



Newsletter

April 2025

Philadelphia Dog Training Club

A Word from the President

It was good to see everyone who was able to attend the annual meeting and awards dinner. Thanks to Susan Murphy for the arrangements. It is always interesting to reflect on the entire past year since so much time has gone by. I would like to start by thanking my Board, our instructors and our assistants. Without them we would not have a club! Of course, we also need to thank Larry Wilson, our active AKC rep with a minor in comedic writing and Darrell Swank, our editor extraordinaire of HEEL. A reminder to submit your stories and pictures to him when asked. The more content the better the publication.

When looking over the past year I would say a highlight was the fall Rally trial. We had not had one in many years and had to move from our traditional spring date to the fall. Both the spring and fall trials were a great success. Thanks to show chair for both, Liz Alakszay, and show secretaries Sue Anderson (obedience) and Eleanor Campbell (rally). These are very large jobs, and we should be thankful we have them. In the future we would like to have other members shadow them at the trials to cultivate more individuals to volunteer for these key jobs. Remember our spring trial is on May 10th and there is still time to volunteer. Remember

A Word from the President

you are required to volunteer for something each year.

Other highlights included a substantial bequest from long-time member Terry Coughlin, updating our Incident policy, and starting a marketing committee.

I want to take a minute to thank two individuals who are stepping down from the Board this year. Colleen Marsini has been invaluable with her practical and legal advice over the years. Mary Beth Mills has been our volunteer coordinator for our shows for several years. They have both been active members of the Board so please thank them for their service if you see them.

In closing I want to thank all the membership for their participation in our club. I am proud to say that the club is stable financially and continues to serve a dual purpose to the public and to our membership. Be sure to take advantage of the classes

we offer and if anyone has any suggestions for other classes, please let a Board Member know.

-Brenda Perkins



Spring Obedience Trial

Our May 10th Obedience trial at Y2K9 is fast approaching! Entries close on April 23rd at 6PM. So if you haven't signed up yet, please go to <https://showentries.info/>.

We could use a few more hands for setup at Y2K9 on Friday May 9th starting at 5:30 pm. If you can assist us, please contact Carol Houton (houton646@gmail.com)

Also, if anyone would like to learn more about what a Show Secretary does, or what is involved in being a Trial Chair, Sue Andersen and I would be delighted to have you shadow us at the trial - just send me an email.

Hope to see everyone on May 10th!

-Liz



Let's Get Social

Help Us Show Off Our Amazing Dogs and Training Successes

Did you know our Dog Training Club is on Instagram and Facebook? We're working hard to grow our online presence, and we need you to help make it shine!

Whether it's a fun moment from training, a cute dog photo, a brag-worthy achievement, or news about an upcoming event—we'd love to share it!

Here's how you can help:

Send me your training photos, videos, stories or event info—I'll post them to our social media pages. Then interact with the stories by liking or commenting. You can even share your own content.

Tag us when you post your own photos or stories from class on your personal socials. An important note to remember about tagging is to use one of these so we're not confused with another club (Princeton Dog Training Club).

#PhillyDogTraining; #PhillyDTC; PhiladelphiaDTC;
#PhillyDTC1938. Please DON'T use #PDTC

Share updates about events, achievements, or anything dog-related that our community would enjoy. All ideas are welcome!

You can email your content to LRhubart@comcast.net. OR if you take pics on your phone, text them to me at 610-209-5180 with a description or other content you'd like to include with the post.

Be sure to follow us and tag us:

Facebook: [Philadelphia Dog Training Club](https://www.facebook.com/PhiladelphiaDogTrainingClub)

Instagram: [@philadelphiadogtraining1938](https://www.instagram.com/philadelphiadogtraining1938)

Let's celebrate our pups, trainers, and the hard work that goes into building those amazing skills. Plus, it's a great way to promote our club and attract new members!

-Laura Rhubart

Welcome New Members

Matt & Sam with Hudson & Ryder

Hi, this is Hudson, a 20-month-old Labrador Retriever, and Ryder, a 6-yr-old Chihuahua/mini-Dachshund/Chesapeake Bay Retriever mix. Ryder had a tough puppyhood on the streets of Houston, but after being rescued by his owners Matt & Sam, he is now an under-the-blanket couch snuggler. He recently started Loretta's Intermediate Class to improve his



social skills and is warming up to it! Hudson has taken Puppy, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Classes at PDTC, and is now working on his Beginner Novice title. He also does conformation and recently earned his first championship point. Both dogs take a break from training over the summer to enjoy the beach in Maine.



