



**DOG TRAINING CLUB**  
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# Obichaff

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



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

**July 2016**

**Volume 72 • Issue 6**

## The Iditarod—The Last Great Race

*by Joyce Dandridge, AKC Delegate, CDTC*



### Part 1

#### For the Love of Dogs—

For a long time, it has been a desire of mine and on my bucket list to go to Alaska in March for the Iditarod. That desire increased when I visited Alaska ten years ago in June and talked with Alaskans about the race. So, I read and waited every March to get the news on the race. My great-



est deterrent was snow and the temperatures, below zero sometimes. Last year in the mail came a flyer from my alumni association and they were organizing a trip in March 2016. My thought—This is a sign either go

now or never. I am not getting younger and the experiences in the wilderness call for some physical exertion on the body.

To overcome long flights and jet lag to Anchorage, I arrived in Anchorage a day before the others in the group. I tried to rest but was so anxious for the experiences to come. So, I walked around Anchorage talking to shop owners and finding out tidbits about the race. The weather in Anchorage was perfect for me—no snow, 30's. In fact, it was warmer there then when I left Washington, DC! Everyone was on edge and hoping the ceremonial race would not be moved from the city due to lack of snow. In 2015, they had to move it to



Fairbanks. Plenty of snow is there in March, although not as much this year. Unreal—is there any question about climate change and our environment?

#### Visiting a Musher's Kennel—

Early the next morning with the other members of the group, I drove through Wasilla and Willow (observed Lake Willow where the actual race will start after Anchorage). Of course, there is plenty of snow *(cont. on pg 14)*

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## From the Editor

— by Pam Coblyn, Editor, Obichaff

## Delay of Game— Or, Better Late Than Never!



**B**ut it only took 8 years!

I'm talking about a Start Line Stay in agility, which is fundamentally all about training impulse control, patience, establishing an unwavering set of rules (criteria) and the courage to follow through.

Fenway is my first competition-trained dog and although my intentions were good, many mistakes were made along the way. "Start line stay? Why is that important? I can just blast off and run with my dog!" By the end of our first trial, it was clearly important because I hadn't a prayer of keeping up with a border collie—especially a green one who was dazzled by all the jumps sprinkled around the course.

So, we went to classes and worked with trainers who told me in no uncertain terms that I *HAD* to have a Start Line stay in order to run as a team—and stick to a handling plan. Otherwise, Fen was off blasting around a course of his own choosing. I learned many impulse control games and routines but they didn't get consistent results.

In practice, we made headway, but at trials, it was hit or miss. I was advised repeatedly to mark any broken stays at trials, take him immediately off the course and forgo the run. "No stay, no play!" was the rule. Only, I didn't have the courage to follow it consistently. So, we spent years of hit-or-miss performances because runs fell apart right at the beginning.

Finally, I took stock, addressed the problem head-on and worked with our wonderful CDTC obedience and rally instructors for some "cross training". Their insight and encouragement spilled over and I am happy to report that Fenway hasn't broken a Start Line stay in over a year—ever since I marched him off a course in the dreaded Walk of Shame. He got the message!



I want to encourage all of you to firmly believe you *CAN* solve a problem. It doesn't have to take years like mine did. Be honest and courageous. Ask for help and start the process. Do it now!

And then pat yourself on the back!



Website: [www.cdtc.org](http://www.cdtc.org)

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## From the President—July 2016

**H**i all, It's hard to believe that summer is in full swing and half the year has gone by! The pace of our dog-related activities seem to gather speed this time of year, too. Here are several events and reminders related to Capital:

**1** By the time you read this, our new membership year will have begun on July 1, 2016. If you have not already renewed, you have a thirty (30) day grace period until July 31, 2016 to send in your membership dues, signed membership renewal form and rabies certification for any dog(s) you bring to the clubhouse for training. The membership renewal form can be found on our website under the Members Only section. Or email me and I will send you the form. After July 31st, your membership will be suspended and you will need to reapply.

**2** Our Annual Awards and Instructor Appreciation Night is on Tuesday, July 11, 2106 beginning at 6:30 PM at the clubhouse. **This is a people-only dinner and awards night** where we get to celebrate our successes and thank our many volunteers and instructors for all of their efforts. **If you have not already RSVP'd to Patti Miller, do it now as the deadline was July 1st.** Information can be found in the June Obichaff located on our website.

**3** Bridget Carlsen is coming to Capital to teach her seminar, "Training Novice thru Utility with Enthusiasm." Capital is co-hosting this seminar

with the German Shepherd Club of Greater Washington. Information and a link to the flyer can be found on the homepage of Capital's website.



**4** Capital's next CGC test is now scheduled for Sunday, July 31st, beginning at 2:00 PM. If you want to take the test, please send me an email so I can add you to the list. A four-week CGC prep class taught by Jodie Jeweler and Luann Korona will start on Saturday, July 9th, at 3:00 PM, ending on Saturday, July 30th. If you want to register for the prep class, please contact our Training Secretary, Shannon Hall.

Meanwhile, thanks to the efforts of Janice Kopp, we continue to line up guest speakers to come to Capital's general membership meetings and speak to us on topics of interest to us. Future topics we hope to include will be on managing the senior dog and sports medicine in canines. If you have a topic you would like to see us cover, or know of a subject matter expert that we should invite to speak, please let me know and we will try to line them up.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer full of fun times with you and your dog!!

**Carrie Solomon**  
President, CDTC



## The Rally Training Group

**Train, polish, learn and have fun with your dog!**



Set up for Rally Training Group is 1:00-1:25pm. Walk-thrus 1:25-1:40, run-thrus 1:40-2:45.

