

LEAD LINES

October 2025



Officers

President Betty Gansky

Vice President Lodge Weber

Treasurer Fran Smith

Secretary Kelly McDonough

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

October

NACSW ORT - 10/12 @OTCPBC CO Judy
McPartland, Judge Marti Hohmann

Obedience Show n Go - 10/26 @OTCPBC Judges
Diane Sedberry, Carol Ann Klein, Jean DuMont

November

Rally Show n Go - 11/2 @OTCPBC Judge Marni
Bellavia

Membership Meeting - 11/3 7pm @OTCPBC

Obedience Trial - 11/8 & 11/9 @OTCPBC Judge
Leslye Pinnell

Rally Trial - 11/15 & 11/16 @OTCPBC Judge Brenda
J Crim Critelli

TD/TDU Tracking Test - 11/16 Palm Beach
Gardens, FL Judges Tricia Boychuck & Fran
Smith

Scent Work Trial - 11/22 & 11/23 @OTCPBC Judges
Carol E Happel, Marti Hohmann, Judy
McPartland

December

TDX Tracking Test - 12/7 St Lucie County Judges
Cathy Greenfield & Linda Baschnagel

OTCPBC Holiday Party - 12/7 4PM @OTCPBC

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

July Meeting Minutes for OTCPBC BOARD MEETING (07/07/2025)

Zoom meeting only

Attended:

President: Betty Gansky, Vice-President: Lodge Weber, Secretary: Kelly McDonough, Treasurer: Fran Smith, Board Members: Scott Adams, June Feigenblatt & Tracey Guziejka. Coordinators: Judy McPartland

Boys and Girls Club Update

Kelly updated the group on recent activities and future plans. The cereal drive for the Boys and Girls Club resulted in about 40 boxes donated, which Kelly considers a decent outcome given the restart of the initiative. Regarding potential aid for the Texas flood zone, Kelly suggested waiting for the situation to stabilize before taking action, as it's still in the recovery phase.

RDO Day Preparation Planning

The board discussed preparations for RDO Day on September 20th, including the need for volunteers and a budget approval. Betty suggested getting a smaller banner for outdoor events, as the current one is too large. Kelly offered to get quotes for a new banner suitable for outdoor use. The group also considered placing a small banner in front of their building for RDO Day to help visitors find the correct location, as there's confusion with another nearby address.

Gift Recognition

The board also decided to purchase a \$250 Visa gift card for Carol Ann Klein, who has frequently judged for the club without charge. Lodge volunteered to buy the gift card using his credit card and present it to Carol Ann at an upcoming rally trial where she will be judging.

Upgrading Thermostats for Remote Control & Air Filter Updates

Betty proposed replacing all the thermostats with a new Honeywell system for \$1,200, which can be controlled remotely via Wi-Fi. The current system has been problematic, with different thermostats behaving inconsistently during recent events. The new system can be programmed to automatically adjust temperatures at specific times and can be overridden remotely when needed. Scott explained that the building needs to be cooled early in the morning during hot months to maintain a comfortable temperature throughout the day. Agreed to replace all four at a cost of \$1,200, which includes installation and setup. North County Cooling will handle the installation, using Honeywell thermostats as recommended by their boss. The discussion then shifted to air filter maintenance, with Betty explaining that one filter in the crate room is currently inaccessible due to a pipe blocking access. North County is working on finding a solution, possibly involving a special filter that can be placed in the vent.

ShowNGo

Entries for an upcoming August trial or show-and-go event are temporarily closed while Judy updates the system to allow for two runs in the same class.

Club Social Media and Supplies

Kelly informed the board that the club's Facebook page was deleted due to inactivity and proposes recreating it along with starting Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) accounts. She suggests allowing people to post, subject to admin approval. The board discusses the pros and cons, and ultimately approves the motion to restart social media presence for the club. The discussion then shifts to ordering AKC materials such as flyers and forms for star puppy, CGC, and CGCA programs. Lodge provided pricing information, and the board decides to check existing inventory before placing an order. Betty asks Lodge to review the club's current stock during the upcoming show and go event.

AKC Volunteer Bonus Policy Update

The group discussed a motion passed in December 2023 that awards a \$100 bonus to members who volunteer 60 hours or more at AKC events in a calendar year. Lodge planned to include this in the updated bylaws and policies. Betty clarified that for agility trials, volunteers can choose between logging hours or receiving \$2 coupons for future entries, with most opting for coupons. Judy confirmed that the few volunteers who choose hours are included in the records she provides to Lodge.

Club Bylaws and Constitution Update

The committee discussed updating the club's bylaws and Constitution. Lodge plans to have a meeting in August to review these documents. Fran expressed concern about the timing, particularly for Constitution changes that require advance notice. Lodge clarified that only the nominating committee section of the Constitution will be changed, while policy and procedures will take more time. Lodge agrees to check with AKC about submission deadlines. Betty suggested implementing all changes together, effective January 1st, which Lodge strongly supported. The group also confirmed that new members should receive copies of all current documents.

June Trial Rescheduling Discussion

Betty discussed the possibility of moving the June obedience trial to a date when more snowbirds are present, potentially increasing participation. However, she wanted to ensure this change doesn't interfere with the AKC Classic qualification cutoff date in June or other club events. Betty is awaiting information from AKC contacts and will inform the group via email once he has more details.

Trial Costs and Financial Management

Betty raised concerns about the rising costs associated with obedience and rally trials, including AKC entry fees, treats, and rosettes. The group discussed options to manage expenses, such as discontinuing treats for obedience trials while keeping them for rally events where they make more money. They considered raising entry fees slightly but are hesitant to increase costs for exhibitors too much. The club's financial situation is discussed, highlighting recent large expenses and the need to maintain funds for future costs like a potential roof replacement. Betty also mentioned the importance of avoiding scheduling conflicts with other clubs' events to maximize entries.

