

LEAD LINES



December 2024

Officers

President Betty Gansky

Vice President Lodge Weber

Treasurer Fran Smith

Recording Secretary Celeste Platte

Board Members at Large

Scott Adams Sr., June Feigenblatt,
Tracey Guziejka

Training Coordinators

Agility Leslie Granville-Smith

Nose Work Judy McPartland

Obedience June Feigenblatt

Rally Scott T Adams Sr.

Tracking Diana Johnson-Ford

Points of Contact

Lead Lines

leadlines.otcpbc@gmail.com

Social Media

kellmcd222@gmail.com

Titles Earned

otcpbc.djf@outlook.com

Volunteer Hours

otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

Club Information

P: 561-841-4040

A: 1250 Gateway Rd. Lake Park FL

W: otcpcb.org

E: otcpcb@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

December

Tracking Dog Excellent Test - 12/8 St Lucie, FL
Judges Fran Smith, Cathy Greenfield(p)

Tricks Test - 12/16 @ OTCPCB *Evaluator Angel Andrews*

January

Membership Meeting - 1/6 @ OTCPCB

Obedience Trial - 1/11, 1/12 @ OTCPCB *Judge Paula Barras*

Scent Work Trial- 1/25, 1/26 @ OTCPCB *Judges Carol Happel(p), Fran Smith, Marti Hohmann(p), Judy McPartland*

Agility Trial - 1/31, 2/1, 2/2 - Ft Pierce, FL *Judges Sue Barnett, Oksana Syrkin*

Fast CAT - 1/31, 2/1, 2/2 - Ft Pierce, FL *Lure Coursing Company Black Knights Coursing, LLC*

February

Variable Surface Tracking Test - 2/16 Palm Beach Gardens, FL *Judges Fran Smith, Linda Baschnagel*

Event premiums are or will be posted to otcpcb.org and akc.org as they become available.

As always **volunteers are needed** for all club events and are the key to successful trials. Please contact the event chair as listed in the premium if you are interested in helping at an event.

MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024

Board Members Present: Betty Gansky, Lodge Weber, Celeste Platte, Fran Smith, Scott T. Adams, Sr., Tracey Guziejka, June Feigenblatt

Coordinators Present: Judy McPartland, Diana Johnson Ford, Leslie Granville-Smith

Reports: NONE GIVEN

President – Betty Gansky, **Vice President** – Lodge Weber, **Treasurer** – Fran Smith, **Secretary** – Celeste Platte, **Obedience Coordinator** – June Feigenblatt, **Rally Coordinator** – Scott Adams, **Agility Coordinator** – Leslie Granville-Smith, **Scent Coordinator** – Judy McPartland, **Tracking Coordinator** – Diana Johnson Ford, **Webmaster** – Judy McPartland

Old Business:

- The light fixture over the door is flashing and needs to be replaced. The electrician has ordered a replacement. - Guziejka
- Free Access Cards for Instructors – Gansky
 - All the instructors use the key in the key box to open the doors for class except one instructor. At night, the door can be locked to prevent unwanted persons in the building. The instructor requested an access card due to safety issues. Not requiring time to lock and secure the key after class hours.
 - Betty stated that the only instructors that have access cards are those that pay for them. If an instructor does not have an access card, they must train with someone who does have a card and pay \$5.00 each session. Note, whenever the access card is swiped on the pad, a printout of that person's entry is recorded. At this time, that function does not work from a home computer, but is available from the vendor. A request will be made to reactivate that option.
 - After much discussion by the Board as to safety and unauthorized use of a key card, it was decided that a new key box would be installed closer to the door with the capability to swipe your phone over the keypad and open the lock box to retrieve the key or deposit it. No record of entry is recorded when using a key.

New Business:

- Air pump for the tires on the old wagon used to move the agility equipment. – Gansky
 - A pump can be purchased for \$40 to fill the old wagon tires. If the tires need to be replaced, they can be purchased from Harbor Freight.
- Cost approval to open Google Business Account to replace use of individual personal accounts used in performance of OTCPBC business. – McPartland
 - More than a while ago Board approved getting a google workspace account for the club so that we could stop using personal accounts to transact club business. Of particular concern are the accounts used to support the website.
 - Google Workspace is the overall name of Google's options for business accounts. There are several editions of Google Workspace available for

businesses. All include a number of Google tools, such as Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Meet, Calendar. They differ in cost based on the number of user licenses.

- If each coordinator had their own email from the business account, they could be responded to inquiries. However, if any person were to choose to no longer do that function, the account could be deactivated, but all the history would remain. Then that email would be assigned to the new person doing that function.
- MOTION to move forward with getting a Google workspace account for OTCPCB. 1st Smith, 2nd Weber. Motion Approved.
- Board to review the following items so that we can update the club website for the 2025 classes. - McPartland
 - Class fees by 11/1/24. – Stay the Same
 - Number of volunteer hours needed to be eligible for Member Benefits by 11/1/24 Stay the Same
 - Membership meeting dates (and which are in person and which via zoom) by 10/1/24 TBD
 - The Board appoint a committee to provide a Privacy Policy statement that can be posted on our website. Final approved statement needed no later than December 1, 2024.
 - A policy statement states how the club discloses and manages information collected from members and those that register for class on the website..
- Conflict of Interest Issue within the Policy and Procedures –
 - General Membership, Section 12:
 - A member conducting private group training classes for a fee may not serve as an Officer or Member of the Board of Directors of the Club, thereby eliminating any conflict of interest.
 - This policy has been in place going back 20 years.
 - If this policy were to be changed, it would allow all members to sit on the Board of Director whether they teach private lessons or lessons at their personal facility to for other clubs.
 - This could be seen as a conflict of interest.
 - To receive payment from two different companies for the same purpose is a conflict of interest.

