



Obichaff

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



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"If you don't own a dog, at least one, there may not necessarily be anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life." - Roger Caras

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Looking for a dog-friendly getaway within driving distance? I have a recommendation for you!

[Payton Murphy](#)

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[Marnie McCown](#)

[Shirley Blakely](#)

**New Membership
Information**

[Shirley Blakely](#)

**Historian (not a
board member)**

[Joan Adler](#)

We recently visited both Thomas and Davis in West Virginia. These neighboring towns are SO charming and filled with little shops and art installations. Grab your morning coffee at the local coffee shop, [Tip Top](#), before hitting the countless trails nearby - many of which allow off-leash hiking! Once you're done, stop by Appalachian Mountain Snow for a special treat. Hadley can't recommend them enough!

It took about 3 hours to get out there and it was well worth the trip.



CALLING ALL GOOD BOYS AND GOOD GIRLS!

A research opportunity at Johns Hopkins University



Earlier in September, Hadley was lucky enough to participate in some studies for the Canine Minds Collective at Johns Hopkins University. The team there is studying canine cognition, intelligence, and behavior.

Per their description,

"Through our carefully designed studies, we can gather valuable data on a dog's problem-solving abilities, decision-making processes, memory, attention, and social behavior, while providing mental enrichment for our participants. A session at our lab will provide a positive enrichment and socialization opportunity for your dog (and treats!)."



We had so much fun during our hour long session and Hadley was exhausted for the rest of the day!

The study is accepting applicants on a rolling basis. Without providing any spoilers for the tasks, a very basic level of obedience and impulse control would be extremely helpful so there is some control during the tests, though it is not required.

They provide ultra-high quality single ingredient treats like beef liver and tripe! Hadley would like to participate every weekend, if allowed. They even wrapped up the session with some professional quality photos, seen above!

I mentioned training at Capital Dog Training Club while we were there and the whole team was eager to have some well-trained dogs participate.

Testing takes place on the University campus in Baltimore City; the process is extremely easy to partake in and they provide wonderful instruction.

To learn more about the study and to fill out their application, please click [here](#)!

New to Trials? Start here!

Check out the poster below for CDTC's Obedience and Rally "How-

To" Seminar for New Exhibitors. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of trailing and you are wondering where to start, this is the perfect place!

Members may attend free of charge and non-members may attend for a \$25 fee.

Have any questions? Email CDTCclasses@gmail.com.

CAPITAL DOG TRAINING CLUB PRESENTS

Obedience & Rally "How-To" Seminar for New Exhibitors

Saturday, December 2, 2023

? Your dog is Ready!
...But are **YOU**?

? How to find Trials?

? How to Enter?

? Volunteer to Steward?

Different Classes:

- ? Regular Classes?
- ? Non-regular Classes?
- ? Preferred Classes?

? Understand the Rule Book?

? Difference between
Non-Qualifying vs.
DIS-Qualifying?

How to Prepare for Trial:

- ? What to Take?
- ? When to Arrive?
- ? What to Wear?

Ready... Set... **TRIAL!**



FREE AKC RULE BOOK INCLUDED WITH EVERY REGISTRATION



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

TIME: 9:00am – 1:00pm

SNACKS PROVIDED!

FEE: Free for CDTC members!
\$25 for Non-members

SIGN UP: Register at CDTC.org

QUESTIONS?: Email – CDTCclasses@gmail.com

Urban Canine Good Citizen Test

Announcement

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

Who's up for an Urban Canine Good Citizen test? I'll be offering one on 8 October at noon at the Rio Lakefront, if anyone is interested.

If you need some practice first, [send me a note](#) and we can arrange that, too.

CDTC's Yard Sale

Submitted by: Marnie McCown



The CDTC Yard Sale is scheduled for November 18th-19th and we need your gently used items to make it a success!

Please consider donating your unwanted household and dog-related items. Boxes are provided for donation collection in the foyer area of

the club. Please reach out to the email below should you have anything to contribute larger than the boxes provided.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email CDTCYardSaleCommittee@gmail.com

Annual CDTC Awards Picnic

Submitted by: Amy Scheiner

LET'S CELEBRATE!

