

LEAD



LINES

OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

JULY 2026

OFFICERS

President Betty Gansky
Vice President Ron Seeley
Treasurer Fran Smith
Recording Secretary Jim Pirko

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Scott T Adams, Sr, Tracey Guiejka, June Feigenblatt

COORDINATORS

Obedience Coordinator.....June Feigenblatt
Rally Coordinator Scott T Adams, Sr.
Agility Coordinator.....Leslie Granville-Smitjh
Tracking Coordinator Jane Craig
Nose Work Coordinator Judy McPartland

CONTACT INFO

LeadLines

Celeste Platte— Leadlineseditor@gmail.com

Volunteer Hours

Judy McPartland
otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com

Facebook Admin



Cereal Drive

I would like to give a BIG thanks to all who donated to our cereal drive for the "Max M. Fisher Boys & Girls Club of Riviera Beach." Jeff & I dropped-off all of the cereal today. They couldn't have appreciated it more. They thanked me numerous times.

Summer session had now started. They take care of approximately 250 children a day. It is a VERY well-organized program. We saw the children all being "lined-up" in numerous rows to come in the building and receive lunch. It was very impressive. The children ranged from around 6-11 years.

I hope we can continue to support this organization in the future.

Betty (Gansky), President



Thank you for having me judge the Obedience trials last weekend (June 6th & 7th) at OTCPBC. I had a great time. As usual the stewards were wonderful and Celeste did another great job as Trial Secretary. Please thank the hostess (Judith McDermott) for lunch on both days. They were so good.

Thank you again!

Luci (Seeley)

A VERY BIG THANKS to all who helped last weekend at our 3-day Agility trial held at Bratty Paws in Punta Gorda, FL June 12th through June 14th.

A BIG thanks to our judge Diane Fyfe. It's was great working with you!

To Victoria MacVicar my Assistant Trial Chair who takes a LOT of work off my shoulders! I REALLY appreciate your assistance.

To our Trial Secretary Lori Patterson who always does an awesome job keeping things moving & efficiently!

To Susan Minix who managed to bring everything together & transport it from Lake Park to Punta Gorda. I couldn't have done it without you!!!

To our Volunteer Coordinator Carol Perella who once again outdid herself keeping the Board filled all three days with volunteers! Awesome as usual!

To our Course-builder Barb Bodnar & Kim Levee as well as all of the elves who helped them. All of you did an awesome job! I really appreciated all of your hard work in keeping the rings running smoothly!

To my husband Jeff, who works diligently as Scribe or Timer at all of our trials & always helps with other chores as well.

To all of the OTCPBC members who worked on the trials: Rose Siebeneck, Susan Minix, Linda Morgan, Katie Cane, Lynn Brady, Slim Barker & Rachel Beene.

If by chance I omitted anyone it was not done on purpose! I couldn't do it without all of your help!

As always "it takes a village" & once again "the village" stepped-up!

Betty Gansky

President/Trial Chair

OTCPBC



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Hi!

“I just want to thank all the members of the Obedience Training Club of Palm Beach County for their generous donation to help support Zelda and I in competing at both the World Agility Open and the Junior Open Agility World. We are so proud to be able to represent the USA, as well as be a Florida junior. Being able to compete at this international level has always been a dream come true. And it is people like the members of this club that help make our dreams become reality.”

Thank you again!!

Cristiana Crespo



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Marge Davis

Marge had class in the best sense of the word. She brought a sense of calm and dignity, a dry humor, and a smile to every nose work class. She was able to laugh at herself, support others and keep things in perspective.

Karen Lewis

When I was brand new to the club, at an event or a meeting, Karen called me by name, showed interest in me as a person and shared her warm smile.

Liese Hookey

Encouraged me as a new club member and new instructor in the club.

Lindsey Smith

Lindsey was just Lindsey! Always true to herself, loyal and generous, Lindsey was a woman of principle, deep loyalty, honesty and generosity. Lindsey helped folks feel welcome, a part of what was going on.

