

TAILS OF THE PLAINS

November 1, 2003

Next meeting ~ December 9th
7:00 pm ~ Training Building

Carolyn Brand, Editor
Lynne Tellman, Publisher

Good Sportsman Award to be voted at the December meeting. All members present at the meeting will be able to vote for an AOTC member who best typifies good sportsmanship or has been invaluable to the club in many ways. For you new members who might not be familiar with some of the accomplishments of members this year, just ask around. We'll be glad to give you some ideas.

Agility Trial - January 2-4, 2004

There is much to be done to get this first trial of the new year underway. Work assignments will be made at the meeting, be sure to volunteer and help

make this brand new trial a success. Jeri Berryman is the chief ring steward and needs your name on her list of workers. Please contact her at aggiefan316@hotmail.com. It takes everyone of us to put on these trials and they help make wonderful things such as a new training building possible.

Christmas Party

Mark this date for our "After Christmas and Awards Party", December 27 at 5:30. The party will be held at Nicky Trowbridge's home. More information will be distributed prior to the date.

Q's & Legs Report

Well we have been hitting the road hot & heavy these past months. Headed to Enid, Ok, on Oct 25 & 26. Saturday we placed 1st in Open B- 2 OTCH pts and 2nd in Utility B-1 OTCH and on Sunday in Open B - 198 1/2- nice score, no placement

The next weekend we headed for Tulsa, Oct 31, we placed 4th in Open B- 198 1/2 and 4th in Utility. Nov 1st, 4th place in Utility-197 1/2 and Open -196 1/2, Nov 2nd, 4th place in Open- 198 1/2. Very tough dogs that weekend!!!!

Weekend off for the black dog, aka Harley, border collie. Took the red

dog, aka Tank, golden, to the Golden Retriever Specialty in Norman, Ok. 1st time in the ring, was hoping that he stay in there with me. He really surprised me, we took 2nd place in Novice B-197 1/2 on Saturday and on Sunday we placed 1st with a 198 1/2 and High In Trial. Was flying high and headed off to Waco with Harley and was shot down, literally hit rock bottom, qualified 1 out of 4 classes. Just goes to show ya, dogs aren't perfect, they have bad days too!!! Picked myself up and came home to alot of hard work and I am hopeful for Amarillo. Good Luck Showing, Judy more results pg 2

"The real joy is in the privilege and ability to step to the start line with your dog by your side, not in the crossing of the finish line victorious over others."

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Training Building Rules

In order to preserve the safety & cleanliness of our new training facility, there are a few rules to follow. As soon as the proper equipment can be installed, all members will have access to the building for training purposes at anytime. Scheduled classes of course take precedence.

During the winter the thermostat will be set at 40 when the building is vacant. You can turn the heat up to 60 while in use. This temperature is comfortable for dogs and humans. Be sure to set it back to 40 when you leave.

There is to be no grooming of dogs in the training building.

No food, human or animal, is to be left in the building. We had a huge prob-

lem with mice in our last building and that spreads disease. Keep your treats and snacks in your training bag or in a pocket so you can't forget them.

Be sure to lock all doors and relock the gate in the manner you found it. Also, turn off the lights.

Pick up after your dog outside. There is a potty area between the buildings. A trash receptacle will be provided.

The walk way around the rings is small. Please don't clutter it with crates. Some of the dogs are new to each other and in the crowded lane passing by strange dogs in a stressful situation could cause problems. Keep this area open!

An exterminator did spray for pests on the grounds. Small pellets of poison which are meant to dissolve were left outside. Be sure to monitor anything that your dog might pick up in his mouth outside.

Judy DeShong's ring is the west ring, furthest from the door. This is her private ring and will not be used by the club.

And finally, be considerate. Ample time to train will be available to all. The middle ring is large enough for several to train at once except for go outs and directed jumping. Don't hog the rings and don't be afraid to ask for your time when someone does.

Enjoy this wonderful new building!

Q's & Legs Report cont.

Dancer, a Border Collie owned by Regina Edwards (Plainview) and Dr. Gerry Nash (Amarillo), got her 3rd leg for a UD title at the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club. Dancer was handled by Regina.

Robin, a rough Collie owned by Regina Edwards and Dr. Gerry Nash got his first leg in Utility at the West Texas Kennel Club. Robin was handled by Regina.

All you obedience hopefuls, be sure to turn in your titles to Janet Nelson at jandnelson@cox.net immediately following the PKC shows and your brags to Tails of the Plains at CBrand01@aol.com!

From the McGuire pack:

At the DAWG agility trial in Irving, Rick and Wyndi qualified three out of four runs with a 4th place in JWW and a 2Q. At the Las Cruces trial, they qualified five out of six runs with one 4th place in JWW and two 2Qs!!!

Dusti and Marian got their very first excellent standard leg in Las Cruces with a 3rd place!

