



# Obichaff

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



July 2023

Volume 80 - Issue 6

"Before you get a dog, you can't quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can't imagine living any other way." - *Caroline Knapp*

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July is here, and with it lots of humidity! Due to the lack of rain in June, the air was dryer and markedly less offensive. Hadley and I really enjoyed the milder temps and got lots of long walks and hikes into our days.

When the weather really becomes unbearable and neither of us want to be out without a way to cool off, we head to visit friends near water. Sometimes this is a beach, sometimes a river! Either way, we love to spend our time swimming whenever possible.

As the temperatures and humidity creep up on us, I hope you all and your dogs can find some

**Members at Large**  
[Luann Korona](#)

solace in the various watersheds around the DMV area!

[Marnie McCown](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

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

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

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# Calm through Chaos

A Guide for July 4th Fireworks and Dogs

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The Fourth of July means barbecues, beach time, and lots of fun! It also brings with it FIREWORKS! For many of our canine companions, fireworks can be quite scary. These loud booms are

unpredictable and can startle even the most stable of pups. Here are some tips to keep your dogs calm and safe through the festivities.

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#### Tip One:

Perhaps this goes without saying, but the number one tip is to keep your dog away from fireworks! Don't take them out after dark, as this is when the fireworks tend to be strongest. Get your walks in earlier in the day, and then place your pup in their safe space. For many of our dogs, this will be their crates, for some it is their coziest bed in a room insulated from the outdoors. Make sure they are secured inside, especially if you are leaving your home.



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#### Tip Two:

Make sure your dog is wearing the proper ID! A name tag that is clear and up to date is preferred. Double check their microchip information is up to date, especially if you have moved lately or changed your number. In the event that your dog slips their collar, a microchip is the next best thing to identify them.

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#### Tip Three:

Play white noise and/or keep the TV on during the height of the fireworks. Running box fans near your dog can also be helpful, as the vibrations they create can overpower those created by the fireworks. This can help keep your dog distracted, and therefore less stressed.



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**Tip Four:**

Make sure all of your dog's needs are met! If they are tired from a day full of walks, training, and enrichment - they are much more likely to sleep through the fireworks!

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**Tip Five:**

If you are still worried about your dog's stress levels, give your vet a call. Many dogs with anxiety do well with CBD or melatonin before a stressful event. Others need prescription anxiety medication from a vet. Either way, give your vets office a call to see what is safe and how to dose properly!



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With these top five tips in mind, get out there and enjoy your Fourth with your furry friend!

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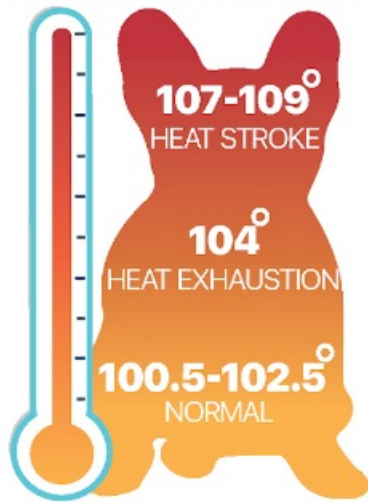
## Beat The Heat: How to avoid heat stroke and enjoy summer sports at the same time!

By: Sam Rosario

# EXTREME HEAT

## KEEP YOUR PET COOL, WHEN IT'S HOT.

### DOG TEMPERATURE



### SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE

- Heavy panting, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst
  - Bright red tongue and mucus membranes, which turn grey as shock sets in
  - Thick saliva, drooling, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
  - Unsteadiness and staggering
  - Lethargy
- By the time signs of heat stroke are visible, it's often too late.**

### DANGERS OF HEAT STROKE



### DOGS WHO ARE MORE AT RISK



**SPCA**  
OF TEXAS

SPCA.ORG  
(214) 742-7722

### Understanding heat stroke in dogs:

All dogs are at risk of heat stroke but brachycephalic, double coated, and out-of-shape dogs are at an increased risk. Heat stroke is defined as organ dysfunction that occurs as a result of prolonged hyperthermia (elevated internal body temperature). A normal range for dogs is 99.5F-102.5F anything above that would be considered abnormal. Heat stroke is considered in dogs when their internal body temperature reaches 105F-106F without any other signs of illness. Multiple organ failure, brain damage, and impending death can occur when the body temperature reaches 107F-109F. It is important to note that elevated body temperature is not a death sentence during sports as long as you are warming up AND cooling off your dog properly.