The meeting was adjourned due to a schedule conflict.

*Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Secretary*

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2024

Board Members Present: Betty Gansky, Lodge Weber, Celeste Platte, Fran Smith, Scott T. Adams, Sr., Tracey Guziejka, June Feigenblatt

Coordinators Present: Judy McPartland, Diana Johnson Ford, Leslie Granville-Smith

Reports: NONE GIVEN

President – Betty Gansky, **Vice President** – Lodge Weber, **Treasurer** – Fran Smith, **Secretary** – Celeste Platte, **Obedience Coordinator** – June Feigenblatt, **Rally Coordinator** – Scott Adams, **Agility Coordinator** – Leslie Granville-Smith, **Scent Coordinator** – Judy McPartland, **Tracking Coordinator** – Diana Johnson Ford, **Webmaster** – Judy McPartland

Old Business:

- Have the Board appoint a committee to provide a Privacy Policy statement that can be posted on our website. Final approved statement needed no later than December 1, 2024. – McPartland
- An email will be sent out to the general membership requesting volunteers to become part of a committee to identify areas that need to be addressed in the club's privacy policy.
- First it is important to understand what fits under the Privacy Policy
 - What information the club collects
 - How it is collected
 - How is it protected
 - Whom do we share this information with
- Examples: Instructors' social security numbers, checks that are received by the club for entries to trials, email addresses collected on the website. The committee will identify the current processes and procedures for the data items that are considered privacy item and the subject of a privacy policy. Once this information identified, a professional may be hired by the club to develop a Privacy Policy which will be published on the club's website.

New Business:

- Issue Access Cards to all Instructors – Weber
 - The club trainers are often the public's first contact with the club, and they must represent themselves as skilled and teach well.
 - We, as a club, need to take care of their needs so as to allow them to be professional, and continue their education.
 - Our instructors need to train, and can't always rely on someone with an access card to accompany them
 - Our instructors need to be continuously improving and must take what they learn from their classes and expand on it.
 - 2 caveats...1) they need to hold at least 4 classes a year. 2) any instructor who paid for a card this year is reimbursed.
 - MOTION. Instructors that teach four or more classes per year will be issued an access card for personal use/training. If an instructor has paid for an access card in 2024 (only) and taught four or more classes, they will be reimbursed the cost paid for the card. 1 st Weber 2nd Smith. Motion Approved.
- Charitable committee to help allocate funds based upon percentages rather than fixed dollar amounts. – Weber
 - The board decided to donate 10% of the club's profit each year to charitable causes.
 - A committee, chaired by Kelly McDonough, will research what charities should be considered for donations and a report will be given to the Board of Directors for final approval.
 - 10 percent of the club's profit will be donated to charitable causes.
 - Board of Directors teaching outside of the club – Weber
 - There is one sentence in our Policy and Procedures that states: A member conducting private group training classes for a fee may not serve as an Officer or Member of the Board of Directors of the Club, thereby eliminating any conflict of interest.
 - The key word is "private group." It is suggested that this section be rewritten to allow instruction at a club, but not at a profit-making entity

- MOTION an Officer or Member of the Board of Directors may instruct at another club, but not at a “for profit” enterprise. 1 st Weber 2 nd Feigenblatt. 1 opposed. Motion passed.
- Club Meeting Dates for 2025:
 - After discussion by the Board, the General Membership meetings will be held on the following dates. The meetings will alternate between Zoom meetings and in-house at the club meetings. These will be posted on the Club’s website.
 - Membership Meetings:
 - 1/6/25 in person
 - 3/3/25 Zoom
 - 5/5/25 in person
 - 7/7/25 zoom (4th of July is previous Friday)
 - 9/8/25 zoom (9/1/25 is Labor Day)
 - 11/3/25 in person
- Waiver of fees for Show & Goes – Gansky
 - The President stated that she regularly buys 99% of the supplies for the club, never charges for mileage for this work, looks for sales, and teaches drill class at no charge.
 - She has requested a waiver of fees when attending the club’s Show & Goes with her dogs.
 - Blanket policy agreed to by the Board: The President will not be charged for Show & Goes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Secretary*

General Membership Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom Meeting

Monday, November 4, 2024, 7:00 PM

Call to Order.

Board Members Present: Betty Gansky, Lodge Weber, Celeste Platte, Fran Smith, Scott T. Adams, Sr., Tracey Guziejka, June Feigenblatt

Approve the minutes from last Lead Lines 1st Scott T.Adams, Sr. 2nd Storey Wenger. Motion passed.

Reports:

President – Betty Gansky. The building did not experience any damage during the hurricane. However, when the awning was taken down, it was showing wear and tear. A new awning has been ordered.

Vice President – Lodge Weber. The Show & Go held on Sunday, November 3rd went well. Lodge also stated that the club needs to look into the club’s usage of information collected. That item will be discussed more in length at the next Board meeting.

Secretary – Celeste Platte. From Cindy Ponga, Chair. The club’s holiday party will be held at the Olive Garden in Wellington. Date: Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 5:00 PM. There will be a voluntary gift steeling game. A new dog theme gift wrapped - \$20 - \$25 value. A

group RSVP will be emailed with reservation and payment information along with the menu and further details.

Treasurer – Fran Smith. Fran gave a report on the club's finances.

Obedience Coordinator – June Feigenblatt. Classes for January are being worked on now. There are about eight Show & Goes planned for 2025.

Rally Coordinator – Scott T Adams, Sr. There are Rally classes going on right now. After this class is finished, Rally will be on hold until the new year. Lodge is working on securing Rally judges for 2025.

Agility Coordinator – Leslie Granville-Smith. Absent

Scent Coordinator – Judy McPartland. Scent trial the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 23 & 24. Volunteers are needed, particularly on Friday for set up. Odor recognition trial on October 13th went very well. There was a great response to the test and a nice profit was made.

