



Obichaff

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



February 2023

Volume 80 - Issue 1

“Dogs are better than human beings because they know, but do not tell.” – Emily Dickinson

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Obichaff Editor

From the Editor



Welcome to my first edition as the new editor of the Obichaff! I look forward to keeping this a joy-filled and dog-centered space, while

[Payton Murphy](#)

Members at Large

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[Shirley Blakely](#)

**New Membership
Information**

[Shirley Blakely](#)

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board member)**

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incorporating some new sections and helpful tips along the way. I appreciate everyone's patience as I get my footing as editor, and I welcome feedback and new ideas!

For those of you I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Payton and that cute brindle gal with me is Hadley, my All-American dog! We have been members for about a year, working on both scent work and obedience. We obtained our Beginner Novice title and are working towards a CD, and are gearing up for scent work trials. We can also be found at the Club assisting with classes and administering CGC tests; Hadley takes her job as the "friendly dog" very seriously.

Going forward, please send any Obichaff related entries, feedback on what you'd like to see more/less of, bags, and more to our new Obichaff email: cdtcobichaff@gmail.com



CDTC Howliday Party 2022



Hadley and Rocket in their Holiday best

The 2022 Howliday Party was a festive and cheerful time for humans and canines alike. There was an abundance of savory snacks and sweet treats. A table full of wine and sparkling cider helped bring the holiday spirit into our jolly green training space!

We kick started the evening with a new member meet and greet. This was particularly pertinent, as many members joined during the pandemic, which has limited our ability to interact in person. It was lovely putting names to faces and finally getting to make some long-awaited introductions.



In addition to the spread of tasty treats, there were games organized by Donna Cleverdon! We started off with a rousing game of the canine version of tic tac toe where instead of X and O, we had the Sit vs. the Down. These dogs really showed out! Owners had to strategize on where to put their dog AND keep their dog in either a sit or down, depending upon their team's requirement. The real kicker? Dogs could not switch up their position! If your sit turned into a down, you were out, freeing up the space for the other team. It was a great challenge, and a wonderful opportunity to show off the work members put into training long sits and long downs!



Doggy tic tac toe wasn't the only game bringing out the friendly competition; we also had a heeling relay! The object of this game: keep a ping pong ball perfectly balanced on top of an overturned to-go cup - all while holding your dogs leash in the same hand. To keep that delicate ball in place, the handler and dog needed to work in tandem to weave through the line of cones. If the ball dropped, the team needed to start over and hope their competition didn't finish up in the meantime! We had some well-matched battles including a battle of two corgis, a tervuren vs. a cavalier king Charles spaniel, a rough collie vs. a Labrador, and more!





The Howliday party was a wonderful success and a great time was had by all. After a long period of distance as we all navigated the pandemic, it was fantastic to spend some time socializing in the club with good friends and great dogs.

Thanks again to all who organized, decorated for, and cleaned up after this stellar event!



A "Real World" Training Win

Submitted by: Eileen Freedman

I have been instructing various obedience levels of training classes at our club for decades. Over the years I have received a lot of feedback mostly from people who have enrolled in Puppy Kindergarten.

The email below is from Lauren, a recent PK graduate. It is a good example of how much our CDTC classes positively impacts the public. Regarding Lauren's email, none of the PK assistants nor I gave Lauren explicit instruction on how to deal with the situation she experienced. However, what we did do was give a first-time dog owner information about life with a dog. By giving useful tips, we gave the owner a feeling of empowerment and confidence to deal with various situation. A little encouragement can go a long way.

Just read her email below...

From: Lauren

To: Eileen

Subject: Hello and happy new year!

Hello Eileen,

Happy New Year 2023 to you and to your entire family! Dogs included!!

I wanted to write to let you know how much Lewis and I (and my family) appreciated your excellent teaching and patience during puppy kindergarten at CDTC.

We had an encounter recently that I wanted to tell you about. I attribute our work in PK with the ability to come through this encounter successfully.

I was walking Lewis early one recent Saturday morning. As we approached a house along a typical street in our neighborhood, two large dogs came running and barking at us from the porch and bushes area of the house. The owner was nearby and was in the process of placing his dogs into their car which was parked in their driveway. At that moment, his dogs clearly were not leashed and rushed at Lewis and I. I quickly was able to tell Lewis to sit, and then wait. When I did this, Lewis obeyed the commands even with the other big dogs rushing and barking around us, and with their owner screaming for his dogs to come to their car!