She was a student of and advocate for dogs. She brought such artistry to her photos and videos. The special moments and details she was able to capture in with her cameras came from her study and understanding of dogs. She left us with an outstanding body of work.

Lindsey was very generous with her time. When she worked at a trial as a photographer, she still could be counted on to help with set-up and building preparation. At the end of the event, she would not leave until everything was back in order and everyone could leave.

Brian DeCarlo

Brian DeCarlo began taking classes with OTCPBC in 2020. New to dog sports, Brian wanted to learn as much as possible and see what sport appealed to his dog, Monte. He took classes across disciplines and from puppy to competition preparation level classes. Brian was an engineer by profession, and he brought a methodical approach to learning about canine sports. Brian used video tools in creative ways to better understand his canine partner.

In 2023 Brian became a member of the club. He volunteered with thoughtfulness and enthusiasm, always trying to learn. He volunteered across disciplines, contributing 600 hours of his time to the club since his first class.

Judy McPartland



I wanted to share this photo of Lindsey Smith from 2011. She was the TDI examiner for a client's dog, a black poodle named Max handled and loved by Carol Cott and Herb Gross. Max passed the test, and the two of them celebrated while Carol took this photo for her grandchildren.

Carol said she wanted Max certified so Max could participate in the Jewish philosophy of Tikkun Olam, the idea that humanity bears responsibility for healing, improving and perfecting a broken world. We are not obligated to finish the task, but we must try.

Max visited hospitals and nursing homes for 9 years afterwards in New York and Florida. Lindsey certified many, many dogs like him, who offered the world the same blessing. The last week of her life, we talked about our new group, Paws for a Better Life, and how she would be involved with its visits.

Lindsey took many of my nose work classes. I loved hearing her talk to everyone while I was setting hides. She had a way of making the class social and vibrant, a living entity bigger than just sniffing practice. She also came with friends to private lessons. I found myself richer in spirit if we spent a few minutes talking before we started our work. Blessed with an open mind, she supported many new projects with me, from barn hunt to Fast CAT to Fetch.

I am so grateful I got to know Lindsey. She was a treasure and a friend, and I will miss her.

Marti Holman

Liese Hookey was one of the first people I met at OTCPCB. She and Mirabelle Wrist were both teaching at the Fairgrounds, and they introduced me and my Novice A dogs, Lark and Prue, to competition obedience. Liese was always encouraging, and helped me become a better handler. She was kind enough to include us in several of her dog actor commercials, the most memorable of which was a ShamWow spot with Lark. I can't underestimate how much she taught me about footwork, placement of the dumbbell, and stress relief between exercises. She was also a model of service to the club, dedicating many hours of time in various roles.

Brian DeCarlo was a student in several nose work classes with me. He paid careful attention to what was taught, and practiced often. He loved his dog, and I appreciated his leadership. I also remarked at how much and often he volunteered his time. He was a valuable member of our community.

Marti Holman

OTC has lost 5 dear members since the beginning of the year. Some were members for years & retired. Others were still active & another was only a member a few years.

All will be sorely missed by all who knew, loved & worked with them:

Marge Davis - Silver Medalist - Long-time member retired

Karen Lewis - Long-time member retired

Lindsey Smith - very active for years & gone suddenly

Liese Hookey - Silver Medalist - Long-time member retired –

Brian DeCarlo - Fairly new, very active & gone suddenly

I can still see all of them doing their best & helping make OTC the great club that it is today!

May they all rest in peace.

Betty Gansky

President

BRAGBS



Sheltie Kirby was invited to the AKC Rally National Championship competition in the Novice class.

Laura Rubin



Sparky received the High Combined Award at the OTCPBC Rally Trial 1 on Sunday, April 26, 2026 with a perfect score of 200 under Judge Deborah P. Neufeld.

- Michelle Trummer



Fiona earned her NOVICE
Obedience title on May 24th at the
Miami Obedience Club trial.

She finished her title with 2 High
In Trial awards with dual scores of
196-1/2!

