

OCOTC COURIER

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY OBEDIENCE
TRAINING CLUB

JULY 2008

President: Lori Baer

Editor: Barbara Wood

JULY MEETING

As everyone knows, the July meeting is our annual picnic which will be on July 19 at the Warr Acres Community Center, 4301 N. Ann Arbor Avenue at 6:00 p.m. Those helping with set-up please be there at 5:00 p.m.

Refreshments volunteer is needed for the August meeting. Please contact Lori Baer at k9pals2@yahoo.com if you can help.

Spring Trial Chairman needed for the 2009 trial to be held on March 29, 2009. Please contact any club officer or board director if interested in helping out! You will get lots of support and help to do this job; we just need new people to learn the ropes and help!

If you are interested in helping teach a class, please contact Karen Allen at 681-6444 or at kaloveabeardie@att.net.

New classes are scheduled to commence on August 6 - 7th, with orientation on August 7, 2008.

Rally Practice

We are not having a Rally class this session, but to help people prepare for the upcoming OCOTC trial, we will be setting up rally courses and having run throughs on Thursday July 24th, Thursday July 31st and Wednesday August 6th at 9:00 p.m. The run throughs will cost \$5.00 for the first run and \$2.00 for subsequent runs.

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the new OCOTC Officers!
The slate for July 2008 - June 2009 is as follows:

President - Lori Baer
Vice President - Debbie Harr
Corresponding Secretary - Will Crowe
Recording Secretary - Bill Ballard
Treasurer - Patti Saiz
Training Director - Karen Allen

Due to concern over the irregularities of the "Director elections", I must invalidate that portion of the elections and declare it null and void. We will have elections for the four Director positions at the August meeting. We will not be taking any further nominations from the floor or otherwise but will vote on the five people that have agreed to run and serve in this position.

The nominations to be voted on are:

Kaye Kirk
Kathy Logan
Brian Swingle
Mary White
Cindy Sirotkin

Special thanks to all outgoing Officers and Board Directors: Annabelle Conner and Angie Dayton. We all appreciate your dedication to OCOTC and hard work for the club as well as your continued support. Several members are continuing their responsibilities on the Board and I want to thank you as well. Keep up the great work!

Hugs & Wags, Lori

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Attention Therapy Dog Auxiliary Members

All OCOTC Auxiliary members need to pay the annual \$10 membership dues in order to continue therapy visits at the club sponsored hospitals; St. Anthony's North and South (formerly St. Michael's.) The membership renewal form can be obtained at www.ocotc.org Thanks for your club support and dedication to therapy dog work!

Lori

THINKING OF YOU

Please keep Pat White, Barbara Holland, Maurine Kearns, Betty Ogle, Frances Durrett, Marilyn Lindsay and Valerie Trumbly in your thoughts and prayers.

THANK YOU!

Thanks a bunch to the following people for helping set up on Friday night for the fun match!!! I'm sure many of you were sore on Saturday from setting up the rings, everything looked great!

Karen Allen	Dan Hampton
Eve Hampton	Barry Hampton
Terry Baer	Lori Baer
Byron Watson	Raymond Trumbly
Valerie Trumbly	Bill Ballard
Beverly Ballard	Gayle Bryner
Kaye Kirk	Bryon Watson

Thank you to the following people for helping Saturday at the match! Enough volunteers showed up so it went very smoothly! Judges were great!

Sharon Adams	Karen Allen
Mary White	Gayle Bryner
Kaye Kirk	Byron Watson
Terry Baer	Lori Baer
Stacey Stovall	Joyce McIntyre
Patty Whitecotton	Barbara Wood
Jo Ann Weaver	David Mier
Marilyn Smith	Bill Ballard
Beverly Ballard	Debbie Harr

Ben Anderson
 Leroy Saiz
 Perry Dillon

Sarah Pierce
 Cindy Sirotkin

Thanks to Sunday helpers! As you can see many people helped all weekend!!! We have great members!

Karen Allen
 Barbara Wood
 Ashley Weathers
 Raymond Trumbly
 Terry Baer
 Shelley Kuhn
 David Mier
 Chuck Musgrove
 Sarah Pierce
 Bill Ballard
 Laura Wingle
 Patti Saiz
 Kaye Kirk

Sharon Adams
 Mary White
 Cindy Sirotkin
 Valerie Trumbly
 Lori Baer
 Cheryl Deacon
 Pat Gonzales
 Wendy Musgrove
 Karyn Corn
 Beverly Ballard
 Brian Swingle
 Gayle Bryner

Special thanks to the following people for bringing refreshments for helpers at the last minute!

