



Obichaff

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



October 2024

Volume 81 - Issue 9

"When we compete, we both succeed and fail. We can learn from either"
- Connie Cleveland

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From the Editor



Our October edition is coming at you a little later than usual as I just returned from a really

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

**Historian (not a
board member)**
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lovely week along the coast of Maine.

While we did this trip dog-free, every place we went was incredibly dog-friendly and I highly recommend Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park if you're looking for a fun trip with your canine companion. While a few hikes would not be suitable, the vast majority of trails allow dogs and nearly every store in town welcomes them.

It was a fantastic trip and I cannot wait to go back, next time with Hadley in tow!

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: _____

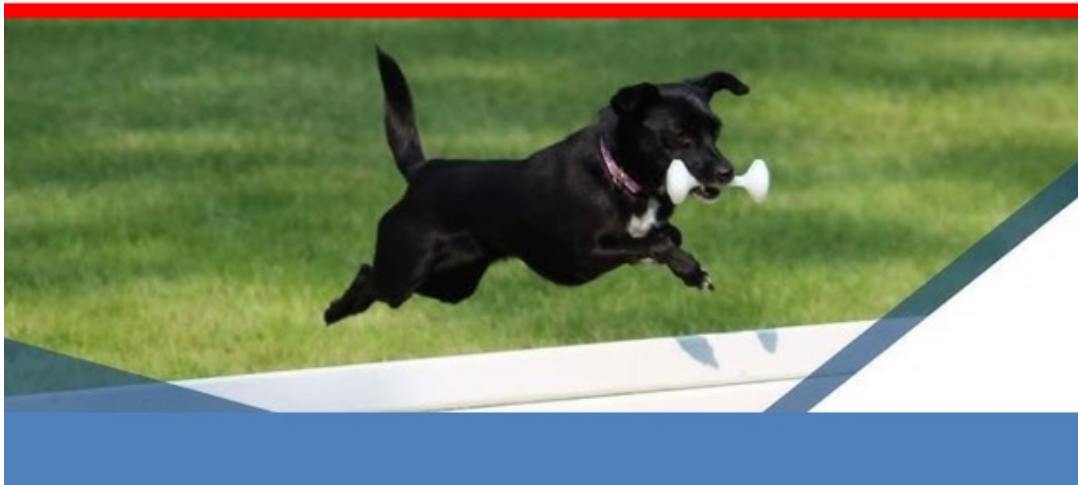
DOG'S AGE: _____

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



‘Lacey’ the Skye Terrier Keeps 89-Year-Old Handler Conformation-Sharp

Originally featured on AKC.org

Submitted by: Judith Tabler

The “Skye” seems to be the limit for the versatility of 4-year-old Skye Terrier “Lacey” and her owners, husband and wife Judith Tabler and 89-year-old owner Clay Cook, of McLean, Virginia. The two excel in dog sports together, and the duo’s strong bond is uplifting for

Cook. Lacey (GCH CH Gleanntan Sure Good Solace BN CGCA TKI) is a positive, shining light that only further underscores Cook's love for this rarer breed. Through Lacey, 89-year-old owner Cook was able to start showing dogs in conformation and found a new hobby.



Pivoting Hobbies and Finding New Ones

Cook is a retired attorney, and only recently got involved in dog sports. His passion for the breed is also more recent. Tabler has

owned and handled Skye Terriers since the 1990s, inspiring his interest in the breed. Instead of doing dog sports, Cook and Tabler often spent their vacation time in the Teton and Wind River Mountain backcountry. They would hike and trout fish with friends along rivers in Western Wyoming and soak up the sun and lush nature of the area.

But health issues have slowly been putting trips like these on the backburner. Cook's health issues, including chronic bursitis in both hips and rotator cuff pain, have begun to catch up with him in recent years. Cook devoted his energy to gardening instead, but found that since it was only seasonal, it wasn't as fulfilling. He tried collecting stamps and coins, and looking into genealogy, but nothing quite stuck. Then the pandemic hit, and Cook was at a loss. A few months later, when things began to open up again, Tabler suggested that he come to a dog show with her where she was showing Lacey.