Computer Lending Policy Change

The board discussed and agreed to stop lending their computer and software to Hollywood for their trials, as they have done so for the past two years. Kelly was tasked with notifying Hollywood's president, Allison Casper, about this decision.

Miscellaneous

Tommy Luke is scheduled to cut the dead vines on the fence for \$275, which Betty considers worthwhile.

Kelly informed the board that Celeste Platt has volunteered to coordinate membership renewals starting in October, and the board approves this assistance.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Kelly McDonough

OTCPBC Secretary

July Meeting Minutes for OTCPBC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (07/07/2025)

Zoom meeting only.

Attended:

President: Betty Gansky, Vice-President: Lodge Weber, Secretary: Kelly McDonough, Treasurer: Fran Smith, Board Members: Scott Adams, June Feigenblatt & Tracey Guziejka.
37 in attendance total via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm:

Betty started the meeting by calling for acceptance of April's general membership meeting minutes as distributed via email on July 6, 2025. Fran made the motion to accept the minutes, which Scott seconded Passed.

Betty reported on recent club activities and finances, highlighting the installation of new Honeywell thermostats and detailing income from various trials held since April. She mentioned significant recent expenses, including air conditioners, insurance, and building maintenance. Betty also requested donations for high combined and trial prizes, while Lodge recognized the top volunteers for 2024, and announced a \$100 reward for those who accumulated over 60 volunteer hours at AKC events. The board expresses gratitude for the volunteers' contributions, emphasizing their importance to the club's success.

June Feigenblatt, the trial chair for the November obedience trial, requested volunteers for check-in and hospitality. Betty offered to help with hospitality and suggests coordinating with Karen Jones. Storey Wenger volunteered for check-in via chat. Lodge reported on upcoming rally events, including a show and go this weekend and four trials at the end of the month. Also discussed potential volunteers, including Randy Keene and Karen Ladd, with Betty emphasizing the importance of reaching out to newer members who may be hesitant to volunteer but often become valuable contributors.

Fran presented the club's financial status and the building's value was also discussed, with estimates ranging from \$850,000 (according to the Palm Beach County property appraiser) to over \$1 million. Fran noted that despite recent expenses, the club is showing a profit for the year. She also reminds members that the club is classified as a

501(c)(7) social club for IRS purposes and emphasizes the importance of fun activities in contributing to the club's success.

Frans reflected on the club's history, noting its growth from a small group training at the armory to its current state with a valuable property and diverse activities. She emphasized the importance of volunteerism, reporting nearly 4,000 volunteer hours from 71 members in the past year, and encourages members to step up for leadership roles. Betty shared the story of Buzz Taylor's unexpected bequest, which enabled the club to purchase its current building. Celeste added that Buzz always believed the club should have its own building, and Betty described the process of acquiring and renovating the property, highlighting the dramatic transformation from its original state.

Betty reported on the club's financial success, noting the substantial increase in the bank over her 11-year presidency. She requested volunteers for the Fort Pierce trial, with Susan Minix and Lynn Brady offering to help. Judy presented registration data for various dog training classes, comparing the first two quarters of 2025 to previous years, showing a slight decline in overall registrations.

The club discussed potential marketing strategies, including advertising at a local dog-friendly brewery, but concerns are raised about the necessity and effectiveness of additional advertising given that most classes are already full. Members debated whether the lower registration numbers are due to seasonal fluctuations or if there's a need to increase class offerings, with some pointing out that the club has limited capacity to add more classes.

Members expressed concerns about balancing the need for new classes to attract younger members with maintaining time for existing members to train. Susan Minix offered to teach early morning classes to accommodate more people. Betty reviewed the current schedule, noting limited availability during peak hours. June pointed out that they are already offering duplicate classes at different times to accommodate various schedules. The group agrees on the importance of bringing in new members for the club's future.

Storey Wenger suggested improving their social media presence to attract younger people, and Kelly confirmed plans to restart their Facebook page and expand to other platforms.

The club discussed plans for a Responsible Dog Ownership Day event on September 20th. Susan Minix outlined various activities planned, including demonstrations of dog sports, microchipping, and a blessing of the animals. The group debates whether to allow outside dogs at the event, with concerns raised about safety and liability. The board will make the final decision on event details, including whether to allow outside dogs and how to manage registration if they do.

New Memberships:

First Reading:

Richard Nagel – present on Zoom.

Second Readings:

Karen Ladd – present on Zoom

5907 Travelers Way

Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

Breed(s): Boston Terrier
E-mail: laddramsey@gmail.com
Phone: 954-654-3448
Volunteer hours: 21

Jessica Rivera & Derek Weiss – present on Zoom
4394 S. Mary Circle
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Breed: Hound Mix
E-mail: Jessica16rivera@gmail.com
Phone: 321-848-7814
Volunteer hours: 26.75 total

The group discussed the lack of a centralized system for volunteer opportunities and membership applications on their website. June suggested contacting her or the trial chair directly for volunteering. Judy mentioned they have previously used the website for volunteer sign-ups and have the capability to do so again. The team debated whether to put the membership application online, with concerns about sponsorship requirements. They decided to revisit this topic at a future board meeting.

The group also plans a members-only event for September 20th, potentially catered, after the Responsible Dog Ownership Day event.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Minutes respectfully submitted
Kelly A McDonough
OTCPBC Secretary

REMINDER:
NEXT MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2025 7PM
@OTCPBC

KUDOS + THANK YOU'S

June Agility Trial

Thanks to all who helped made our Agility trials at Bratty Paws a success the weekend of June 13th -15th!