IF you need walk-thru—which is highly recommended—please come early enough to do so.

IF you come late and miss the opportunity to do a walk-thru, you can look at the posted map and watch others. There are always people around to offer help with the course and training ideas.

It can get quite BUSY this time of year with lots of pending trials, so please come early to help set up the course or stay late to help take it down (it's easy!). We want everyone to get a chance to participate!

Also, if you have adequate knowledge of all rally signs, please offer to assist in judging.

***Come by on Saturday afternoons—check the back page for dates!***

### Go Green—Obichaff Print Edition Opt-Out

Don't want to receive a copy of *Obichaff* in the mail? No problem. Just email Pam Coblyn at [pamcoblyn@comcast.net](mailto:pamcoblyn@comcast.net) 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.





# Delegates Corner

— by Joyce Dandridge, CDTC AKC Delegate

**T**he AKC Bylaws Committee invited all Delegates to come to their meeting to discuss ideas about possible changes to the AKC bylaws. Parts of the bylaws were written when the organization began in the 1800's. Some suggestions made were clarifying the restrictions: who can be a Delegate, review the guidelines for the nominating committee selection process and how long a person can serve (suggestion two years instead of one) and changing a Board member from being a Delegate for a club while she/he serves on the Board. Also, discussed was having biannual or triannual elections instead of the annual election currently done. It was mentioned that Jim Crowley will write a letter to all clubs/judges/delegates by email that as a Delegate Judge they cannot charge a fee only expenses. Also, all fees for judging are a taxable event. He will state that all show chairs should follow the AKC guidelines and thus the notice will be an enforcement notice.

## In the Companion Events Committee Meeting:

- The closing time issue on entries was discussed. It was agreed that there must be consistency. Clubs are setting their own dates and times in violation of the 1973 rule. The Board is looking at midnight as a closing time because it takes care of peaking problem. Obedience regulations currently do not specify closing time but dog show rules do.
- There was a discussion of Day of Show entries.
- Doug mentioned the Tracking Invitational is in the fall and hosted by two clubs in Kentucky on Sept. 17 and 18. Twelve dogs have been invited. He stated Act 1 and 2 are in effect now. Premier Agility has 34% of clubs offer it. They hope for more. He mentioned Nose Work interest is there.
- Carmen Bataggia, the AKC Board member, reported on Juniors. He stated we lose the youngest kids because the oldest kids win. The youngest kids drop out first. In juniors, 85% are girls and 15% are boys. Why? Boy loses to girl feels peer pressure. His study is making a recommendation to AKC to have two Best Junior awards—young and old. He is suggesting letting juniors have a team competition in a pointed system where they can support each other. He also is suggesting AKC look at a summer camp for juniors.
- Doug mentioned AKC is moving ahead with the Juniors Only Companion Events at the club's option. This can also be done with an all breed club.

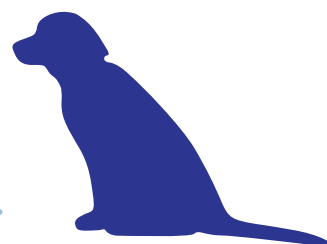
- There was discussion about an e-list comment on entering a class. It was emphasized if no one enters the class, then the class does not exist for that event; therefore, no one can move in the class.
- 328 clubs have participated in the Trailer Program and \$978,000 has been donated and AKC donating \$250,000.

## In the General Meeting:

- Sheila Goffe was introduced as the new VP of the Legislative Division. She discussed AKC's role as the advocate for the rights of responsible dog breeders and owners. They monitor and respond to legislation daily. There have been more than 2,000 bills so far in 2016. I will present more of her comments in the next issue because her presentation was extremely informative. She discussed puppy mills, overpopulation, trafficking of dogs and the pet distribution business.
- Ron Menaker, the Board chair, mentioned registration numbers are finally trending upward.
- Dennis Sprung announced the change in policy on DQ dogs (disqualified). Now Superintendents will have a list of these dogs for the last five years. When dogs are DQ'd, they must immediately leave the showgrounds. They must be DNA tested and there will be insurance coverage for judges.
- The new VP for Public Relations and Communications, Brandy Hunter, was introduced. She mentioned they are producing three Public Service Announcements to be launched in the fall. They have also produced a series called, "I am a Breeder". There will be a "Kid's Corner" microsite for children. They are establishing a "Vets Corner" on the website. She mentioned the PAWS of COURAGE program I discussed in the last issue. There will be an AKC Sports Page on Facebook (a separate page) that will highlight Performance Sports and Companion Events. Finally, there will be an on line PR Tool Kit with logos, templates etc. for clubs to use.



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# Know the Signs of Heat Stroke in Your Dogs!

**H**eat stroke can affect even the healthiest of dogs. It doesn't even necessarily have to be extremely hot outside for a dog to become overcome staying outside in areas with very high humidity can affect a dog as well. It can also happen in enclosed areas with there is high temperatures and/or high humidity and little or no ventilation.

Since dogs deal with heat by panting and by sweating through their paws, they are not able to regulate heat as well as we can. There are also particular breeds that are more at risk than others, such as brachycephalic dogs like Boxers and Pugs, and dogs that have chronic medical conditions and/or are seniors. Some common signs that your dog may be getting overheated are:

- Panting excessively beyond what you would normally see from your dog, as well as difficulty in breathing and/or a rapid heart beat;
- Discomfort, which may be indicated by pacing or signs the dog is becoming disoriented and/or weak this may even lead to collapsing;
- Drooling excessively and/or vomiting;
- Diarrhea which may include blood;
- Seizures are also a possibility.



