



AMARILLO OBEEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

TAILS OF THE PLAINS

December 2010

Officers 2010-2011

Carol Bishop,
President
Carolyn Archer,
Vice President
Melody Boren,
Secretary
Jeri Berryman,
Treasurer

Board 2010-2011

Terry Hetzel (1)
Scott Spencer(2)
Carol Brand (2)
Christi Ferguson (3)
Gail Hefley (3)

WELCOME
New Members:

Russell Robinson
Angela & Ryk Jarrard
Kathie Hughes
Rodney & Monica
Cryer
Rex Smith
Barcine Smith

Newsletter

Terry Hetzel

Email brags, club
news, articles, etc by
the 28th to be in the
next newsletter to:

terry8410@suddenlink.net

note in the subject line:
For Newsletter or Brags

PARTY TIME

Our holiday party will be held during our December 14 club meeting. **Please bring holiday fun food to share .** Water and soft drinks will be provided. **PLEASE NO DOGS** at this meeting. We will have a gift exchange also. For those who want to participate, please bring a dog related gift, limit is \$10. Please come early to help set up.

6:00 pm Set up tables/chairs/food/drinks

6:30 pm Let the eating begin

7:00 pm Club meeting starts;
eating continues

At the end of the club meeting, we will have our gift exchange.

AGILITY Trial Dec. 31, Jan. 1 & 2

We need your help to make our trial a success. Contact:

Carol Bishop at carolturbojet@gmail.com to volunteer for ring steward

Terry Hetzel for general info at terry8410@suddenlink.net

We need desserts for each day supplied by club members. Please help where you can.

THANKS in advance for your support.

Calendar of Events:

NEXT MEETING

Tues Dec. 14

Party starts at 6:30 pm

AOTC Building

Dec 19 Clean / load equip.

**Dec 31-Jan 2 Agility Trial
Bus & Freda Dugger
Sportsplex 2209 SE 33rd**

Jan 4 Deadline for title info &
NAPA/Cutrell to Janet Nelson

Jan 11 Club Meeting

TBD Awards Banquet in Jan.



Sadie-deer—
Rudolph's mentor

MERRY CHRISTMAS



AKC Titles Needed

DEADLINE FOR TITLE PLAQUE INFORMATION - TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011

When you and your dog earn AKC titles, AOTC recognizes your achievement with a plaque which is presented at our annual awards dinner. If you have gotten AKC obedience, rally, or agility titles this year please send me the following information **by January 4, 2011**:

1. Dog's name as you want it on your plaque (registered name, call name or both)

Example: MYSTIC VICTORY LANE
"TORY"

2. Titles and the month and year each one was earned

Example: CD July 2010
NA Oct. 2010

If you already have a plaque, all I need are the titles and the dates they were earned. You may give me this information IN WRITING at the December meeting or e-mail it to me at any time before the deadline: **jandjnelson@mac.com**

Also, **voting will be held at the December meeting for AOTC's Outstanding Member Award.** This is your chance to recognize a member who you believe best exemplifies good sportsmanship in the world of dog sports and who has made outstanding contributions to our club. Be thinking about your choice.

The Cutrell and NAPA Special Awards (for obedience and agility) information needs to be sent to Janet Nelson at jandjnelson@mac.com by January 4, 2011. The forms and requirements for these awards will be available at the December meeting.

Dec. 19 Sunday practice will start at 1:00 pm. After practice at 3:00 we will clean and load all agility equipment. Bring your own rags, brushes & buckets to clean/dry equipment.



The SPCA is in need of treats to assist with socializing dogs and for prospective forever families to get to know their new dogs. Please bring treats to the December meeting to give to our local SPCA. Thanks for helping place dogs in their new homes.



Brags

Carol Bishop: In Lubbock, Jett had 2 double Q'S one on fri, and one on sat, she also Q in JWW on sun that gave her 5 out of 6 for the weekend. Would have been 6 for 6 if her mom had not gotten lost. Taz Q 2 out of 3 times to get her Ex A title on fri and her first Ex B leg on sun. Very proud of my girls had a great weekend all around.

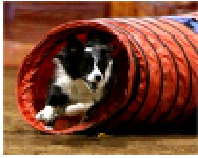
Carolyn Johnson: Sophie had a great show in Lubbock. We earned 2 more qualified times in JWW with a Q on Friday and a Fourth Place on Saturday and another Q in Standard with a great run on Sunday. That makes 5 legs towards her MXJ and 3 legs towards her MX titles with a new total of 93 MACH points, still waiting to break through with the first 2Qs. Red Dogs Rule!!!

Gail Hanson: Belle earned her NA and NAJ in Lubbock.