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE LISTED BELOW:

*Gill Chapman: our Judge who did an outstanding job always with a smile on her face
Victoria MacVicar- Assistant Trial Chair - for being my right-hand-woman -as always such an asset you are*

Lori Patterson - Trial Secretary - Who did her usual terrific job

Barb Barker & Barb Bodnar - Chief Course Builders -they kept things running smoothly all weekend

Carol Perrella - Volunteer Coordinator - You out-do yourself at every trial

Jeff Gansky - my husband who worked almost non-stop thru the entire trial

A big "thank you" to Victoria MacVicar & Carol Perella who helped me set-up early Friday morning & helped clear the ring after the trial on Sunday.

A big thanks to Rose Siebenek who was either showing her dog or working in the ring for 3 entire days! I ALWAYS appreciate your help!

Another big thanks to Susan Minix who without her help bringing items to the trials holding them this far from home would be impossible.

There were so many non-members who "stepped-up" & filled the Board volunteering. I can't thank you enough! These events would not be possible without all of you who helped!

Betty

June Obedience Trial

Dear Betty and All, thank you for inviting me to judge at your Obedience trials on 6/7-8/25. I had a very nice two days.

The lunches were great. I ate too much, and my tight clothes are feeling it.

OTC has a reputation for wonderful stewards. Mine were excellent!--Lynda Bowes, Brian DeCarlo, Bob Vence, Rosemarie Siebeneck, Robin Landen, and Bobby Nettles more than lived up to their reputation. Everyone was on their toes up until the end.

Please thank them all again for me.

Although she was new, Storey Wenger did an excellent job of handing the Secretary position. She was on time and on top of things both days. Instead of having to make

people wait, she had the HIT and HC scores ready at the end of those classes and the ribbons were presented so folks could go home. Many clubs do not have well-trained secretaries and the mix ups that can ensue from this are very time consuming.

Once again, thank you and OTC for inviting me to judge.
Carol Ann Klein

July Rally Show n Go

We at the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County wanted to thank everyone who participated, and who helped in making this event a great success.

First, a big thanks to all of our exhibitors who traveled to the club and participated.

Marni Bellavia was the judge who monitored all of the runs expertly, and provided valuable feedback to each of the participants.

Emily Mardis kept everything organized and running smoothly throughout the entire day. She helped in the ring, made sure the exhibitors were ready, and accommodated those who need a little schedule juggling

Scott Adams, who not only created the wonderful (and challenging) sources, but set them up, changed as necessary and took everything down.

The Show and Go would not have been a success without all of you.

Thank you,

The OTCNBC Board of Directors

As one of those exhibitors, I wanted to thank the club. You always put on a nice Show N Go and it was worth the drive down from Sebastian. I had a very nice time. And it was a great opportunity for me to introduce Inez the puppy monster to a show scenario. You just don't know how a young dog will react to having strange dogs and people milling around. Inez seemed like she enjoyed herself. It is so nice to have this kind of thing available!

Regards,

Sue & Inez

July Rally Trial

Thank you for asking me to judge for OTC on 7/19/25. You put on two beautiful Rally trials.

Thanks to all the people who helped with set up and changing the courses: Scott Adams, Brian DeCarlo, Lodge Weber, and Bob Vence. You were always ready with course changes, jump changes and getting the exhibitors into and out of the ring. Thanks again.

My stewards were fantastic: Diane Sedberry, Peggy DeMinico, Robin Landen, Judy Wetzel, Storey Wenger, Judy McDermott and her grandson ET. ET was the cutest steward there

and the exhibitors loved him. Diane had never table stewarded before and did a wonderful job. I never have to worry about time when Peggy is the timer. It may seem like a small job, but its very important. Everyone was on the ball and smiling until the very end. Please thank them all again.

Lunch was delicious. Kelly McDonough did a wonderful job on the Shepherd's pie and her food co-chair, Lucy Carr, was on top of the rest of the lunch. I even took a doggie bag home with me and no, the dogs did not get it.

Susan Minix was outstanding as Secretary. She had the totals for the HC and HTQ scores delivered to the judges' table almost as soon as the last class finished.

Once again, thank you for asking me to judge and thanks to all the people who helped in any way to make the trials run smoothly. If I have forgotten a name, please excuse me.
Carol Ann Klein

August Agility Trial

Thanks to all who helped made our Agility trials at Bratty Paws a success the weekend of August 15th -17th!

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE LISTED BELOW:

Jack Cadalsco: our Judge who did an outstanding job & was very easy to work with
Victoria MacVicar- Assistant Trial Chair - for being my right-hand-woman -as always.
You are such an asset to me.

Lori Patterson - Trial Secretary - Who did her usual terrific job

Peter Liu & Bill Becker - Chief Course Builders -they kept things running smoothly all weekend

Carol Perella - Volunteer Coordinator - You out-do yourself at every trial

Jeff Gansky - my husband who worked almost non-stop thru the entire weekend

Three very special people I must give a standing ovation to:

Victoria MacVicar, my right-hand woman who helped with the ribbon set-up, worked the rings & out-did herself all weekend.

Carol Perella who kept the rings manned all three days, gave out coupons & worked tirelessly.

A big thanks to Rose Siebenek who was either showing her dog or working the ring all 3 days as well as bringing items back from Bratty Paws! Your unlimited energy amazes me! I really appreciate you always being there to do what you can.