Tracking Coordinator – Diana Johnson Ford – Tracking is in full swing. There is one test scheduled for November, one in December and two in February, 2025. All judges are under contract. The Central Florida is doing a tracking seminar for beginner trackers. Congratulations to Fran and her dog Dove on passing their TD tracking test.

Webmaster – Judy McPartland. For 2025 all weekend events are listed on the calendar. The registration application for classes will shut down at the end of November and open back up around the 2nd week in December.

Membership Applications

Second Reading - Voted Into Membership

Karen Baker Jupiter, 16264 122nd Drive North FL 33478 PHONE: 561-762-7099 EMAIL: drkarendvm@aol.com Breed: Flat Coat Receivers, All Americans Sponsors: Mary Ann Hamzy, Scott T Adams, Sr.

First Reading

Rande Keenan Jupiter, FL 33458 Breed: Poodle – Mini, All American (Jackapoo) Sponsors: Bobbi Nettles, Diana Johnson-Ford

Emily Mardis Port St Lucie, FL 34953 Breed Australian Sheperd SponsorsL Scott T Adams, Sr, Betty Gansky

New Business:

- Maintenance – Guziejka
 - Three new light fixtures have been installed. Two out front and one by the back shed.
 - The club is in the process of installing a new awning. It has been ordered.
 - The big storage shed roof was waterproofed due to a leak
 - The bushes near the garbage can and along the front fence line have a strangler vine running through them. This vine can only be removed by pulling it out by the roots. The club will be reviewing options and costs on removing the current bushes and what would be the best option for replacements.
- New electronic lock box – Weber. An electronic box has been installed right next to the door. This box holds the key that unlocks the front door. It is accessible by entering a code or scanning with your smart phone. Contact Lodge Weber for information about the app and how it works if you want to use that scan option.
- Fetch Trials at St Lucie Fairgrounds - Marti Hohmann. An application has been filled out for the Fetch Trials. The judge's name needs to be supplied. Five people are needed to run the trial. The trial dates will be announced in the future. The exact number of days for the Fetch Trial has not been determined at this time. The

trial will be run concurrent with the Agility Trial January 31, February 1 & 2, 2025. Volunteers will be needed for setup and during the trial.

- 2024 Titles for publication – Diana Johnson-Ford. Years ago members used to turn in their titles earned for the year. Diana will be collecting titles earned in 2024. The information needed: Official Dog's name, Owner's name, titles listed. Put non-AKC titles on a line below AKC titles. Email your information to Diana Johnson-Ford.
- Fast CAT – Jennifer Patti. The Fast CAT events have been approved. There are six events, two runs per day. January 31, February 1 and 2, 2025
- Charitable Committee - Kelly McDonough. Charitable contribution recommendations will be taken to the Board for approval. December 3, the club will have a dedicated drive. The contributor will be able to go online and make a donation. In 2025 the charitable contribution amount will be 10% of the club's 2024 profit.
- Nominating Committee Slate of Officers
- Diana Johnson-Ford presented the process used to identify those members interested in positions on the Board. Storey Wenger presented the Nominating Committee's recommendations as follows:
 - President: Celeste Platte
 - Vice-President: Lodge Weber
 - Treasurer: Fran Smith
 - Secretary: Jim Pirko
 - Board Members At Large: Scott T Adams, Sr., Tracey Guziejka, June Feigenblatt
- After a lengthy discussion by the Board and members as to whether the sitting Board of Directors should automatically be on the Nominating Committee's slate of officers, a revision was presented as follows:
 - President: Betty Gansky
 - Vice-President: Lodge Weber
 - Treasurer: Fran Smith
 - Secretary: Jim Pirko
 - Board Members At Large: Scott T Adams, Sr., Tracey Guziejka, June Feigenblatt
 - Nominations from the floor:
 - President – Celeste Platte.
 - Secretary – Kelly McDonough
- The OTCPCB Nominating Committee was limited by the club's current constitution requiring the slate to have only one nomination per position.

Next Meeting

January 6, 2025, IN PERSON – Election

OUTSIDE of the General Meeting:

New information was brought to light after the meeting. The AKC has issued a sample Constitution and By-Laws recommendation. In that recommendation, Article IV, Section 3 (a) The committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office. (emphasis added).

In 2024, the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County Board of Directors approved donations to the following charities:

\$500 to Everglades Angels

\$500 to Furry Friends. (Hurricane rebuilding)

\$500 to Red Cross
\$500 to Toys for Tots
\$250 to AKC Canine Health Foundation. These donations were matched by the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States and the Rhodesian Ridgeback Charitable Foundation. All donations supporting AKC Canine Health Foundation-funded cancer research were DOUBLED, up to \$30,000.

*Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Platte, Secretary*

KUDOS + THANK YOU'S

October 2024 Show & Go

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who came "rain or shine" and made the "Show & Go" happen on Sunday October 6th.

Jim Pirko - Coordinator of the event. Thank you for all of your hard work making this happen!

Volunteers: H.Baird Lobree, David McKennan, Joe Hamzy, Diane Sedberry, Bob Vence & Dr. Karen Baker

The weather outlook was not good. The storm was on it's way but that didn't stop any of you from coming from near & far to make this happen!

I know Jim appreciated your help as much as I did.

Betty

October NACSW Odor Recognition Test

On Sunday, October 13, 2024 generous volunteers made it possible for teams from throughout Florida to participate in a NACSW Odor Recognition Test (ORT) at the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County. Teams came from Florida's west coast, Jacksonville, Hollywood and more locally.

Odor recognition tests are a prerequisite for trialing under NACSW. While we had a few last minute cancellations because of the recent hurricanes, there were sixty-four ORT runs and of those, fifty-two passes.