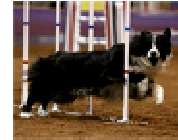
Terry Hetzel: We had the best weekend in our careers at the SPOTC trial: Riley girl Q'd 5 of 6 with TWO double Q's: on Sat and again on Sun with a 3rd pl and two 4th places. She also Q'd in JWW the first day and only missed a 3 day double Q by one little missed jump. Ri earned another 60 MACH points for the weekend. Super Trooper Q'd in his Open JWW debut with a 1st place. He Q'd with a 2nd place in his Novice STD debut. Huge thanks to Teresa for letting us work through some scary seesaw issues on Saturday at her place. Troop nailed his weaves EVERY run!



Dog Tricks Night has been moved to the March meeting. Lisa and Carolyn will have a demo on tricks for the February meeting. Start training and playing with your dogs so they will be ready in March to present their tricks to the club. Remember that training your dog is all about having fun with your favorite furry friends. AND there will be PRIZES !!



Agility Ring Crew Tips



If one word can describe the role of the ring crew it is **invisibility**. We should know our jobs and perform them both competently and unobtrusively. We must, at all costs, avoid being a distraction of any sort for the dogs competing in the ring.

Dogs (and humans) are responsive to *motion* within their visual field to a far greater extent than to still objects. Their peripheral vision with respect to motion is acute. Genetically, dogs are predators, and doubtless this has major adaptive significance. **If you are in the dog's line of sight, DO NOT MOVE!!!** To this end, be aware of the course layout and flow. You may learn this by studying the posted course map and/or by watching the competitors walk the course prior to the beginning of their class. You may NOT walk the course yourself. AKC regulations prohibit walking the course by anyone who does not have a dog competing on that day in the class currently being run.

Ring crew duties require you to remain in the ring in chairs provided at points on the perimeter during the competition. You may not take any refreshments in the ring with you, including water. AND NO CELL PHONES !!

Bar Setters and Chute Straighteners:

Dogs within each class are grouped by jump height. Some groups (e.g., the 20" height group) are very large, whereas others such as the 4" class may have as few as one or two entrants. The bar setters will reset knocked bars* within each group, at the same height for each dog. The height progression for groups (Tall to Small or reverse) may be up or down as predetermined in the judging program. **Height changes will be announced by the Gate Steward, both prior to the last dog running in the height category and before the first dog at the new height.**

Bar jumps nearly always have two bars. The upper represents the jump height as announced by the Gate Steward. The lower may be either half the upper height or another position determined by the judge. **Double jumps** have two bars parallel on the horizontal plane and two more that are crossed (in an "x" pattern) immediately below those top bars. The distance between the parallel bars is half the height; this generally is clearly marked on the uprights. The **triple bar jump** has, no surprise, three horizontal bars at ascending heights. The jump cups are positioned so that the required horizontal distance between the bars is predetermined; just place the bars where indicated for the dog's jump height.

During a run:

*If you are a bar setter or chute straightener, it's **generally best to wait until the dog has finished its run before you move to replace downed bars**. Sometimes the judge may say that you may reset downed bars during the run, but **always** wait until the dog is **moving away from you and will not be turning to approach you again**.

When you are seated during a run it's usually a good idea to keep your hands out of view. When the dog begins to move in your direction during the run, **slowly turn your face away and avert your eyes** until he has begun to move away from you again. **Don't move otherwise when you're in his field of vision**. Some dogs may be distracted by eye contact, and some even may try to "visit" with you. Do not acknowledge the dog should this happen. Turn away and ignore the attempted interaction.

Leash runner:

You will be positioned **next to the entrance, inside the ring**, a few feet behind the dog and handler. Unless the competitor hands you the lead (this happens rarely) **do not pick up the leash until the dog has entered the course** and is moving away from you. Some dogs are very possessive of their leads and premature handling of the lead by the crew could interfere with the dog's run.

Once the dog has begun its run, **make sure that the dog in the ring is moving away from you**, not lateral to your path, for instance. If the dog can see you, either directly or through its peripheral vision, **become a statue** until the dog has turned away from you and is moving further away. Then proceed with the lead to the leash drop at the exit side of the course.

This is a dynamic, fun and interesting sport and as crew you'll have the opportunity to see the runs close up. You quite literally have a front row seat! Remember always, however, that your first responsibility is to the competitors, their dogs, and the duties assigned to you. Just as you avoid distracting the competitors by your actions, try not to become distracted yourself by the action unfolding before you. It's easy to do, believe me! You'll almost certainly find this event quite addicting.

by SPOTC club member *Margaret Freeman, veteran ring crew*

* A HUGE THANKS to Margaret for sharing her tips.*



REGULAR CLUB MEETING MINUTES
Nov. 9, 2010

Called to order at 7:05

October minutes approved.

Treasurer's report approved.

Committee Reports:

Therapy: No report

Education: No report

Obedience: No report

Agility: Need volunteers for New Year's trial; please contact Carol Bishop. Please bring desserts for workers to trial. Agility equipment is being refurbished by Kyle Kelly.

Agility cleaning and loading date/time changed to Sun. Dec. 19 at 3:00.

First Readings: Vickey Beddow, Nickey Trowbridge, Donna Aiello

Second Readings: Russel Robinson, Angela and Ryk Jarrard, Kathie Hughes, Rodney and Monica Cryer, Rex Smith, Barcine Smith.