There were so many non-members who "stepped-up" & filled the Board volunteering. I can't thank you enough! These events would not be possible without all of you who helped!

Betty

August Obedience Show n Go

A BIG thank you to Judy McPartland & Jim Pirko for all of their hard work to enable the exhibitors to do a class more than once at our Obedience Show & Go's. This has boosted our Obedience Show & Go's to a new level!

I think the exhibitors are very excited to be able to do i.e. an Open class twice. It makes traveling to our building worth it. They really have an opportunity to show/train their dogs with other dogs/exhibitors present.

Jim, I know this puts a lot more on you taking the entries, etc. I truly appreciate your effort!

Betty

We had a TERRIFIC Obedience Show & Go Sunday August 24th. It was by far the biggest one we've ever had. For the 1st time we gave people the option of doing a class two times. This was made possible by both Judy McPartland & Jim Pirko. It was a TREMENDOUS hit

This would not have been possible without the ALL day help of Ron, Luci Seeley & Bob Vence.

Not to be forgotten are Carol Ann Klein, & Diane Sedberry who also worked very hard at this event.

Kudos to ALL!

Betty

Responsible Dog Owner Day

We held our very first RDO day at the club on Saturday. It was the BEST event IMO that we've ever had at the club.

A very HUGE thanks to Susan Minix who was in charge of the event & Linda Bowes who was her co-pilot.

We had a very nice group of people from the public (approximately 50) who came to see what we were all about. Some were there the entire day. Trying different venues with their dogs.

The montage of photos of club members was outstanding, especially the one of Cooper Adams in Scott's vehicle in the driver seat with the car moving, displaying the club emblem on the door. Linda: A VERY BIG THANK YOU to your fiance Ross for putting all of this together. This photo video will be posted on our web page and used at future events. Please continue to send videos as it is an ongoing effort.

The "Blessing of the Animals" was very special. A BIG thank you to Deacon Peter Mazzella.

A BIG thank you to the Pet Emergency & Referral Center. They gave a talk on poisonous things i.e. toads, xylitol, grapes, raisins, onions, garlic, etc. as well as heat stroke.

Club members donated enough items to fill 9 beautiful gift baskets. One per hour was given out to the public via a raffle ticket. One free class was also raffled to the public. The others were sold as raffle tickets to support "The Angel Fund" for "Pet Emergency". We raised \$122.00 for them. The "Angel Fund" helps pay vet costs for people who cannot afford the cost of an emergency with their pets.

A VERY big thank you to Judy McDermott who made a wonderful lunch for the volunteers.

A VERY big thank you to non-member Tamara Aull who did free pet massages for the event.

A VERY big thank you to Lindsey Smith who is a club member as well as a photographer who took free photos of dogs in a "fall" background.

Demos were done:



Agility demo by Betty & Fate. Some of the public participated in trying it.

Scott & Cooper did an amazing Rally demo. Some of the public came in & tried it. Lynda Bowes did a Scent demo & Tricks demo. The public came in & tried it.

Susan's FIT dog demo. It was enjoyed by many. Quite a few came in & tried it.

**Emily gave a CGC test. Five people took the test
Emily & Susan did a FETCH demo and Emily and Scott did a Frisbee demo late afternoon in the field.
Some people were still there & tried it.**

It takes a "village to step-up" & make an event like this such a success. " A VILLAGE DID STEP-UP"



A very big thank you to all of the volunteers:

Susan Minix/Linda Bowes

Alexis Meshel & Jasen Kelsheimer new members who manned the desk in the lobby all day having waivers signed and treat bags handed out

Nancy Honchar who collected all of the donations for the baskets for the raffles.

Judy Mc Dermott for the GREAT lunch.

Lindsey Smith: Free dog photography

Tamara Aull: non-member who did free dog massages

Donna Kornmeyer, Karen Ladd, Emily Mardis, Scott Adams, Patty Armfield, Rose Siebeneck, Storey Wenger, Peggy Diminico and Steven French

A special thanks as well to Susan Minix & her friend non-member Mary Wong who put all of the beautiful baskets together.

I can't tell you how proud I was as President of this club to see so much camaraderie taking place during this event. It really touched my heart!

Thank you ALL so much from the bottom of my heart!

Betty

BRAGS



Aura earned her Beginner Novice title on Saturday March 15th at the Jupiter Tequesta Dog Club earning her Beginner Novice title with a whopping score of 199!



Aura has placed 1st in all of her Beginner Novice trials: 196 1/2: 197 & a 199. I look forward to continuing working with her for future titles. She will be 2 at the end of April.

Betty



Fate was honored at a luncheon meeting held by the Goldcoast Yorkshire Terrier Club of S FL on May 17th. She was given a beautiful plaque with her name & the 8 titles she earned in 2024. They are listed below:

Silktree's Destiny's Child aka Fate:

OM3,XFP,MJPB,MXJP3, MXP2,MXPB, PAX, MJP4

Betty

This is a picture of Fate's two back to back weekend showings in Obedience & Agility. The front row she won three 1st placements in All-Breed Obedience as well as High Combined June 7th & 8th.

The back row are her placements at the Agility trials this past weekend June 13th -15th in Punta Gorda.

She never ceases to amaze me!

*Betty &
Silktree's Destiny's Child aka
Fate, BN. UDX3, OM3, RAE, PAX,
MXPB, MJP4, MJPB, MXP3, T2BP,
XFP*



Fate has 64 OTCH & 12 1st placements in All-Breed Obedience as well as 673 points toward her Preferred Agility Champion title. She simply amazes me!