If you see any of these signs in your dog, you should immediately bring them to an area where they are out of the heat and in shade. If you are near a water source, such as a bath tub or sink if you have a small dog, put them inside and run cool water over them. Make sure that you run the water all over their body so that you reach critical areas such as their back and neck, and the water should be lukewarm, not cold. It's also very important if your dog is unconscious to not allow their head to drop in the water as this can lead to taking in water and possible choking and even pneumonia.

Another option is to use a water hose to bring your dog's temperature down. You can also place ice packs on his or her body if you have them, or even packages of frozen food items.

If you have a thermometer on hand, it's recommended to check their temperature every few minutes you want to cool the dog's body so it reaches 103 or below.

Massaging the dog's legs can help with improving their circulation and diminish the chance for the dog to go into shock.

If your dog is awake, you can let him or her drink water and you can supplement the water with some salt which can help replace lost minerals in their body.

As soon as you are able, take the dog for emergency veterinary care. Even if your dog seems better after you have cooled him or her down, heat stroke can have lasting effects of the body that may not show up for some time, such as kidney failure. Your vet will most likely treat your dog by providing IV fluids and keeping an eye on your dog for any complications.

Prevention is key if you know you will be outside in the heat with your dog, or traveling in a hot car, make sure you have plenty of water on hand in a cooler, blankets that you can wet to keep your dog cool, shade for your dog, and good flowing ventilation. Some options you can look at are dog "cooling pads" which are gel filled pads for dogs to lay on which stay cool in hot weather, as well as cooling coats that dogs can wear that perform a similar function. Your local hiking and sporting good stores will also most likely sell special types of bandannas and wraps that can provide extra cooling when soaked in water. Most of all, keep an eye on your dog if he gets too active and overheated during play, and be safe and have fun in the sun!

## CDTC's New Agility Table!

We are pleased to announce that CDTC is now the proud owner of a new "used" agility pause Table!

It is a very special table and has seen duty at local AKC and USDAA trials.

We are thrilled to report that there are some famous dog butts who have stood, sat or laid down on this table, from the 2016 AKC National Agility Champ, World Team dogs and numerous MACH dogs.

Fenway says, "It's got magic!"



# **NEW—**

## **AKC Sports Facebook Page**

**A page dedicated to the  
various sporting events of the  
American Kennel Club**

**All AKC sports are featured!**

**The new AKC Sports Facebook page  
is dedicated to the many sports  
in the dog show world.**

**They are showcasing Rally, Agility,  
Obedience, Coursing, Dock Diving,  
Flyball and more!**

**AKC encourages participants and clubs to  
send photos of their dogs competing.**

**Share with AKC's Facebook page  
at [delegates2@akc.org](mailto:delegates2@akc.org).**

**Go to [www.facebook.com/AKCSports](http://www.facebook.com/AKCSports)**

# Save the Date to Celebrate!

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PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND OUR  
*Annual Awards Dinner*  
on Tuesday, July 12, 2016  
starting at 6:30 pm!

Capital Dog Training Club invites all members, family and friends to attend the Annual Awards and Instructor Appreciation Dinner.

Every member is invited to attend—

*you do not need to have completed a title.*

This annual event is to celebrate the many successes our members and our instructors achieved in 2015.

Club members will be recognized for new titles earned.

CDTC Class instructors will be acknowledged for the significant time, effort and knowledge that they have shared in support of club training and classes.

All members are welcome and invited to attend.

The social gathering is from 6:30-7 pm, and dinner starts at 7 pm.

The presentation of awards and instructor gifts will begin at 8 pm.

The event is free to CDTC members and a guest.

So please mark your calendar for this special event!

***This is a “humans only” event.***

The Annual Awards Dinner will be held at the CDTC Clubhouse on July 12, 2016.

Please RSVP **Patti Miller** by July 1!!!  
([patti@patti-miller.com](mailto:patti@patti-miller.com) for the form.





# Back in the Good Ol' Days— Janet & Pickles!

Sandi Atkinson sent in a lovely vintage photo of her mother, Janet Eldridge (her maiden name) with her dog Pickles, who was a Maltese-Poodle mix.

Sandi writes, “The photo was taken around 1935—I am guessing at the date.

She was born in 1917 and moved into her house in Chevy Chase in 1934 where the photo was taken. Her father was a salesman and brought the dog back with him from the Eastern Shore where he had gone on business.

In those days you took a ferry—no Bay Bridge!





# Summer is Fun Time for CDTC Dogs!

Mariah Stover decided it was time for Jensen to celebrate the nice weather with a beach themed vignette and photo session!

But since Jensen hates swimming and water, Mariah set up a lovely backyard summer retreat for him!

Jensen was more than happy to pose in his pool with water toys if it meant he'd get yummy treats—as long as the pool didn't have water in it!

*What A Lovely Way to Celebrate Summer!*

*(Let us know how you have fun with your furry pal!)*



## Brags—CDTC Members & Dogs Take To the Ring!



### Three New Titles for Nick!

**Tom Tatham's Nick** recently earned his CGC and CGCA titles! They also competed in the Novice B class at the Oriole trial on Memorial Day Weekend. Nick earned his CD with a 1st Place finish and two 2nd Place finishes.

Tom says, "We have begun working on Open exercises, scent discrimination, and articles and look forward to future classes and competitions.

