



Obichaff

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



November 2024

Volume 81 - Issue 10

"Once you have had a wonderful dog, a life without one is a life diminished." - Dean Koontz

Board of Directors

From the Editor

President

[Shannon Hall](#)

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Trophy Chair

[Amy Scheiner](#)

AKC Delegate

[Joyce Dandridge](#)

Obichaff Editor

[Payton Murphy](#)



This past month has been a big one for us - this DC dog is headed to Denver! While I'll be staying on as Obichaff Editor, we've made the bittersweet, yet very exciting decision to move

Members at Large
[Luann Korona](#)

[Marnie McCown](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

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

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

to Colorado. We love it out there and have a handful of friends and family waiting to welcome us warmly.

The "From the Editor" section photos are about to get much more mountain-y in the new year!

We are headed out in January, so if you see us around the club before the end of the year, come say bye!

CDTC Board Slate 2025

The nominating committee (Nancy Balph and Kate Mazza) is pleased to present the following slate for the CDTC Board:

President: Shannon Hall
Vice President: Kara MacWilliams
Treasurer: Pam Ayres
Secretary: Julie Rovner
Training Director: Tom Tatham
Asst Training Director: Janine Castorina
Training Secretary: Dianne Hardy
Obichaff Editor: Payton Murphy
Trial Chair: Martin Goldstein
Trophy Chair: Amy Scheiner
AKC Delegate: Joyce Dandridge
Member at Large (Membership): Shirley Blakely
Member at Large: Marnie McCown
Member at Large: Bill Peyser



President: Shannon Hall

Thanks for making this past year easy for me. I'll give it another go.

As I wrote last year: "I've been training with Capital since 1997 and teaching for Capital since 2002. I've been club president, training secretary and training director. I've trained in obedience, rally and tracking, learning right alongside many of you over the years. I now focus primarily on agility and on the family of CGC events, and my dogs are very good boys for me in both areas.

For those who don't know me well, I have a PhD in Physics and a daughter who is a sophomore at University of Pittsburgh. For some of you who do know me well, you are remembering me pregnant and wondering how the years have gone by so fast!" (She's a senior now!)

My goals this coming year remain to continue our series of small facility improvements while maintaining focus on ensuring a welcoming and warm environment to train our dogs and teach others to do the same. I'd also like to mentor a few newer members to be ready to step into key board positions, as a deep bench is the best way to ensure a solid future for the club long term."



Vice President: Kara MacWilliams

I have been training at Capital since 2013 and have been Vice President of CDTC since 2023. I currently have two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Daisy (6 1/2 years old) and Calla (4 1/2 months old). Daisy and I have been training almost nonstop at Capital since we started puppy kindergarten when she was 12 weeks old and got her CGC and TKN at 16 weeks. We've had fun trying a lot of different types of training and dog sports and have collected a few titles along the way - CH Olekas Sun Shines on Daisy at Boredale Versatility

(Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America) NDD (Novice Draft Dog) FDC OAP NJP NFP ACT1 ACT1J CGC CGCA CGCU TKN TKI. Calla has her AKC Star Puppy title, and we are about to start Family Dog 2. I was on the board of the Potomac Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club (PVBMD) as an at large member in 2021-2022 and as Treasurer in 2023. I was chair of the back-to-back PVBMD Independent Regional Specialty in 2022.



Treasurer: Pam Ayres

I would be honored to continue serving as Treasurer of CDTC. I have been a financial officer of many organizations, have an MBA and an active CPA license. I've been coming to the club for about 10 years. Between Suki, my Japanese Chin, Babu, my Tibetan Spaniel, and Tippy, my Havanese, we've done obedience, rally, freestyle, therapy work, agility, tricks and conformation.

I've also started breeding. In addition to Tippy, I have 2 of her daughters, Ruby and Moon and have acquired Isaiah, my little Havanese stud-muffin.



Secretary: Julie Rovner

I am a health policy journalist who currently owns and trains two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Wallace and Aspen, in obedience, rally, and agility.

I have been a member of the board since 2018.