**Win Winter Solstice CDX BN RM6 RAE5
RC4 AXJ MXP MJP MXF MFP CGC
TKN**

**"Winter" 11 1/2 year old Shetland
Sheepdog**

**Titles received on 7/26/25 PCOTC Rally
trial:**

**RACH (Rally Championship)*
RC4 (Rally Choice 4)**

*** To become an AKC Rally Champion, a
dog needs to earn a minimum of 300
championship points from the
Advanced B, Excellent B and Master
classes, with a minimum of 150 points
from the Master class, and 20 triple
qualifying scores from the Advanced B,
Excellent B and Master classes.**

Michelle Trummer



Fate earned her MJPS title (Master's Jumper's Preferred Silver) on July 5th. This means she's qualified 50 times in the Master's Jumper's class. She also earned her MJP5 title the same day.

She's a terrific little worker! No matter what the task she's gives it her best shot!

Betty

I'm VERY proud to announce that Fate earned her PACH title on Saturday at the "Greater Port Charlotte Agility Club" trial at "Bratty Paws" in Punta Gorda!

I didn't realize it at the time! I thought she needed an extra point but upon checking she was actually ONE point over!

I did not take a picture of her at the sight because I was mistaken. They were out of PACH ribbons anyway. I am going back over in October.

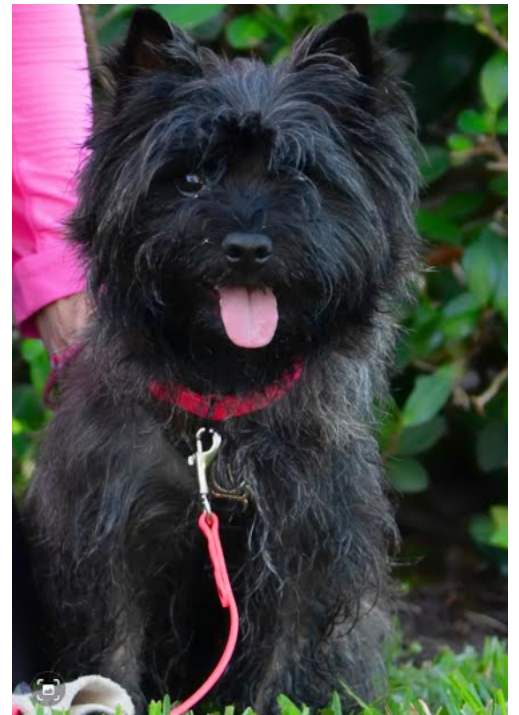
I'm just so thrilled! She's the little dog "that could & did"!

PACH Silktree's Destiny's Child aka Fate: BN,UDX3,OM3, RAE, PAX, MXP3, MXPB, MJP5, MJPS, MJPB, XFP, T2BP2

Betty

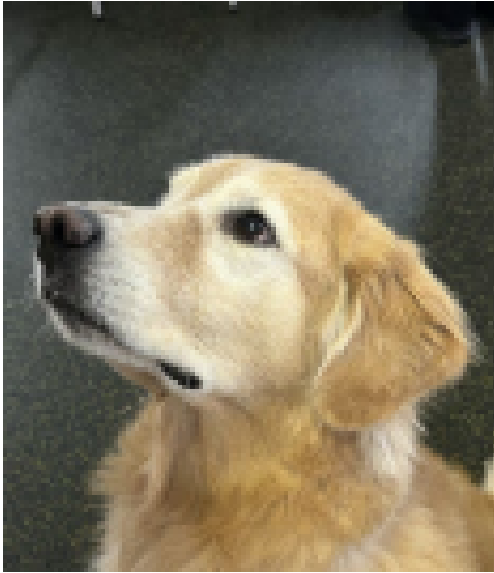
Clementine earned her PLATINUM Versatility award from the Cairn Terrier Club of America.

She earned points in Obedience, Tracking, Rally, Scent Work, Tricks, Barn Hunt, Farm Dog, and CGCU!



IN MEMORY

Sounds We Take for Granted
By Ron Seeley



There are sounds we hear every day that we pay no attention to. The sounds of birds chirping, the sound a light breeze makes as it goes through the trees, the sound an animal makes as they breathe. There are also sounds that mean something to us, a siren indicating an emergency vehicle might be approaching, the coffee pot in the morning making that magic elixir we all crave and the sound a doorbell makes indicates we may have a visitor.

We hear the sounds our friends make when they clap and cheer because we just qualified, placed or earned a title with our dog that we have worked so hard for. The sound of our companion's tail hitting an object as they wag it so very hard, their high-pitched bark indicating they want our attention or to get them something. The pitter-patter of their feet as they quickly walk past you just close enough so you hear them, but quickly enough that you chase them to their favorite spot because they have something they shouldn't.

Then one day there is silence. We discover that silence is the loudest sound of all and we can't get the silence out of our heads. We think we hear those familiar sounds and quickly look around, hoping to see our best friend, but no one is there. The ball lays silently on the floor never moving, our training bag gathers dust, the travel crate is folded up in the corner of the room. We keep hoping that those sounds return..... but the silence persists. We long for the day that some of the familiar sounds return. A high-pitched yelp or bark, the ball comes alive again, the biscuit jar is full and the top rattles as we open it, a bark at the back door to let you know they are ready to come in, we hope for a new partner.

We give our hearts to our dogs, and they do the same for us. A bond is created that most people do not understand or have the pleasure of experiencing. There is a trust that we share with our dog, that is only understood by the two of you. The day the silence comes is the most difficult day we experience, but when the sounds return, we come back to life. Enjoy the happy sounds for as long as you can, because the silence will eventually come.

Rest in peace Ripley, thank you for the journey.

