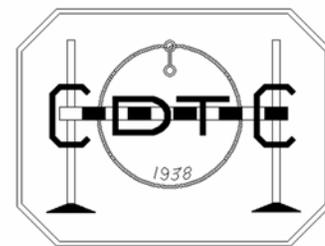


The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Capital Dog Training Club, Inc.

# Obichaff



November 2010

Volume 66, Issue 10

## Five Canine Heroes Honored With AKC® Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence

The AKC® Humane Fund announced the winners of the 11th annual *AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE)*, which commemorates five loyal, hard-working dogs that have made significant contributions to their communities in each of the following five categories: Exemplary Companion Dog, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Therapy and Service.

“The AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence celebrate what dogs contribute to our lives and these five exceptional recipients exemplify the heroic acts canines can accomplish,” said Lisa Peterson AKC Spokesperson. “Their inspiring stories serve as an example of the canine-human bond and the impact a single dog can make in a community.”

The ACE recipients will receive \$1,000 and an engraved Sterling silver medallion at the nationally televised AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Long Beach, California on December 5, 2010. In addition they will be honored individually at local events. The New York and New Jersey ACE winners had their local ceremony and were available for a public meet and greet during Meet the Breeds on October 16-17, 2010 at the Jacob Javits Center in NYC.

This year’s ACE winners include:

### **Search and Rescue Dog: “Cassius” owned by Peter Taft of Brooklyn, NY**

Once a shelter dog and now trained for Search and

Rescue work, Cassius and owner Peter have been deployed by or worked closely with many organizations, including the Bedford Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Louisiana State EMS Boat Team Search and Rescue, and the United States Army Airborne. The two also served during Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina and in Haiti during the aftermath of the recent earthquake. While Peter performed paramedic work in Haiti, Cassius, also a certified Therapy dog, provided comfort to both victims and volunteers of the tragedy. The team received Congressional Commendations for their exceptional work.

### **Therapy Dog: “Rufus” owned by Thomas and Barbara Bishop of Holmdel, NJ**

Rufus performs equally as well in show ring as he does in the community – he’s the top-winning Bull Terrier of all time as well as an exceptional Therapy dog. Since retiring from the show ring, Rufus has spent countless hours spreading happiness and cheer at schools, senior citizen programs and nursing-rehabilitation centers. He also received a special invitation to visit injured soldiers at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

### **Service Dog: “Wyatt” owned by Janice Wolfe of Wyckoff, NJ**

While most Service Dogs typically work with just one person, Wyatt, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, has worked with hundreds. His breeder/owner Janice

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**Honoring Working Dogs**

Therapy dogs and their handlers took a break at CDTC's agility trial in April, which featured an "Honoring Working Dogs Day." Photo courtesy of Jim Poor Photography.

*Obichaff* is published monthly, except in January, for the benefit of members of Capital Dog Training Club. Members are encouraged to submit articles that would be of interest to other members. All submissions to *Obichaff* must have the author's name. Previously published material must include permission from the publisher to use the material in *Obichaff*. The Editor has the right to edit for space, content and tone. If significant changes are made (i.e., more than just for clarity, punctuation, spelling, etc.), the author will be given an opportunity to review the edited article. Material published in *Obichaff* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or of CDTC. Newsletters of other clubs may quote any part of this publication, provided proper credit is given and a copy sent to Capital Dog Training Club.

## From the Training Director: An Awesome Training Experience

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A few weeks ago, from Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>, Karen Christenson and I were fortunate to attend Sarah Wilson and Brian Kilcommons' seminar/workshop on "Dealing With Difficult Dogs." If you are not familiar with Sarah and Brian, I strongly recommend you google them and also visit Sarah's website: [www.mysmartpuppy.com](http://www.mysmartpuppy.com), which has extremely useful chatboards on a variety of dog-related topics, including, but not at all limited to, dog sports and competition (just click on "community"). For entertainment, check out Brian's "Maybe It's Not the Dog" video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ogjUydNHGU>

Brian is the only American to have apprenticed with the famous British trainer, Barbara Woodhouse, of "No Bad Dogs" fame. (Those of you who are as old as I, may remember that she had a TV show in the '70's.) However, Brian and Sarah have never been content to keep on doing the same old thing and have worked hard to find newer and better ways to train dogs. They are both fond of saying that if you don't cringe a bit recalling how you trained a number of years ago, then you aren't progressing as a trainer.

Sarah and Brian are not particularly focused on competition, but their work can be applied to any purpose for which one needs to train a dog. Combined, they have something like 50 years of experience and have trained dogs for just about any purpose you can imagine. Their primary focus is on helping individual dogs, particularly those with major issues, to reach their potential, whether that be to help them stay in the home they already have, or, working with shelter dogs, to become adoptable to forever homes. They do specialize somewhat – Brian does a lot of work with seriously aggressive (towards dogs or humans) dogs, where Sarah's particular passion is for shy or "deficit" (meaning inadequately socialized) dogs.