Reg Speir

Photo from his obituary which can be found at:

<https://www.donohuefuneralhome.com/obituaries/reginald-speir-jr>

PDTC lost a good friend and member a few days ago. Reg Speir has passed away. Many know Reg with his golden Wilson and his previous golden Lincoln. His great achievement was his OTCH with Wilson, but he went on to earn many other titles as well, including their RN this past year. Reg took the sport very seriously but always had time for a smile and a laugh in class. He will be dearly missed. Our thoughts go out to his family at this time of sadness.

-Brenda Perkins

Reg Speir

Zerk and I trained with Reg and Wilson for many years. Wilson and Zerk are about the same age and about at the same level of training (not skill). Wilson had a superior handler. Reg and I were often partners in class. He always had a kind way of pointing out how I could do something a little better. A good man. Thank you Reg. Miss you.

-Darrell E Swank

We would talk about dogs and even cars between exercises in Utility class. I will miss seeing him and Wilson.

-Frank Nelson

I met Reg when I started training at Suburban DTC many years ago. He and I shared classes both at Suburban and Philadelphia DTC. He worked very hard with Wilson to achieve his dream of an OTCh. He was a focused and determined trainer and a very nice man. I will miss him.

-Eleanor Campbell

I was saddened to hear about Reg. I had known Reg and Wilson from Obedience classes. However, when he wanted to try something new and different, Lily, Pansy and I worked closely with him as he and Wilson quickly perfected the nuances of rally. He would always sneak treats to Lily and Pansy when Wilson wasn't looking! He claimed to have 2 left feet when it came to rally signs, but that was totally false. He and Wilson were a perfect team! Lily, Pansy and I watched and cheered him on when he entered trials, came away with ribbons and earned his RN title! We will miss him.

-Liz

Reg Speir

Reg started training with PDTC with his first dog Cooper and became a member in 2012. He got a UDX with him in 2016. The next dog was Lincoln, followed by Wilson. It is with Wilson that he got so many awards. He earned his OTCH and was high scoring dog in our club in 2023. Wilson OM3, UDX4, OM4, UDX3, OTCH!!!! When he asked me what else he could do, I suggested Rally and he earned his RN in 2024.

What I remember about Reg are two things: He went at the sport with a vengeance. He was so precise and worked so hard to achieve the honors. But the other side was how kind and funny he was. He and Barb Doering enjoyed bantering back and forth and he loved his dogs. His wife Sally made really nice treats too when he earned a title. I will always think of Reg with his goldens. I will miss him.

-Brenda

Sad Passings in our Family

Ozzie

"Ozzie" (Geppert-Bartynski), passed on from the world and has now joined his friends in heaven on Wednesday November 27th, 2024, just shy of his 4th birthday. For those of you who had the pleasure of getting to know Ozzie, you are aware of how much he LOVED coming to training classes. He was especially excited to be seen by all the ladies (dogs and humans!) He was known in his family as "Shmoops" because he was the biggest giver and receiver of love.



Ozzie wanted everyone in the world to know how much he loved life and his family. We bought an RV for vacation. Ozzie had to make sure he was coming on the trips too! He loved to go camping and would show his excitement at the word "camping." He made friends up and down the east coast and even all the way to California AND Hawaii. His infectious personality touched many minds and hearts and changed people's sentiments towards the Doberman breed. His energy and light are missed each day.

- Victoria

Sad Passings in our Family

Brooklyn



Brooklyn loved the training classes she took there. She even earned her CGC in August 2020. She passed last month. Cognitive dysfunction took her far too soon and we are heartbroken. I remember Carol saying in the beginner level class how "in tune" Brooklyn was to me when we were heeling around the gym one time. I always would talk to Brooklyn (and sing, outside of class), and I know she liked the tone of my voice. We were incredibly connected.

Her photo is on PDTC's webpage on the CGC Testing page - from shelter to CGC title and then Therapy Dogs International.

She also has modeled for Pittie Clothing Co (you can see her modeling the muscle tees on their website) and will be Miss November in Philadoptables 2025 Hunks for Hounds calendar I am so incredibly proud of my girl, and I do not know what I am going to do without her. Everyone fell in love with her, rightfully so. -Mandy Buhle

Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation



Wednesday April 16 was our Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation. We enjoyed good food and friends. Took care of a little business and got to the good stuff, awards. Not all of the recipients were able to attend but here is a list of the awards for 2024.

