



Obichaff

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



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

February 2025

Volume 82 - Issue 1

"Because of the dog's joyfulness, our own is increased. It is no small gift." - Mary Oliver

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We're back! It's the 82nd Volume of the CDTC Obichaff, quite an accomplishment for this

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**New Membership
Information**
[Shirley Blakely](#)

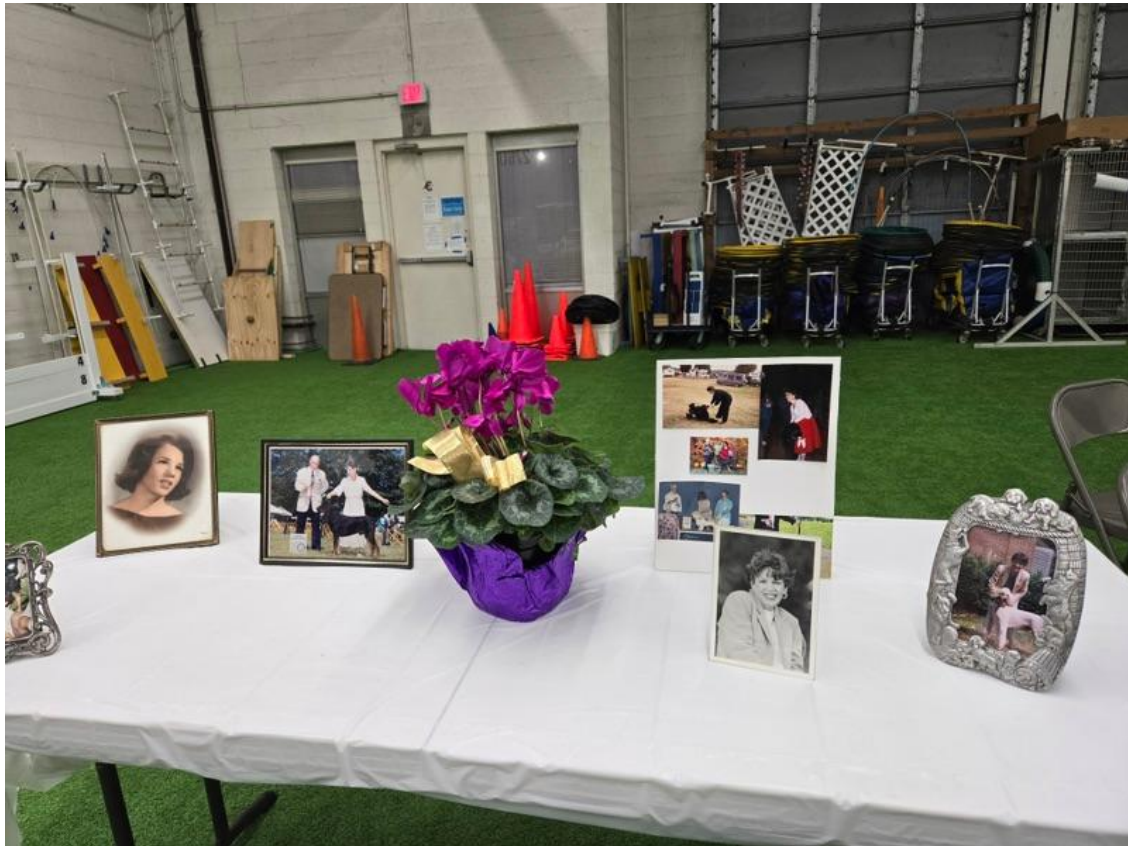
**Historian (not a
board member)**
[Joan Adler](#)

club of ours.

This is also my first edition from Denver! After a particularly ice-filled, frigid, and precarious three-day long drive from Maryland to Colorado, we made it to our new home. While we miss our people back in the DMV, particularly those we met through dog-training, we're really enjoying the mountain views and near constant sunshine. This area is ridiculously dog friendly with tons of designated off-leash space, which Hadley is loving! Pictured above is her romping through a 400+ acre designated off-leash park, not something we are used to! Now I just need to convince her that Rally practice is as fun as a mountain hike...

Janice Kopp, Remembered.

Photo and Words submitted by: Pam Ayres



December 21, 2024 3 - 5 pm

42 people came from as far away as West Virginia.