You, yourself, as a handler and owner know your dog's best. If they are heat

intolerant please ensure you are taking their livelihood into account when signing up for summer sports.

**Treating heat stroke in a veterinary setting:** internal body temp of 103F or less = cured

- IV fluids
- Mild sedation
- Low-concentration oxygen therapy
- Monitored rectal temperature keeping at regular intervals to ensure body temperature is reducing.

**Know the signs of heat stroke:**

- Elevated breathing rates
- Dry or sticky gums
- Abnormal gum color (pale or bright red/pink)
- Bruising in the gums
- Lethargic or disoriented
- Severe cases, seizures.
- Diarrhea, especially black or bloody

**Muzzled dogs:**

Dogs do not sweat like humans, they must be able to pant fully since they only have minimal numbers of sweat glands on the bottom of their foot pads. If you run a dog in a muzzle, please ensure they have ample space for panting or to remove their muzzle after their runs are done to allow them to cool off. To help cool off dogs after sports is relatively easy. Please use cool (not cold) water on their head, stomach/groin, armpits, and feet. You may use alcohol as well to help drop body temperature in a serious situation. If using cooler jackets/vests or wash cloths, please ensure these do not dry fully and are checked often that they are wet because if they are left on the dog - they retain heat and could cause more harm than good. Please refrain from using ice packs as these may contribute to reduced blood flow to the skin surface where heat exchange can take place.

**Prognosis of Heat Stroke:**

Prognosis depends on the severity of heat stroke; how long the body temperature has been elevated, the well-being/health of the affected dog, and how elevated the body temperature is. Most dogs that have experienced heat stroke in the past will be a greater risk for heat stroke the rest of their life due to damage of their thermoregulatory center.

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**How to keep your car and dog cool during sports (crating out of car):**

**Ventilation/airflow** – it is important to allow as much airflow into your car as possible for the safety of your dog. Keeping windows down and tailgates/trunks open will help with airflow.

**Fans, Fans, fans** – having battery powered fans are your disposal is a huge help. Ryobi, Kobalt, Hercules, Craftsman to name a few good quality fans.

Most of these are affordable and come in handy when needing to cool off your dogs. I usually have 4 battery packs at the ready for a day of sports.



**Cooling jackets** – While controversial to most owners, I find these to be a very useful tool to help keep your dog's body temperature regulated. Ruffwear Swamp cooler vests are my go to, they are lightweight, zip of and off easily and make a huge difference in helping my dog cool off. In high humidity days I will take these off after 5-10 minutes and reapply to ensure it is not trapping in heat.



**Crates/Kennels** – keeping your dog contained in a kennel or crate is great to ensure their safety, the downfall is they get HOT. Ensuring there is proper ventilation (open windows in car), a fan, and a happy wet dog, kenneling in the car is best. Utilizing a soft sided kennel is also great as long as your dog is not an escape artist.

**Baby pool/watering down your dog** – some events will have hoses or baby pools available to wet down your dog for before and after events to help cool them off. These are great tools as long as you are hitting the right zones (head, stomach/groin, armpits, and paw pads).

**Car covers** – providing ample shade is very important, especially battling direct sunlight. I use a car cover called Aluminet. It is a breathable mesh cover made with reflective materials which makes a world of a difference in keeping the car temperature down. Sun shades for the windows will also be a big help.



**Ample water but not too much now** – providing ample drinking water to your dog is important, but don't let them drink too much or consume water quickly as this can make them sick and can result in vomit.

**Long days/wait times** – Not every day goes according to plan and sometimes trials get delayed, please be patient with the volunteers who are trying to help make everything safe and smooth. Have a friend hold your spot in line while you keep your dog cool. Pull from an event if the heat is a concern. There will always be another day to trial.