Directory of Members

Many thanks to Erin Orr for compiling this year's directory. Loved the artwork on the cover! And so much valuable information on the inside cover! I will enjoy picking up this directory to call my friends. I use it more than a phone book! It takes a lot of time to put this all together members. Timely payment of dues could make this job much easier.

Copies of the new membership directory were emailed on November. Please utilize

this method of delivery if possible to save on postage and printing costs for the club.

If you are unable to download this version and need a hard copy version, please contact club secretary Lynne Tellman.

The directory includes all new members through the November meeting.

New Applicants

Susan Kraus

Kathy & Toni Kay Payne
Bill & Carol Roberts

Changes (for the new directory)

J Berryman & S Lightfoot
aggiefan316@hotmail.com

Jim & Sue Boger
(H) 379-7750 (W) 354-5522 (S)

Carl & Beverly Guffey
(H) 383-2007

Holiday Etiquette For Dogs Story & photo submitted by Erin Orr

1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you need to know:

don't pee on the tree; don't drink water in the container that holds the tree; mind your tail when you are near the tree; if there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open; don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree

5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:

not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans; don't eat off the buffet table; beg for goodies subtly; be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa; don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach



6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:

observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. (4a is particularly important); respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house; tolerate children; turn on your charm big time

7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night.

DON'T BITE HIM!!

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

(Author Unknown)

I cannot train my dog today,
The sky is overcast and gray.
The air's too damp, I've got a cramp.
And the dog's just eaten anyway.

Can't find the leash, got home too late,
I'm due somewhere tonight at eight.
I've got a rash, a gash, and bumps,
Too tired now to get the jumps.

Traffic's made me tense and strained,
I have to lose this weight I've gained.
How can we work when it's just rained?

The dog's too hyper, my mood is blue,
I must be coming down with the flu.

I cough, I sneeze, wheeze, and choke,
Dam! My only dumbbell broke!

Too cold outside, my feet are numb,
There's a sliver in my thumb.
The house needs cleaning, it's a sight,
I'm working overtime tonight.

I need a nap, had company,
Lawrence Welk is on TV.
My toe is sore, it might be gout,
I think my hair is falling out.

I ate too much,
My day's been rough and I think my dog has had enough.
With this daily training grind,
We need some time off to unwind.

Top 20 Reasons Dogs Don't Use Computers

20. Can't stick their heads out of Windows 2000.
 19. Fetch command not available on all platforms.
 18. Hard to read the monitor with your head cocked to one side.
 17. Too difficult to "mark" every website they visit.
 16. Can't help attacking the screen when they hear "You've Got Mail."
 15. Fire hydrant icon simply frustrating.
 14. Involuntary tail wagging is dead giveaway they're browsing www.pethouse.com instead of working.
 13. Keep bruising noses trying to catch that MPEG frisbee.

Lists were popular submissions this month. Enjoy this top 20 submitted by Mike & Frances Hibbs.

2. Not at all fooled by Chuckwagon Screen Saver.
 11. Still trying to come up with an "emoticon" that signifies tail-wagging.
 10. Oh, but they WILL... with the introduction of the Microsoft Opposable Thumb.
 9. Three words: Carpal Paw Syndrome
 8. 'Cause dogs ain't GEEKS! Now, cats, on the other hand...
 7. Barking in next cubical keeps activating YOUR voice recognition software.

6. SmellU-SmellMe(tm) still in beta test.
 5. SIT and STAY were hard enough, GREP and AWK are out of the question!
 4. Saliva-coated mouse gets mighty difficult to maneuver.
 3. Annoyed by lack of newsgroup, alt.pictures.master's.leg.
 2. Butt-sniffing more direct and less deceiving than online chat rooms.

and the Number 1 Reason Dogs Don't Use Computers...

1. TrO[gO DsA[M,bN HyAqR4tDc TgrOo TgYPmE WeIjTyH P;AzWqS..

FIFTEEN THINGS THAT IT TOOK ME OVER 50 YEARS TO LEARN

by Dave Barry

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."

3. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."

4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.

5. You should not confuse your career with your life.

6. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

Submitted by Vicki Loucks

Number 3 is probably what "non-dog" people think of us!

7. Never lick a steak knife.

8. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.

9. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.

10. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.

11. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other peo-

ple to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven.

12. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.

13. A person, who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)

14. Your friends love you anyway.

15. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

Regular club meeting minutes ~ Nov 11, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Smith at 7:10 in our new training building. Judy moved with Leeann seconding to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter with a correction of the address. The address for the building was published wrong. The correct address is **9785 Amarillo Blvd west.**

Michelle read the treasurers report. Mike move to accept them with Lisa seconding.

Many people reported show results over the last month.

First readings

Bill and Carol Roberts

Susan Kraus

Second readings and approved as members

Tamera lacey

Clink Bawkley

Old Business

Carol is still working on seminars. Please contact her with any suggestion you may have for presenters.

Committee reports

Agility--Our January trial is full. Please talk with Jeri if you can help and have not signed up. Checks written for entries will not be deposited until after closing.