Many told stories about Janice including many of those pictured. A common theme was the interest Janice took in so many people and their dogs,

particularly those new to confirmation.

The young people who attended had also been encouraged by Janice. People spoke of knowing Janice for as little as a few months and as long as 20 years.









Finding Healing Through St. Serious: A Journey of Discovery and Growth

Submitted by: Shenita Freeman

Photo by: Marnie McCown



2023 was a year of profound discovery for me. At times, I wonder if I experienced a mid-life awakening—a jolt that set me on a year-long transformative path. It began in January, when I left Maryland to take a new job in Georgia. I made that move because for years, I believed that I could live anywhere and I had, but after just seven months, that hypothesis proved false in Georgia.

I returned to Maryland with emotional scars and a physical challenge: surgery to remove a non-cancerous tumor. The procedure went smoothly, but during recovery, I found myself adrift. My days became monotonous. Wake up. Wash up—sometimes. Work. Eat—sometimes. Watch TV or read. Sleep. Repeat. Even weekends followed the same uninspired pattern. As an introvert and a bit of a

loner, I was stuck in my bubble, disconnected from the world.

Then came the dream.

One day, while napping and nursing my surgical wounds, I dreamed of a Doberman. He exuded strength, love, stability, and a healing energy that felt almost divine. He placed his paw on my bed, looked at me with an intense, knowing gaze, and, in that moment, I felt something shift. A deep, unexplainable knowing told me I could heal—if I was willing to commit. But what was I healing from?

From that day forward, I became obsessed. I threw myself into learning everything I could about dogs, especially Dobermans. I studied their temperaments, pedigrees, breed standards, and the subtle differences between American and European lines. I connected with breeders, asked questions, and learned how to identify scams and unsuitable matches. For six months, I searched tirelessly for the right dog, sometimes feeling like it was an impossible quest.

Then, one day, I found a promising litter. The breeder checked all the boxes: champion pedigrees, longevity, no signs of genetic heart conditions, and the perfect temperament for service work. But there was one hitch—the puppy was in Georgia.

I hesitated, reluctant to revisit a place that had been so challenging. But I reminded myself: *Let this be one of the few positives to come out of my time there.*

The story of this puppy's beginnings was bittersweet. A man had bred his companion Doberman with another, only to find himself overwhelmed by a winter litter born in less-than-ideal conditions. Fortunately, the breeder, Kettlecove Dobermans, intervened, rescuing the pups and nursing them back to health.

When I arrived on March 11th, the day before my birthday, one pup stood out. As the others tumbled and played, he sat quietly, observing me with an intensity that felt almost human. When I approached, he came over and sat calmly. "Geesh, you're so serious," I said. And just like that, it was love at first sight.

We've been inseparable ever since.

As we approach St. Serious' first birthday, I'm filled with gratitude. He's more than just a dog—he's my partner in healing. Together, we've taken doggie swim lessons and countless training classes, and we practice so often that my neighbors think I'm a dog trainer. Most importantly, he's helped me reconnect with life.

I am outside again.

While my healing journey continues, St. Serious has been my anchor. As my service dog in training, he pushes me to leave my comfort zone and embrace the world. His velcro-like devotion and healing energy remind me daily that I am not alone and that it's okay to just be me. He also allows me to be silent, offering a comforting presence that feels like an invisible connection—a bond that speaks volumes without a single word.

God knew exactly what I needed. And with St. Serious by my side, I'm learning more each day about what I'm truly healing from. I am so happy that I found St. Serious.

January Run-Through

Submitted by: Julie Rovner

Roughly two dozen club members and students gave up part of their Saturday night Jan. 25 to attend and help with the first CDTC obedience run-throughs since before the pandemic. These used to be a staple for the club and the enthusiasm and robust turnout suggests that we will be doing more of these, perhaps once per calendar quarter.

Big thanks to Kate Mazza, who organized and engineered the entire event, with the help of Julie Rovner and Marnie McCown. Thanks also to our volunteer judges: Shirley Blakely who handled beginner novice and novice; Donna Cleverdon and Ed Read, who judged open; and Julie Rovner, who oversaw utility.

Also a big shout-out to our many volunteer stewards and audience members, who helped create a real trial-like atmosphere that so many of our greener dogs need to practice for the real deal. Keep an eye out for our next run-throughs in the Spring.

