

March 9, 2023

What a busy and exciting time it is for DOTC! We just had 2 meetings in 4 days. The Board met Sunday evening. The General Membership meeting was this Wednesday evening.

We are pleased to announce that Patsy Dahlberg was voted into membership at the meeting on Wednesday evening. If you would like to join DOTC, fill out the application (available on Wednesday evenings), get 2 sponsors, and submit it. All applications will be considered at the next Board meeting. Those folks accepted by the Board will then be presented at the next General Meeting for voting by the general membership. Board meetings are the 1st Sunday of each month. The next General Meeting will also be the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2023.

Most exciting - we are days away from our 85th annual Obedience trial, as well as our 22nd and 23rd Rally Trials! We appear to have filled! There are over 100 dogs showing in one of the Rally trials!!! It's not too late to volunteer for these events. They will be in the Shipley Arena of the Carroll County Agricultural Center on Sunday, March 19. We need help setting up the evening before, and breaking down the afternoon of the events. We can also use some help during the events. Contact Trial Chair Gail Phillips, gail.m.phillips@comcast.net if you are willing and able to help in any way.

Following the Obedience and Rally events, we will hold the first of our Fast CAT weekends for 2023. Thursday and Friday, April 13 & 14 will be in Walkersville. We will have more of these events in June and November. Be watching for Chair Tina Stamidis to put out the appeal for help with these events, as they come along. The April ones are already covered. Thank you to all who stepped up.

One new thing at Fast CAT, and at "school" starting on March 22, will be Fit Dog walk/runs. We will establish a 1 mile path for you to walk with your dog. At the completion of that walk/run, you will receive the documentation you need to apply for the Fit Dog title, and a completion ribbon. The walk will cost \$5 at the FastCAT event, but will be free to members on Wednesday evenings, at the Ag Ctr.

While we are thinking about dog trials, **Robin Korotki still needs Stewards for the Cherry Blossom Cluster** Obedience and Rally trials, hosted by the Baltimore County Kennel Club on April 22 & 23, 2023. She particularly needs stewards for the Sunday events (April 23). If DOTC provides the stewards for these events, BCKC will pay DOTC. If we can not provide a full slate of stewards, then they will have to hire some. Please let Robin know if you can help out both clubs by stewarding part of, or all of, these events. She can be contacted at: snowkingbernese@msn.com.

At the May General Meeting, the election for next year's Board will take place. All Board positions are available. If you are interested in serving on the DOTC Board of Directors, please contact Gail (see above) and let her know what position(s) you are volunteering for. Your name will then be placed on the ballot for the office you would like to run for. Those elected will take their positions on the Board starting with the July meeting.

We are still looking for someone to update the club's brochure. Since the last time we had one made, our website address has changed, we've added Scent Work and Fit Dog, and a few other things. If you have any interest and/or experience in this type of work, and are willing to help out the club, please contact Gail.

In the near future, we will be soliciting the information about the AKC titles you and your dog have earned. These are AKC titles that DOTC supports, either by teaching classes or holding events. Those activities are: Conformation, Obedience, Rally Obedience, Scent Work, Fit Dog, Therapy Dog, Farm Dog Certification, and the whole family of Canine Good Citizen titles. These titles would have been earned between May 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023. Start organizing your information so you will be ready to submit it, when we tell you how.

Speaking of new titles, it was lovely to see how many of our members have been busy. Quite a few of the “in-house” New Title rosettes were distributed at the meeting. While we were doing that, Brenda Stewart took a moment to praise the job that Nancy Zinkhan and Gary Sarvinas do with the Conformation Class. Karen Keagle seconded that sentiment. Thanks, Brenda for bringing that up, and thanks, Nancy and Gary for your many years of exceptional teaching/coaching on behalf of DOTC.

Please mark Sunday, June 4 for the annual DOTC Awards Program and Picnic. It will be held, again this year, at Colmont Downs Farm in Glenwood, Maryland. Thank you to member Robin Graham for making those arrangements for us. Be watching for the sign ups for that event. All family members are invited (2-legged and 4-legged).

This is “last call” for fleece vests and polo shirts. If you want one, please contact Cleo Curry, (cleocurry@msn.com) ASAP! We have t-shirts and sweatshirts available to purchase, already on hand.

Our 4th, and final, session of classes for this “school” year starts March 22. Please find the list of class choices on our website, or with this message. Mail/email your request to Cleo, or bring her the form on this Wednesday evening. Remember, if you paid your annual dues, there is no extra cost for the 1st class each session.

While I’m thinking about it – for all those volunteering at the upcoming events, please make a note to yourself of the time you spent volunteering. When dues are to be paid, at the end of the summer, you may deduct \$1 for each hour volunteered, up to half of the amount. All volunteering done during this “school” year, counts against next year’s dues. Don’t lose track of that!

One final request – from the Ag Center itself – **do not park in the fire lanes**. There are signs, red paint on the pavement in front of the split rail fencing, and some nights, cones set out. There is a beautiful, new parking lot, with easy access to the top where we hold classes. Don’t find yourself ticketed or towed!

Hope to see you all, at class, or an event, soon!

Gail

Gail Phillips, President, The Dog Owners’ Training Club of Maryland, Inc.

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