

Officers 2009-2010

Arliss Johnson,
President
Elise Lavin,
Vice President
Melody Boren,
Secretary
Jeri Berryman,
Treasurer

Board 2009-2010

Gayla Blades (1)
Christi Ferguson(2)
Terry Hetzel (1)
Carolyn Johnson (2)
Larry Vanover (3)

WELCOME

New Members:

Linda Poole

Presnall family
Mitch, Cathy, Hannah

Jackie Smith-Schaaafsma

Michael & Renea Havel

Tim & Emily Pillsbury

Kathy Lokey

Sasha Thomas

Quincey Kinser

Newsletter

Terry Hetzel

Email brags, club news, articles, etc by the 25th to be in the next newsletter to:

terry8410@suddenlink.net

please note in the subject line: For Newsletter or Brags

phone: 358-9002

CGC

There will be CGC testing at the AOTC building Monday, April 26th, from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. The fee for testing is a \$10 donation to the AOTC. If the dog/handler team passes the testing, there is also an \$8 fee (increase effective as of 11-01-09) to the AKC when the application is sent in by the handler. Testing is open to any and all who are interested, purebred and mixed breed dogs. All dogs must be on buckle collars in the testing ring, no prong collars or choke chains. No treats are allowed in the testing ring. Contact Elise (tlavin@amaonline.com) if any questions.

Volunteers for Agility Trial

Please contact the following people if you can help support our upcoming May agility trial:

Ring Steward: Carol Bishop 806-674-9718; email: carolturbojet@gmail.com

Equipment : Janice Johnson email: janicej@suddenlink.net

Hospitality: Kristie Kinser email: bubbleskkq@yahoo.com

General questions Trial Chairman Terry Hetzel email: terry8410@suddenlink.net

THANKS in advance for supporting our club's activities!

Calendar of Events:

NEXT MEETING

Tues April 13 7:00p.m.

AOTC Building

April 17	Bldg Clean up
April 26	CGC Testing
May 11	Club Meeting
May 29-31	Agility Trial
June 8	Club Meeting
June 26-27	Obed/Rally Trial
July 13	Club Meeting

Building Clean Up Day

April 17 10:00 am

Bring your leaf blowers

Bring paper towels

We will be changing out the mats so please pick up your crates & personal items before April 17.

Agility Trial

May 29-30-31
Bus & Freda Dugger
Sportsplex
2209 SE 33rd St.
Amarillo, TX 79106



Spotlight

ON OUR AWESOME TEACHERS

And now for the fabulous Carolyn Archer!!!

As spring begins a new agility season, we visit Carolyn Archer. Carolyn is one of the newer members of our great teachers and making a big hit with the students. She was born and raised in Amarillo, attending Amarillo public schools graduating from Tascosa High School. She was in the class that attended the old burned out Amarillo High School downtown until her Junior year when they opened the new Amarillo High School. The class was split with some folks going to Tascosa and others going to the new school on Bell. She attended a private college in Winter Park, Florida where she received a B.A. in elementary education with an emphasis on emotionally disturbed children. *"Maybe that's why I have three female cattle dogs! HA!!"*



Currently Carolyn works as a Certified Paralegal for Brown & Fortunato, P.C. in the oil and gas section of the firm. She has been with this firm for almost 14 years now, whoa that is a long time!

Carolyn describes her family life: *"I am, as my mother always reminds me, a spoiled brat only child. I am married to a funny, hardworking and great guy, Jim Archer. He came into my life with two boys, Ben and Sam, who are a ton of fun too. Jim is a general contractor and both of my boys have journeyman electrician licenses. The oldest, Ben, has been working for AAA Electric for the last several years. The youngest, Sam, worked with Express Electric until he decided that he would rather work with horses so he is now a farrier. Both of the kids are avid team roping competitors and love to ride and rope anything that is in front of them, me and the dogs included. Both boys have won lots of money, numerous buckles, and saddles during High School rodeo and other competitions. Most recently, Sam qualified to rope in the World Series Team Roping Championships in Las Vegas. This was a big honor plus experience to qualify and rope against some of the best in the country during the National Finals Rodeo. One of the funniest comments from my boys came when I started competing in agility, Sophie and I had won our very first blue ribbon and they both asked me, "so how much money did you win?" They were not too impressed with my pretty blue rosette even though I was thrilled, they are used to banking some serious cash for winning a competition. My whole family are rabid horse people, my husband loves to ride and start baby horses. He is actually pretty good too, he studies and watches all of the various horse trainers on RFDTV and can calm even the most neurotic horse! I wouldn't say he was a tree-hugging horse trainer but pretty close."*

Carolyn rode and competed with horses all her life until she suffered a major injury to her knee about 3 years ago which stopped her horse days. Looking for something to do with the outdoors and animals, she switched her fun from horses to dogs. We are all glad she made the switch to AOTC!