Karen Allen	Patty Whitecotton
Bill Ballard	Beverly Ballard
Raymond Trumbly	Valerie Trumbly
Debbie Harr	Barbara Wood
Terry Baer	

I hope I haven't missed any names, thanks a bunch!

Hugs & Wags, Lori

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Fun Match for your time and hard work. Special Thanks to Sharon Adams, Mary White and Barbara Wood for helping me again this year at the entry table. I would also like to Thank everyone who on a minutes notice brought food for lunches for the workers of the Match and to Lori for getting the notice out on e-mail.

Thanks Karen Allen

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FUN MATCH RESULTS
Saturday**High in Match** - Kelsey Corn - Aussie "Trip" 191.5**Best Junior Handler** - Taylor Scott, Cavalier King Charles "Ryder"**Best of Breed Adult** - Janell Verebelyi, Vizsla**Best of Breed Puppy** - Elaine Hudson, Rhodesian RidgebackNovice A:1st Shannon Golden, Australian Cattle Dog - "Nikki" 188.52nd Jennifer Sell, Vizsla "Argo"3rd Rachel Higgins, Border Collie, "Sarah"Novice B:1st Kelsey Corn, Aussie 191.5Pre-Novice:1st Diane Mier, English Setter "Anna" 198.52nd Dorothy Bradley, Border Collie "Tish"3rd Janell Verebelyi, Soft Coat Wheaten Terrier "Bond"4th Rachel Higgins, Border Collie "Sarah"Sunday**High in Match** - Sally Sheridan - Golden 197.5**Best Junior Handler** - Kelsey Corn**Best of Breed Adult** - Andi Scott, Cavalier King Charles**Best of Breed Puppy** - Ellen Christensen - Plotts (New AKC breed)Novice A:1st Jessica Sullivant, Aussie - 194.52nd Richard Breezley, GSD - 1903rd Rachel Higgins, Border Collie - 185.5Novice B:1st Sally Sheridan, Golden - 197.52nd Kelsey Corn, Aussie - 193.53rd Kathy Greg, Belgian Malinois - 1924th Lynn Pollei, Pomeranian - 181**Congrats to all!!! Lori**

JUDGE'S DINNER

Everyone is welcome to join the judges coming for the Summer Sizzler. Saturday night at 6:30 at Kona Ranch on South Meridian. We have a great time a good fun. See you there.

Date: August 9, 2008

Place: Kona Ranch

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Sign up with Angie Dayton if you plan to attend so we know how many reservations to make.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewals have been coming in steadily through June. There are still some members from whom I have not yet received renewal forms. Membership fees are due by July 31st. These are the people I have not heard from as of June 30th:

ABRAMS, Susan

ADAMS, Sharon

AGUILAR, Virginia, Albert, Michael, Alicia

BALLINGER, Virginia

BELFLOWER, Steve & Rebecca

BRYNER, Gayle

CARTER, Bob & Toni

CASE, Sandy

CHADWICK, Janet

CLIFTON, Wanda

CORN, Kelsey, Karyn, Brad

CRANE, Frieda G.

ESMON, Naomi

FLOYD, Sandy

GEBUR, Susan

GODDARD, Jill

GONZALES, Pat & Don & Jeff

GRAVES, Jeanie

GRISWOLD, Dan & Marilyn

HANKS, Robert

HARRISON, Barbara

HOGAN, Connie

HOGAN, Sheryl

HOPPERS, Dr. Pamela S.

INGRAM, Dale Putnam & Jolene

IRWIN, Melinda

KUNC, Twyla

LEDGER, Lisa Rudolph & J. Brian

MARLAR, Audrey

McALISTER, Carolyn C.

MCCLINTICK, Susan

MICUE, Melanie & Kevin

MOORE, Tonya, Hal & Lauren

NETTLES, Candy

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OGLE, Betty Ann
PARSONS, Pauline
POPE, Carolyn S.
PRESCOTT, Kathleen
SCHICKEDANZ, Sandra
SMITH, Kari
THURMAN, Marty
VAN WART, Carol L.
WALLER, Dicksy & Page
WHITTEN, Sally
WILLIAMS, Lisa
WRIGHT, Paula & Jim

Thanks,
Will Crowe, Corresponding Secretary

THE STEWARD IN OBEDIENCE

The Gate Steward

The primary responsibility of the gate steward is to ensure that the next dog to be judged is immediately available when the judge indicates that they are ready. As soon as the judge begins the judging routine of a dog, this steward calls the next dog to be judged and ensures the handler is at ringside when the dog in the ring has completed all exercises. Dogs may not enter the rings until the judges indicate they are ready for the next dog. The gate steward is responsible for ensuring the judging time of the class is not delayed by having the judge wait for dogs. Dogs must be judged in catalog order to the extent that it is practical to do so without holding up the judging in any ring. If the dog listed next in the catalog is not at ringside when needed, the steward should not hesitate to call the next dog in order. Stewards are not required to seek out handlers: Handlers are responsible for being ready when their dogs' numbers are called. The steward should report any absence to the judge, and the judge will decide when the dog is to be marked absent. This procedure should be followed even if the armband for the absent dog has already been issued.