CDTC'S 2023 Annual Awards and Instructor Appreciation Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, October 21. We will be gathering outdoors at the Seneca Creek State Park "Buck" Picnic Shelter from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. I hope to see all of you there to honor our talented, hardworking, and dedicated instructors as well as those who earned titles in 2022. A large picnic shelter has been reserved for our event (it is covered so no worries about rain!) with nearby parking and restroom facilities.

Feel free to bring your own chairs if you would like to sit outside of the covered portion of the shelter/picnic tables. There will be a small, nominal entrance fee for each of us to enter the park (\$3 for Maryland residents, \$5 for non-residents). Your family and friends are welcome to attend this event with you.

You may BYOD (Bring Your Own Dog(s)) to this event!

The Club will be providing boxed lunches from Panera and bottled water.

The address is:

[Seneca Creek State Park](#)
["Buck" Picnic Shelter](#)
[11950 Clopper Rd.](#)
[Gaithersburg, MD 20878](#)

Plan ahead for crowds at the entrance gate, especially if the weather is nice! The picnic area is well within the park, so you will need to drive for a bit to reach it after entering the park at the main entrance. Attached is a map of the park to help you

navigate to our picnic site:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/Documents/SenecaTrailMap-DayUse.pdf>

Note: If you are age 62 or older, you can apply for a Golden Age Pass for free lifetime entry to Seneca Creek and all Maryland State Parks. The cost for the pass is \$10, and a link to the application for this is below:

<https://shopdnr.com/GoldenAgePass.aspx>

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to me (Amy Scheiner) at scheiner99@aol.com or 301-466-7493 by October 14. I need to know how many people will be attending so I can order enough food!

The Ups and Downs of Trialing, an episodic story

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

I've been observing students and friends succeed, struggle, succeed and struggle again as they trial, as I've been experiencing the same cycle myself. We train until we think we are ready to trial; we trial only to find that we were not ready, or that the trial setting is so different than our class setting that it presents its own challenge; we initially do well only for our dog to wake up one day and decide that trials are either too scary or way too exciting and we fall apart as a team; or maybe the dream occurs and we progress steadily until our level of competition out-paces our training foundation and we need to do more work. Sometimes we expected it and trial on through.

I knew that my people-friendly Michael was going to get so excited seeing people in the agility ring that he'd NQ by running around to visit. I also knew that the only way to get past that phase was to go to trials and have it happen, while staying calm and positive and working through it in the moment. It took a few days of trialing to get to the point where we could run full courses without saying hi to the judge or ending up in the ring crew's lap, but we got there. We struggled for much longer with the occasional lapse of connection when he noticed his fan club watching him run or saw a favorite human auntie. No big deal, I'm delighted to have such a happy dog and it upped my connection game as I worked through it.

With Connor, my struggles when beginning to trial were much more fundamental. I truly had not yet figured out what pressure meant in

agility terms, and was therefore clueless as to what my body position and motion was telling Connor to do, despite what I *thought* I was telling him to do. Over time with a lot of help from my instructors and experienced agility friends, I figured it out and started to play around with Connor's sensitivity to pressure in a helpful way. He's a great distance dog now that I understand him better.

In the first case I had to go through it to get through it. Trialing itself became the cure. In the latter, I had things to learn and fix before I was going to be successful in trials. Not that I let that stop me from spending my money on entry fees!

When do you want to keep trialing, and when might you benefit from a break to work skills or other things? Here are a few things to think about:

Is trialing allowing your dog to practice bad behavior? An example might be regularly launching contacts. It might be time to take a step back and reinforce contacts in class, entering only venues and classes where you can train in the ring and fix those contacts.

Are you re-training, training a new skill, or practicing a new handling style? Perhaps pause on trialing until you and your instructor think you are ready.

Are you and your dog stressed? Are you frustrated and not having fun? Take a break! Come back slowly when you start to miss it.