*Nick is a fantastic teammate and we have had our eye on this obedience star—good boy, Nick!*

### Back-To-Back Conformation Majors!

**Joanne Riddle** reports that **Elspeth** (Ch. Merrie Munro's Dark Endora) made her debut as a Special at the Skyline Kennel Club shows and got two back-to-back 3-point Majors towards her Grand Championship.

Elspeth's mother, Ch. Merrie Munro's Dark Snapdragon gave birth to three puppies on 6-16-16—two girls and one boy.

*Well done Scotties—you are phenomenal in the ring Elspeth! And congratulations to your mama.*

### New Grad Novice Title At the Field Spaniel Breed Specialty!

On June 6, 2016, at the Toledo Kennel Club trial at Maumee, Ohio, **Bosco** (Evans's Bosco Boy CD, BN, RE, CGCA), owned and handled by **Dianne Harab**, earned his Graduate Novice title.

After the Field Spaniel Society of America supported entry on Saturday, June 5, 2016 at the Toledo Kennel Club Show, Mike and Joanne Roehrs invited Fields and their owners to their house for a pot luck dinner. Too bad it rained as the annual Hotdog Diving Contest was held indoors. Each dog gets 15 pieces of hotdog to bob for in about 10 inches of water. The dog with the shortest time who gets the most pieces is the winner. The winner of the competition has their picture taken, the handler with the Weenie Beenie and the dog with a crown. This year the winner was Bosco! Bosco eagerly retrieved and ate the 15 hot dog pieces in 38 seconds!

Pictured at left: Bosco actually diving for the remaining hot dogs after he was crowned!

*Suck a good boy you are, Bosco—first you are obedience and then you feast your way to a crown!*





## Rocket's Persistence Pays Off: New Rally Title With All 1st Placements!

**Josie McAuliffe** and **Rocket Ru** earned his third Rally Excellent leg and his RE title at the Skyline Kennel Club Trial in the Shenandoah Mountains (beautiful country see the mountains in the background!). Rocket earned FIRST place for all three legs, and today he even beat his little brother Atlas, who just came for moral support, since he already earned his RAE in May.

Rocket has been training for rally his whole life (9 years)! Although he has been able to do everything perfectly at his home venue, he is environmentally challenged. This proves that you should never give up on your dog, just keep on practicing!

"We are grateful for all your training support and the rally training group!" declares a happy Josie.

PS: This is the last of my dogs "easy brags," now we Rocket and Atlas train for tracking, and Xena and Atlas train for utility!"

*What a wonderful story—we should all have this faith, persistence and joy! Well done, Atlas.*



## New Barn Hunt Titles in Short Order!

**Jake Jurgens** and **Dante** (Starcastle's Dante RE CD JH RATO) have been training in Barn Hunt since early Spring and they began competing in trials last May. The well trained and ready Dante passed the Instinct test first time out! He then went on to three straight qualifying tests in Novice.

At the Oriole Dog Training Trial at Splashdown Farm in Severn, MD Dante earned the Open title in three back to back tests.

Dante says "Enough with the rats—I am going back to finding birds!"

*It is a pleasure to see a dog excel at what he is bred for. Dante is talented at finding birds, rats and a whole lot of rosettes!*

## New Obedience Open Title!

**Deb Jackson's** cute Westie **Cece** (McKeand's Kylie CD BN OAP NJP ME) earned her CDX on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the Dauphin Dog Training Club obedience trial under Judge Donna Meade!

*Way to go, Little White Dog—and just in time to celebrate the 4th of July in style!*



# Brags—CDTC Members & Dogs Take To the Ring!

## New Cynosport Rally Title in One Weekend!

**Sandi Atkinson** and **Itzyu Figaro** attended the World Cynosport Rally trials at Breakaway Action Dogs in Frederick, MD.

- Saturday, 6/11/16: Level 1: 2 Qs; Level 2: 2 Q's/one 2nd Place; Level 3: 2Q's/both 1st Place!
  - Sunday, 6/12/16: Level 1: 2Q's/3rd Place. Fig finished RL1X (Rally Level 1 Excellent) title; Level 2: 2 Q's/one 3rd Place; Level 3: 2 Q's/one 4th & 1st
- Figaro and Sandi get the job done with efficiency and excellence!*



## Pick Yourself Up, Dust Off You and Your Dog and Go For It!

On Sunday June 12th in Fisherville, VA, **Benita Bottom** and **Savoy** (CH Tagalong's High Tea for Two CD RE AX AXJ NF CGC WWD SROM) earned her second RAE leg with a great 2nd place and a 96 for her RE run. Benita has a confession!

"We did this after bombing on Saturday—and yes, failing her RE run. How did this happen? I could not believe it! Well, we were rushing as I was showing Antonio in conformation too with a time conflict and had a horrible place for her crate right in the busy noisy hall by the door. She must have sensed my stress and I took one step less on the Three Steps Back station, she walked over the Broad Jump (never having done that!) and did not want to come front from the heel position (this move is so opposite to everything we train for in Open Obedience). And finally, she got up when I was walking back to put her leash on her on the sit stay. Goodness!

Let me tell you this—we were prepared to make the next day a success. We put our crate in a better spot, got our head together and recovered with a 2nd Place in a competitive group. I am so proud of us as a team!

This girl always tries to please and this past Sunday, the 19th, we were running agility in Fredericksburg, VA. Savoy ran clean on both Masters runs but was two seconds over for Jumpers on a course with a 28% Q rate.