Angel Andrews



Scooter is now, CH Noble's
Give Me Wings To Fly,
May 22, 2026.

Carol Blackert



Fate has been the #1 Yorkie in the Country in Obedience for 3 out of 4 years. The year she was not 1st she was 2nd.

I was asked by the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America to send in Fate's scores for Obedience for '25 as well as all her titles earned. A followed thru & sent them all of the info. This was the 1st time I was asked to do so.

We were invited to attend the YTCA's 75th Anniversary show in Jacksonville. I've been a member of the YTCA for 26 years. The YTCA no longer offers Obedience nor Rally trials. They stopped offering them in 2017. They asked if we could attend in person this year. They had two awards for Fate. I was quite surprised!

We went to the meeting after the show. They gave out a lot of plaques for Conformation. Then they gave out certificates for other things in Conformation. We were the last to be called. We were presented with two beautiful plaques. There were around 50 Conformation people in the audience. I was asked about Fate & explained the best I could her accomplishments. They gave us a "STANDING OVATION!" It made me cry.

When the meeting was over everyone gathered in the back of the room. They asked me to give a demo with Fate. God Bless this little dog. She heeled perfectly, did her Command Discrimination 3 ways, her Moving Stand, as well as Signals & Drop on Recall with the crowd watching. I did not have my articles or dumbbell with me. They gave us another "STANDING OVATION! Once again it brought me to tears.

I have NEVER been so proud of my "Once in a Lifetime Dog!"

Attached are 3 pictures. Fate, me & her breeder Robin Hutson are in one & the other two are close-up pictures of the plaques.

Betty (Gansky) & the "Working Yorkies"

On Friday July 10th Fate received her latest title from the AKC. She has earned her MXJP 6 title!

She is now PACH Silktree's Destiny's Child, BN, UDX3, OM4, RAE, MXP4, MXJP6, MXPB, MJPS, PAX, XPF, T2B2. Her titles are now longer than she is tall!

Betty



Gunner is flying high! (his ears give him lift)

He earned his CD title with two firsts and a third place. Then he finished his Novice Agility title to complete that level in agility. Since he already had his TD & TDU tracking titles, the obedience/agility/tracking trifecta gave him his VCD1 (Versatile Companion Dog 1) title.

Go, Versatile Beagle!

Jane Craig and Gunner - Roirdan's
Gunslinger CD RA TD TDU NA
NAJ VCD1 SWM FTA

OTCPBC Board Meeting June 29, 2026

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Board of Directors present: Betty Gansky, Ron Seeley, Fran Smith, Jim Pirko, Scott Adams, June Feigenblatt, Trace Guziejka

Summary

The board meeting focused primarily on three major topics: the roof replacement project, Google Workspace implementation, and policies and procedures. The board voted to proceed with Florida Steel Building Systems' roof replacement quote, including standing seam roof installation and additional insulation, with work scheduled for December after hurricane season. Regarding Google Workspace, the board agreed to purchase 10 accounts to consolidate club email accounts and improve business processes. The board also discussed instructor compensation for agility fun runs, with ongoing debate about whether agility instructors should be paid differently than other disciplines due to the complexity of course setup. Lastly, the board approved switching from expensive rosette ribbons to less costly double strand ribbons for most awards, reserving rosettes only for beginners. A special board meeting was scheduled for July 27th at 7 PM via Zoom to finalize the policies and procedures document that has been under development for several months.

Roof Repair Quotes Discussion

The group discussed roof repair quotes, with two estimates received so far. Ron Seeley reported contacting Coastal Steel Structures but they couldn't provide a price due to issues with the plans, and he made six additional calls to Palm Beach area companies but found none that do red iron work for roof replacement. The first quote from Florida Steel Building Systems was for \$98,772 and included replacing the roof, gutters, and various trim components. The group discussed a roof replacement options with a total estimated cost of approximately \$113,000 including options for a standing seam roof installation and additional insulation. While Jim Pirko requested three bids, the team explained that finding contractors capable of handling the specialized red iron work is challenging, and they had already worked with this roofer previously. The group agreed to proceed with this contractor for a December installation, which aligns with completing the work after hurricane season and before the building's busy trial and event schedule in January.