MEMBER ARTICLES

Transferable Skills Across AKC Venues

*By: Tricia Boychuk, in collaboration with Cyndi Porter and Judy McPartland,
with photographs by Lindsey Smith*

When OTCPBC was founded in 1953, its primary focus was obedience, with tracking as the only additional training venue available. In 1994, the AKC introduced agility, and in 2005, Rally was added and became the next training opportunity offered by OTCPBC. Since then, the AKC has introduced many new dog sports, providing an ever-expanding variety of training options and events for dogs and handlers alike.

While each sport has its own rules and challenges, many of the foundational behaviors overlap and can give both dogs and handlers a strong head start when branching out into new activities. One of the most rewarding parts of training and competing in AKC sports is discovering how the skills learned in one venue can be applied in another.

You'll discover that many skills are transferable across AKC venues. For example, Obedience and Rally share a strong foundation of core exercises such as heeling, sits, downs, fronts, and finishes. Both also require the dog to remain focused despite distractions in the ring, such as the judge and stewards, as well as activities happening outside of the ring. In fact, Beginner Novice Obedience even incorporates Rally-style signs to help guide teams through their exercises. Handlers who begin in Obedience often find they already have the building blocks for success in Rally and vice versa.





Another connection exists between Obedience and Scent Work. In Utility Obedience, dogs must perform scent discrimination to identify and retrieve the handler-scented article from among a set number of unscented articles. This skill is closely related to the that needed in Scent Work, and specifically

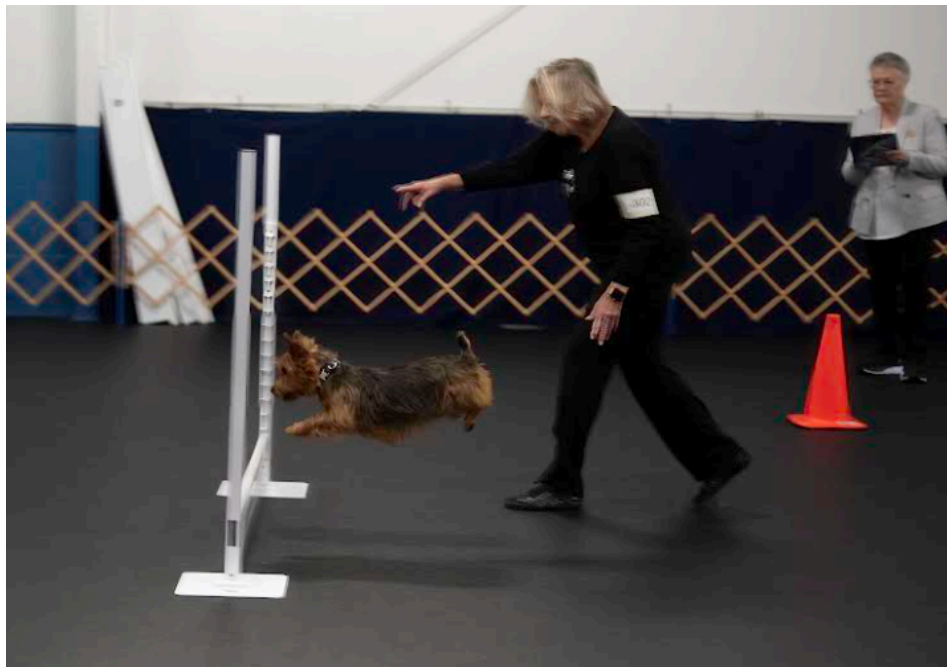
Handler Discrimination, where the dog locates and alerts to the handler's scented article. Training in one venue naturally supports success in the other.

Obedience and Fetch, one of the newest AKC sport venues, offers yet another example. In Obedience, dogs demonstrate their retrieving skills in multiple ways: maintaining steadiness before the send in retrieve on flat, retrieve over high, directed retrieve, and scent discrimination; driving to the retrieve article on command; returning with the article to deliver to hand; and directed retrieve. These same foundational skills transfer smoothly into Fetch and Hunt Retrieve, where dogs must be steady on the line, retrieve blinds and marks, and perform multiple retrieves such as doubles and triples, all while returning to the handler and delivering to hand.

The bridge between Scent Work and Tracking is also clear. In Tracking, dogs follow a human scent path across various terrains and in Scent Work's handler discrimination exercise, dogs are asked to locate and indicate the handler's scent on an article. Both require a strong understanding of scent recognition; an understanding of scent paths, movement, and flow; and communication between the dog and handler.



Agility, Obedience, and Rally also have overlapping foundational behaviors. Examples include a strong stay to hold steady on the line, sending to jumps and obstacles, executing go outs, maintaining a strong contact with the handler, and assessing handler cues.



Of course, at the heart of every AKC venue is the unshakable bond between the dog and handler. Each training session and competition deepens that partnership, trust, teamwork, and communication. This connection is what truly makes the journey so rewarding.

No matter which AKC sport or venue you begin with, the time spent teaching your dog foundational skills is never wasted. Each new sport becomes an opportunity to build on existing skills, strengthen your bond, and enjoy new challenges together.

Whatever paths you choose with your dog ... ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY!

OTCPBC — Memories of the “Old Days.”

By: Bobbie Blythe

I joined the club in the late 60s — maybe ‘68 or ‘69 — with a very unruly German Shepard named Akela. He was not the best dog for a beginner to start with in obedience. He was big and I was probably 100 lbs at the time. He lunged and tugged and dragged me all over the place. My first instructor, Mary Jane Kelley, minced no words about my future with that dog — either train him, or I was in a world of trouble, she warned. I went home that night determined to be able to handle my dog.

