St Elizabeth's Catholic Church  
917 Montrose Rd  
Rockville, MD. 20850.

Burial Service will be at approx 12:30 pm  
Norbeck Memorial Park.  
Corner of Georgia and  
Batchelors Forest...

## Braggs

Milly Welsh reports that Dotty won her first Novice B class and got High In Trial on May 28 at Oriole.



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Nan Marks writes: "Mella and I are pleased to report her earning her CD with a fourth place in a lovely trial at Oriole full of many inspiring OTCH level competitors. I'm particularly proud as it was a long day and she stepped up nonetheless. She can now be referred to as CH Barksdale Bluish CD RE FDC HIC CA BCAT THD CGCA TKN or Mell,Mella Bella, or Woo Girl."





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Janine Castorina writes: "Odin the All Father of Fuzz got his advanced tricks title :)"

Editor's Note: I was my understanding that Loki was the trickster. There may be discord in Valhalla if Odin continues to steal Loki's thunder.





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Janine Castorina also writes that Hermes got his excellent JWW title.





# In Memoriam

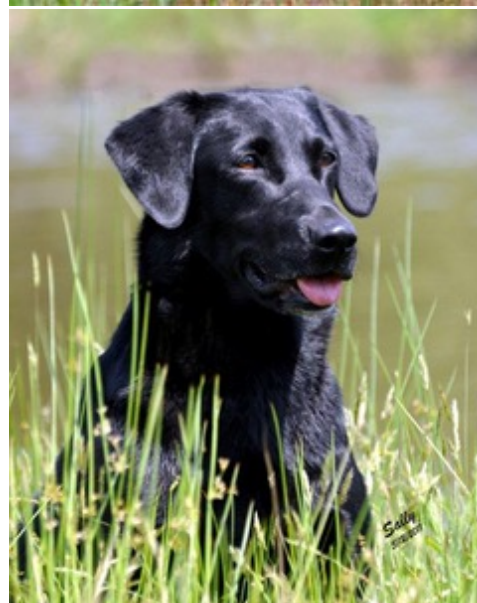
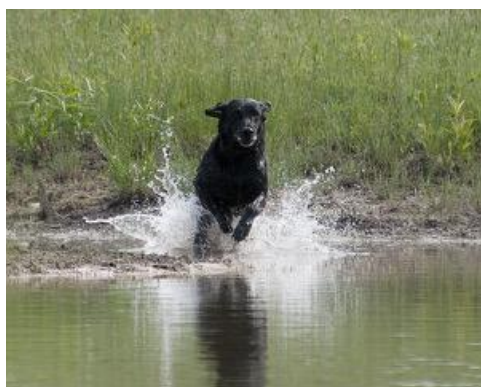
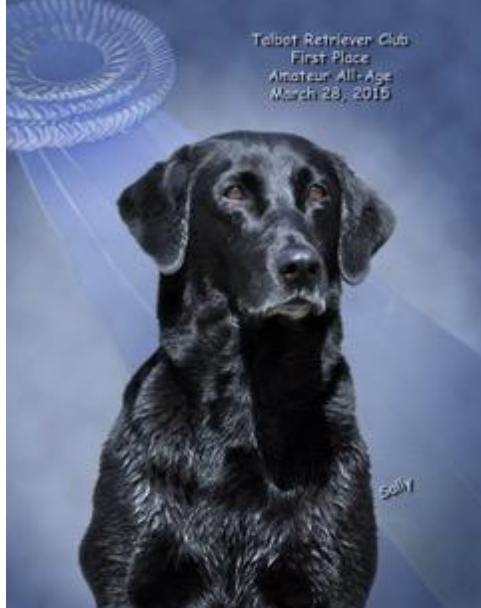
Sally

AFC Spurlake's See Ya Later Gator, MH, CGC, CD, RN

11/7/05 – 6/24/21

Sally, co-owned by Milly B Welsh and Charles Hayden, had a long and successful career as a field trial dog, hunt test dog, obedience dog, and companion and pet. After retiring at the end of the trial season in 2016, she became the official pet dog of her training group, looking for and finding an endless supply of fun bumpers and snacks. She was very special.





## Book Review

# How to Raise a Jewish Dog

The (make-believe) Rabbis of the (fictional) Boca Raton Theological Seminary have developed the essential dog training program for raising a Jewish dog. For the first time, the same dynamic blend of passive-aggressiveness and smothering indulgence, that unique alloy of infantilization and disingenuous manipulation that created



The Rabbis of the Boca Raton Theological Seminary as told to  
ELLIS WEINER & BARBARA DAVILMAN

# How to Raise a Jewish Dog



generations of high-achieving Jewish boys and girls, can be applied to create a generation of high-achieving Jewish doggies.