Lewis and I waited quietly and patiently for the owner to load his dogs into his car, and then when all was clear, Lewis and I continued our walk when I said Let's Go!

I was so very happy that Lewis and I knew how to handle such a sudden and unexpected situation, and that we were able to be so together throughout. Your teaching really helped us so much!! Thank you!!

By the way, I have lately been using a martingale collar to walk Lewis and he is doing well with it!! The Halti kept slipping off, and the harness was causing him to pull even harder. The martingale seems to be a good choice for us right now.

Lewis and I look forward to coming back to CDTC after taking a short break and continuing to work on everything we learned in your PK class.

Have a great day!

Thank you again.

Lauren Fernandez and Lewis (the Corgi)



The Little Predators We Live With

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

While Connor now ignores pretty much everything that moves except me or his doggy buddies while outside, as a puppy he found a nestling on the ground and happily ate it. He also realized that he could grab a lower branch on the bush the nest was in and out would drop other nestlings. A birdie vending machine, how delicious! I did cut the lower branches off but too late to save any baby birds that season, I am afraid.

His brother Michael is much more offended by squirrels and deer and tells them off every time he sees them daring to exist near his backyard, but until recently, he'd never successfully caught anything. Recently, I saw him rolling in the yard and called him inside. He strutted in with fresh blood all over one cheek, the back of his neck and top of his back - typical rolling locations but of course I checked him all over for wounds before plopping him in the shower, to his disgust. When Dave came home I asked him to check the yard so that Michael didn't run out and decorate himself again. Feathers everywhere, no body to find. So, yum, I guess?

All this reminded me of my mother-in-law, many years ago telling me in horror that my cattle dog Maya had killed a bunny in her yard. The implication was clear that Maya was an evil killing machine. When several weeks later, her wire fox terrier also killed a bunny, she sheepishly admitted that perhaps that was just a thing that dogs do sometimes. So yes, that's just a thing that dogs do, sometimes! Especially terriers. I know I'm preaching to the choir, but please remind folks as needed that dogs will chase, dig, pull, and sniff, all as they are bred to do.

Volunteering at an Agility Trial

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

Agility trials need many hands. Volunteering at a trial is a fantastic way for an aspiring agility handler to meet the community and get familiar with trialing. Our annual agility trial is coming up in April, just saying! I expect to spend all day at a trial; if you want to help but are not ready for that, maybe recruit a volunteering buddy and split a day.

Jobs include leash runner, score runner, ring crew (also called bar setter), scribe, timer, and gate steward, as well as course builders and a volunteer coordinator. All these jobs can be taught, but for newbies, ring crew is the best pick. You get to sit in the ring and watch each team run the course, and all you have to do is watch for dropped bars or other "course destruction" committed by dogs

during a run and fix it as soon as they are at the finish, and change jump heights as directed by the gate steward.

Score runner and leash runner are easy enough, although there is some judgment called for as leash runner, in that you do NOT want to disturb a dog on the start line, nor cause a distraction, so you need to figure out when to move to pick up the leash (after the dog is away from the start line), and what to do if the course brings the dog back towards the front of the ring while you are moving the leash (freeze and turn away).

Scribe is best left to an experienced volunteer, and timer also has a trick or two to it. Both can be taught though, so if the need arises, don't fear (too much)!

Gate is best done by someone who is organized, can call out loudly, and who knows the teams, especially in Master's where a handler running multiple dogs might have to move dogs up and down in the run order, causing confusion on the gate sheet.

Volunteer coordinators monitor the worker board to make sure each class has enough help, and sings out if not, all the while handing out snack bar coupons and raffle tickets to the volunteers as a thank you and inducement to help.

Course building is a skill one learns over time, with much experience, but if it looks interesting and you have a good back, find a course builder when they are free and ask if and how you can help. We all start somewhere!

Any of this sound interesting? Want to help?
Benita is the big boss for trials, but talk to any of us Capital agility folks and we will be happy to bring you on board.

Entries open 15 February and the premium is here:

<http://www.clantyre.net/secserv/Agility/CDTC-Premium-AG-2023.pdf>

Janitor's Corner

Submitted by: Martin Goldstein

Forward by: Shannon Hall



While Martin's article is overflowing with jokes, there are a few nuggets of truth buried within it: the board has indeed stood up a small Facility Committee to be a hands-on team to better manage the physical aspects of the club house, and Martin does have some specific maintenance projects planned. Enjoy the humor and volunteers are welcome to join us on the Facility Committee!