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## Kudos for CDTC Volunteers

Submitted by: Marsha Iyomasa

If there is one thing that we all have in common, it is the way we come together as a community in support of one another.

Sunday, June 25, was just such a day, as CDTC volunteers rose to the occasion to honor past president, Suzanne Miller. This Celebration of Life was particularly challenging as we prepared to host not only guests, but to work with her families for the first time. There was no dry run or practice session, but we accomplished pulling a gathering together for six organizations, attended by an estimated 100 people. I am most grateful for all those who volunteered, about half of whom did not know Suzanne, but stepped up without hesitation to help. It began with Shannon Hall who agreed to have CDTC host and secured the date; Martin Goldstein

who prepared the club and brought down countless supply containers and equipment from the mezzanine; April de Bremond and her entire Agility crew who generously curtailed their Sunday class schedules; Payton Murphy who edited the June Obichaff, Suzanne Miller article as a stand alone handout; and the Suzanne Miller volunteer team which consisted of Luann Korona, Richard Lahne, Bob Rogers, Mark Schneeberger, Nan Marks, Eileen Freedman, and Valery Gordon.

A big shout out to Luann and Richard, who arrived early to get things rolling, inside and out. Vicki, Suzanne's lifetime partner, was very appreciative of the way things came together, but most of all, that Suzanne's gathering was held in a place that she loved. I was immensely proud to be working alongside all, and know that Suzanne was smiling down upon us as we worked together, the sun shining upon her face, the wind at her back, surrounded by her beloved Golden Retrievers.

With appreciation,

Marsha

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## Caption THIS!

Do you have a meme-worthy photo of your dog? Or, perhaps you are particularly clever and witty, with a mind full of funny captions? Well, welcome to "Caption This"! An idea suggested by Marnie McCown and Eileen Freedman, this section of the Obichaff will feature reader submitted photos worthy of funny captions. The following month, I'll feature the best captions!



Caption THIS photo of Beau by emailing [here!](#)

## Facility News

Photos submitted by: Shannon Hall

Special thanks to Shannon, her husband, and Martin who all assisting in installing the beautiful new flooring in the bathroom. What an improvement over the old, cracked floor!