Competitors were grateful for the opportunity to test and commented on the helpfulness of the volunteers, their warm welcome, the smooth flow and the facility.

To host an ORT, the building needs to be cleared of ring gates and all other equipment, tables need to be brought in from the shed, the floor needs to be vacuumed, measured and marked with tape for box placement, boxes need to be folded, pop-ups erected among other tasks. Then when all is done, equipment needs to be returned to storage or its rightful place.

Running the event requires volunteers handling check-in, managing the flow from the parking lot into the building as each team is staged to take the test and then exits from the building after the test. Testing itself requires a Timer, Stewards, Hot box and Cold box handlers.

We had a really good team of volunteers who managed all of this so graciously, providing those running dogs with an environment conducive to success.

Thank you to Lynda Bowes, our Host; to Marti Hohmann, our Judge; Diane Sedberry, Timer; Lindsey Smith, Judge's Steward; Rita Medwid Hot Box Handler; Judy Wetzel and Judy Rivard, Cold Box Handlers; Charlotte Czermann, Gate Steward; Marge Butcher, Exit Door Steward; Alicja Zyzdryn, Gate Steward; Fran Smith and Margie Lehnertz, Check-In, Parking Lot, Chief Stewards.

Everyone came early enough to get the outdoors area set-up, and everyone stayed to clean up and restore things to their proper place. Much of the prep work was done on Saturday. Thanks to Lynda for coming early and getting so much done ahead of time. It was unbelievable how much she accomplished by herself. Thanks to Tim Peppard, Charlotte Czermann, Judy Wetzel, Diane Sedberry for helping set up on Saturday. We all enjoyed the donuts Lindsey brought on Sunday. And it took a team to make coffee!

It was fun being together, providing an opportunity for engagement in the sport and seeing such pride and efficiency at work. .

Thank you.

Judy

November 2024 Rally Trial

Dear Scott and Lodge, thank you both for asking me to judge the OTC Rally Trials on 11/16/24. I like judging for OTC and one of the main reasons is because there are so many very good stewards. A judge practically does not have to tell them what to do. They know. Please thank them all again for me:

Patty Armfield (Table), Peggy DiMinico (Timer), and all the rest—Rose Siebeneck, Storey Wenger (Trophies/ribbons), Scott Adams, Brian DiCarlo, and Lodge Weber. If I have missed anyone, please let me know.

There were lots of other folks in the wings doing their own jobs who kept us up and running. Thank you all.

Susan Minix did an excellent job as secretary at her first trials. I was impressed

A judge feels lucky if he/she can have a home cooked lunch. Thank you to Kelly and Lucy for the homemade Shepherd's Pie and Peach Cobbler. I ate not wisely but well.

Once Again, thank you for asking me. Carol Ann Klein



Betty,
I hope you are well.
Don't know if you
remember us but we
enjoyed your classes at
OTCPB years ago and
learned much.

Saba earned her CDX this
weekend and we wanted
to acknowledge your part
in her doing so.

Be well.
Art Weisser

November 2024 Scent Work Trial

This past weekend, November 23-24th, 2024, the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County held its 14th AKC Scent Work Trial. This was the second time that we had odor classes running in the Practice Field. While that afforded competitors the opportunity to compete in both Interior and Exterior classes, Novice through Master, this more than doubled our need for volunteers and the effort required to run a trial. We needed Stewards and props for classes in the building and in the field. In addition, classes running in the Practice Field required that we limit the ability of competitors to view searches taking place in the Practice Field. Thus, a whole new level of work for our volunteers.

Volunteers turned the building space and the Practice Field into search areas for twelve classes per day. Scott Adams provided the poles needed to set up the line of sight barrier to the Practice Field: Brian DeCarlo, Tim Peppard, Bruce Smith, Lynda Bowes, David H. Brady and Storey Wenger created the visual barrier.

Folks soaped and rinsed the props stored in the shed, measured and marked the search areas and staged and set up props in the building and field: Charlotte Czermann, Marge Butcher, Cyndi Porter, Celeste Platte, Nan Johnson, Marie Forgach, Lindsey Smith, Margi Lehnertz, and Fran Smith. Scott's Thursday evening class cleared the ring gates and obedience equipment from the building. Leslie Granville-Smith and her classes cleared the Practice field and restored it after the trial.

In the week prior to the trial, Fran Smith and Margi Lehnertz did yeoman work in gathering props from our storage area and then organizing folks to move things back to storage.

Early in the morning on the trial days, pop-up tents were set up and final outdoor equipment was put in place. Volunteers greeted visitors, helped folks park, and checked folks in.

Outdoors, volunteers helped competitors (crating in their cars) know when their turn was coming up for each of the two rings and were encouraging as teams got ready to do their searches. Inside both areas, timers, gate stewards, prop setters, and judge's stewards provided a calm atmosphere allowing competitors to focus on being a team doing a search. Stewards brought completed score sheets to the trial Secretary. Cindy Ponga organized ribbons. Qualifying ribbons were distributed as teams qualified, then followed by class placements as they were ready.

And then we were done. At the end of a long two-day event, volunteers deconstructed our line of site barrier of tarps, poles, ropes and zip-ties. Props were removed and disassembled, boxed, and loaded into vans, the shed, and the attic. Volunteers restored obedience equipment and ring gates to their home.

Thank you to each of Saturday and Sunday volunteers, Judges, Stewards and Timers, Check-in, Gate Stewards, Parking lot volunteers, lunch run, and competitors who helped out when free. Most of whom wore many hats during the weekend and stayed or returned to restore our facility for everyday usage. Angel Andrews, Dr Karen Baker, Robert Becker, Lynda Bowes, Tricia Boychuk, David Handley Brady, Steve Campbell, Brian DeCarlo, Mary Ann Hamzy, , Nancy Honchar, Rande Keenan, Donna Kornmeyer, Margi Lehnertz, Tim Peppard, Celeste Platte, Cindy Ponga, Cyndi Porter, Bobbi Nettles, Diane Sedberry, Fran Smith, Lindsey Smith, Storey Wenger, and Alicja Zyzdryn.