The meta message here is that we ask our dogs to do a lot and sometimes it is challenging for both of us to transition between obedience, rally and agility and keep our head in the game. The more we compete and the more competitive we become, the more we need to think about our warm ups, environment and attitude as we enter the ring. So out of six runs two RA, two RE, one Masters Jumpers and one Masters Standard, we had 4Q's and almost 5 sans our two seconds time over in Jumpers. So, if you have a bad day keep going and start new the next day!"

*What a wonderful tribute to training, planning and having faith in your dog and yourself. Bravo Benita!*





## New Titles and Awards

### Windsong Autumn Whisper, CDX RAE2

OFA SC-4264G50

"Tula"

(CH Celtic Cross Paddy Whacked x CH Windsong Summer Caper, CD)



RIT CH Argente's Griffin  
 CH Argente's Zack Zenters  
 Sire CH Argente's Dakota  
 CH Celtic Cross Paddy Whacked  
 CH Halpurn's Sir Grahame  
 CH Katarin's Sea Anemone  
 CH Katarin's Beach Music  
 Windsong Autumn Whisper, CDX RAE2  
 CH Adair Argente's Mercedes' Ben  
 CH Windsong Irish Harpist, CD  
 CH Windsong Spiky Mopet, CDE  
 CH Windsong Summer Caper, CD  
 CH Halpurn's Sir Grahame  
 CH Argente's Dakota  
 CH Argente's Dakota

PVSSC — 2015 RALLY DOG OF THE YEAR

SSCA — 2015 RALLY DOG OF THE YEAR 1ST RUNNER UP

RAE2 — Catocin Kennel Club, November 27, 2015

CDX — Charlottesville-Albemarle Kennel Club, Inc., January 17, 2016

AKC 2016 RALLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP —

10TH PLACE out of 105 RAE competitors, March 18, 2016

Handled by Brad Smith; owned by Brad Smith and Jim Loucks

[jimloucks12@verizon.net](mailto:jimloucks12@verizon.net) or 202.371.5987

## A Banner Year for Team Tula!

Congratulations to CDTC instructor **Brad Smith** and **Tula**!

The Standard Schnauzer Club of America awarded Tula Rally Dog of the Year—First Runner Up for 2015! She was one point away from tying for first place! Here is the ad Brad and Jim placed in Pepper 'N Salt magazine to recognize all of her hard work.

This honor is in addition to Tula and Brad's Top Ten placement at the AKC Rally National Championships that took place last spring.

*We are all so proud of this recognition for Tula and Brad. They work hard, diligently and yet make it look fun and easy. Way to go!*

## Agility Double Q and More!

**Pam Coblyn** and **Fenway** (CH Tartan Bay Green Monster, CDX, RE, AX, MXJ, XF, CGC) had a spectacular weekend at the Potomac Valley Golden Retriever agility trial, June 25-26.

Fenway earned a Masters Standard Q with a 3rd Place on Saturday and just missed a Masters JWW Q because of a handler hesitation—the judge called a refusal. Bah!

The team was determined on Sunday and got a QQ with a 4th Place in Standard and a 5th in JWW despite his handler feeling quite sick.

*That'll do, collie-dog...that'll do!*



## Iditarod, continued from page 1



and moose and for a short moment I am thinking, “I can’t believe I am doing this.” As we travelled North to the dog kennel there was more snow and it got colder. What a surprise! We are finally told we are visiting Dallas Seavey’s kennel. He won the race the last two years and a total of three. Oh, now it is FOUR because he won this year, too, with a record time of getting to Nome in 8 days, 11 hours, 20 minutes and 16 seconds—the fastest time ever.



As we walked up the icy hill toward the kennel, I see yurts, round shaped houses. One was actually the living quarters for Dallas and his family. I observed dogs chained to kennel shelters barking because they wanted to work. The kennel workers started pick-

ing dogs for our sled dog rides and they wanted to be selected.

### My First Snowmobile and Dog Sled Rides—

Well, I had an option—walk down an icy steep hill to the dog sleds or ride down in snowmobile. I chose the snowmobile which almost turned out to be a disaster because mine almost flipped over. My dog sled had 12 dogs. Two bitches led my team and I was told I had Dallas’s Team B in the Iditarod. Dallas’ Norwegian friend, Robert Sorlie, come to mush the team in the race. They came in 13th place in the Iditarod.

I rode five miles on a bumpy icy trail and I was getting so cold. Can you imagine doing this for 1049 miles, the official race miles? Anchorage to Nome is 1,000 miles

and 49 for the 49th state—ALASKA. After my ride, I again got on the snowmobile (Bad move!). As it tilted going off the hill, I yelled, “I want off!” and walked up the icy steep hill, bad knees and all.

I proceeded to pet the dogs in the kennel. They were larger than I had imagined. We were told they do not give the dogs water; they eat snow like they are expected to do on the trail.

### The Decision Comes—

The ceremonial start of the race is in Anchorage. Snow was brought from Fairbanks on a train, loaded on dump trucks in Anchorage and the night before the race trucks dumped snow on the streets where the race would start.



### The Big Event of the Iditarod—the Mushers Banquet

This event is a dinner where mushers draw their numbers for the start of the race. This is a ticketed event that had over a thousand in attendance—many of whom are Native Americans. Proceeds, which included displays, auctions and raffles, help pay for the vets who help the dogs on the trails and checkpoints. Surprisingly, the food for such a large number of people was very good (steak!). The actual drawing for starting position is from a boot. Each musher in the race speaks after drawing their number. There were 85 mushers this year. Ten women drew numbers under 25.