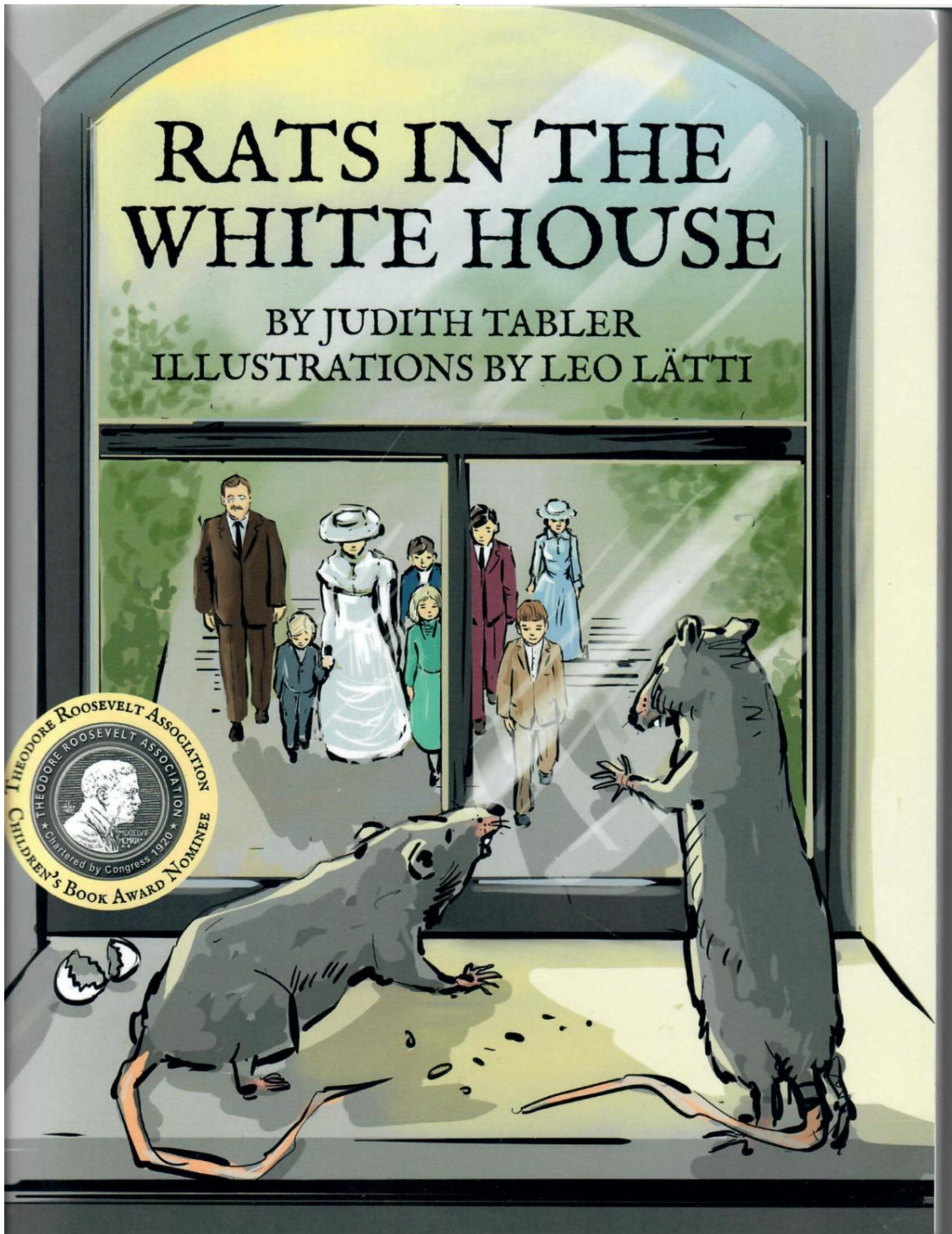
## Rats in the White House

Submitted by: Judith Tabler

I was notified that The Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) selected my book "Rats in the White House" as the best early reader for ages 4-8 published between 2020 and 2022! (no awards in 2021 due to COVID).

Even better -- it won the Dogwise Award -- which is given by the

President of DWAA for the best book across all book categories (juvenile, adult, nonfiction, fiction). The book tells the story of how President Theodore Roosevelt's family arrives at the White House to find it invaded by rodents (factual). The rats only leave when the President gives his son Archie a new dog, Skip, who rids the house of the rats (factual). The book ends with the cook saying the new dog is a "Rat Terrier." The notes at the end inform the reader that Skip is in fact credited as at precursor to the Rat Terrier and the Teddy Roosevelt Terrier.



## Braggs

Kate Mazza writes:

Teddy earned his Beginner Novice title on June 25 at a trial in Richmond, Virginia. He was very pleased with his performance!



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Tiffin Shewmake writes:

I am very proud of Rocket, he earned his CD at the Oriole Trial on August 26<sup>th</sup> with a score of 192.5. Good boy!







## Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

At the Delegates meeting in addition to the CEC meeting which was in the afternoon, I attended the following presentations in the morning:

- AKC Digital Library presentation. Jamie, the head of the project, stated they would be collecting old publications and bred publications. The digital archive will include significant photos, videos that AKC wants to preserve on line. Her office is in New York and they can make shipping arrangements. When I asked about obedience, she remembered that she was to drop me an email about our club's material. I believe Donna spoke with her on her visit to the museum. She also mentioned that they will have a Library Sale of all duplicates received.
- Legislative Director, Sheila Goff informed delegates there is an increase interest in states passing laws requiring health certificates on all dogs coming into the state for any reason including shows. MO has already passed a law and that is where Purina is located and numerous events are held. PA is currently considering similar legislation. Anyone crossing into a state must have a certificate from a vet good for 30 days. She emphasized the importance of knowing what the law is in states you are driving through as well.
- I found it interesting when Sheila mentioned the average person attending a National Specialty spends an average of \$2100.
- Mari Beth, an AKC VP and in charge of the AKC Juniors Program asked clubs who have not to please select a Juniors Coordinator. All clubs who have selected Coordinators will receive letters acknowledging their position and giving them contact information for activities with juniors. She mentioned

clubs consider giving demo for Juniors at club events like trials. Five awards to Juniors in Companion Events have been established and total \$2000. She also mentioned clubs can have a stand-alone event for Juniors and 4H groups can be invited.