Special thanks to Mary Wright, our Trial Secretary who quietly and efficiently kept things running.

Thanks to our Trial Committee: Steve Campbell, Chair; Mary Wright, Trial Secretary; Cindy Lou Ponga (Ribbons); Lindsey Smith; and Donna Kornmeyer. And to our Judges: Fran Smith, Marti Hohmann, and Judy McPartland

THANK YOU to everyone involved in making our AKC Scent Work Trial at the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County a success.

Steve Campell and Judy McPartland

HELP WANTED

As I mentioned previously, I am willing to stay as Treasurer for one more year.

I would love to train someone to take my place in 2026.

I personally have absolutely no background in accounting. Anyone who knows their way around a computer could easily learn the job. The Treasurer's position comes with a club computer loaded with QuickBooks. (Which is an easy program to learn.)

Besides, being automatically on the board of directors, the Treasurer's position also comes with a free club access card.

If you are interested, please contact me.
Fran Smith
561-324-4651
fransmith@bellsouth.net



BRAGS

November 3, 2024

Today my 1-year-old Golden Retriever, DOVE passed her Tracking Dog test on her first try, in Bowling Green Florida at Hardee Lakes Park.



Our tracklayer was Betty Loiselle. The judges were Susan Boyd and OTCBPC's own Tricia Boychuck, Judging her first TD Test.

Tricia was also the judge that certified Dove, so that made it even more special.

-Fran Smith

Not only did Fate come-back to Obedience after her recent surgery with only 2 canines left on one side but she did so with a bang!

She earned her 26th & 27th UDX leg at OTC's Obedience trials the weekend of 11/9-11/10 under judge Carol Mett-Trumbly.

She earned a 5th place in Open B with a score of 196 & a 4th place in Utility on Saturday with a 195.

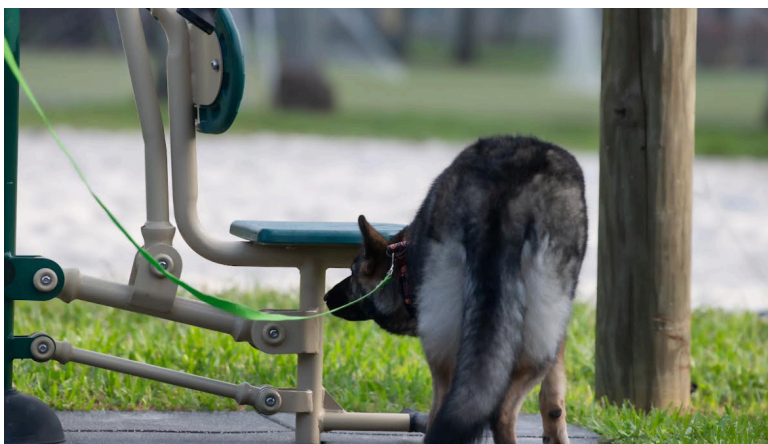
On Sunday she earned a 3rd place in Utility B after winning a run-off with an OTCH Golden Retriever & a 3rd place in Open B with another 195. She accumulated another 42 points towards her OM4! What SUPER little dog she is with such a BIG heart! Who said a little dog couldn't do it! Fate is proof that they can!

-Betty



Aries & Kai recently competed in the Jupiter Tequesta Dog Club - JTDC first-ever scent work trial, judged by Lauren Walsh, with Search Tall.

The event was impeccably organized from start to finish, thanks to devoted volunteers!



Aries competed in Interior Advance, Exterior Novice, and Containers Novice, achieving qualification in all 6 runs, with 2 second-place and 2 third-place finishes. She also earned her exterior novice title and interior advance title.



Kai made his trial debut competing only in Interior Novice both days. He also achieved 2 qualification scores in both runs, with 1 third-place finish!

It was a long but fun 2-day event and can't wait to trial again at the end of November.

-Storey Wenger

A year ago, I attempted the Odor Recognition Test for NACSW with Aries and I missed Birch. Fast forward a year later... she got Birch and that completed her requirements to compete in NACSW trials!

Kai passed all 3 Odors (Birch, Anise and Clove)!! My serial box smasher was on his best boy behavior. He didn't smash, drag, or pick up the boxes! Instead, he nudged them.

Thank you to Marti, Judy and all the amazing volunteers who made this year's event fun, flowing and stress free!



Storey Wenger

**GOT BRAGS, BIRTHDAYS OR OTHER
ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SHARE?**

EMAIL: leadlines.otcpbc@gmail.com

Fate earned her PAX today at the Doberman Pinscher Club of FL Agility trial in Punta Gorda. The ribbon is bigger than she is! LOL! We're going forward with this to her her PACH Preferred Agility Championship. She has all of her double Q's. She just needs more points.

This is her 2nd weekend in a row that she has done an outstanding job. Last weekend in Obedience & this weekend in Agility. For a little dog with only 2 canines on the same side of her mouth I couldn't ask for a dog with more heart & spirit than my "once in a lifetime dog"!

Thank you God for sending me this precious gift!

Betty





JTDC SW TRIAL 10-26 & 10-27 2024

RAVYN PASSED ALL "6" Novice A SW classes and finished the last class on Sunday with a First Place in containers with a time of 5.94 seconds!

Cindy Ponga

Fate was once again invited to the "Classic" in Orlando to participate in Utility. This is her 3rd invite to the "Classic" as well as her 3rd invite to the "National Obedience Invitational" held in Ohio.