Ron Seeley also mentioned submitting an insurance application to EquiSure for building and instructor coverage, awaiting a response. Fran provided a financial update and estimated accounting costs of around \$1,000 for the year.

Club Systems Consolidation

The group discussed consolidating club email accounts into a centralized system, with Judy McPartland proposing to implement Google Workspace to replace the current personal email accounts being used for club business. Judy McPartland explained the cost structure of Google Workspace. The discussion highlighted the need for better record-keeping and professional email addresses, with Judy McPartland emphasizing the importance of moving away from personal Gmail accounts to a proper business domain. The group discussed transitioning from personal email accounts to Google Workspace to ensure business continuity when key personnel change. Judy McPartland explained that using Google Workspace would allow multiple administrators to access and manage information, reducing dependency on individual volunteers. The group agreed to purchase 10 Google Workspace accounts, with Judy McPartland and Fran Smith responsible for setting up payment for the accounts.

Facebook Page Management Policies

The team discussed management of their Facebook pages, with Jim Pirko confirming he is the administrator for both the public and private pages. They agreed that the public page should be used for business-related posts like class advertisements, trials, and events, while private member information should remain on the private page. The group also addressed concerns about timing the release of class information to ensure members have first access before it goes public.

Agility Program Policy Updates

The group discussed agility fun runs, with Betty Gansky requesting 20% compensation based on past practices, though the board needs to first determine whether agility instructors should be paid differently than other disciplines before addressing compensation percentages.

Ribbons and Rosettes for Trials

When we run out or run low on rosettes we are changing out to double-strand ribbons for all venues. Agility has been doing this for the last 1 1/2 years as the rosettes ran out. When the supply runs low for Scent, Obedience & Rally double strands will be used by ALL leaving the remaining rosettes available for 1st level classes only i.e. Beg Novice & Novice for

Obedience. Betty stated the rosettes are now \$2.85 each & the double-strands are less than \$1.00. At the April Rally trial we used 96 rosettes. The double strand are very nice. This motion was approved by the entire Board. Betty Gansky has received numerous exhibitors at the Agility events commenting on how much they like them. Many clubs have gone to single strand due to the expense.

A special board meeting was scheduled for July 27th at 7 PM via Zoom to ratify the P&P.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jim Pirko

OTCPBC General Membership Meeting June 29, 2026

The Zoom meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 pm.

Financial Report

Fran Smith presented the treasurer's report.

President's Report

Betty Gansky announced a decision made at the board meeting regarding ribbon purchases, switching from expensive rosettes to double-strand ribbons to reduce costs. Betty Gansky reported that a new roof needs to be installed in December at an estimated cost of \$120,000. It might impact the holiday party plans, which could be rescheduled at a local restaurant. She provided financial reports for recent events including the April rally trial which had a net profit, the June obedience trial which made a profit, and the June agility trial which had a profit despite high expenses including facility rental. Ron Seeley mentioned that the club is exploring insurance options for instructors through EquiSure and will share estimates when available.

Secretary Update

Jim Pirko reported on recent activities including the Lindsay Smith Memorial, the club donation to a Junior Agility Handler, and improvements to Facebook, Members were encouraged to submit content like videos and photos of their dogs. The board is reviewing policies and procedures with plans to ratify them by the end of July, and members were encouraged to provide feedback on the draft documents.

Club Sponsorship and Event Updates

The club discussed their sponsorship of Junior Agility handler Christina Crespo and Zelda, with the club donating \$200 that was matched by a member to cover travel expenses to Germany and the Netherlands.