### The Next Day: Ceremonial Race in Anchorage—

How exciting to see everyone line the main street in Anchorage which was now covered with snow. On this day, the mushers and their team of dogs run a three mile trail as they are announced at the starting line. Everyone





cheers and waves to each musher. Mushers return waves and touch hands of some people on the sidelines as they pass down the street. I stayed the entire time and saw all 85 go through. The dogs were so excited to go. They looked like they had smiles on their faces!



#### Reindeer Race: A Bit of the Silly at the Iditarod—

Later in the afternoon after the ceremonial start, there was an annual charity fund raiser for Toys for Tots and part of the Fur Rendezvous Festival known as Fur Rondy.

This is Alaska's wackiest race. Racers pay a fee this year \$30 and receive a bib with a number to wear. The participant chooses one of four different herds and goes in a mad dash down the street in the snow in an effort to outrun the reindeer. Many of the participants dress in weird costumes. Compared to the running of the bulls in Spain, the risk of being seriously hurt is significantly lower. The reindeer look very tame and probably thought the participants were ridiculously silly.



#### Willow: The Actual Start of the Race—

Early in the morning on the next day, everyone leaves Anchorage for Willow which is about 10 miles north of Wasilla. The race start is on a frozen lake called Willow and I was told the ice and snow is at least 30 inches deep. I saw large media trucks parked on the ice so I figured I was safe from falling through—although someone did mention, they saw a crack under one of the big trucks. The trail was roped off for the start of the teams. As in Anchorage, the announcer introduced teams according to the number drawn at the banquet. Number 1 was a musher who is an undertaker (has a funeral home) and called the Musher Undertaker and it appeared he was popular. It was exciting to see them go across the huge snowy lake and into the woods. Imagine going all day and all night in the bitter cold and it's not a smooth ride. Mushers decide when to rest while mindful that time is important and getting to the finish in Nome is the objective.



*This is Part 1 of telling my adventure. In the next issue, I will describe my adventures of seeing the Northern Lights and flying over the trails to checkpoints to see the teams and mushers up close.*

# Are You Ready?

by Brad Smith, CDTC Secretary and Instructor

**I**f you're thinking of trialing your dog in any AKC companion event, success will depend on whether your dog is engaged. With this in mind, I want you to try a seemingly simple exercise.

In a space not larger than six feet square, with no toys or treats, get and keep eye contact with your dog for 30 seconds. To get and focus your dog's attention on you, your tool box consists of any positive body gestures and your voice. After all, your voice and body are the only tools you will have at your disposal when trialing. If you are animated when you try this exercise, you're going to have an engaged dog. You will know you have been successful if your dog is looking at you with a wide smile and saucer-shaped eyes as if to say, "That was fun! What else are we going to do?"

Does your dog truly know where "front" is? Does your dog understand the proper heel position when he's stationary? Do you test accuracy? When working on shaping better and quicker responses, think outside the box. If you do the same thing all the time, your dog may very well get bored. Some advanced handling techniques are very hands on. But there are also ways to help your dog understand what you want from them without touching them. Balance is key because, for instance, if we apply hand pressure on the dog's rear to help them sit, the dog doesn't have to think. He's merely reacting to the pressure that he feels.

Many successful trainers use the marker system because it allows them to precisely pinpoint the moment the dog is right. Components of the marker system are:

- 1.** We use a mark "YES" when the dog is going to get a reward. The mark proceeds the time when the dog gets a treat and gives us as a bridge between the time when the dog offers the correct response and when they are rewarded for the behavior.
- 2.** We classically condition the sound or



marker so that every time they hear that sound, the dog knows that they have done something correctly and each and every time the dog hears that sound, they are going to get a reward momentarily.

**3.** If you use the marker at the same time that you deliver the treat, the dog will not be conditioned because there is no bridge (think of the Pavlovian theory).

**4.** If they hear the marker, they learn that they are going to get the

reward for the behavior.

**5.** Dogs learn best if they get the reward in no more than one second after they hear the marker.

**6.** Using marker training allows us to pinpoint the time when they are right.

An active dog understands that their behavior can make things happen for them. The active dog learns to work with us to get a reward, even when the reward is out of sight. An example of a dog that is actively learning is when you ask your dog to sit and you don't mark and reward the sit immediately, the dog may cycle through other behaviors that have previously made the reward happen. That dog is actively trying to figure out what he can do to get the reward.

A reactive dog is the one whose behavior is being driven by the reward that he can see. The handler may as well not be there. They won't pay attention to us unless we set up the circumstances so that it is rewarding to them.

We can turn a reactive dog into an active dog by charging the mark. To begin, we condition them to understand that each and every time we use our marker, they are going to get a reward. To help them understand the process, at first, we aren't going to ask our dog to do anything. Rather, we are going to say "yes," feed, "yes," feed, and do that 100 times so that they become conditioned to the sound and what happens when they hear the sound.



If over a week's period of time, you have conditioned your dog by CHARGING THE MARK to teach him that each and every time you say "yes," he's going to get a tasty treat, when you take your dog out to work, he will have become conditioned to this game. Hopefully, before you've begin training sessions with your dog, you've been using a phrase such as "Are you ready, ready, ready?" When you let your dog know that it is time to work, he will remember the game that you've played for the past week resulted in a reward. He will likely be focused on you because this behavior has worked before and will look at you as if to say, "Hey, when I did this before, you always gave me a reward. Don't you have something for me?" And you're going to say "yes" and reward with a treat that you have hidden on your body or that you have lain on the counter beforehand.

I also like to use secondary markers in training when chaining cues together such as "good" or "that's right" or "nice." Secondary markers let the dog know it's doing a good job, and eventually, he's going to be marked with the "yes" marker.