The Couple's Lifetime Love of Dogs

The couple have been married for three decades and have always had dogs, both together and separately. Tabler moved into Cook's house with a Cocker Spaniel, Chow Chow, and a Skye puppy. During his childhood, Cook also had a Chow Chow, but most of his adult life revolved around his demanding work schedule, leaving him without time for a dog.

From 2017-2018, the pair decided to rent out their home McLean, Virginia and live in Jackson, Wyoming, for three years. Cook frequented the area as a child and later took his three children from his first marriage there for fly-fishing, hiking, and dude ranching. That trip West included two 6-year-old Skye Terriers: "Bobby" (CH Skyeluck Bulletproof DD BN RN CGCA TKN) and "Friar" (Firestorm Dell' Antica Caledonia CD BN RN CGCA TKN FITB).



Discovering a Passion for Dog Sports

Soon after they attended the dog show, Cook began to see what Lacey's future could look like in dogs sports. Rather than sit at home while Tabler was on the road showing Lacey and the family's other Skyes, Cook began accompanying his wife and interacting with the crowd. Sitting ringside, he found many people to chat with about this rare breed and could fluently discuss the breed's history to its origin in 1588. Before they knew it, the two were in the ring. Lacey was doing well, and Cook wanted to understand the different classes and how points were accumulated. "Next time, I didn't even have to suggest he come – he was ready," Tabler says. "He'd found a new hobby." Tabler initially had only wanted to finish Lacey with her championship, but Cook suggested they go on longer. He'd begun to understand specializing a dog by then, and wanted to take Lacey even further. "We kept showing, and Lacey earned her Grand Championship in October 2023, which left Clay beaming," Tabler recalls.

The Skye Terrier's Unique Charm

Skyes, which are ranked at 185 of the 201 AKC-recognized dog breeds, are often misidentified and trigger many "what breed is that?" questions in public. "They are easy dogs to live with ... They are perhaps the calmest terrier, but they are ready to go when we are," says Tabler. "They're alert and interactive with their people, and their coat is easy to maintain." "A big reason I am attracted to the Skye is its appearance. I was walking one of my Skyes across a show ground one day when a lady stopped before me and pointed to the dog, then said, 'That is a breed that always makes me smile.' And I responded, 'Me, too.'"



Despite not having Skyes before he met Tabler, her husband fell in love with the breed. “I have never known a dog that is such a cheerful and attentive companion and is also a full-fledged competitor,” says Cook. “Every day is a good day in Lacey’s mind. Every person is someone to welcome,” he says.

They turn heads wherever they go — even on the side of Interstate 80 in Rock Springs, Wyoming. “We were grabbing lunch at a fast-food

place near a busy intersection,” recalls Tabler. “After we ate, I walked the dogs around the parking lot’s grassy edge. When I neared the intersection, I heard a lot of honking. I looked around and saw a woman waving her at me. ‘Wait right there. I’m a dog show judge, and I’m coming around.’”

It took her a moment, but eventually she pulled around. The judge explained that she’d seen some Skye Terriers in the ring from a distance at a recent show in Greeley, Colorado. She was so thrilled to have a change to look at Friar and Bobby firsthand, up close.”We were excited to meet a dog show judge interested in Skyes way out in Wyoming,” says Tabler.

Finding Joy and Purpose With Lacey

“We had several other Skyes, but I was thoroughly charmed by Lacey’s disposition and the affection she demonstrated when she arrived at our residence,” Cook says. “It wasn’t that I didn’t become close with the earlier Skyes, but I worked long hours at a job I liked. While the earlier ones were Judy’s. Lacey was, too. Judy fed and groomed her. But what was remarkable was that Lacey came to join me daily to say, ‘hello,’ and to receive a ‘good to see you’ caress.”