Due to the fact that "all-breeds"/"all heights"/OTCH non-OTCH are all judged together we don't attend. It's still an honor to be asked!

-Betty



Bleyde took First Place in Master's Exterior at OTCPBC's November Scent Work Trial!!!



Cindy Ponga

We successfully trialed at the OTCPBC Nov 23rd & 24th's scent work trial. We had beautiful weather and it did not disappoint!

Aries scored 6 out of 6 runs in Advance interiors/exteriors with multiple placements and her first ever high in trial!

Kai also ran 6 out of 6 in Novice interiors / exteriors earning a few placements and a title in Novice Interiors!



Thank you to all the volunteers spending your valuable time at the club, so I can have fun with my dogs! Thank you as well to the judges , Marti, Judy and Fran for coming up with creative themes throughout the trials!

Last but not least thank you to Lindsey and her husband who spent countless hours capturing memories of our furry companions! I can't wait to see the videos and pictures!

-Storey Wenger



Monte earned his Scent Work Novice Exterior and Advanced Interior Titles at the November AKC SW Trial at OTC.

Over the weekend he qualified in all eight searches and placed in seven(missing a second place ribbon in this picture)

-Brian DeCarlo

My Golden Retriever, Tori, finished her Scent Work Exterior Advanced title at OTCPBC's Scent Work Trial with a First Place, a Second place and a Fourth place ribbon.



**-Fran Smith
Photo by Lindsey Smith**

IN MEMORY



Koi



November 19, 2024

We lost our sweet Koi on Tuesday. We went to six vets trying to find out what was wrong with him and they just kept saying he was so healthy he could not be that sick. We spent thousands and a simple x-ray could have shown months ago he had a mass in his lung. The poor baby was suffering and I could not let it go on any longer.

I rescued Koi in Maryland in 2014. The first night I had him I brought him to an OTC meeting. He crawled into Matt Taylor's lap and they were best buddies from then on.

Lindsey Smith



REMINDER:

NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 6, 2025 7PM

@OTCPBC

VOLUNTEER HOURS

OTCPBC Volunteer Hours Report as of 12/10/24 Includes Hours Earned between 12/1/2023 and 12/10/24

Last Name	First Name	MemberType	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Andrews	Angel	Regular	12/3/2023	12/8/2024	68.5
Armfield	Patricia	Associate	12/2/2023	11/17/2024	45.75
Avick	Dale	Regular	1/8/2024	2/4/2024	15
Baker	Karen	Regular	11/4/2024	11/24/2024	27.75
Bath	Karen	Regular	1/8/2024	5/19/2024	44.15
Becker	Robert	Regular	12/2/2023	11/24/2024	65
Bellavia	Marni	Regular	4/21/2024	12/1/2024	29
Bowes	Lynda	Regular	12/2/2023	11/24/2024	75.5
Boychuk	Tricia	Regular	1/7/2024	11/24/2024	47
Brav	Janet	Regular	2/4/2024	2/4/2024	4.5
Butcher	Marjorie	Silver	1/14/2024	10/13/2024	14
Campbell	Stephen	Regular	1/31/2024	11/24/2024	80.5
Cannici	Terri	Regular	4/21/2024	11/3/2024	23
Carlée	Lane	Household	12/31/2023	11/30/2024	31
Carr	Lucy	Household	4/8/2024	11/17/2024	44.5
Clouser	Patsy	Regular	1/14/2024	2/4/2024	23
Craig	Jane	Silver	12/3/2023	12/8/2024	84.75
Crechiolo	Sandy	Household	3/16/2024	5/5/2024	6
Czermann	Charlotte	Silver	1/14/2024	10/13/2024	68
DeCarlo	Brian	Regular	12/31/2023	11/24/2024	171.35
DeMinico	Peggy	Gold	4/28/2024	11/17/2024	90
Doucet	Lyne	Regular	1/8/2024	8/18/2024	26
DuMont	Jean	Regular	1/28/2024	1/28/2024	20.25
Forgach	Marie	Regular	1/14/2024	11/24/2024	26.5
Gomez	Janet	Regular	4/28/2024	4/28/2024	11
Granville-Smith	Leslie	Regular	3/31/2024	12/20/2024	303
Hamzy	Joe	Household	12/3/2023	12/8/2024	51.5
Hamzy	Mary Ann	Household	12/27/2023	11/24/2024	19.5
Hohmann-Probst	Marti	Regular	1/28/2024	12/1/2024	26.5
Honchar	Nancy	Regular	4/28/2024	12/1/2024	57.25
Johnson	Nan	Regular	1/28/2024	11/24/2024	42.25
Johnson-Ford	Diana	Regular	12/31/2023	11/5/2024	60
Jones	Karen	Regular	11/10/2024	11/10/2024	22
Katzman	Andi	Regular	12/1/2024	12/1/2024	6
Kelly	Michelle	Regular	5/16/2024	11/21/2024	23.5
Klein	Carol Ann	Regular	4/14/2024	11/17/2024	40
Kornmeyer	Donna	Household	1/28/2024	11/24/2024	10.25
Landen	Robin	Regular	12/2/2023	11/17/2024	28
Lehnertz	Margi	Silver	1/28/2024	12/1/2024	91.25
Lobree	H. Baird	Household	1/14/2024	11/10/2024	45.75
Lobree	Melissa	Household	1/14/2024	5/19/2024	23
Macchia	Mary	Regular	4/28/2024	6/9/2024	31.5