Having a party when your dog gets a behavior right is important. Clap and use enthusiastic praise.

When you are trialing, you may be in the ring when an award ceremony is happening in

the next ring. If you teach the dog that the clapping is for them, I can guarantee you that your dog will work even harder.



## Canine Good Citizenship Prep Class And Test

Capital has scheduled our next Canine Good Citizen test to be held at the clubhouse on **Sunday, July 31st** beginning at 2:00 PM.

If you want to test, please contact Carrie Solomon at [cssolomon@outlook.com](mailto:cssolomon@outlook.com) to sign up. The cost is \$15.

In addition, a four-week CGC prep class taught by Jodie Jeweler and Luann Korona will begin on **Saturday, July 9th** at 3:00 pm, ending on Saturday, July 30th.

If you want to take the CGC prep class, please contact our Training Secretary, Shannon Hall, at [cdtcclases@gmail.com](mailto:cdtcclases@gmail.com) to register.

It is not necessary to take the prep class in order to take the test but it is a great way to prepare and familiarize yourself with the CGC exercises.

### AKC PAC Defends Your Rights As A Dog Owner

CDTC members can donate directly to the AKC PAC (Political Action Committee). The PAC helps elect legislators who share our commitment to reasonable laws that protect our rights and promote responsible dog ownership and breeding. It demonstrates that dog owners will hold their representatives accountable for how they vote on dog issues, and that they stand behind leaders who share our beliefs.

By contributing to the AKC PAC, you greatly enhance the efforts of the American Kennel Club to fight for your rights as a dog owner. Contributions to the AKC PAC are used to provide tangible support to the candidacy of leaders who defend your rights as a dog owner.

Please send your charitable contribution directly to the AKC with "AKC PAC—Capital Dog Training Club" as a reference. Visit [www.akc.org/pac](http://www.akc.org/pac) or call the AKC at (919) 816-3720 to learn more.

# CLASS SCHEDULES

Day	Date	Time	Instructor	Time	Class	Instructor
<b>PUPPY KINDERGARTEN</b>				<b>AGILITY</b>		
Tues	7/19-8/23	7:00-7:50	Freedman	Wed	7:00-8:30 pm Hall	
Tues	6/9-7/28	7:00-7:50	B. Smith	Sun	10:15-11:30 pm deBremond	
<b>BEGINNER, ADVANCED BASIC &amp; SUB-NOVICE</b>				Sun	11:30-12:45 pm Heyes	
Mon	Sub-Novice	7:15-8:05 pm	Adler/Dwyer	Sun	5:15-6:30 pm deBremond	
Mon	Adv. Basic	8:30-9:25	Hall	Sun	6:30-7:45 pm Carter	
Tue	Basic/AB	6:00-6:50 pm	Reinhardt	<b>TRICKS</b>		
Tue	Beg. Open	7:00-7:50	Cleverdon	Tue	Adv. Tricks 11:30-12:50 pm	Rosen
Thur	Sub-Novice	9:30-10:20 am	Adler/Dwyer	<b>FREESTYLE</b>		
Sat	Basic	9:00-9:50 am	Solomon	Mon	C 10:00-12:00 pm	Ely
Sat	Basic	10:00-10:50 am	P. Miller	Sat	11:00-12:30 pm	Guzman
Sat	Basic	4:00-4:50 am	Daniel	<b>FLYBALL</b>		
Sun	Adv. Basic	1:00-2:15	Crawford	Sat	Beginning 6:30-7:30 pm	Dwyer
<b>NOVICE</b>				Sat	Intermediate 7:30-8:30 pm	Dwyer
Mon	C	7:15-8:05 pm	Glass	Sat	Competition 8:30-9:30 pm	Dwyer
Thurs	C	9:30-10:20 am	Holt	<b>TRAINING GROUPS</b>		
Thurs	C	6:00-6:50 pm	Dwyer	Mon	C 10:00-12:00 pm	Ely (Freestyle)
<b>OPEN</b>				Tue	C 10:30-11:250	Kietur/Ames (Novice)
Mon	C	6:00-7:15 pm	LaDieu	Tue	C 6:00-6:30	Cleverdon (Open & Util)
Tue	C (Beg.)	7:00-7:50 pm	McMunn/Cleverdon	Wed	C 9:30-10:20 am	McCown
Thurs	C (Intermed.)	8:00-9:00 pm	Harry	Wed	C 11:30-12:00 pm	Spodak (Obedience TG)
<b>UTILITY</b>				Wed	C 12:00-1:00 pm	Spodak (Open Discussion)
Mon	C	8:15-9:05 pm	Adler	Wed	C 1:00 pm	Spodak (Freestyle TG)
Thurs	C	6:00-7:00 pm	Harry/Prep	Wed	C 4:30-5:30 pm	Cleverdon
Thurs	C	7:00-8:00 pm	Harry	Thurs	C 10:30-11:30 am	Holt
<b>HEELING</b>				Thurs	C 12:30-2:20 pm	Goldstein
Sat	C	12:00-1:00 pm	Larkin	Fri	C 12:3-2:00 pm	Faber
<b>RALLY</b>				Sat	C 12:00-1:00 pm	Larkin
Thurs		Rally Class Set Up 11-11:30 am		Sat	C 1:00-3:00 pm	McAuliffe/Harab/Smith
Thurs	C	11:30-12:15 pm	Daniel/Comp.	Sun	C 9:00-10:15 am	Bob Reinhardt
Thurs		Rally Take Down 12:15 to 12:30		<b>BUILDING CLEANING</b>		
Thurs		Rally Take Down 12:15 to 12:30		Tues	C	Before 8 am and 1-4 pm
Sat		Rally Intro 3:00-3:50	Smith			Montgomery Cleaning Company
<b>BUILDING BLOCKS BEHAVIOR</b>						
Mon		12:30-1:20 pm	Rosen	<b>TG = Training Group</b>		
6/20-8/8				<b>C = Continuing Class</b>		