This was the second "Brian and Sarah" workshop for Karen and the third one for me. We both attended "Dealing With Difficult Dogs" last year. This year was not a duplicate, but essentially Part II. Both years, the seminars were given in cooperation with the Longmont, Colorado shelter. The Longmont shelter is not only a state-of-the-art facility (similar to the plans I've seen for the new Montgomery County shelter being built), but perhaps more important, is a showcase for how TRAINING of shelter dogs can rehab them and lead to adoption for dogs that are often euthanized in other places. Brian and Sarah have been very involved in helping Longmont institute its training program, with the impressive result that, although it is a shelter of last resort – meaning they are required to take ANY dog that comes in (comparable to MCHS), they have a 96% adoption rate.

Last year's seminar and the first two days of this year's seminar consisted mainly of Brian and Sarah alternating between power point presentations regarding how to approach and help different types of "difficult" dogs (i.e., "reactive," "shy", etc.), and watching them work with shelter dogs that they had never seen before. So, for example, the shelter would bring in dogs that were reactive or outright aggressive towards other dogs (typically triggering at about 20 or 30 feet away), and we would watch Sarah or Brian work the dog to the point that it could pass by the other dog or hold a sit within five or six feet without a problem. They could usually accomplish this in 10-15 minutes (I should send them Joey!). In a comparable amount of time they could take your typical clueless, barreling ahead pittymix that just wanted to haul you across the room, and have that dog walking on a loose leash, paying attention, and virtually begging to be told what to do. Watching them work is a humbling experience.

Both last year and this year there were occasions in the program for the attendees to work with a (shelter) dog under Sarah's or Brian's tutelage. This year, however, they offered the additional opportunity to spend an entire day doing that in a small group of six people, and Karen and I jumped at the chance. So on the Monday, we spent about six hours working under Sarah's tutelage with a variety of shelter dogs we had never seen before. The goal generally was to get the dog to where it would walk nicely on the leash and/or could settle into a long down. In some cases we had a reactive dog and were working it to pay atten-

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*(Continued from page 3)*

tion to us rather than the other dogs. About 75% of the dogs were Pit mixes, partly because Denver has a breed ban so any Pits that come into the Denver shelter are automatically sent over to Longmont.

In the course of the weekend Sarah and Brian each handled probably about 10 to 15 dogs. Of all those dogs – again, none of which they had met before, and that is pretty obvious when you know dogs – there was exactly one that they basically did not get to their goal with. In that case, Brian felt that continuing to work the dog would be unfair to the dog given the very high distraction of having 40 or so people in the room. That particular dog was very uninterested in relating to people and clearly had significant aggressive potential – it was impressive to watch Brian handling him as much as he did.

On Monday morning the six of us waited somewhat nervously to get our first dogs handed over to us. My “first” was a four month old pit mix puppy that was very cute, but absolutely bouncing off the walls and somewhat dog reactive. My tasks were to “soften him to the leash” – i.e., getting him to respond to the leash rather than pull against it, and teaching him to hold a down-stay. The second task at first blush seemed to require something along the lines of massive quantities of Duct tape . . . this was a little guy who could not hold still even for the barest second!

Our group of six had several other pit mixes, a chow mix and a hound mix. One of the pits was very interested in my puppy – as potential lunch. This was solved in large part by erecting a makeshift screen between him and my pup.

Long story short, in about 15 or twenty minutes we had all succeeded in getting our dogs into downstays, and my puppy was even relaxing to my touch (many of these dogs were not particularly used to being handled – I did find T-touch to be of use in some cases). Then we were given a new set of dogs and the day proceeded. I wish we could have done it for a week – it was that cool!

I am hoping to lure Sarah here to do a workshop that would have a dual focus: one day for dog training generally, and one day talking specifically about strategies for instructors of group classes, with which she has about twenty years of experience. I’ll keep you posted. In the meantime if you have thoughts about what you’d like her to talk about/do/demonstrate, let me know, as we are still in discussions. Happy Training!

—Lisa Daniel

## **Capital’s 2010 Canine Good Citizen/Therapy Dog International Testing**

We held our semi-annual CGC/TDI test on Sunday September 26th. A total of 25 dogs entered, 19 passed the CGC test, and we produced 12 more certified Therapy Dogs for the area.

Our CGC Volunteers were: TDI Judge Susan Hertz, CGC Judges Joyce Dandrige and Lisa Daniel, TDI test Children Naomi (my daughter) and Katie (my niece), wheelchair jockey Robin Seigel, who also helped me immensely with the children, Jeff Harab and Joan Danzansky served as escorts to help the judges, Tom Hertz did distractions, and Tom, Melitta Carter and Oleg Voloshin's wife, Oksana (who came in Oleg's stead) were our crowd, finally, our neutral Dog team was Dianne Harab and Reese. We made \$400 and were all very, very tired.