Training Director: Tom Tatham

I have been training dogs since 2013 and have earned Obedience titles on 3 dogs (a CDX on my Corgi, my Aussie is UDX2 OM1, and my Mini American is UDX). We have also competed in agility and hold several rally titles. I am currently training my fourth dog, a Border Collie named Luna. Luna recently earned her Obedience Trial Championship and holds 2 Utility Dog Excellent and 2 Obedience Master titles. My interest in animal training is intertwined with my educational and professional life—I hold a PhD in Experimental Psychology and have published research on operant and classical conditioning, and have taught learning theory to undergraduate, graduate and medical students. I currently work as a Scientific



Assistant Training Director: Janine Castorina

I have been a CDTC member for several years and have been training dogs for over 10 years. I got my start at CDTC when a close friend suggested that I take my hyper husky-cattle dog to agility class. I began with Introduction to Agility with Hermes and have never looked back. In addition to agility classes, my dogs have taken obedience and rally, though agility is my first love. I began assistant teaching the Introduction to Agility class with April a few years ago and find teaching agility to be a uniquely rewarding experience. The students and the dogs are great and watching them progress in the sport and grow as a team is so rewarding. Over the years CDTC has grown the agility program into an enviable and admired program. I look forward to continuing my tenure as Assistant Training Director and the great progress those before me began.

In addition to volunteering for the club, I volunteer for a few dog rescues, where I advocate for positive reinforcement training and other measures that are important in the rescue movement.



Training Secretary: Dianne Hardy

Dianne (Oshiro) grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, obtained her A.B. in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. She and Matthew Hardy met in graduate school, married and moved to Baltimore, Maryland for postdoctoral fellowships in Reproductive Physiology at Johns Hopkins, then in 1990 to New York, NY to work as staff scientists at Population Council in New York, NY. Matthew died unexpectedly in 2007. In 2011, Dianne got a job at the National Institutes of Health as a Scientific Review Officer at the Center for Scientific Review and moved to Chevy Chase, Maryland. The work at the NIH was administrative. Using NIH databases and software, the SRO identifies and recruits experts in the scientific community to

review grant applications. Using information from the databases, SROs look for reviewers who meet requirements of current grant funding, expertise, geographical distribution, and diversity by gender, ethnicity and professional level. The SRO trains the reviewers, using video conferences, to use the proper criteria for review. SROs use matrix compilers and tools such as Microsoft Access Database Software to help organize review assignments and conflict of interest restrictions. The SRO manages timely submission by the reviewers, sets up the meetings, check reviewers' critiques for thoroughness and accuracy, and serves as the designated federal official at the meetings. After the meeting the SRO is responsible for assuring that the reviewers' scores for each application are accurately recorded, and prepares the written summaries of each review. While an SRO, Dianne also served on various committees and served as the Chair of the Scientific Review Officer Council for one year before retiring from the NIH in August 2024 after 13 years as SRO.

Dianne's obedience training competition experience goes back 35 years to her Chow Shepherd mix Sasha, who earned a CDX from AMBOR before the AKC allowed mixed breeds in obedience competition. Her current dogs are MACH PACH Rhyshek's Sierra Of Isabela RN MXS MJB MXP4 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX MFB MFPB T2B T2BP2 (Sierra, 12, yellow Labrador Retriever), MACH3 Rhyshek's Samba Pa Ti MXG MJG MFS TQX T2B2 (Santana, 6, black Labrador Retriever), and Periland Rye CD BN RN OA NAJ MXF CGC (Rye, 2, black and white Border Collie). Rye has also started training for sheep herding. Dianne has been a member of Capital Dog Training Club since December 2022 and has been an instructor of Beginning Handling in the Agility Program on Friday evenings since Fall 2023.



Obichaff Editor: Payton Murphy

Becoming a member of CDTC nearly three years ago was one of the best decisions I've made for myself and my dog. Since joining, my dog, Hadley, and I have earned all CGC titles, Trick Dog Advanced, and Beginner Novice; we're taking our time with our CD and have moved over to the world of Rally - which we really love! I am currently a Puppy Kindergarten and Scentwork instructor for the club, which has thus far been a joy-filled experience!

When I'm not hanging with dogs, I'm working as a Real Estate Attorney now in the realm of renewable energy.

While I am headed out to Denver, Colorado in the new year, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve on the board for another year. It's been delightful to serve as Obichaff Editor and I hope to continue to grow our audience and bring together our community through shared words.

Trial Chair: Martin Goldstein



Trophy Chair: Amy Scheiner

I am looking forward to serving the Club for another year as Trophy Chair. I have been a member of CDTC since the late 1980s. In real life I'm a small animal veterinarian, and I currently share my home with my Shetland sheepdog, Devyn, and my Icelandic sheepdog, Tryggur. When not working or training dogs, I enjoy horseback riding, travel, reading, and doing cross-stitch.