It is normally the duty of the gate steward to distribute armbands. When exhibitors identify themselves, the steward should check the catalog and ask the exhibitors' names and the names of the dogs. The steward then should check that the number of the armband being given to the exhibitor corresponds to the

number in the catalog. It is essential that every precaution be taken when distributing armbands.

Very often, exhibitors make requests for special consideration, such as asking to be judged out of catalog order. Any request of this nature must be directed to the judge. It is the judge's prerogative to grant or deny the request. The steward should never consider the matter.

When stewarding in the Novice Class, upon completion of the Recall exercise, the gate steward should return leashes to handlers before they leave the ring.

The Table Steward

The extent to which a judge uses the services of a table steward varies greatly. Some judges prefer to do their own bookwork and do not feel it is necessary to have the steward perform many of the duties in this area.

The steward must receive specific instructions from the judge to ascertain exactly what will be required as table steward.

Many judges use worksheets. The judge may ask the table steward to prepare and have ready the worksheet for the next dog. The steward should ensure that the class, proper armband number, and breed of dog are correctly entered on the sheet. If the judge requests, the table steward must double-check to see that the scores on the worksheet are added correctly. The judge—and only the judge—will transfer the scores from the worksheet to the judge's book. The steward should check to ensure that no error has been made. If an error is detected, the steward should bring it to the attention of the judge. Under no circumstances should the steward write in the judge's book.

The table steward usually prepares the Group Exercise worksheets, if the judge uses them. These should be prepared in advance and according to the judge's instructions. It is essential that these sheets be prepared in catalog order, even if that is not the order in which the dogs were individually judged.

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The table steward must review the catalog to see what trophies (if any) are offered and to ensure that all trophies and ribbons are available at the conclusion of judging. Very often the steward is asked to assist in the awarding of the trophies and ribbons to the winners.

Ring Stewards

Each judge requires two ring stewards. It is particularly important for these two stewards to report to the ring at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled time for judging to assist the judge in setting up the ring and equipment and to receive specific assignments from the judge. As the duties of the ring stewards vary with the class in which they are officiating, the remainder of this discussion will be divided by classes.

Novice Class

The first exercise in the Novice Class is the Heel on Leash. After the dog finishes the heeling pattern, the two ring stewards are required to act as "posts" around which the dog and handler will execute the Figure Eight. Both stewards should be ready immediately when the Figure Eight is called. The judge will indicate where they want the Figure Eight performed. When should the stewards go to the assigned position? Most often just after the judge gives the order, "Exercise finished" for the Heel on Leash portion of the exercise. This method saves time by not requiring the judge to call the stewards each time they are needed. The stewards stand 8 feet apart, facing each other, with their hands hanging naturally at their sides or folded in front. Hands should not be placed on hips or in any way extended from the body.

It is absolutely essential that stewards do not talk or move while this exercise is being performed. Stewards must resist the temptation to turn their head to watch the dog's performance. After completion of the Figure Eight exercise, a steward must be available to take the leash from the handler. The judge will then give the order for the "Stand for Examination." Very often the judges will require the steward to hold their clipboards and pencils. Once the steward has these items, they should promptly move away from the area where the exercise is taking place. But the steward should be close enough to quickly return the clipboard and pencil when the judging of the exercise is

completed and the judge gives the order, "Exercise finished."

The steward does not return the dog's leash until after the Recall exercise is completed. Any number of incidents may occur during the Group Exercises, and stewards must be particularly alert. If a dog breaks or starts to move toward another dog, the steward may be asked to restrain the dog's movement. The steward's attention should be divided between the dogs and the judge to make sure the stewards are alert to a possible disturbance.

The steward must be ready to follow whatever instructions the judge may give.

Open Class

When issuing an armband to a handler, the gate steward should record in the catalog beside the armband number the height and distance of the dog jumps as stated by the handler. The gate steward should also take the leash and dumbbells from the handler when the dog is brought into the ring. A discussion of heights and distance will be described later. It is essential that the steward setting the Broad Jump have a tape measure or steel rule to ensure the accuracy of the jump. The first duty of the judge will be to check that the jumps are properly set. Stewards must arrange jumps quickly and accurately, or much time will be wasted.