—Shannon Hall

## Braggs!

Bo finished his UD under judge Victoria Brown at the Hyattsville DTC Trial on September 26. Bo earned his CDX under Ms. Brown as well!

He is now U-CD WayToGo Fuligin Beau Tay CGC UD RE OA AXJ OF AD SSJ. He celebrated his new status by destroying his new Utility Dog Toy Tool Box (depicted in the photo).  
—Jennie Larkin



My other papillon, Tip, finished his breed championship today, with a 3 point major and a Best of Breed win at the Maryland Kennel Club Show (October 17).

He is now CH. Waytogo Walk This Way NJP!

—Jennie Larkin

*(Continued from page 1)*

Wolfe is the founder and director of Merlin’s Kids, an organization that places dogs with autistic and developmentally disabled children. Wyatt’s affinity for children and his remarkable patience allows Janice to determine if a Service dog is right for a particular child.

### **Law Enforcement Dog: “Nike” owned by Senior Corporal Mark Tobin, New Castle County Police of New Castle, DE**

Nike, an 11-year old German Shepherd Dog, spent ten years serving the 500,000 citizens of New Castle County, Delaware, with his partner, Senior Corporal Mark Tobin. This decade of service resulted in 161 apprehensions and the seizure of 1.6 million dollars worth of drugs. Nike also used his tracking skills to find an Alzheimer’s patient who had wandered away from home and a six-year old autistic boy lost in 97 degree heat, among many others.

### **Exemplary Companion Dog: “Ricochet” owned by Judy Fridono of Escondido, CA**

When Golden Retriever Ricochet was dropped from Service Dog training due to her distractible nature, owner Judy Fridono decided to focus their efforts on something Ricochet could do – surf! This wave-loving Golden now surfs for charitable causes, and has raised more than \$10,000 for a quadriplegic boy’s rehab as well as funds to purchase toys for 630 children at hospitals and women’s shelters during a Christmas toy drive.

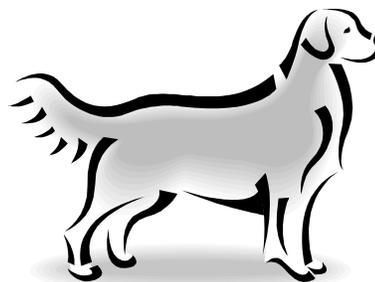


### **Obichaff Print Edition Opt-Out**

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## Class Schedules

<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Ring</u>
<b>MONDAY</b>			
10-11:30	Freestyle TG	Ely	2-3
6-7:15	Open	LaDieu	2-3
7:15-8:05	SN	Adler/Dwyer	1
7:30-8:30	Novice	Golec	3
8:15-9:15	Utility	Adler	1-2
8:30-9:20	Basic, 9/13-11/1	Hall	3
<b>TUESDAY</b>			
6-6:50	Basic,* 11/16-12/21	Crawford	2-3
6-6:50	AB,* 11/2-12-14	Daniel	1
7-7:50	PK, 11/2-12/21	Hathaway	3
7-8	Novice	Merchant	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. 8-10		Club Meeting	bldg
4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.	Board Meeting		
1 <sup>st</sup> ,3 <sup>rd</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Tues	8pm GM, 9/21-11/30	Daniel	2-3
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
12-2:30	Ob. Skills TG	Spodak	1-2
5-5:50	Beg Nov, 8/25-10/13	Larkin	2-3
6-7:30	Agility (Comp)	Harrill	1-2-3
7:30-8:45	Agility (Intro 2)	Briefel	1-2-3
<b>THURSDAY</b>			
9:30-10:30	SN	Adler	1-2
9:30-10:30	Novice	Holt	3
11:30-12:20*	CRally, 10/21-12/2	Daniel	3
11:30-12:20*	AB, 11/4-12/16	Christenson	1-2
12:30-3:00	Open/Utility TG	Goldstein	1-2-3
5:00-5:50	PK, 9/23-11/11	Gurvin	1-2
6-7	Novice	Gurvin	1-2
6-7	Utility prep	Harry	3
7-8	Utility	Harry	2
7-8	Retrieve	Dornak	3
8-9	SN	Dornak	3
8-9	Open	Harry	1-2
9-10	Open	Nappier	2
<b>FRIDAY</b>			
10:15 am-12:30	Freestyle	Ely/ Kirschenman	1-2-3
1-4 (approx.)	Building Cleaning		bldg
7:00-8:00	Novice	Cleverdon	1