As a puppy, Lacey sought out Cook in the morning before she went out to the garden and stopped by his home office in the afternoons. That bonding intensified in the evening when he called Lacey to join him on the living room couch or study love seat, so he could give her a pat on the shoulder or tummy rub.

“It makes me happy to think this animal wants to spend time with me – someone who doesn’t feed or take care of her,” he says. “The special relationship has extended far beyond the house and opened

new friendships for me, [which] I never anticipated.”

But they’re close friends at home, too, where Cook takes Lacey on walks about their property using his scooter. “Without that walk, I’m not sure how often he would go outside,” adds Tabler.

Lacey naturally thrives on retrieving her toys and balls at home, with Cook serving as the thrower. He has enlarged her repertoire by giving her socks, handkerchiefs, and gloves to retrieve. She is also learning to pick up a dropped phone.

Trick or Treat: How about both?!



Did you know your dog can earn titles just for doing tricks? It's true!

The AKC Trick Titles are Trick Dog Novice, Trick Dog Intermediate, Trick Dog Advanced, Trick Dog Performer, and Trick Dog Elite Performer. As these titles are earned, the requirements grow harder until a full routine is needed. These titles follow your dog's registered name.

Are you [looking to get started](#) and get that Trick Dog Novice title? If you have your Canine Good Citizen title already, you only need five tricks. Without it, ten tricks are required. Take a look at the AKC list [here](#) to prepare! At the novice level, you are permitted to use food as a lure and/or reward. A treat for the tricks!

Want to get your Canine Good Citizen and/or Trick Dog titles done? Reply to this email with your interest! Capital Dog Training Club

hosts regular drop-in testing sessions.

Braggs





Diane Harab shares:

Willy (top photo) earned his CDX title with a score of 192.5, 1st place at Oriole's show on August 25, 2024. I am so proud of him.

Rocky (bottom photo) earned his Rally Intermediate title with a score of 96, 1st place at Oriole's show on August 24, 2024.



Brianne Studer writes:

Noodles had a fantastic summer and beginning of fall in agility. He finished his first ever AKC masters titles, JWW and Standard, and he even won money and got a bye to the UKI US open by winning his height in a September UKI masters series event. We're looking forward to a little less trialing and a little more training this fall, but he's come so far!





Dianne Hardy shares:

At the Hyattsville Dog Training Club Obedience and Rally Trial, Rye and Sierra each needed two legs for their titles and managed to pull it off. Rye (Border Collie Periland Rye BN RN OA NAJ MXF CGC) earned her Companion Dog (CD). Sierra (yellow Labrador Retriever MACH PACH Rhyshek's Sierra Of Isabela MXS MJB MXP4 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX MFB MFPB T2B T2BP2) earned her Rally Novice. I really appreciate the camaraderie and support from Capital Dog Training Club members!





Dianne Hardy also shares:

The annual Labrador Retriever Agility National was held at The Field House in Northford CT, September 28 and 29. The Labrador Retriever club also holds Conformation, Obedience, Rally and Hunt, in other sites on different adjacent days. As part of the agility festivities, our agility dog retirees were honored with our submitted biography to be read before a celebratory jumpers run. Sierra, who will be 12 on October 2, participated and had a blast. We had a choice of jumps set to 8 inches, 4 inches, or bars on the ground. I can blind cross a lot with Sierra, but she sped up in the middle and I had to rear cross on the fly. She kept all the bars up at 8 inches did all 12 weaves. Her enthusiasm was priceless. Each retiree was given a 12" decorated bar (aka "mini-bar") personalized with their name.

It is in front of Sierra (yellow Lab) in the photo.

The Top 25 celebration was for the top 25 MACH and top 25 PACH Labrador Retrievers in the year 2023. Handlers submitted biography and chose a song. Santana was number 16 in the MACH category and her song was "Smooth", by, of course, Carlos Santana. It was so fun! I ran it the way I should have run the real Masters JWW, which I had run conservatively for a double Q. We should always run like it is a celebration! The club gave us a big personalized with our dogs name and titles printed on it. Santana earned a double Q each day, and qualified in Time to Beat and Master's FAST.