# CLASS SCHEDULES

Time	Class	Instructor	Ring	Time	Class	Instructor	Ring
<b>MONDAY</b>				<b>FRIDAY</b>			
10-12 noon	Freestyle TG	Ely	1-2-3	10:00-12:00	Freestyle	Ely	1-2-3
12:30-1:30	Building Blocks Behavior	Rosen	1-2	12:30-2:00 pm	UDX TG	Faber	2-3
	6/20-8/8						
6:00-7:15	Open	LaDieu	2-3	<b>SATURDAY</b>			
7:15-8:05	Sub-Novice	Adler/Dwyer	3	9:00-9:50 am	Basic	Solomon	2-3
7:15-8:05	Novice	Glass	1-2		7/9-8/13		
8:15-9:05	Utility	Adler	2-3	10:00-10:50	Basic	P. Miller	1-2
8:30-9:25	Adv. Basic, 6/27-8/2	Hall	1		6/4-7/16		
<b>TUESDAY</b>				11:00-12:00pm	Fun With Freestyle	Guzman	Bldg.
10:30-11:25	Novice Training Gp (June 14)		1-2	12:00-1:00	Heeling	Larkin/Cook	1-2
	Kietur/Ames				7/9-8/13		
11:30-12:30	Adv. Tricks	Rosen	1-2	1:00-3:00	Rally Training Group		1-2-3
1-3:30 pm	Building Cleaning				McAuliffe/Harab/Faber/Smith		
6-6:30	Open/Utility TG	Cleverdon		3:00-3:50 am	Intro. Rally	B.Smith	1-2
6:00-6:50	Basic, 6/28-8/9	Reinhardt	1		6/11-7/30		
7-7:50	Beg. Open	Cleverdon	2-3		CGC Prep Jeweler/Koronna		3
7:00-7:50	Puppy K, 7/19-8/23	Freedman	2-3		7/9-7/30		
7-7:50	Beg. Open	Cleverdon/McMunn	2-3	6:30-7:30	Beg. Flyball	Dwyer	1-2-3
8-10:00	CDTC Meetings		Bldg.	7:30-8:30	Intermediate Flyball	Dwyer	1-2-3
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				8:30-9:30	Competition Flyball	Dwyer	1-2-3
9:30-10:20 am	Novice TG	McCown	1-2	<b>SUNDAY</b>			
11:30-noon	TG: Obed. Handling	Spodak	1-2	8-10:15 am	Open TG	Reinhardt	1-2
12:00-1:00	Discussion			10:15-11:30	Agility-Beginner	deBremond	Bldg.
1:00	Freestyle Training	Spodak	Bldg.		5/15-7/17		
7:00-8:30	Agility: Competition	Hall	Bldg.	11:30-12:45	Agility-Adv. Basic	Heyes	Bldg.
	5/11-7/13				5/15-7/17		
<b>THURSDAY</b>				5:15-6:30	Agility-Intro	deBremond	Bldg.
9:30-10:20 am	Sub-Novice	Adler/Dwyer	3		5/15-7/17		
9:30-10:20	Novice	Holt	1-2	6:30-7:45	Handling	Carter	Bldg.
11:00-11:30	Rally Set-up		2-3		5/15-7/17		
11:30-12:15pm	Competition Rally	Daniel	2-3	<b>More Doings At the Club!</b>			
12:15-12:30	Rally Take Down		2-3	■ Annual CDTC Awards Dinner & General Meeting:			
12:30-2:30	Open/Utility TG	Goldstein	Bldg.	July 12 at 6:30 pm			
6:00-6:50	Novice	Dwyer	1-2	■ Board Meeting: July 26 at 8 pm			
6:00-7:00	Utility Prep	Harry	3	 			
7:00-8:00 pm	Utility	Harry	2-3				
7:00-8:00 pm	Puppy K 6/9-7/28	B. Smith	1				
8:00-9:00	Open Intermediate	Harry	2-3				

## **July Rally Training Group Schedule**

Set up at 1pm. Walk-thrus at 1:25.

Runs start at 1:35, end by 2:45 pm.

The next training dates will be:

**Saturday, July 2, 16, and 30**

Please check our club's listserv for any cancellations.

## **General Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner**

*Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm*

**Come Join Us!  
Mark Your Calendars  
for the Popular  
CDTC Obedience  
Run-thru's**

**Sundays:  
July 3 and September 3**

**Clubhouse/Information Phone:** 301-587-5959 (K9K9)

**Yahoo! Group:** [groups.yahoo.com/group/cdte](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdte)

**Website:** [www.cdte.org](http://www.cdte.org)

**Obichaff email:** [pamcoblyn@comcast.net](mailto:pamcoblyn@comcast.net)

**Classes:** [www.cdte.org/classes/classes.html](http://www.cdte.org/classes/classes.html)

**Events:** [www.cdte.org/events/events.html](http://www.cdte.org/events/events.html)

**Facebook:** Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, DC

**Twitter:** @CapDTC

**eCommerce Site:** [www.CapitalDTC.blogspot.com](http://www.CapitalDTC.blogspot.com)



### **Obichaff**

The Monthly Newsletter of  
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Pam Coblyn, *Editor*

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