Maio	Lenore	Regular	12/2/2023	7/14/2024	20.5
May	Kathy	Regular	12/31/2023	10/31/2024	22
McDonough	Kelly	Household	7/21/2024	11/17/2024	52.5
McKennan	David	Regular	2/18/2024	10/31/2024	37
McPartland	Judith	Regular	12/16/2023	12/10/2024	290.5
Minix	Susan	Regular	5/5/2024	12/1/2024	41.5
Morgan	Linda	Regular	1/14/2024	11/17/2024	46.05
Nettles	Bobbi	Regular	12/2/2023	11/24/2024	42.5
O'Sullivan	Frances	Regular	2/4/2024	6/16/2024	9.5
Patti	Jennifer	Household	5/5/2024	8/18/2024	22
Pfeiffer	Darlene	Regular	1/14/2024	8/18/2024	19.5
Pichette	Helen	Regular	1/28/2024	1/28/2024	2.5
Pirko	Jim	Regular	12/31/2023	12/1/2024	54.5
Ponga	CindyLou	Regular	1/28/2024	12/4/2024	73
Porter	Cynthia	Regular	1/7/2024	11/24/2024	50.25
Pusey	Cheryl	Regular	12/2/2023	12/2/2023	22
Rubin	Laura	Regular	2/13/2024	5/15/2024	17
Sedberry	Diane	Regular	1/31/2024	11/24/2024	121.75
Sedlacek	Chris	Household	12/3/2023	12/27/2023	11
Seeley	Luci	Household	12/3/2023	11/17/2024	39.5
Seeley	Ron	Household	12/3/2023	11/17/2024	51
Siebeneck	Rosemarie	Silver	12/2/2023	11/17/2024	148.75
Smith	Lindsey	Regular	1/28/2024	12/1/2024	66.2
Taylor	Lorene	Household	1/28/2024	2/7/2024	24.25
Taylor	Matthew	Household	11/17/2024	12/8/2024	23
Trummer	Michelle	Associate	2/4/2024	2/8/2024	22
Vasiliou	Libby	Regular	1/28/2024	11/17/2024	41.5
Vence	Robert	Regular	1/7/2024	11/10/2024	125.25
Walsh	Lauren	Regular	12/31/2023	10/31/2024	18
Wenger	Storey	Regular	1/14/2024	11/30/2024	157.75
Wetzel	Judy	Regular	1/14/2024	11/10/2024	36
Wilbur	Nila	Regular	6/30/2024	11/10/2024	13
Wright	Mary	Regular	12/31/2023	11/24/2024	103
Zyzdryn	Alicja	Regular	12/3/2023	11/24/2024	67.7
Total		76			3,848.00
				Average	52
				<i>Number of members with Greater Than 20 hrs.</i>	61
				<i>Number of members with Greater Than 30 hrs.</i>	42

Volunteer Hour Recording: otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

2025 BOARD ELECTIONS

CANDIDATES, RESUME + PLATFORM

2025 Elections will be held as part of the January Meeting on January 6, 2025

Running for the position of club Secretary:

- Jim Pirko
- Kelly McDonough

Neither candidate submitted a resume/platform to Lead Lines.

For the position of President

- Betty Gansky
- Celeste Platte

Each candidate has submitted a resume/platform for the membership to review.

Betty Gansky Resume

I became a member of OTCPBC in 1998. I was elected to the Board in 1999 due to the club wanting a new/active member to be included. I have been on the Board almost the entire 27 years of Membership holding different positions.

In 2011 I became the Trial Chair of an Agility trial held in Davie, FL.

I ran the Agility trial again in Davie in 2012 however no one was satisfied with the grounds at the site.

Together with Peter Liu the then President of MOC we looked for areas that we thought would be a better choice. We found 2: The fairgrounds in Ft. Pierce as well as the fairgrounds in Okeechobee. We worked together to have both of these sites approved by the AKC. By doing so we opened up these sites for ALL clubs moving forward.

After our large inheritance from Buzz Taylor I was on the Committee to help find a location for us to purchase. We looked for a long time. I received a phone call in August of '11 from Shawn Smith who was at that time on the Board. He found a property in Lake Park. Shawn his wife Carla, Jeff & I went up to look at the site that evening. It was far from perfect but it was doable. The problem was the price. They were asking \$725,000.00 which was way too expensive. It was still available in beginning of '12. We again approached the Board who then went to see it. We bought the building in on March 10, 2012. We paid cash in the amount of \$560,000.00. We own .97 acres.

We partnered with various clubs thru the years to hold our Agility trials: MOC, Calusa as well as Treasure Coast. We were unable to do this on our own due to lack of a trailer, equipment & help. We started going to Arcadia with the help of MOC in 2014. Offering 2 four- day trials as well as the 3 -day trials in February. I was Trial Chair of all of them.

In 2013 I brought it to the attention of the Board that we should consider having a 2 -day Rally trial as well as a 2-day Obedience trial (Novice-only) at our building in 2014. Many did not think this could work. The rest is history! We've had successful Obedience/Rally trials all levels since that time.

We added Scent trials I believe in 2017.

In 2015 I was elected President of OTC. I have held this office successfully for the last 10 years.

I was also the President of the Goldcoast Yorkshire Terrier Club of S FL for 11 Years.

I worked in Property Management for a number of years before retiring.

I've accomplished much during my tenure.

- Putting in the rubber floor in the building
- Renovating the kitchen, office & crate room
- Adding the stairs to the loft
- Replacing the lift-up door in the back
- Adding at least one shed
- Adding the awning twice
- Replacing 2 A/C units
- Re-painting the building

Added slab & covering w/side shade to pavilion on Agility field

I was the Trial Chair of Obedience/Rally as well as doing Hospitality for the 1st number of years we held these venues at the clubhouse.

I've been Trial Chair of ALL of the Agility trials since '11 which have increased to 4 three- day trials per year.