Questions to Ask a Breeder: 1. What kind of job is this, growing dogs? 2. Are these dogs nice? I mean of course they are. But if not, is this refundable? 3. Is this a stable business? Do you make a decent living? 4. Does the insurance kill you or is it okay? 5. Dogs are animals, does this mean you qualify for some kind of Federal ranch subsidies? 6. What do I say to people who want to know how I can spend \$1500 and up on a dog when there are so many dogs to be rescued from the pound?

The book offers sage advise for those of us who train in obedience and agility. The authors reject traditional dog training programs that call for the trainer to assert himself as the leader. Instead, the authors suggest that humans and dogs take turns being in charge - "so much so that there are times in which no none is sure which is which! This keeps the relationship exciting, dramatic, and fresh - for everyone." Without realizing it, I have been training Magic in agility using this very method.

Written (for real) by Ellis Weiner and Barbara Davilman, co-authors of the bestselling *Yiddish with Dick and Jane* and *Yiddish with George and Laura*, this essential "guide" is complete howl.

## Want to Make a Donation for Hungry Dogs? It's Easy!

The food pantry is now accepting unopened containers of dog food. Cleverdog is accepting dog food donations in their front vestibule and then delivering them to the food pantry. Feel good by dropping off doggie food donations on your way to CDTC. It takes less than a minute and does so much good.

## Renewals Are Due Now



Club members, if you have not received a renewal notice from from Mary Carson, please check your spam folders or contact Mary at [maryccarson@gmail.com](mailto:maryccarson@gmail.com).

## Nutty Bacon Dog Treats

Makes 6 dozen - 1" diameter treats

3 slices of bacon, diced

1 egg

1/3 cup creamy natural peanut butter (or Sunbutter)

1 tablespoon maple syrup (bacon + maple seemed like a good idea)

3 tablespoons water

1/2 cup soy flour

1/2 whole wheat pastry flour

1/2 cup wheat germ

-Preheat oven to 300 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

-Fry the diced bacon until crispy. With a slotted spoon, remove the crispy bacon but save the fat. Allow the fat to cool slightly (2-5 minutes)

-Add the egg, peanut butter, maple syrup and water to the bacon fat and mix thoroughly.

-Add in the flours and wheat germ and mix until combined. Stir in the crispy bacon pieces.

-Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about 1/4" thick. Cut into desired shapes. I used three different 1" cookie cutters.

-Bake in the oven for 12-15 minutes (for 1" diameter shapes) until lightly browned.

Got a favorite dog treat recipe? Send it my way and I will publish it in an upcoming issue of the *Obichaff*.





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## Dogs of the Rich and Famous

Former President George H. W. Bush was the handler of one of the most famous service dogs in the world: Sully the yellow Labrador. Sully was named after pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, who made a heroic emergency landing in the Hudson River that saved hundreds of lives.

During the six months preceding his death in 2018, Bush was inseparable from Sully. With his mobility limited by a wheelchair, the elderly Bush found immense comfort in Sully, who was trained to perform a list of commands. Sully could open and close doors, answer the phone, retrieve hard-to-reach objects and summon help in an emergency.



## Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

### Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

[Conformation \(Beginner, Jrs., Training Group\)](#) - Begins 7/17 Register Now!

[Puppy Kindergarten - puppies born AFTER 3/16/2021](#) (Tuesdays 8/3)

Family Dog 1 - no new classes listed until August newsletter, add your name to the [Update List HERE](#) for early announcements

Family Dog 2 -no new classes listed until August newsletter, add your name to the [Update List HERE](#) for early announcements  
(if you are a CDTC FD1 Grad and need a FD2 class, email [Karen](#))

[Intro Obedience Skills for Rally](#) - (Saturdays 7/24) Register Now!

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 - New session to be announced in the fall - email [Tom](#)

Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 2 - email [Tom](#)



[Novice & Open classes on Monday nights are taking new students](#)

[Rally Competition Class](#) - for those ready to or already competing  
(Atkinson, Thursdays @ 11AM, ongoing)

Click [here](#) to go straight to registration. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

[FLYBALL](#) has space for new participants, tell your friends!

Fill out the [Agility Waitlist Application/Questionnaire](#) to get on the wait list for the next available class.

Click [here](#) for more class information on the CDTC website.

Members use your discount codes to register. Email [Karen](#) for questions.

### NEW CLASSES!

**Intro Obedience Skills for Rally Novice:** This class provides a quick introduction to several obedience skills that are necessary for participating in Rally. Skills taught include heeling, fronts and finishes. At the end of the class students should be ready to enroll in Rally Novice. Students who are primarily interested in competition obedience are advised to instead enroll in Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1. This is a 4-week class. We recommend enrolling for Rally Novice (offered consecutively) as well.

**Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 (FCO1):** This class slowly and systematically teaches heeling with sustained attention. Dogs will also be taught to stand, sit and down quickly and without moving out of position. Fast, straight fronts and sits will be taught. Ring entry and sustained connection between dog and handler will also be emphasized. Students enrolling in this class should have a strong commitment to excelling and will be expected to practice between classes. Permission of the Instructor is required. Email [Tom](#)

**Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 2 (FCO2):** This class teaches foundation skills necessary for competing in Open and Utility. It is not necessary to have earned a novice title before taking this class, but all dogs must have excellent heeling (on and off leash), and straight fronts and finishes that are performed promptly. Students will have typically completed Fundamentals of Competition Obedience 1 prior to enrolling. Foundation skills that will be taught include: retrieving, go-outs, directed jumping, pivots and scent discrimination. The emphasis will be on providing a firm foundation in these skills and providing a roadmap for training the actual competition

skills. Less emphasis will be placed on training these skills to the point of being competition-ready. Instead, students will be prepared to perfect these skills in open and utility classes. Ideally, this class will be taken upon completion of Fundamentals of Competition Obedience. Permission of the Instructor is required. Email [Tom](#)

### Training Groups:

**Conformation Group** meets 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm. Non-members pre-register and pay for dates you plan to attend [HERE](#).

**FCO Training Group** meets some Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Tom](#).

**Thursday Open/Utility Training Group** (Goldstein@ 12:30pm) has resumed. Contact [Karen](#).

**Rally Training Group** meets some 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 1pm. Contact [Sue](#).

### Thinking of joining CDTC as a Member?

Active membership in the Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC) is available to an individual who:

- has completed no less than three (3) months as a training member paying the prescribed fees/dues, and
- whose dog has passed a Proficiency Test as prescribed by the Club with a dog that she or he has trained **or** has obtained a qualifying score toward an AKC title in any "dog companion sport" trial.

Active membership includes the right to attend meetings, vote, access to the Members Only section of CDTC's website, access to seminars, events, announcements of the Club, the right to hold an elective office in the Club, and all other privileges and benefits of the Club (including 2 free classes per quarter). Contact [Karen](#).

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## Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

The Companion Events Committee meeting was held by Zoom on June 7, 2021. The following occurred during that meeting:

- Doug Ljungren announced we are on our way back and outdoor events came back first.



· He mentioned the Fix and Go in Obedience was starting off a little slow and his department may poll judges to assess.

· Doug stated all virtual programs will continue through the year. The virtual Obedience test program began on March 1 and during April the program received 189 entries. Indications are the virtual Rally program is attracting new exhibitors to AKC. Many of the exhibitors live in remote areas or have unique lifestyles or challenges at home. New is defined as never having participated in AKC events previously. The question is what do these exhibitors do after Virtual Rally Novice.

· It was suggested to invite virtual folks into clubs and this would help the clubs make revenue.

· Average Entry Per Event- Rally-April 2021 48.6 and April 2019 43.4 **+12.0**; Obedience- April 2021 52.2 and 2019 43.6 **+19.7**; Agility 2021 279.1 and 2019 302.2 **-7.3**

· Obedience Goes It Alone- There was much discussion about the fact that 79% of obedience events are stand alone. They are not held in conjunction with conformation shows.

· The Rally/Obedience Championships will be held on July 9-11, 2021. The RNC will be held on Friday and filled with 500 entries and the NOC will be held Saturday and Sunday and has 142 entries. This is the third largest obedience entry in the history of the NOC; the largest was 144 entries.

· It was mentioned that all clubs will be asked to appoint a Junior Coordinator.

· Three of the recent Vet Scholarships recipients are in companion events.

· There was a discussion about the problem that exists for some getting measured for Agility. If we have this problem, please let me know. Are there enough VMO's in the area to do this?

The Delegates general meeting was held on June 7, 2021. The following occurred:

· A presentation was made on Canine Nutrition. I sent this presentation to all CDTC members on our club list. It is an excellent discussion about what we are feeding our dogs. Information is based on recent research.

· It was stated by the Board Chairman that we continue to show up for our dogs and 99% of the events are returning. Most of the returned ones were in Companion Events. He stated being flexible and adaptive helped us move forward. He acknowledged some staff members who were instrumental in keeping AKC afloat.

· AKC President, Dennis Sprung, complimented all clubs holding events during difficult times when they had to follow state mandates.

· The CEFO presented a financial report stating the net operating income of AKC had a slower return to business and revenue lines dropped; however, with



cost controls the company continues to be healthy.

- A screen presentation introduced the winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award. In Conformation, it was Peter Green; in Obedience Betty Winthers and in Performance Jim Basham.

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## CDTC Swag

Do you love CDTC? If so, you can purchase CDTC logo items at [Cafepress](#). Order now and get your stuff for the holidays. Capital gets a portion of the proceeds. There's a great selection from sweatshirts, to mugs to magnets.

## CDTC Groups.io

CDTC members, if you have not done so already, please join <mailto:cdtc@groups.io>. It is a great way to keep up with the day-to-day activities of our club. To sign up, go to <https://groups.io/g/cdtc> and click "Apply for Membership."

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## Next General Membership Meeting July 13, 2021 at 8:00pm

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Visit our website