CDTC's Newest CGCs

Submitted and Tested by: Shannon Hall and Marnie McCown

Did you know CDTC does Canine Good Citizen testing? It's true! We have evaluators and routinely offer Canine Good Citizen, Canine Good Citizen Advanced, and Canine Good Citizen Urban tests. See below for the most recent CGC graduates:



Another Urban CGC at Rio Lakefront is in the books. Six teams joined me for a very cold walk and even colder down-stay. We got many delighted smiles and happy questions while we walked and some pats too.

- Shannon Hall



8 teams tested for the AKC CGC Advanced and all 8 teams passed.

Well done all! From left to right: Capi and Coco, Nancy and Ella, Mary and Gracie, Rebecca and Kenai, Mary and Holly, Marsha and Anela, Dianne and Rocky, Betsy and Gemmy.

- Shannon Hall









Here are the teams that got their CGCs/Trick Titles on January 4th!

Nancy and Comet
Georgina and Doc
Susan and Summer
Diana and Theo

-Marnie McCown

Upcoming: Connie

Cleveland Seminar

CAPITAL DOG TRAINING CLUB PRESENTS

Connie Cleveland-Nolan Obedience Seminar

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13, 2025

CONNIE CLEVELAND-NOLAN is an internationally recognized dog trainer who has been teaching and coaching dog obedience students for over 3 decades.

In 2019, Connie launched *The Obedience Road*, a complete online resource for obedience competitors. Utilizing written and video content, monthly webinars, community forums and personalized video review, Connie coaches obedience newcomers and experienced competitors alike.

Connie competes in both Obedience and Retriever Field Trials, having finished 12 Obedience Trial Champions (OTCH), 2 Field Champions (FC), 5 Amateur Field Champions (AFC), a UDT Maltese and a CDX Shih-Tzu.

(For more information, visit www.ObedienceRoad.com)



SEMINAR LOCATION: 2758 Garfield Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910

TIME: 8:30am – 4:30pm

SEMINAR SPECIFICS: Working spots capped at 20, unlimited audit space

LUNCH: CDTC will provide lunch and snacks included in seminar fee

FEE: Working spot \$300 for both days
Auditors \$150 for both days

SIGN UP: See form below

DEADLINE: Cancellations with full refund accepted by March 15, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Donna Cleverdon – 301-785-5203
clvrddog@verizon.net



For more information, please reach out to [Donna Cleverdon](#).

To sign up, please utilize the form below, which can also be accessed as a PDF [here](#).

SIGN-UP FORM FOR

Connie Cleveland-Nolan Obedience Seminar

Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13, 2025

☐ WORKING SPOT

☐ AUDIT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

DOG BREED: _____

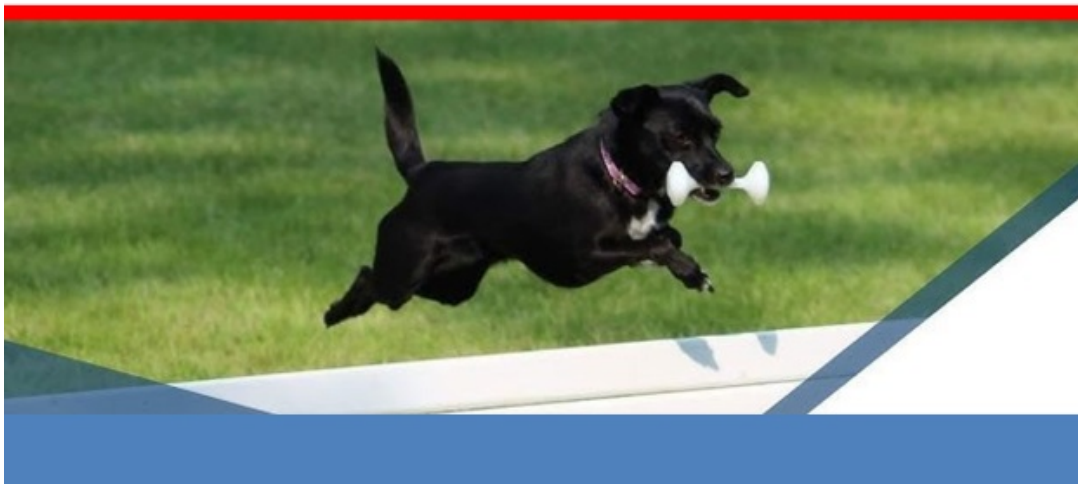
DOG'S AGE: _____

CALL NAME: _____

CURRENT TRAINING LEVEL: _____

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CDTC)