I'm of the opinion that a bad day of agility is still a good day, and I love hanging out at agility trials with my dog friends, so taking a break is not appealing. In my case, I need to be diligent to not let start line stays lapse, to not completely ruin my dog's contact behavior (I've only sort of ruined it), and to take a deep breath from time to time when I mess up yet another QQ by running Michael the exact same way I ran Connor (or go mope in the car by myself until I get over it).

Hope to see you out at a trial soon!

Bragg

Sheri Locke writes:

Mason earned his CGC at CDTC over the summer and we just finished our FitDog1 in September with title. I am hopefully taking his ORT in December. If you need dates will provide. We started Fitdog2 and Mason will take his first swim lesson tomorrow at a local pool for dogs. If he

likes it, we will try for dock diving this Spring. He is 10 months old and weighs 70 pounds. We are also taking conformation at the club with Janice.



Jennie Larkin writes:

Hermes and Nikko have had a super busy summer. They went to the beach three times! (Twice up to Rhode Island and once out to Dewey Beach in Delaware)

Hermes started the summer by finishing his Grand Championship with a Best of Breed at the Patriot Papillon Club specialty show, finished his

Rally Intermediate title, and also earned his Excellent Fast and Masters Jumpers titles in agility, and has qualified for the 2024 AKC National Agility Championship. He also earned his FCAT2 and finished his CHIC testing.

Nikko earned his CGC (despite missing most of the classes — bad handler!), turned a year old and tried Fast CAT, where he was super speedy and earned his BCAT in two days.





Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

In the Companion Events Committee meeting:

In case you missed it. A CEC member opened our committee meeting with a quote from this September's AKC Gazette on Obedience as we know today: AKC Obedience has been a mainstay of our family of events since 1936. The people who are passionate about obedience are really passionate about obedience. A long-time obedience trainer tells us. So, why does an obedience competitor involve such passion in its devotees? For one thing it's a thinking person's game in which intense concentration and patience are as important as physical grace. Then there's the subtle beauty of it- a handsome dog performing Obedience Exercises smoothly and precisely can be mesmerizing. But more than anything, there's the joy of a handler and dog working together as one. Competing not necessarily to win

but to get the best out of themselves.

- We voted unanimously to send a written request to the AKC Board to approve displaceable jumps for the high jump in Obedience. Simply put, we feel it is a safety issue.
- Agility Nationals 2024- Dates March 14-17; Rally National and National Obedience- RNC July 18 and 19, NOC July 20 and 21
- For the month of July 381 dogs in the Rally Choice Class. Seven have earned the RC title as of July 28, 2023.
- Obedience Stewarding Video link was published in June.
- Gently talking to your dog in Obedience BN and Novice classes was discussed again because AKC staff said they have received feedback regarding participants friendly attitude existing in Companion Dog Sports obedience events (another registry). The CEC voted to not allow talking beyond what is allowed in BN and Novice A. The vote was unanimous. It was felt that there are other AKC events that allow conversation with the dogs. Also, Novice A is eligible for HIT and thus would not be fair for others in the other classes.
- Consistent Recording/Service fee per entry across all sports has been recommended by staff. All sports except conformation, obedience, rally and agility are already at \$3.50. The current fee for obedience was implemented in January 1, 2008. CEC voted unanimously to support this recommendation for a fee increase.
- A report was given on the status of clubs and the Junior Coordinator position in clubs.

In the next issue, I will report on the general meeting which included several presentations and updates for all clubs.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

CGC Testing
CGC testing is scheduled for Nov. 4

Link to register: [Nov](#)

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

Puppy Kindergarten classes begin October 22 and November 16

Family Dog Classes - We have a Family Dog 2 class beginning November 8

Rally Novice begins October 16 at noon.

Continuing Scent Work
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

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

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.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Next Membership Meeting October 10th, at 8:00pm



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Capital Dog Training Club | 2758 Garfield Avenue | Silver Spring, MD 20910 US

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