<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Ring</u>
7-8:30	CCI**	Hathaway	3
<b>SATURDAY</b>			
7:30-8:45	PK, 9/11-11/6	Melchior	2-3
10-10:50	PK, 10/23-12/18	Zarnowski	2-3
11-12:30	Freestyle	Guzman	1-2-3
2-2:50	AB, 9/11-11/6	Christenson	2-3
3-3:50	Basic	Daniel	1-2
6:30-7:30	Beg. Flyball	Lindberg	1-2-3
7:30-8:30	Flyball practice	Dwyer	1-2-3
<b>SUNDAY</b>			
4-5:15	Agility (Hndl.)	Maloney	1-2-3
5:15-6:30	Agility (Intro)	Hall	1-2-3
6:30-7:45	Agility (Beg.)	Bond/Carter	1-2-3
* Six week class.			
** Canine Companions for Independence			

### Class Schedules

<u>Day</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
<b>PUPPY KINDERGARTEN</b>			
Sat	10/23-12/18,	10:00-10:50am	Zarnowski
Tues	11/2-12/21,	7:00-7:50pm	Hathaway
Thurs	9/23-11/11,	5:00-5:50pm	Gurvin
<b>GOOD MANNERS</b>			
Tues	9/21-11/30,*	8:00-8:50pm	Daniel
<b>BASIC</b>			
Sat	10/23-12/18,	3:00-3:50pm	Daniel
Mon	9/13-11/1,	8:30- 9:20 pm	Hall
Tues	11/16-12/21,	6:00-6:50pm	Crawford
<b>AB</b>			
Sat	9/11-11/6,*	2:00-2:50 pm	Christenson
Tues	11/2-12/14,*	6:00-6:50 pm	Daniel
Thurs	11/4-12/16,	11:30 am-12:20 pm	Christenson
<b>BEGINNING NOVICE</b>			
Wed	8/25-10/13,	5:00-5:50 pm	Larkin
<b>SUB-NOVICE</b>			
Mon	C	7:15-8:15	Adler/Dwyer
Thurs	C	9:30-10:30 am	Adler
Thurs	C	8-9	Dornak
Fri	C	7-8	Cleverdon
<b>NOVICE</b>			
Mon	C	7:30-8:30	Golec
Tues	C	7-8	Merchant
Thurs	C	9:30-10:30 am	Holt
Thurs	C	6-7	Gurvin
<b>OPEN</b>			
Mon	C	6-7:15	LaDieu
Thurs	C	8-9	Harry
Thurs	C	9-10	Nappier
<b>UTILITY</b>			
Mon	C	8:15-9:15	Adler
Thurs	C	6:00-7:00 (prep)	Harry

<u>Day</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
Thurs	C	8:00-9:00	Harry
<b>RETRIEVE</b>			
Thurs	C	7-8:00	Dornak
<b>COMPETITION RALLY</b>			
Thurs	10/21-12/2,*	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Daniel
<b>AGILITY</b>			
Wed	C	6:00 - 7:30(Comp.)	Harrill
Wed	C	7:30 – 8:45 (Intro 2)	Briefel
Sun	C	4:00 -5:15(Hndl.)	Maloney
Sun	C	5:15- 6:30 (Intro)	Hall
Sun	C	6:30-7:45 (Beg.)	Bond/Carter
<b>FREESTYLE</b>			
Fri	C	10:15-12:30	Ely/ Kirschenman
Sat	C	11-12:30	Guzman
<b>TRAINING GROUPS</b>			
Mon	C	10-11:30	Ely
Wed	C	12-2:30 (Ob. Skills)	Spodak
Thurs	C	12:30-3:00	Goldstein
<b>FLYBALL</b>			
Sat	C	6:30-8:30	Lindberg/ Dwyer
<b>OUTSIDE GROUPS</b>			
Fri	C	7-8:30 CCI	Hathaway
<b>BUILDING CLEANING</b>			
Fri	C	1-4 approx.	S. Harrill
<b>Agility Seminar</b>			
Fri-Sun		11/19-11/21	
* Six week class.			

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<http://www.CapitalDTC.blogspot.com>

**Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC)**, a member club of the American Kennel Club, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1938 to promote the sport of obedience training through classes offered to its members and the general public. We offer obedience classes from puppy kindergarten through competition obedience. We also offer classes in agility, canine freestyle, flyball, conformation, tracking and rally.

CDTC offers a variety of other activities for dogs and people, including matches, trials and seminars on dog-related topics.

Capital has a fully matted indoor, air-conditioned facility in Silver Spring, Md.

**Important Dates at Capital**

**November Membership Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 9**



**Obichaff**

*The Monthly Newsletter of  
Capital Dog Training Club  
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**Originators of AKC's Brace  
and  
Graduate Novice classes**