I've given free Drill classes

I've been the principal person buying supplies, trophies, etc. I have not charged mileage in 10 years for shopping for supplies & looking for bargains. I contacted MADD Agility in September. I know they supply all of the Agility equipment for the Classic held in Orlando. Everything they bring is brand new. They sell it at 10% off but you must find a way to bring it back. It does not include shipping. Since I was the 1st to make contact with the owner I had her put a hold on ALL of the on contacts as well as several other items. My husband Jeff who has always been an asset to OTC is renting a U-haul truck, driving it to Orlando Dec. 15th & picking everything up at that time. Scott who is working at the event will help Jeff load the truck & bring it back to the club where it will be parked overnight. Scott will bring Jeff home. Jeff has to be back at the club by 10 AM the next morning. The truck has to be unloaded & taken back to the U-haul center by 1 PM. By doing so we have saved the club a ton of money. My husband is not being paid for doing this for his time or labor. He ALWAYS volunteers!

My husband has never charged the club for all the handyman work, maintenance work he does at the club. He's never expected or asked to be paid.

I've also managed to bring our bank account to 8 to 9 times the amount that it was when I started even after spending money for all the above improvements.

Some OTC members think we have too much money! I guess this comes with my being a property manager for years before retiring. I am not a money hoarder but due to the fact that we have **NO INSURANCE**, only liability on our property IMO it is a good decision. I want to be prepared for the worst -case scenario. We were lucky this year only to have lost the awning/lights in the front of the building. The tornadoes were all-around us. The storms seem to be worse each year

Another item that will one day hit us is the roof. A metal roof can last up to 50 years if you're lucky. Since the roof is now going on 35 years old & needs some repair every year we should be prepared for this inevitability. We have had roof leaks in the past. We have the roof inspected yearly & visible problems fixed at that time.

Future vision for OTC:

My goal for the future is to keep the integrity of this club intact. I have never shown favoritism to anyone. Our club is very respected by other clubs. I have a great relationship with all.

I will in the future as in the past encourage ALL venues. I think this is one of the reason the club is so successful. I have NEVER been of the mind-set that because I don't do it with my dog you shouldn't either. The whole idea of training your dog is working with you dog in a venue that you both enjoy. Another vision for the future is to meet with a professional & see what we have to do to become a Non-profit organization. This will save us \$27,000.00 per year in taxes. This will involve doing more for the community but I am all in favor of helping the community around us that is in need.

Another example could be that we offer a time when people training service dogs could use our facility for free.

I am also open to suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Gansky



Celeste Platte - Presidential Candidate

I have been a member of the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County (OTCPBC) since 1991.

During these 33 years I have served on the Board of Directors as Secretary under different Presidents for about 20 of those years. I have watched the club go from having the use of the National Armory (we had to leave after 2011) to renting nights at the fairgrounds, to having no home at all (it became too expensive to continue at the fairgrounds) and teaching our classes in parking lots or members' back yards. As you all know, through the generosity of our long-time member Buz Taylor, we were able to purchase our current property.

Since those days of purchasing the property, our Board of Directors have exercised wise fiduciary responsibility by bringing the club to the stable

financial environment we now enjoy. During that time much of the focus has been on facility improvement and maintenance, adapting our events to our space, increasing the number of classes offered, and some inclusion of new sports.

It is time to shift some of the focus inward towards the membership. This year approximately 3,500 hours (as of November 1) of volunteer time was documented by members, that is 87 man weeks, which is an astounding accomplishment. As the club grows into new sports, the need will only increase. This is something that should be celebrated in more ways than just class discounts and the ability to purchase access cards. Reinvesting in the membership with new opportunities and by bringing back previous opportunities that were lost around the pandemic. Bringing back seminars and workshops sponsored by OTCPBC, catering in person BBQs and end of year parties to both reward members and build a better sense of community and comradery.

Our members bring a variety of talents to the club. Those talents need to be discovered and utilized. The leadership needs to encourage more members to take an active part in the club in an area they find enjoyment in and to become involved in or supportive of activities that are new to them. Growth of companionship and cooperation between members and friendship comes from engaging in shared activities. Taking responsibility engenders commitment. The future focus needs to be on creating opportunities for folks to learn more about ways to participate more fully, to understand the why and the how from more experienced members, and to be able to bring new ideas to the table.

Prior to the pandemic, the club had an active mentor program. Members were encouraged to assist class instructors, with the end goal of them stepping into a teaching role. Right now, the club has a very small pool of instructors that teach in various venues. I would like to hear recommendations on how to get more members involved in that area.

Other areas would be stewarding, trial chairs, and trial secretary positions. A very hard-working member has suggested having all the club's trial set-up and breakdown processes standardized. Procedures would be well documented and possibly pictures used. This way more members may be willing to volunteer if there was a "roadmap" available to follow. There are a wide variety of tasks that can be taken on by the members that would not take much time but would be of immense benefit in keeping the club running smoothly. For example, we have a member that makes sure the vacuum canister is empty and moves the trash bins to the curb when he comes to train.

Years ago, OTCPBC was involved in several community projects, such as parades and demonstrations. Again, due to the pandemic, these activities had to be discontinued. I would actively seek ideas from the membership on how and what they would like to see the club involved in again. Perhaps a booth at the West Palm Beach Greenmarket once a month.

A little demo could be done or just talking to the public about the importance of having a trained dog.

When OTCPBC was incorporated in 1953 there were two dog sports – obedience and tracking. As you all know, there are now a wide variety of activities you can participate in with your dog. What new sports would the membership like to incorporate as part of OTCPBC's activities and offerings? This club's mission statement is "we train you to train your dog." What are the changing needs of our community and interest in dog sports? How can we better serve the community we live in?

Outside of my involvement with OTCPBC, prior to my retirement, I was Office Manager for the Traffic Division of the Palm Beach County Engineering Department. I had a staff of five that reported directly to me as well as supporting the 55 members of the Traffic Division.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my resume to you.

Celeste Platte