Committee and Coordinator Updates

June Feigenblatt reported that obedience coordination was running smoothly with no issues to report. Leslie Granville provided updates on agility classes, including three ongoing classes with good enrollment. Judy announced upcoming events including an odor recognition test on October 11th and a scent work trial in late November, both needing volunteers. Jane Craig provided an update on tracking activities, including beginner practice sessions and advanced TDX group meetings in St. Lucie, while noting concerns about losing part of the property to a regional park development. Scott Adams reported on the status of an upcoming Rally trial, which had limited openings remaining on Saturday but was full for Sunday.

Nominating Committee

The group discussed the establishment of a Nominating Committee at the next meeting on September 14th, which will contact all members to ask about running for positions.

Treasure Coast Rally Trial Planning

The group discussed plans for a Treasure Coast rally trial in August, which will include a show-and-go event the Sunday before. Premium will be forwarded to everyone. The discussion also covered volunteer opportunities at both the trial and the show and show-and-go events and noted that members are eligible for volunteer hours. Scott Adams reported that novice and Friday Rally classes have openings available for new participants.

Privacy Concerns in Publications

The group discussed privacy concerns about including member home address, phone, and email in the Lead Lines publication, which is now available on the website to the general public rather than just members. Concern about member information and privacy was expressed.

New Members

Lisa Hamburg shared her extensive experience in dog training and scent work, while Judy Rivard discussed her background in training and her current dogs. Lisa Hamburg and Judy Rivard were voted into the club. Both participants agreed to have their contact information included in a member directory but not on the public website. The board members discussed the requirement for new members to work 10 hours within the first six months.

The next general membership meeting will be September 14th 2026

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Pirko

OTCPBC Volunteer Hours Report as of 7/7/2026
Includes Hours Earned between 7/1/2025 and 7/7/2026

Last Name	First Name	Member Type	Earliest Service Date	Most Recent Service Date	Total Hours
Alvarez	Kelsey	New	4/13/2026	6/7/2026	13
Andrews	Angel	Regular	8/24/2025	5/31/2026	95.25
Armfield	Patricia	Associate	9/20/2025	11/16/2025	20
Baker	Karen	Regular	7/20/2025	6/7/2026	26.75
Bales	William	household	11/3/2025	1/11/2026	4.75
Barbato	Christine	Household	11/3/2025	5/17/2026	19.25
Becker	Robert	Regular	10/26/2025	5/31/2026	37
Bellavia	Marni	Regular	7/13/2025	11/2/2025	13.5
Blackert	Carol	Regular	1/4/2026	2/1/2026	26.75
Bowes	Lynda	Regular	7/20/2025	6/7/2026	107
Boychuk	Tricia	Regular	7/31/2025	6/28/2026	72
Brav	Janet	Regular	2/1/2026	2/1/2026	2
Burdick	Abigail	NEW	1/25/2026	5/31/2026	24.5
Butcher	Marjorie	Silver	7/1/2025	1/11/2026	16
Cane	Katie	Regular	9/8/2025	5/31/2026	51
Cannici	Terri	Regular	11/2/2025	11/16/2025	16.5
Carr	Lucy	Household	7/20/2025	12/7/2025	18
Cash	Beverly	Regular	1/11/2026	1/11/2026	8
Craig	Jane	Silver	11/23/2025	6/28/2026	44.5
Czermann	Charlotte	Silver	7/1/2025	1/11/2026	16
DeMinico	Peggy	Gold	7/20/2025	6/7/2026	86.25
DuMont	Jean	Regular	10/12/2025	1/25/2026	12.5
Forgach	Marie	Regular	11/23/2025	1/25/2026	20.75
French	Steven	Household	9/20/2025	6/7/2026	40.5
Granville-Smith	Leslie	Regular	12/31/2025	2/22/2026	60.5
Hamzy	Joe	Household	12/7/2025	3/8/2026	29
Hamzy	Mary Ann	Household	11/23/2025	1/25/2026	13.75
Honchar	Nancy	Regular	9/20/2025	1/25/2026	38
Jenkins	Janet	Regular	10/1/2025	5/27/2026	94
Johnson	Nan	Regular	10/14/2025	5/31/2026	33.5
Jones	Karen	Regular	11/9/2025	11/23/2025	21
Keenan	Rande	Regular	8/17/2025	4/12/2026	47.75
Kelly	Michelle	Regular	9/20/2025	4/9/2026	40.5
Kelsheimer	Jasen	Household	9/8/2025	11/23/2025	13.35
Klein	Carol Ann	Regular	8/24/2025	1/11/2026	35