I stubbornly kept coming back to training and Akela became my first UD dog. I was hooked on obedience training and club activities. I was secretary of the club and Lead Lines Editor for many years and instructed classes regularly.

Training classes were held at the National Guard Armory in West Palm Beach. Some of the people I trained with were Mary Jane, with her wonderful sheltie Duffy; Vic Cobb with a top Weimaraner, Misty; Buzz Taylor with his great lab, Tar, and bassets, Autumn and Hoppy. Anyone who knew Buzz Taylor will attest to the fact that he was a definite "character." He and his dogs were well known at trials around the state. His wife Dorothy was always along to help, wearing one of her signature caps. Peggy DeMinico came along a few years later with the sweetest lab, Pearl.

Our chores for the training nights first included "set up." That meant loading up a dolly with mats and jumps from the storage room and setting up rings for open and utility. At the end of the evening, we had to roll the mats back up, and put all the jumps and equipment away. We took turns instructing beginner's classes in the parking lot and did "run throughs" and training for members who were trialing inside the building.

Wayne Smith was always around to help, along with other club members who pitched in each week with the set up and tear down work. George Jones was an early president of the club and headed up the tracking group with his Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

Trainers in dog sports today have so many options available that it's hard to believe that back then we had no other performance sports except obedience and tracking. There were specialty breed sports such as coursing, but were not really available for most breeds. Rally and agility weren't available yet, nor any of the other performance activities that are popular today. The OTCH had not been invented, so a UD was the highest obedience accomplishment.

We kept up our interest in training by trying for placements which would earn points for national ranking for our breed. The obedience publication, Front and Finish, kept tabs on placements at shows and announced the top ten competition dogs for each breed at the end of the year. Popular breeds at that time in obedience included German Shepherds, Dobes, labs and shelties. Border Collies and Goldens were not yet as predominant as they are today.

We trained hard and there was a great deal of camaraderie at trials where club members rooted for each other. Buzz had a set of practice jumps that he took to trials. We set them up in parking lots or an area adjacent to the motel we were staying, and we would train after a trial. I remember many trials at which Buzz, Mary Jane and Vic would be juggled around in the first three places. They were very dominant competitors throughout the state.

Most of my training, trialing and club involvement was in the 1970s. It was all-consuming at that time, training beginners classes Tuesdays at the Armory, and in a parking lot in Riviera Beach on Thursdays, plus club work as Secretary

and collecting news from members for Lead Lines. I have fond memories of going to shows and trials. Some of us competed in conformation and obedience — I mainly competed in obedience, but my Weimaraner “Travis” and Schipperke “Bear” had titles “at both ends.”

Club members today are so lucky to have the beautiful training facility, largely thanks to the generosity of Buzz and Dorothy Taylor. No more rolling out mats and putting them away each training session.

My training and trialing activities are much reduced nowadays, but I still enjoy going to Scent Work classes with my Lowchen, Rocko.

Thank you OTCPBC for years of fun and companionship. Enjoy being involved in your club and enjoy your new building and all the new performance sports!

Bobbie Blythe
Akela UD (GSD)
Sandy UD (Weimaraner)
Ch Travis McGee CDX, TD (Weimaraner)
Ch Bear UD (Schipperke)
Trotwood CGC, RE, CDX (Poodle)
Colby Cheese Wiz BN, CGC, UD (Havanese)
Rocko CGC, BN, RN, TKP, ORT, SIN (Lowchen)

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

EMAIL: leadlines.otcpbc@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER HOURS

OTCPBC Volunteer Hours Report as of 9/19/2025 Includes Hours Earned between 9/1/2024 and 9/19/2025

Last Name	First Name	Member Type	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Andrews	Angel	Regular	11/24/2024	8/24/2025	30.75
Armfield	Patricia	Associate	11/10/2024	4/13/2025	34.25
Baker	Karen	Regular	11/4/2024	7/20/2025	36.5
Becker	Robert	Regular	10/27/2024	4/13/2025	49
Bellavia	Marni	Regular	11/3/2024	7/13/2025	28
Bowes	Lynda	Regular	10/13/2024	7/20/2025	85.25
Boyчук	Tricia	Regular	11/24/2024	7/31/2025	73.25
Brav	Janet	Regular	2/2/2025	2/2/2025	4.75
Butcher	Marjorie	Silver	10/13/2024	7/1/2025	19
Campbell	Stephen	Regular	11/5/2024	11/24/2024	21
Cannici	Terri	Regular	11/3/2024	11/3/2024	8
Carlée	Lane	Household	9/30/2024	1/27/2025	10.75
Carr	Lucy	Household	11/17/2024	7/20/2025	46
Craig	Jane	Silver	11/17/2024	6/8/2025	82.5
Czermann	Charlotte	Silver	10/13/2024	7/1/2025	29
Davis	Marge	Silver	4/27/2025	4/27/2025	5
DeCarlo	Brian	Household	9/30/2024	7/31/2025	179.05
DeMinico	Peggy	Gold	11/17/2024	7/20/2025	80
DuMont	Jean	Regular	1/26/2025	1/26/2025	2
Forgach	Marie	Regular	11/24/2024	11/24/2024	3.5
Granville-Smith	Leslie	Regular	9/30/2024	12/31/2024	128
Hamzy	Joe	Household	10/6/2024	4/20/2025	47.75
Hamzy	Mary Ann	Household	11/24/2024	2/16/2025	24.75
Hohmann-Probst	Marti	Regular	11/24/2024	2/1/2025	31.5
Honchar	Nancy	Regular	11/24/2024	6/29/2025	50.75
Jenkins	Janet	Regular	4/21/2025	4/21/2025	0.5
Johnson	Nan	Regular	11/10/2024	6/30/2025	48
Johnson-Ford	Diana	Regular	10/31/2024	4/20/2025	40.5
Jones	Karen	Regular	11/10/2024	6/8/2025	55.5
Katzman	Andi	Regular	12/1/2024	5/16/2025	15.5
Keenan	Rande	Regular	1/6/2025	8/17/2025	36.25
Kelly	Michelle	Regular	10/27/2024	1/20/2025	26.5
Klein	Carol Ann	Regular	11/17/2024	8/24/2025	48.5
Kornmeyer	Donna	Household	11/24/2024	4/27/2025	28.75
Ladd	Karen	Regular	7/7/2025	7/7/2025	11
Landen	Robin	Regular	11/10/2024	7/20/2025	54
Lehnertz	Margi	Silver	10/13/2024	2/28/2025	117.25
Lobree	H. Baird	Household	10/6/2024	11/10/2024	18.75
Macchia	Mary	Regular	1/12/2025	6/8/2025	29.5
Maio	Lenore	Regular	12/31/2024	7/20/2025	39.75
Mardis	Emily	Regular	1/6/2025	7/13/2025	42.25

