

July 25, 2022

Happy Summer, all! Hopefully, you and your dogs are finding things to do to keep your training skills alive, without burning up, or melting! (Isn't it sad that I can use the same greeting, again, this month?)

The DOTC Board met, for their August meeting, last evening, by ZOOM. We were able to finalize the class offerings for the 1st session which will start on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. We also finalized the (tentative) 2022 – 2023 “School Year” calendar. I say “tentative” because, as we all know, Maryland winter weather can impact that calendar, as can COVID (or who knows what next?!). Both of those documents should be on the club's website, soon. Please look carefully at the calendar and make note of the Meeting dates. Only the Basic class will meet on Meeting nights. We strongly encourage all members to attend those meetings. It is actually an expectation of membership.

Also to be posted, soon, are the new membership and class registration forms. Please download and fill in those forms so you can return them, with your annual dues, to Registrar Cleo Curry, in time to start class on September 7. As of this writing, there are no class size restrictions, or mask requirements. That may change, if we find some classes overfilling and/or the public health situation changes. Please be aware. If there are changes, we will try to put it out by email, on the website, and/or on our Facebook page. If we have to institute class size restrictions, it will be “first come, first serve”, so get your registrations in, quickly.

On the member registration form, you will find a paragraph about subtracting credit for the time you volunteered for the club, during the 2021 – 2022 “School” year, from the total dues owed. This is on an honor system. Please write out, on the back of that page, how you calculated your volunteer hours. Remember that you are allowed up to 80 hours (\$80) credit toward the annual dues.

Some of the volunteer hours would be: if you worked a FastCAT event, and worked the whole day, give yourself 8 hours/day. If you helped with set-up, give yourself 4 hours. If you helped with set-up for our annual Obedience/Rally trials, give yourself 4 hours. If you worked the trials, give yourself 10 hours. If you only helped with break-down, you know how long you worked on that, I don't!

Instructors, please give yourself 1 hour for each class taught, each week. Also, count a half-hour per class taught for planning/preparation to teach that class. If you assisted the club in any other way(s) please make a note and tell the number of hours you spent volunteering in that capacity.

Thank you to all who suggested charitable organizations to which we could make a donation. Given the current comfortable financial situation for the club, we are going to try to make a donation, every month.

After investigating the groups suggested, last month, for this month's donation, the DOTC Board voted to send \$500 to Captain's Salute in honor of Robin Korotki's Hero, and in memory of Carolyn Volkert's Crush. This organization works to assist families with dogs with Wobblers Syndrome. If any other DOTC members' dogs have been impacted by this syndrome, please let me know ASAP, so that we can include them in the donation letter.

We will make more donations, as the year progresses. If your group was not chosen this month, they are in the “queue” and will be considered, pending our investigation, for future donations. If you are aware of a worthy, dog-related charity, please let me know, so that it can be put into the “queue”.

DOTC was thrilled to present, for the 2nd year, the 4-H “High Triple” Award, recently. This is determined by the 4-H leadership. It considers results of the Fitting and Showing, Obedience, and Rally classes at their annual dog show. This year was their 60th event! Along with a rosette (from GoforGold Rosettes) and a plaque (engraved by Lamb Engraving), this award included a “scholarship” so that the winner's family could come and train with us. We congratulate Emily Hipsley and look forward to having her family come and train with us. Just as a reminder to all of our members, all Junior Handlers train for free, as long as there is at least one adult in the family who is a member of DOTC.

Many of our members have been showing and trialing this summer, and have sent us information about their successes. Please be sure to send that information to me, so that we can celebrate with you, through our Facebook page. Congratulations to all who have had a successful show summer!

As soon as we start back up for the 2022 – 2023 “School Year”, we will be having our very 1st ever Scent Work trials! We can use some volunteers (start earning dues credit!). Please contact Trial Chair, Rebecca Bosley (rbosley92@gmail.com) or Debbie Malone, Trial Secretary (emeraldoaks@comcast.net) if you are willing/able to assist with set-up on 9, or the trials on September 10/11. We really want this event to be fabulous! “Many hands make light work” as the old saying goes. If you have already volunteered, please send them a reminder! Also, please don’t wait to be asked. We need members to step up. We do not know the skills and interests of all of our members!

Our website “Master”, Tim Prendergast, is looking into “freshening up” our website. If any members have expertise and interest in working on websites, please let Tim (timpweb@gmail.com) and me know. We would like to create a “Website Committee” that would meet and brainstorm, this summer. We hope that committee will then be able to keep that website up-to-date and fabulous! Thanks, Tim, for doing this alone for so long. It is much appreciated!

If you are not a Board member, but wish to attend these meetings, you are more than welcome to do so. You are encouraged to contribute to the discussions, but please remember, only Board members get to vote, should a vote be needed. The next meeting will be Sunday, Aug. 28 at 7PM. Please be watching the Facebook page for the reminder. At that time, you will be asked to notify me if you want to attend, and need the ZOOM invitation.

I think this is all of the important information shared, last evening. Stay safe. Stay well. Keep training!

See you in September!

Gail

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