AKC Delegate: Joyce Dandridge

First, I would like to thank the CDTC Nominating Committee for considering me for the position of AKC Delegate. I have enjoyed serving in this position.

I have been a member of CDTC since 1990 and have put obedience and conformation titles on my Chow Chows. I have been a Chow Chow breeder owner handler for over 30 years. Presently, I judge all the Non Sporting breeds and Working breeds, Best in Show, Juniors and some toy and herding breeds. I have had the opportunity to judge at National Specialties and the AKC Championship Show. I have also been invited to judge that show again this year. This year I also judged the Westminster KC show. I have been Corresponding Secretary for the Chow Chow parent club and have been for more than 18 years serving on the Board of Directors. I am a member of National Capital KC and currently serve on their Board. I am a member of Mid-Atlantic Stewards Association and have been an

officer of the club and currently serve as one of the Chief Stewards. I was elected by the AKC Delegate body for a fourth three-year term on the Companion Events Committee last year. If elected to represent you again, I will continue to seek feedback from the members on AKC Delegate voting issues as well as share your concerns with the Delegate committee. Of course, having initiated the Delegates Corner in our newsletter, I would continue to keep you informed on AKC issues there and most importantly I will continue to be available to the membership to discuss issues of concern in the sport.



Member at Large (Membership): Shirley Blakely

I have been a member of CDTC for over 16 years and a Board member for 4 years serving as new membership chair. I'm a nutrition scientist retired from the FDA. I enjoy interacting with my dogs, Gigi, 10 yrs old and Coco, 18 months old. Both are poodle mixed breeds, Gigi is a standard poodle-Australian Shepherd mix and Coco is a miniature poodle-golden retriever mix. Gigi continues to enjoy being a certified therapy dog even though opportunities to serve are fewer since the beginning of covid-19. Gigi and I have also teamed up in Canine Freestyle competitions where she has completed her Heel work to Music at the novice level. Gigi has achieved certification at the "Expert" level as a tricks dog. Coco, Gigi's little sister, has learned many of Gigi's games and tricks. She is currently in novice and intermediate obedience classes. Coco and Gigi enjoy chasing and playing tag with each other.



Member at Large: Marnie McCown

I started classes at CDTC in October of 2021 and became a member the following summer. I have served on the Board through 2 membership renewal seasons and have built a wonderful community among some of the members.

Together, my Doberman and I have a CGCU, an Advanced Tricks title, and a CD. I currently teach Puppy Kindergarten, FD1, FD2, and Tricks and evaluate during our quarterly CGC events.

In my 'day job' I have a team of 15 people across 6 countries and manage more than 5 million dollars in global client organization design, learning, and transformation engagements. I also currently

serve as the president of my condominium board.

I welcome the opportunity to continue serving the CDTC and help to:

- Make decisions that strengthen the reputation of the club.
- Provide transparency of decision-making while maintaining open lines of communication.
- Deliver an experience to members, and the community, that makes our club a destination club for young and old dog lovers alike.

Thank you for your consideration.



Member at Large: Bill Peyser

Maple and I took our first agility class at CDTC early in 2023. We started competing in AKC and NADAC trials later that year, and have made steady progress ever since. I enjoy the physical and mental challenges of the sport, but I aspire to lead Maple without having to run the entire course!

I grew up with a poodle named Taffy. Several months ago, I found a Certificate of Proficiency issued to us by CDTC dated March 19, 1972. So, I think my first few classes with CDTC were at BCC High School in the early 70's. I'm proud that my affiliation with the club started so long ago!

I'm a retired CPA with 40 years of accounting and finance experience. My most recent position was CFO at The Chronicle of Higher Education, where I managed business operations and, with our executive team, led strategic planning.

I retired in May of 2024 and joined the Montgomery County Police Department as a volunteer in their Financial Crimes Section. In that capacity, I make presentations to senior citizens about scams and how to protect themselves from financial and identity theft.

I look forward to helping CDTC with business matters and perhaps one day, assisting with agility training.

Guess! Those! Breeds!



Our very own Tiffin Shewmake has adopted a new puppy and as you can see, this guy is cute! He was also an absolute mystery mutt. Recently, with the help of Embark and their DNA testing prowess, Tiffin was made aware of exactly what breeds came together to make this tri-colored cutie.

Wesley is a near perfect split of two breeds. More pictures below to aid in your guess.

What do you think Wesley's primary breeds are?