CGC:

Karen Arthur
Lynne Spencer
Sue Anderson
Selena Callan
Joanne Impriano
Annie Steinberg
Kim Dixon
Lila Fontes
Kristen Whalen

GAGNE
DARCY
CODY
FINN
PHOEBE
TAARA
NEO
IKA
BLEU

Skip Brass

Kim Tissue

CGCA:

Annette Giannini
Charles Hadden
Jayne Reicherter
Debbie Thompson
Julia Vahlsing
Julia Vahlsing

ROSIE

ASPEN

LUCY MAE

GILLY

WINSTON

STEELE

MAGGIE

JACK

Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation

CGC AND CGCA:

Anne Blythe BRODY

RA:

Anne Blythe ELLY

BN:

Debbie Desantis MILLIE

Charles Hadden GILLY

NEW PLAQUES:

TIP B.N. 09-3-2023 ; C.D. 03-03-2024

ASPEN B.N. 04-26-2024 ; C.D. 10-18-2024

XENA R.N. 12-07-2023; B.N. 02-10-2024; R.I. 03-09-2024;
C.D. 04-27-2024; R.A. 04-28-2024

HUNTER B.N. 07-2018; C.D. 12- 2019; C.D.X. 02-2024

OLD PLAQUES:

RAVEN S.W.A. 08-2024; UDX 09-2024

WILSON R.N. 09-29-2024

PANSY R.I. 06-2024 ; F.T.N. 06-2024

LILY F.T.N. 06-2024; R.A. 09-2024

MADDIE R.E. 11-02-2024

JOE R.A. 08-16-2024; F.T.N. 08-24-2024; F.T.I. 11-23-2024

SPECIAL AWARDS:

HIGH POINT-ELEANOR CAMPBELL WITH TIP AVG 194.67

FIRST TIME TITLES-HIGHEST AVERAGE (KAY REEVE AWARD):

NOVICE: ASPEN KRYSIA WRIGHT

OPEN: HUNTER LORI CLARK

Some of the business we attended to were elections.

The officers are:

President - Brenda Perkins

Vice President - Liz Alakszay

Secretary - Lisa Yoon

Treasurer - Susan Anderson

New board members (three-year term)

Kryisia Wright and Brittany Stivale

AKC Delegate - Larry Wilson

We all enjoyed a cash bar and a nice buffet. There was grilled chicken, tortellini, salad, potatoes and delicious warm brownies for dessert. It was nice to catch up with friends and meet some new people we didn't know. All in all, a very nice evening.

Brittany Stivale:

Vader turned 3 on April 11—which, of course, means it's his 21st in dog years! He's ready to celebrate with a proper 21st birthday Darty (day party), complete with treats, toys, and maybe a few squeaky drinks. Training-wise, he's been working on his dumbbell retrieves at Open with Jenn. He still gets a little overenthusiastic and gives it a dramatic paw smack now and then, but he's making solid progress. His distance position changes are also looking sharp these days—thanks to mom stepping up her treat game in class. Cheers to Vader and his big milestone!



Liz Alakszay:

Lily and Pansy came out of their winter break with a Rally Trial at The Wilmington Kennel Club on March 8th and 9th. I usually have a rule that I only take one dog to a trial at a time since there is just one of me. BUT this time I had to take two because they had a Rally Pairs competition..... 2 dogs at the same time on the course! I absolutely had to enter that! The challenge of not getting tangled in leashes and doing fronts & finishes with two dogs simultaneously was a 'I *must* do this.' My girls did not disappoint. They took first place on day one with a perfect 100 and a second day second place with a 97. The highest score that day was a 99. The difference was a slightly wide skewed sit on the left finish for my outside dog, Lily (she didn't want to sit on Pansy's tail and I don't blame her). While they were waiting for the Rally Pairs class, Pansy

finished up her Rally Advanced title and Lily got her first two legs in Rally Excellent. A fun and long weekend.





Lila Fontes:

Ika is almost 4 years old, and he had a great year! Since he started competing at agility trials last May, he has successfully earned his NA, NF, NAJ, OF, and OA titles. He also finally got his CGC, although he needs more practice head-patting in order to make progress at obedience trials. He's a happy little guy who loves coming to work with me and will merrily perform tricks for anyone. He has two trick dog titles, too --- so he has definitely surpassed me in qualifications and certificates. Please say hello if you see us walking around the neighborhood!