Nancy Williams writes:

Comet, my eight month old Cavalier and I participated in our first NACSW and AKC scent trials recently, which were our first trials of any sort. It was also Comet's first night in a hotel and first roadtrip!

Comet called all three of the NACSW odors correctly. There were three searches with one hide in each search. The odors are birch, anise, and clove.

The next day, Comet correctly found three of the four hides in the AKC trial.

Of course it goes without saying that we couldn't have done this without the fabulous training from our teacher, Sandi Atkinson. Thank you Sandi!

Submit yours to CDTCObichaff@gmail.com

Delegate's Corner

By: Joyce Dandridge

In the Companion Events Committee Meeting:

- It was mentioned at the beginning of the meeting there is an error in the new obediencebooks (black book) on page 93 – Section 9- Graduate Novice
- Doug made his report and stated that AKC events was headed for another all time high. The following showed some increases- Agility 4%, Fast CAT 18%, Scent Work 14%, Rally 14%, Obedience 2%, CAT 20%, Lure Coursing 15%, Earthdog 8%, AKC Temperament Test 31%. Tracking was -4% and Conformation -2%.
- Agility ISC National which is European Style Agility will be held Oct. 12-13 at Hunt Horse Arena in Raleigh, NC. The event is open to all and entry is limited and filled.
- 2025 Agility Nationals are March 13-16, 2025 at Tulsa Expo-Tulsa, OK. It will be filmed on ESPN
- Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility will retire after 25 years. Doug Hurley, currently the Agility Operations Manager will become Director effective November 4. Carrie will remain as a part time rep until the end of March 2025.
- RACH Invitational will be held in Orlando on December 12 and 13. The eligibility list was published mid-August and invitations will be sent to just over 300 in mid-September. The event is open to the dogs who have earned the RACH title, with the top six dogs in each breed based on the number triple qualifying scores earned during the qualifying period. On Thursday, Dec. 12, all dogs will compete in each of the three rings. At the end of the day, the Top 50 dogs will be announced and they will proceed to the semi-final round. Friday morning, all 50 dogs will compete in each of the three rings, the Top 20 will be announced. The Top 20 will compete in one ring with all three judges scoring.
- DQ by Event Committee- 3 strikes- A recommendation is being presented to the Board to establish a process where a dog that is disqualified by an Event Committee for aggressive or threatening behavior on three occasions, even without injury, shall be administratively disqualified by the AKC. This change is supported by the Dog Show Rules Delegate Committee. It will be presented for a Delegate vote as a change to the rules, however, if approved it will apply to all AKC sports. Currently, it needs to be an injury for a DQ. It will be voted on in March. I welcome your feedback on my vote as well as any questions.
- AKC has developed a new online Title Application Portal (TAP). The portal offers a fast and simple way to apply for CGC, Trick Dog, Temperament Test, Fit Dog, Fetch, Barn Hunt, Dock

Diving, Disc Dog, Flyball, Virtual Home Manners, Search and Rescue and any titles recognized under the Parent Club Title Recognition Program. The TAP can be found on the Sports and Events home page. Anyone needing assistance can call 919-816-3637.

- Staff will be proceeding with a recommendation to allow agility exhibitors to transfer their MACH points and Double Qs toward their PACH title. Timing when this will occur is uncertain.
- I shared copies with the CEC Committee and a Board member the article on CDTC's Agility program printed in the Bethesda Magazine. Several commented on the excellent article.

In the General Membership Meeting:

- There was a Forum presentation topic called "Paws and Progress: Exploring Developmental Orthopedic Challenges and Sports Injuries in our Canine Companions". It was presented by Dr. Bryan T. Thomas from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. This presentation was excellent. It discussed the research he is doing on stress points affected as we work our dogs in the various sports. He even discussed equipment being developed to assist dogs with injuries.

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

October 8th, 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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