OTCPBC Volunteer Hours Report as of 9/19/2025
Includes Hours Earned between 9/1/2024 and 9/19/2025

Last Name	First Name	Member Type	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
May	Kathy	Regular	9/30/2024	8/31/2025	20
McDermott	Judith	Regular	9/8/2025	9/8/2025	7
McKenna	David	Regular	9/30/2024	8/31/2025	44.5
McPartland	Judith	Regular	9/30/2024	8/31/2025	307
Minix	Susan	Regular	12/1/2024	7/20/2025	178
Morgan	Linda	Regular	11/10/2024	8/31/2025	55
Nettles	Bobbi	Regular	11/24/2024	9/6/2025	21
Patti	Jennifer	Household	2/2/2025	2/2/2025	20
Patti	Mary Lou	Household	2/2/2025	2/2/2025	20
Pirko	Jim	Regular	10/6/2024	1/5/2025	34
Platte	Celeste	Silver	1/1/2025	6/29/2025	55.5
Ponga	Cindylou	Regular	11/24/2024	1/26/2025	70.5
Porter	Cynthia	Regular	9/30/2024	4/20/2025	64.75
Rivera	Jessica	Regular	7/7/2025	7/7/2025	15.5
Sedberry	Diane	Regular	9/30/2024	8/31/2025	145
Sedlacek	Chris	Household	5/17/2025	5/17/2025	2.5
Sedlacek	Linda	Household	4/27/2025	4/27/2025	21
Seeley	Luci	Household	10/27/2024	8/24/2025	59.25
Seeley	Ron	Household	10/27/2024	8/24/2025	46.75
Siebeneck	Rosemarie	Silver	11/10/2024	8/31/2025	146.75
Smith	Lindsey	Regular	10/13/2024	5/16/2025	70
Taylor	Lorene	Household	1/26/2025	1/26/2025	7
Taylor	Matthew	Household	11/17/2024	1/26/2025	28
Trummer	Michelle	Regular	2/2/2025	2/2/2025	22
Vasiliou	Libby	Regular	11/17/2024	7/20/2025	20.5
Vence	Robert	Regular	10/6/2024	8/24/2025	168
Walsh	Lauren	Regular	10/31/2024	4/27/2025	49.5
Weiss	Derek	Regular	7/7/2025	7/7/2025	15.5
Wenger	Storey	Regular	11/5/2024	7/20/2025	192
Wetzel	Judy	Regular	10/13/2024	7/20/2025	32
Wilbur	Nila	Regular	11/10/2024	11/10/2024	8.5
Wilpon	Judy	Regular	1/12/2025	1/26/2025	20.75
Wright	Mary	Regular	9/30/2024	8/31/2025	174.5

Totals

74

3,865.05

Average

52.23

Number of members with Greater Than 20 hrs.

54

Number of members with Greater Than 30 hrs.

41

Number of members with Greater Than 50 hrs.

23

New Member hours will be reported once their application hours have been met.

Volunteer Hour Recording: otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members can submit their renewal for 2026 starting September 1st, 2025 either by mail or online at <https://otcpbc.org/renew-membership-2026/>



OTCPBC Membership Application: Renewal 2026
Renewal memberships are due on or before December 31, 2025.

Name: _____

Address: _____ New? Y ___ N ___

City: _____ State: _____

Zip _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Breed(s): _____

Memberships:

Regular \$40 Household \$60 Associate \$30 Junior \$25 Honorary & Silver Medalist \$0

Dues Enclosed: _____

Trophy Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please circle all your interests that apply: Agility, Breed, Barn Hunt, Confirmation, Disc Dog, Dock Diving, Herding, Fast Cat, Fetch, Fit Dog, Hunting/Retrieving, Scent Work, Obedience, Pet Therapy, Rally, Schutzhund, Tracking.

Please volunteer for all that apply: Instructors: Puppy, Basic, CGC/CGC-A, Beginner Novice, Novice, Open, Utility, Agility, Rally, Tracking, Trial Secretary (training supplied), Scent Work, Therapy

Committees: Obedience Trials, Agility Trials, Tracking, Building Maintenance, Barn Hunt, Equipment, Training/Teaching Seminars.

You can pay through PayPal on the website (otcpbc.org) starting September 1, 2025, or mail your renewal to:
Celeste Platte, 1755 SW Ruiz Terrace, Port St Lucie, FL 34953.