-Shannon, CDTC Prez

Greetings!

A change in administration is always an exciting time and no less so for us in Janitorial Services. With the merger and acquisition complete, we also have exciting news to share.

The Janitorial Services Special Projects Division (JSSPD) now falls directly under the umbrella of the newly formed Facilities Committee. You will find us prominently displayed on the new Organizational Chart, once an intern conceives of it and it runs the approval gauntlet. Look for that in the next year or three.

Have no fear, Dear Club Members. You will continue to receive the compassionate and comprehensive service to which you have become accustomed.

(The following may or may not be true).

What it means is, as we retain our unique and autonomous operating structure, we are again fully funded. Budgetary pressures remain,

however. As the fiscal year began in October, we are pressed to utilize our funds by fiscal year-end to ensure continued support next fiscal year. Consulting with colleagues and friends adept at dealing with such situations, I believe we're off to a good start. In particular, my good friend Bill Clinton was very helpful. Some of you may have heard of him. He was an esteemed Janitor during an earlier era. He reminded me, that as the face of CDTC, it was important I look my best. With his referral in hand, I just received a fantastic haircut. No expense was spared. Through the wisdom of others, I was further inspired. Our new toilet seat, is at this very moment, being poured to my personal specifications at the gold exchange. You will be so pleased.

All in all, I expect this to be a great year as we collaborate closely with our Facility Committee compatriots.

Outside of normal day-to-day services, two high-profile items are currently in our project backlog; proper mounting of the water closet hand basin, and utility sink modernization. Per our lethargic development methodology, both items are deeply entrenched in the procrastination phase as we proceed with the requisite plan to plan the plan meetings. Given our inclusive and unifying operating model, you may rest assured; no hops will be harmed, no spirits discriminated against, and no desserts turned away during our lavish, collaborative, dinner meetings.

Before I conclude, I'd like to take a moment to thank the retiring board for their diligent service, and warmly welcome our incoming leadership.

The energy and enthusiasm are absolutely fantastic! A new day has dawned.

If the early morning mess Janitorial Services faced after last night's inauguration celebration is any indication, the camaraderie and motivation are simply intoxicating. We found one board member (who shall remain nameless) sleeping fitfully in our coat closet; still in party hat and beads. We gently carried them to their car and drove them home. They're so cute when they're sleeping.

As I stood within our hallowed halls, I found myself overcome with emotion. I confess I became a bit misty as I considered the potential and opportunity that lie before us.

Please join me in doing our best to help our new administration be all they can be for CDTC. Let's reach for the stars!

You may also feel free to compliment me on my glimmering, shimmering, coiffure. No offense will be taken. Human resources won't hear a peep out of me.

Cheers to a great year!

- CDTC Janitor

Braggs

Ed Read writes:

Gigi (Gigi Of Cameron Hill CD BN RA SCA SIN SEN THD DS CGCA TKP) earned her PCDX or Preferred Open Title on 12/2/22 at Catoctin Kennel Club's Obedience Trial. There were not many in our class (maybe 2, perhaps 3; can't recall) BUT we did manage to win first place AND funny enough earn an HIT for the Preferred Division. We accepted the accommodation regardless of our rather small class. Why not! I was pretty happy with her performance even though the actual number score was only 189 and 1/2 (we prefer 190 and above!). Her heeling was good and she stayed engaged. Surprisingly, it only took us three attempts to earn this title, considered by some almost as hard or harder than Open A, and were able to earn her title which is more than I can say for where we are with Open A right now. I know, makes no sense, but we are on a good track right now and I feel confident we're destined for the CDX title sometime in 2023. Wish us luck!



Jennie Larkin writes:

Tali was amaze-balls at the 2022 AKC Agility Invitational! After finishing her FCAT5 early in the week (and getting injured so she spent the next three days in intensive rehab, she was sound to run in the invites that weekend. She was superb with 3 clear rounds (finishing day 1 in the top third of the 20" class), then another clear round on Sunday. Her last run was perfect but a couple seconds over time.