MAIL THIS FORM WITH CHECK TO: **Donna Cleverdon**
8913 Walden Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20901



Braggs



Tom Tatham shares:

Luna's (OTCH Wescot's Enchanted Princess UDX2 OM3 BN RE CGCU TKI) 2024 Obedience Achievements:

Luna began competing in the Utility B and Open B classes in January of 2024. She earned her Obedience Master (OM) title on March 17 and her Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) title on March 31. On May 26 Luna earned her OM2. This was followed on August 4 by winning her Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH) and then an OM3 on November 30.

Over the course of the year, Luna took 1st place in Utility B on 7 occasions, along with four 2nd place finishes, four 3rd places and two 4th places. In Open B, Luna finished: once in 1st place, five times in 2nd place, twice in 3rd place and six times in 4th. In addition, she won High in Trial on two occasions, as well as two High Combined awards.

Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

In the Companion Events Committee Meeting:

- Board member Steve Hamblin reported on the Board's position currently on the video of the tripod dog in agility. A discussion occurred on the committee's position and backed research on dogs participating in jumping activities. AKC VP of Public Relations and Communications Brandi Hunter reported that the safety and well being of all breeds of dogs from smallest to the largest breeds must be considered. Doug Ljungren reported on the pilot program which ends on July 1, 2025. The Committee has voted to leave the decision of these dogs participating in non-jumping exercises in Obedience and Rally classes permanently up to the AKC Board.
- The CEC reviewed the subcommittee report on reviewing Beginner Novice and Novice class exercises. In Beginner Novice the suggestion to change the Sit Stay-Handler Walk Around the Ring to have the handler walk a T pattern instead of walk around the ring. In Novice Class- committee is still working on recommendations and the rest of the CEC made comments.
- Diane Bauman exhibitor and instructor submitted her recommendations to the CEC on Saving the Sport of Obedience Competition and Can Obedience Learn from Agility? I found her suggestions very thought provoking. She is an author and I believe have written articles on the topic. If you cannot find these articles, I may be able to share. Let me know.
- Doug reported on the status of the Sport- Number of Entries to date from 2023 to 2024:
 - Conformation- (3.6%)
 - Agility- 2%
 - Fast Cat- 15%
 - Scent Work- 14%
 - Rally- 11%
 - Field Trials- (4%)
 - Obedience- 1%
 - AKC Temperament Test- 45%
 - Coursing Ability Test- 12%
 - Tracking- (0.2%)
- RACH in Orlando had an entry of 140. Obedience Classic had an entry of 266 teams.
- Rally and Obedience Nationals will be held July 3-7, 2025 and will be held at Purina Farms. Due to the smaller facility, the RNC will be held over the course of three days July 3-5 and the NOC will be held July 6-7.
- All judges have until Jan. 1 2025 to complete the Darkness to Light Class. If the individual did not take it, judging privileges will be blocked for future assignments. In Agility 77% have taken the class; in Obedience 75%, in Rally 76% and in Tracking 67%.
- DQ by Event Committee- 3 strikes- The AKC has approved a

recommendation to establish a process where a dog that an event committee determines has attacked a person or dog on three occasions, even without injury, shall administratively be disqualified by AKC. It will apply to all AKC Sports.

- Agility- Change to Tire Jump- A displaceable connecting strap that holds the tire to the frame will be effective July 1, 2025. CEC agreed and supports the decision.
- Douglas Hurley, AKC Director of Agility reported the 2025 Agility Nationals will be March 13-16, 2025 in Tulsa. The event will be filmed on ESPN.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

Permission is required to register for Beginner Novice, Novice, Open, and Utility Obedience classes
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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

Email the [Agility Director](#) with all agility related questions.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with all other questions.

Training Groups

Rally Training Group

meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month 1 - 2:30 pm.

Obedience Training Group

meets the 1st Saturday of the month

Conformation Group

More information to come.

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 (Obedience, Agility, or Rally).

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.

Next Membership Meeting:
February 11th at 8:00pm

Do you have an idea for an article? Perhaps a message for dog-people is taking up space in your brain and you need to put pen to paper? Submit your articles for the Obichaff [here](#)!



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