Obedience--Trial software approved by the board last month has arrived!

A question was raised about us providing stewards for the December PKC obedience show as we have done in the past. Jerry will contact Starla to find out.

New Business

Building--

Everybody did a great job of parking.

If you use the building please lock up. A combination lock has been put on the gate so you can get into the parking area.

We are still working on a keypad to enter the building.

Any food left in the building will be throw away!!!

Final move--We will still need to move the last of the items left in the old building. David P. will meet everyone there at 10:00 on Sat. to make the final move. He has the key to the lock for the giant cooler.

Old mats--Donna Hilton will make a donation to the building fund in exchange for the old mats.

Christmas Party

The party will be at 5:30 on Sat., Dec. 27. It will be a Nikki Trowbridge's house. If you would like to run some agility you may come at 4pm.

Please have title plaques to Janet Nelson by Dec 1. This is a change from last month. If you receive a title at PKC she will try to get in in time for the party. NAPA is due to Lynne Tellman at the same time. Please contact her for a form. We will vote on the Sportsmanship award at the Dec. 9 meeting.

Soccer Center Rental

Jerry has a meeting with Jim Lackey from Kid Inc tomorrow. Kids Inc is now in charge at the soccer center. Jerry would like to ask for the trial dates for the next 3 to 5 years. The agility committee will recommend dates for the Jan and May trial for the next five years. Recent information on the Obedience trial date has a new agility show on that weekend. It was suggested that we contact the civic center to see if we could return the obedience trial to the July date that we had several years ago. Jerry will try to contact them before he meets with Mr. Lackey.

Darlene moved with Leeann seconding to adjourn the meeting at 7:50

Lynne asked for all members to check the membership list for changes as they left. Kathy Payne had come to the meeting late as she was lost, but did put in an application for membership

Board Meeting Nov 11

The meeting was called to order at 8:10pm. The board members present included Joe Nelson, Robin Clark, Michelle Knevelbaard, Donna Hilton, and Lynne Tellman

Building

Signs will be made for the building. They will include a sign for Judy's ring, the dog potty area, and 4 places for instructors to park close to the building.

Outdoor light locations were discussed. It was decided we would try to put one a poll close to the middle of the lot. We are still looking for a lighted sign to put at the gate.

Rules for the building were discussed. Carol will write an article in the newsletter to make everyone aware of them.

Brown mats will be used to mat the unmated area that we will be using.

Trash--Jerry will contact the owners of the trailer house on the adjoining lot to see if we can share their dumpster.

Lease information The utilities for the lease with Judy were clarified. Our part of the utilities will be 50% up to \$200(\$400 for both halves) and 75% afterwards.

Choke chains and Leashes

Lynne moved with Michelle seconding to stop providing choke chains and leashes to classes. There is still a lot there if someone needs one, but it will no longer be a part of our classes. The measure passed.

Accountant

Michelle brought up that the accountant could not get her the CD information for the third month. They are not charging for this service, but also not getting anything done. Michelle has not seen anything on checks or the CD's since she turned the information over to them in Aug. The board voted to go back to the old system. All information will be sent to Lynne who will look it over, then pass it on to Michelle.

Lynne moved to adjourn with Robin seconding at 9:00

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Thoughts

I kept a copy of an article from Clean Run magazine that I wanted to share with you. The author writes about an agility competitor complaining to a chat group about feeling robbed by a judge's close call. This competitor wanted others to comment on the call and give their opinion. What is the point?

This writer explains that his special agility partner has been retired from competition due to a knee injury. He remembers a weekend while competing for a championship that they were called for a missed contact when a video proved that they actually hit. However, later that weekend he also saw video proof that he stepped over the handling line and foot-faulted a gamble that was never called. "The agility gods giveth, and the agility gods taketh away."

If you have competed in agility, obedience or a sport other than dogs you know that judges don't always call it the way it is. Sometimes you are robbed and sometimes you get a gift. But if you get your mind right, you always get a gift when you are able to do something that

both you and your best friend enjoy. As the quote of the month on the front page says, the joy is in stepping to the line with your dog, not in the victory. Our dogs don't care about titles. Those are our goals and they are patient with us mere humans as we spend money and drive long distances to get another leg or point. Achieving those goals is fun but it's not what is important.

October was a tough month for me and due to health, work and family issues things started to fall apart for me right about the time of the Lubbock trials. As I concentrated on the course ahead, my face in a worried frown, the dog who has been called the "happiest dog on the course" said to me, "I'm not having any fun, are you?" and stopped in the middle of the course. To my horror I found myself walking this confused dog off the course. I spent the rest of the day and evening making it up to him and the next day he earned a double Q for me. Yes, he did that for me because I had fun with him.

In closing the author offers this advice: "When you step to the line, run as though it's your last chance. It might not be, but it might. And when it's gone, it is gone forever." Remember folks, it's the journey. Enjoy it and hug your dog.