Martha Perkins writes:

At the American Spaniel Club Flushing Spaniel Show in Knoxville, TN, on Jan. 14, Moose, handled by Martha Perkins, earned the first leg on his Beginner Novice title, with 196 points, first among spaniels and second in all-breed. On Sunday, Jan. 15, again with 196 points, Moose earned the second leg on his BN title, with first in all-breed. In an odd decision, the show committee changed the time—during the show—for Welsh Springer Spaniels to show, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, causing half of the champions, including Moose, to leave and miss the breed competition. Martha and Moose wish to thank profusely Marsha Iyomasa for her outstanding obedience instruction.



Martin Goldstein writes:

Molly coincidentally earned her Intermediate Tricks and all 4 ACT titles in the same week. A very nice morale booster as we inch toward the Obedience ring.

Special thanks to our instructors; both official and unofficial for their thoughtful and thought-provoking tips and suggestions as I continue to build my relationship with this soft, happy, bright young lady. Molly will be two in February.



Marnie McCown wrapped up her 4-week Tricks class with testing for the TKN (Novice Trick Dog) title. Students could opt to pass the CGC and then, have their dog demonstrate 5 tricks to earn the title or they could have their dog perform 10 tricks for the title. All the dogs passed with flying colors!

Pictured: Jim and Rosie (the doodle) (both titles), Charlie and Krumpet (the poodle) (CGC only), Dale and Lucy (both titles), Audrey and Penny (both titles AND posted with parental permission), Kevin and Edgar (TKN only), Kelcy (not pictured) and Henry (TKN only), and a bonus of Natasha and Argos, who stopped by and earned their TKN. Congrats to all!















Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

All classes listed below still have openings.
Register [here](#).

Puppy Kindergarten begins Sunday, March 5.

Family Dog 1 classes start Tuesday, March 7 at 7pm
and another section at 8pm.

Heeling, Fronts, and Finishes
begins Monday, March 13.

Beginner Novice starts Tuesday, April 4.

Beginning Confirmation starts Saturday, March 4.

Open & Utility Obedience Skills has openings.
Contact [Training Director](#)

Upper level Obedience classes
Contact [Training Director](#)

Rally Competition Class has space available.
Register [here](#).

[Beginning and Intermediate Flyball](#) classes meet
Saturday evenings
contact [Dona Dwyer](#)

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

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Training Groups:

Conformation Group meets 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm and
Thursdays at 8pm. Non-members pre-register and pay for dates you
plan to attend [here](#).

Thursday Open/Utility Training Group (Goldstein @
12:30pm). Contact [Burton](#).

Friday Utility Training Group (Cleverdon @ 1:00pm). Contact
[Donna](#).

For information about **Freestyle Training Group**
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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). Visit cdtc.org/membership.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

In the Companion Events Committee Meeting in December:

- It was mentioned that of all the dogs registered in ALC only 10% participate in some AKC sport
- FAST CAT has become AKC’s third largest sport and Scent Work is the 4th largest.
- Rally continues to go up- 13000 entries and Obedience down 90,000 entries
- In the Agility Competition in Orlando there were 730 entries and 75 were Juniors.
- Novice Obedience maxed out with 82 entries and 15 Juniors.
- 2023 Agility Nationals- March 17-19 in Tulsa; 2023 Rally National and National
- Obedience- June 16-19 in Wilmington, OH. The format will be modified to accommodate all entries.
- Approved- Agility Field Reps may participate in the sport with restrictions
- More and More Clubs have been doing Agility ISC classes- 3 levels. There is no title associated with this.
- Staff is submitting a proposal about 4 and 5 foot jumps so clubs can use what they already have. A discussion began on displaceable jumps. Since this discussion, I understand the AKC Board made a decision. Read the recent Board minutes.

In the general meeting:

- The nominees for the Class of 2027 presented their bios. They can be read on the AKC website. The nominees are: Dr. Charles Garvin from the Dalmatian Club of America, Steven Hamblin from Pekingese Club of America, and Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. from Burlington County KC. These people came out of the

nominating committee. In addition, Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara from Two Cities KC is running by petition pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4. The vote for three will be on March 14, 2023 at the next Delegates meeting.

If anyone has a preference and would like for me to vote for a particular nominee, please [email](#) me. Hope you are having a good beginning to the new year.

CDTC Hike (times two!)