In the Open Class, the Figure Eight is performed off lead as part of the Heel Free exercise. The requirements of stewards are the same as in the Novice Class. Again, stewards should be immediately available when the order is given.

The Open Class has two retrieving exercises: the Retrieve on Flat and Retrieve over High Jump. The gate steward takes the dumbbell from the handler as the dog enters the ring and places it on the judges' table. When directed by the judge, a ring steward shall deliver the dumbbell to the handler or to the judge as specified by the judge. This should be done immediately so handlers are not made to wait.

The gate steward will line up the dogs and handlers outside the ring immediately prior to the time

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the judge has indicated they will judge the Long Sit and the Long Down exercises. The judge should not be made to wait while the handlers are lined up. The Long Sit and Long Down exercise are always done in exact catalog order. As the dogs enter the ring, the ring stewards must line up dogs and handlers along the ringside as indicated by the judge. Ring stewards must make sure that dogs are in catalog order and that they are placed an equal distance from each other. The judge will instruct handlers to place armbands and leashes behind their dogs with the leash on top of the armband in such a manner that the number is easily read. One of the two ring stewards in the Open

Class will be assigned to lead the handlers out of the dogs' sight. Prior to the beginning of the exercise, access to this location should be checked by the stewards. Once behind the "blind" area, the steward must watch for the judge's signal to return to the dogs and lead handlers back to the ring. The steward is responsible for having handlers return in the same order in which their dogs are arranged. The other steward assists the judge in the ring in the same manner described for the Novice Class.

Utility Class

When issuing an armband to a handler, the gate steward should record the height the dog jumps as stated by the handler of the dog in the catalog beside the armband number. The Utility Class contains the Directed Jumping exercise, during which the dog must complete a high jump and a bar jump. As in the Open Class, one steward immediately sets the high jump while the other steward sets the bar jump. Again, this must be done quickly and accurately. As in the Open Class, the judge will make sure that the jumps are properly set.

For the Scent Discrimination exercise, the gate steward will have placed the handler's articles on the judge's table. The judge will select two articles, one leather and one metal, and separate them from the rest.

The judge may position the remaining articles or may ask the ring steward to perform this function. The articles must be placed so that the closest article is about 20 feet from the handler. The judge or ring steward must touch (not necessary to scent) each of the eight remaining articles, spreading them in a random manner

on the floor, or ground, about 6 inches apart. On the judge's order, the handler will place the scented article on the judge's book or work sheet. Without touching that article, the judge or steward will place it among the others.

After completion of the Scent Discrimination exercises, the ring steward places the articles in the handler's container and returns them to the judge's table.

The Directed Retrieve exercise utilizes two ring stewards. While one steward is picking up the scent articles, the other steward takes the three gloves from the judge's table and goes to the far end of the ring. After the dog and handler are in position, (midway between and in line with the two jumps) but facing the opposite direction, the steward will drop the three gloves across the end of the ring. The steward will drop one glove in each corner, about 3 feet from the sides and the end of the ring, and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end of the ring. The three gloves must be clearly visible to both dog and handler. It is not necessary to "iron" the gloves flat, but they should be open, not closed. After the exercise is completed, the steward retrieves the remaining two gloves and places them on the judge's table. For the Moving Stand exercise, one ring steward will be needed to hold the judge's clipboard and pencil during the examination and will stand aside as directed by the judge.

The Jumps

Although the gate steward will ask the handler what height the dog jumps, it is conceivable that the handler will know only the height of the dog. Because of this, it is essential that ring stewards be familiar with the Obedience Regulations concerning the setting of the jumps.

The minimum jump shall be set at the nearest multiple of 2 inches to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers for the breeds listed in Appendix A. The minimum jump shall be set to the nearest multiple of 2 inches to the height of the dog at the withers for all other dogs, with no dog jumping less than 8 inches or more than 36 inches. The broad jump is set at twice the distance of the high jump. The low side of each hurdle

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and the lowest hurdle shall be nearest the dog. The highest hurdles shall be removed first.

The boards shall be spaced as equally as possible as follows:

1. For dogs that jump 16 to 24 inches — use two boards
2. For dogs that jump 28 to 44 inches — use three boards
3. For dogs that jump 48 to 72 inches — use four boards

FREE TO LIVE ANNUAL AUCTION

Date: October 19, 2008

Donations (new items or services, gift certificates, etc.) are needed.

Contact Lori Baer if you have anything you can donate or for further information about attending this fun event. All proceeds benefit the deserving cats and dogs at Free to Live, the animal sanctuary in Edmond, OK.

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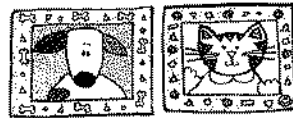
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FIRST CLASS