Debbie DeSantis:

Gina passed her AKC Star Puppy test after attending Carol's Puppy Kindergarten. She's finishing her Beginner Class and will start Intermediate Obedience next month. Gina's very smart. She knows tricks and is learning signals and obedience cues. She even "knocks" with her front paws at the door while standing on two legs when she has to potty! Unlike most Shih Tzus, she was totally



housetrained by five months old. Gina's extremely friendly and thinks she's the greeting committee wherever she goes. I hope to have many adventures with her.

Debbie DeSantis:

My oldest dog, Sheltie Murphy, was 12 in January. Although he's in good health, his obedience career is almost over. Murphy has many titles and placements that he's achieved years ago. He got his UD six years ago and has two Preferred Utility legs, but he may not be able to complete that title. He even got a high-in-trial his first time showing outside in the heat in June and first time in Novice. He got his Novice title when he was two. Murphy's a very sweet, good-natured, intelligent Sheltie who will still be "working" for fun. He's my best friend and teammate, and I'm going to make sure that he enjoys his retirement in style.



Jenn Weinik:

I am proud to announce that Cookie came in Second Place overall at Westminster's Masters Obedience!!! This was by far the hardest trial we have ever competed in. I was happy Cookie was able to shake off her Utility hiccups to win in Open B. Thank you Cookie!!!!



Darrell E Swank:

Zerk and his mom, Possum, have been out hunting several times this year. The conditions were very windy each time which makes things a bit more interesting. The freezer is now stocked with pheasant and chukar. There will be plenty of grilling going on.

Oh, and Zerk earned his RACH January 24th at Bayshore DTC. He also earned his RM2 at Lower Camden County DTC and his RAE2 at Bayshore DTC. Now to focus on Utility.



News from our Members



Excerpts from "The Diary of a Therapy Kuvasz"
by Laurie Leslie Leevy and published in the Kuvasz Quarterly.

For the last six-plus years, Lahdee has been a therapy dog in the Gerald B Shrieber Pet Therapy Program of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)...

...a nurse found us and asked us to come and help with a patient who needed to take 12 pills and would not. On we went to the room of a teenage boy with Autism Spectrum Disorder...

...Our next visit, was to walk with a young eight-year-old girl as she took her exercise around the long corridors. Upon greeting her, she announced to me in the most cheerful voice, "I am blind in my left eye and my right eye is going blind"...

...Lahdee and I get our enormous fix of endorphins while hopefully providing some comfort, conversation, distraction and presence for these remarkable people.

Philadelphia DTC's Wish List

This section will feature wishes from
People who need something
and
Things that people have an excess of

If you have an item that you would like to share, please send information to:
ellsworthdogs@gmail.com with the following information
Item, your description, cost (free, loan, sell-dollar amount) your name and how people can contact you (phone# &or email).

If you are looking for something, send your wishes to:
ellsworthdogs@gmail.com Include What the item you are looking for is, and any pertinent information like the size and breed of dog that will be using it, your name and contact information.

This section was started last month with a few items to gift and one wish. If you have something or need something, please send me the information. I think this is a great idea to share things we have or help others in need in our club.

Upcoming Trials

If you are ready to show in Obedience or Rally, here are some trials you may be interested in:

Obedience Trials

-May 10

Philadelphia DTC AKC Obedience Trial at
Y2K9s in Willow Grove, PA

Judges Joseph Caputa, Barbara Doering & Cheryl Pratt

-May 17

Allentown DTC AKC Obedience Trial at
Orchard Hills Training Center Barto, PA

Judge Frank Cardillino & Barbara Doering

-May 18

Berks County DTC Obedience Trial at
Orchard Hills Training Center Barto, PA

Judge Jean Nocilly & Frank Cardillino

-June 13 K9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County
NJ

AKC Obedience Trial at Golden Rule Andover, NJ

Judge: Barbara Doering

-June 15 K9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County
NJ

AKC Obedience Trial at Golden Rule Andover, NJ

Judge Bill Craig

Rally Trials

-June 14

K9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County NJ

AKC Rally Trial (Double Trial) at

Golden Rule Andover NJ

Judge: Linda Ferrullo

-November 1

Philadelphia DTC AKC Rally Trial (Double Trial) at

DTC of Chester County in Exton PA

Judge Laura Rixham

-November 14

K9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County NJ

AKC Rally (Double Trial) at

Top Dog Obedience School, Flanders, NJ

Judges Aimee and Ken Kincaid

Help make our newsletter a success. Share your news with the rest of the membership. The deadline for the next issue is July 10th 2025. I look forward to seeing a lot of things that will be going on between now and your Independence Day celebration.

Remember, you can send your news in any time to:
ellsworthdogs@gmail.com