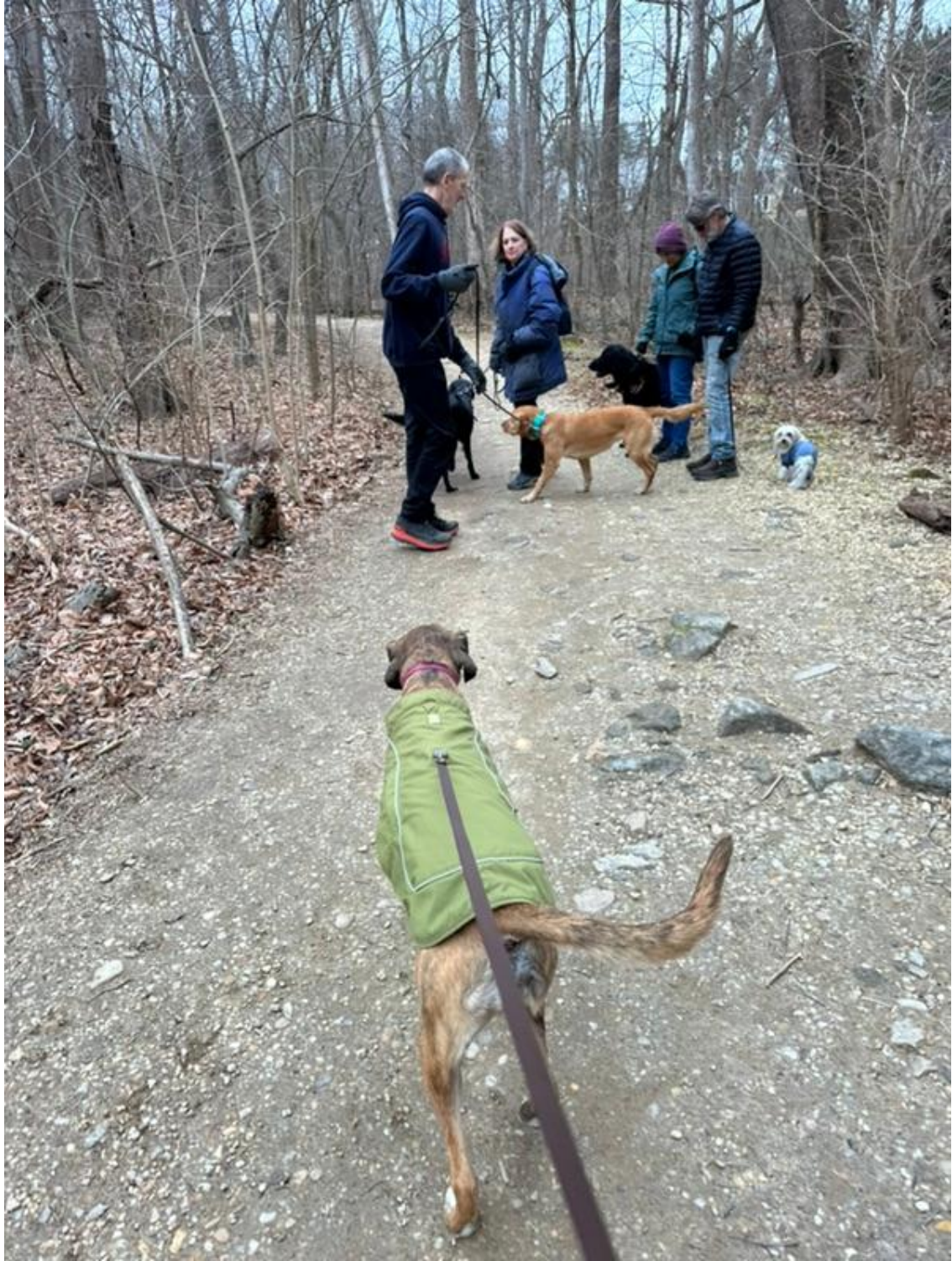
CDTC members meet to hike on Saturday, December 31, 2022 in Seneca Creek State Park. Thanks to Sandi Atkinson for organizing a great way to wrap up 2022!



CDTC members also meet to hike on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at the Boundary Bride to head out on the Valley and Western Ridge

Trails in Rock Creek Park. It was a cold, yet dry hike with good conversation! A big thank you to Ed Read for organizing the event, and Tom Tatham for taking some pictures.







Next Membership Meeting February 14th, at 8:00pm



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