New Business: The club Christmas Party is happening at the December meeting, and people who wish to participate can bring a dog gift under \$10 for the swap.

The SPCA needs treats for their dogs. The club will fill a trailer again this year. Members can bring supplies to the Christmas party.

February is teach your dog a trick month - Carolyn and Lisa will send out rules to the members. There will be a contest at the February meeting.

For the Awards Banquet in January, send your titles to Janet Nelson.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Nov. 9, 2010

Meeting held at training building. Called to order at 7:51.

Members present: Carol Bishop, Jeri Berryman, Melody Boren, Scott Spencer, Terry Hetzel, Christi Ferguson, Carol Brand, Carolyn Archer, Gail Hanson-Heflin. October minutes were approved.

New Business: Prizes for February Trick Match. \$25 approved for prizes. Discussion of equipment we are going to acquire for the future: club could have a jump building party. PVC jumps for second ring using furniture grade PVC-- might be cheaper in bulk. By ordering in bulk we could get members to come in and build jumps for club, and a jump to take home-- members would pay for materials, and possibly a nominal donation to club.

Old Business: Jeri is going to clean office and organize things. Jeri is going to look on Black Friday for potential new computer for club. Awards banquet locations were discussed. Carol Brand and Jeri B. will begin to contact possible venues. Jeri is going to keep members informed about happenings. Carol Brand suggested we have topics presented at club meetings to make it more informative and fun. Could be every other month: vet care, training, food. Gail volunteered to be program coordinator.

Adjourned:
8:31 Carolyn, Scott.



"Do these antlers make my butt look fat" wonders Riley Girl-deer





Fill the Trailer

After reading the following letter from Max, a Great American Dog, I have been inspired to start a Fill the Trailer Campaign allowing AOTC members to support local charities. Please read the following letter and see if you can get any IDEAS of what to DONATE to the campaign.

Dear Friends,

Just for the record: I don't live here - I am just staying while I look for the perfect family. Not that this is a bad place, the VOLUNTEERS work very hard to keep us happy. But I have to be honest with you, things can get pretty stinky around here, some mornings my eyes water from all the messes the puppies make, they sure use a lot of PUPPY PEE PADS. I never thought the smell of BLEACH and PINE SOL would make me smile. The humans get here bright and early each morning to start cleaning, boy it sure takes a lot of TRASH BAGS (39 gallon & tall kitchen size), PAPER TOWELS and non-latex GLOVES to keep this place tidy.

One of my favorite things about living at the local shelter is we get a clean BLANKET or TOWEL in our cages every night, sometimes they are new and sometimes they are not, either one is fine with me. Can you imagine the amount of LAUNDRY SOAP and DRYER SHEETS it takes to keep us all comfy every night, especially since it has gotten so cold?

Did I mention that they love to spoil us? One way they do that is with TREATS and CHEW TOYS. My favorite toys are ones that can be put in the dishwasher, that way is someone borrows my toy for a while it will be as good as new after it has been washed with DISH WASHING SOAP. I have never been in a place that knows so much about animals, they know not to give us stuffed animals because we might eat them and get sick. It's not that I don't like vet or anything, but do you know where they take temperatures? That shouldn't be allowed for any kind of MONEY.

When the weather is nice we sometimes get to go for a walk I like to peek in the cat house! I love to bark and watch the cats hiss and puff up. Heck I have such a fabulous bark I bet they have to use their non-clumping TIDY CAT LITTER when I get done! After that I cruise by the livestock pens and eat my favorite treat, horse apples. It takes a lot of HORSE FEED and HAY to keep that assembly line going. Well, I better go it is almost time for supper and I sure don't want to miss that.

Fondly, Max

Fill the Trailer details

AOTC's trailer has approximately 1,741,824 cubic inches of space available to be filled with the above mentioned ITEMS. **A table will be set up to collect items at the December and January membership meetings.**

Last one to leave the AOTC building, please check the following:

HEATER must be MANUALLY turned on and off. Please turn heater down to 40 when leaving the building.

A/C is set to automatically come on and go off for class times.

Lights are off. All doors are locked

Gate is locked (DOUBLE CHECK, please spin the tumbler to ensure lock engages)

As a reminder, We no longer have a janitor. PLEASE clean up after yourself and others!

AOTC training facility : 9785 Amarillo Blvd., West

AOTC agility training facility: 8009 E Farmers Ave

AOTC website: www.aotcdogs.com

AOTC Yahoo group: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/aotcdogs>

AKC website: www.akc.org

AOTC Agility : direct questions to Carolyn Brand at labradored@cablone.net

AOTC Obedience : direct questions to Teresa Tucker at tatucker5004@yahoo.com

AOTC Member Directory updates: Jeri Berryman at aggiefan316@hotmail.com

AOTC Education Coordinator: Scott Spencer at scott-property@sbcglobal.net

The little known 9th Reindeer— Trooper-deer



& a Happy New Year!