In the Companion Events Committee Meeting:

- Laura Trainer was elected in executive session to serve the remainder of Steve Hershey's term. Steve resigned.
- Doug explained the pilot program the AKC Board passed over the objection of the committee. He stated Obedience and Rally judges will complete a form if they judge a dog that is a tripod.
- A discussion occurred about allowing BN and Novice A to praise in their exercise. It was stated they could do this if they were FEO. Members of the committee felt that exhibitors should attend matches where they could encourage with words. One club mentioned having a checklist for beginners. It was also mentioned that exhibitors in remote areas of the country have little support because there are no clubs nearby for training. We mentioned having more training videos on line for them.
- The Displaceable Jump issue was discussed and it was thought the AKC Board was not clear on why some clubs still wanted what they have. We recommended the Board review their decision.
- Cindy Stansell from the Dog Rules Committee spoke to us on allowing dogs with alterations to exhibit in obedience. In conformation it is not allowed and the dog is prohibited from showing- One Strike You Are Out. This rule exists also in Obedience and Agility and her committee wanted to know if we wanted to continue to have the rule in our events since it is not conformation. It was decided a subcommittee would be formed with members from both committees.
- The committee received a letter from an exhibitor in mid-west requesting dogs be allowed to wear goggles and GPS in Tracking for safety. This will be discussed at our next committee meeting.

I will ask for your feedback at our general club meeting.

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## Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

### Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

### CGC Testing

**CGC testing** is scheduled for Aug. 5, and Nov. 4  
Links to register: [Aug](#), [Nov](#)

## **Classes**

**Register for all classes [here](#).**

**Puppy Kindergarten** begins Thursday, July 13 at 6pm.

**Family Dog Classes** - We have a Family Dog 1 class September 5.

**Beginning Conformation** starts Saturday, June 3 at 3pm.

**Beginner Novice** (competition level) class starts  
Tuesday, June 13 at 6pm

**Continuing Scent Work**  
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

**Rally Competition Class** has space available.  
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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

**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 class.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

## **Training Groups**

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

**Conformation Group** meets Saturdays. contact [Janice](#) with  
questions. 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](http://cdtc.org/membership).

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

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## **CDTC Club Membership Renewal Now Open!**

Submitted by: Marnie McCown

Dear Valued Members of the Capital Dog Training Club,

We are pleased to inform you that CDTC Club Membership Renewal will be open from June 1st to July 31st. We greatly appreciate your continued support and dedication to our club and we look forward to another year of fostering the strong bond between you and your beloved dogs.

To ensure a seamless renewal process, we kindly request all members to keep an eye out for the announcement on our [groups.io](http://groups.io) platform. That announcement contains detailed instructions and the necessary links to renew your membership. Please read the instructions carefully and complete the renewal process within the specified time frame.

Your membership plays a vital role in the success and growth of CDTC. It allows us to organize training classes, events, and

seminars to help members strengthen the shared connection between human and dog. Your participation and involvement truly make a difference, and we are grateful for your continued support.

By renewing your CDTC Club Membership, you not only gain access to a diverse network of like-minded individuals, but you also contribute to the promotion of responsible dog ownership and the advancement of canine training techniques. Our club is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive environment where all members can thrive and achieve their training goals.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the Capital Dog Training Club. We value each and every one of our members and we are excited to embark on another year of shared experiences, learning, and growth. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Stay connected, keep those tails wagging, and let's make the next year at CDTC even more remarkable!

Sincerely,

Marnie McCown

CDTC Membership renewal

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## Next Membership Meeting July 11th, at 8:00pm

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