Kornmeyer	Donna	Household	9/20/2025	11/23/2025	30
Ladd	Karen	Regular	7/7/2025	2/1/2026	57
Landen	Robin	Regular	7/20/2025	1/11/2026	38
Lehnertz	Margi	Silver	10/28/2025	12/6/2025	75.5
Lobree	H. Baird	Household	1/11/2026	1/11/2026	27.75
Macchia	Mary	Regular	1/11/2026	1/11/2026	21
Maio	Lenore	Regular	7/20/2025	11/16/2025	35
Mardis	Emily	Regular	7/13/2025	4/19/2026	85.25
May	Kathy	Regular	8/31/2025	6/30/2026	18
McDermott	Judith	Regular	9/8/2025	6/7/2026	61.75
McDonough	Kelly	Household	3/31/2026	3/31/2026	20
McKenna	David	Regular	7/31/2025	5/31/2026	48
McPartland	Judith	Regular	7/31/2025	6/30/2026	255.5
Meishel	Alexis	Household	9/8/2025	5/31/2026	15.55
Minix	Susan	Regular	7/20/2025	4/30/2026	245.5
Morgan	Linda	Regular	8/31/2025	5/31/2026	46.5
Nagel	Richard	Regular	9/3/2025	2/1/2026	31
Nettles	Bobbi	Regular	9/6/2025	9/6/2025	2
Platte	Celeste	Silver	11/23/2025	2/1/2026	12.5
Ponga	Cindylou	Regular	11/23/2025	1/25/2026	30.5
Porter	Cynthia	Regular	11/23/2025	3/8/2026	19.75
Rivera	Jessica	Regular	7/7/2025	5/31/2026	38
Sedberry	Diane	Regular	7/20/2025	6/30/2026	166.15
Sedlacek	Chris	Household	10/12/2025	2/8/2026	34
Sedlacek	Linda	Household	6/7/2026	6/7/2026	19
Seeley	Luci	Household	8/24/2025	5/31/2026	43.75
Shrank	Michael	Regular	11/16/2025	6/7/2026	59.8
Siebeneck	Rosemarie	Silver	7/31/2025	6/30/2026	146.5
Strumwasser	Steve	Regular	12/9/2025	6/7/2026	13
Trummer	Michelle	Regular	11/16/2025	5/17/2026	23
Vasiliou	Libby	Regular	7/20/2025	6/7/2026	17
Venables	Tara	new	4/13/2026	6/30/2026	41
Vence	Robert	Regular	7/20/2025	6/7/2026	134
Weber	Lodge	Regular	3/31/2026	3/31/2026	20
Weiss	Derek	Regular	7/7/2025	5/31/2026	54.75
Wenger	Storey	Regular	7/20/2025	5/31/2026	127
Wetzel	Judy	Regular	7/20/2025	4/26/2026	78.25
Wilpon	Judy	Regular	1/11/2026	1/25/2026	23.25
Wright	Mary	Regular	7/31/2025	6/30/2026	150
Totals	743,582.60				
Average					48.41

Number of members with Greater Than 20 hrs.	50
Number of members with Greater Than 30 hrs.	39
Number of members with Greater Than 50 hrs.	21
Hours for new members will appear on this report once the new members have accrued additional hours beyond the ten hours needed for application to the club. Volunteer hours earned are kept on a running basis and expire after 12 months. Eligibility for the Member discount and Access Card require a balance of 20 active volunteer hours beyond those needed to apply for membership. Volunteer Hour Recording: otcvolunteerhours@gmail.com	