Australian Cattle Dog

Russell Terrier

Pit Bull Terrier

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

Beagle

Australian Shepherd

German Shepherd Dog

Foxhound

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Golden Retriever



Are you ready for the big reveal?! Click the button below and see if

you are right!

The Big Reveal

Howliday Planning: It's Go Time!



The holiday season is here, bringing with it a need for holiday travel. If you're reading this, odds are you consider your dog part of the family. Well, holiday travel often includes the entire family, no leaving Fido out!

Whether you go by plane, train, or automobile, here are some top travel tips:

1. Confirm your dog is up to date on all necessary vaccinations. If your dog is small enough to travel via plane - this is a requirement. Carry a physical record of your dog's vaccination in case of emergency. Be aware of where the nearest emergency vet is during your stay.

2. Chat with your vet about travel medications. If your dog gets car sick or struggles to relax in new spaces, your vet can help by providing the best options for care.
3. If driving, get a car crate or crash-tested harness! Did you know a tiny 10-pound dog traveling in a car at 50mph can become a projectile with 500lbs of force in an accident? Keep yourself, your passengers, and your pup safe and contained. There are more options now than ever before, so head over to the [Center for Pet Safety](#)'s website to find their recommendations.
4. Make sure your pets all have updated ID tags! Double check the accuracy of phone numbers and ensure they are visible. If your pet is microchipped, take a look at the information attached to the chip - now is a great time to update your address, contact info, and add an updated photo to their profile!
5. Brush up on your training! Well-behaved dogs are good guests. Bring your crate, work on your dog's impulse control, and know when to remove them from the party!
6. Confirm any pet restrictions before travel. Looking for a dog-friendly place to stay while on the road? Take a look at this list, compiled by the AKC [here](#)!
7. Read this list and second guessing your decision to bring your canine companion? Pick a pet sitter using [these helpful tips](#) instead!

If you're lucky enough to have your friends and family close by, skip the travel stress and check out [these local dog-friendly holiday events](#) for some full-family friendly fun!

Brag

Shannon Hall shares:

Mikey got his third MACH on October 5th. Good boy Mikey!







Shannon Hall also writes:

Connor earned his third AKC agility championship the first weekend of October on the same day his brother Michael also earned his. What a day! We celebrated his accomplishment at Capital with my competition agility class as truly earning agility titles is a team sport. Thanks to all and I hope you find as much joy in running your dogs as I have in running mine.



Valery Gordon shares:

Nova, the wild child, completed her CD at the CDTC trial on Oct. 6. I need to thank Stacie Ka, Marsha Iyomasa, Mark Schneeberger, and everyone else at the club who has tolerated her antics. I am also asking forgiveness in advance as we move into Open.



Dianne Harab writes:

Rocky earned his Beginner Novice title with a score of 195, 3rd place at Mt Vernon's show on October 25, 2024.



Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

In the Companion Events Committee meeting, we continue to discuss and show concern for Tripods in Obedience and Rally. As you know, the pilot program was extended until July 2, 2025 for Tripods in Obedience and Rally Non-Jumping Classes. This extension will

allow more judges to give input as they judge the three-legged dogs.

Recently, the committee held a private zoom meeting with some researchers investigating injuries to dogs in agility. So far, they have reported owners of 1,958 of the 4,701 dogs (41.7%) reported that their dog had experienced an injury severe enough to keep them from participating in agility for 1 week or more. 14% of dogs experienced a severe injury keeping them out of agility for 4 months or longer, or leading to retirement.

They presented to us the types of injuries and the % of dogs. I am listing the top six and if you are interested in the complete list, please email me requesting the entire list.

- Shoulder- 30.1%
- Iliopsoas- 19.4%
- Digits- 17.2%
- Lumbosacral- 17.2%
- Stifle- 13.3%
- Thoracic spine- 13.2%

The most common shoulder injuries were Biceps Tendinopathy, Medial Shoulder syndrome/instability and Supraspinatus tendinopathy. The most common Iliopsoas injuries were Strain and Avulsion/Tear. The most common Digit injuries are Sprain/Strain injuries, Torn nails and Fractures. Finally, the most common Lumbosacral injuries were Intervertebral disc disease, lumbosacral instability and lumbosacral stenosis.

Currently, three- legged dogs are allowed to run agility. The committee continues to have safety concerns and has expressed the concern with the AKC Board. We feel the information above and what we have presented in the past from some veterinarian researchers support our concerns for these dogs in Obedience and Rally. We also feel AKC has safer events for these dogs to be participants, for example Scent Work and Tracking.

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

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 (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 November 12th, 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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