The first dog she (tried) to actually train (20 years ago) was an unruly Dalmatian that ended up with severe epilepsy so she moved on to a Lhasa named Rusty. Rusty was a great dog but really didn't like her husband one bit! Their family now has three female Australian Cattle Dogs, all are rescue dogs. Xena currently is the alpha female is a guard dog to the tee, she would rather hunt for feral cats or strangers if she is not lounging around sleeping. Bailey, is the middle child is a herding machine but on the bottom rung of the hierarchy. She loves nothing better than to run down to the arena and round up all the roping steers and bring them up for the boys to rope. She is painfully shy outside of her home environment but there isn't a cow or horse on the property that hasn't suffered a big bite on the back leg from her when they are out of their proper place. Sophie is the youngest cattle dog and is second in command. She was super shy too but showed that she was really smart, fast and athletic.

Spotlight

continued

Carolyn relates her transition to AOTC: *“A previous obedience teacher of mine (Michelle Knevelbard) recommended AOTC to me and I luckily coned Lisa Kelley into letting me into our first beginning agility class two years ago. I then realized how much work it was going to be to help her overcome her fears and shyness once we started attending classes. I tapped into my Sensei, Lisa Kelley, who has really helped me overcome some major obstacles with Sophie. Without Lisa, I would have been lost. Ricki and Marty Wallis have also helped Sophie and me tremendously. They have helped us conquer a big Teeter Monster problem and also showed a clumsy, slow and uncoordinated handler how to help her dog achieve success. During that first year, if Laveta ever offered an agility class I always tried to worm my way in there. I have had some other wonderful teachers too: Joe and Janet Nelson, our fearless leader Laveta Bryan, Carol Bishop, and Darlene Winters that have really helped us move to the next level. All of the hard work and headaches have definitely paid off, Sophie has earned five (5) AKC titles in a little over a year of competition. Woo Hoo!! She has earned her Novice Agility, Novice Jumpers with Weaves, Novice FAST, Open Agility, and most recently her Open Jumpers with Weaves titles. We are now an Excellent/Excellent team. Who would have ever thought?! In addition to the agility accolades that Sophie has earned, probably my other most proud moments were when Sophie passed her CGC test and earned her certification as a Therapy dog. This comes from a dog that was scared of everything, everybody, and nervous about anything out of the ordinary routine. She is now an old pro going up to all the nursing home residents and showing off her tricks or letting them rub and kiss on her. I am a dangerously competitive person so my ultimate goal in our agility career is to earn a MACH for Sophie, she has the potential and I need to hurry before I get too old or crippled up to run with her! “*

What does Carolyn like about teaching and training dogs? *“I have really enjoyed teaching the beginning agility classes and also household manners classes. I have learned so much from my work with Sophie and from all of my mentors that I hope to be able to pass on some of that knowledge to my students so they can have wonderful doggie companions. I am a died in the wool, tree-hugging dog trainer and firmly believe in the clicker and positive reward based training methods. It is so fun to watch your dog progress and truly want to work for you. Some of the most proud times for me are when I have a student with a fearful dog that shows confidence and joy in playing or working with its owner at the end of any of our classes. I also love to watch for and figure out behavior in dogs, there is nothing better than seeing the “light bulb moment” when a dog or handler finally click on a task.”*

Best times with the club? *“AOTC has been a total blast for me, I have gained some of the best new friends ever plus helped my dogs and hopefully others to enjoy their four-legged furry friends. I have had tons of funny moments during my time with AOTC but probably one of the funniest just happened at the Garden City, KS show. For all you newbies out there remember this one and don't follow in my footsteps: Sophie and I were lined up for our Open FAST run on Sunday when I started the course I made the same stupid handling mistake for the third time that weekend (totally my fault) and promptly let out a big “damn it”, sorry it just slipped out but he is lucky that is all that I said!!! I quickly looked at the judge who was laughing his head off and he put his whistle to his lips to disqualify us for my cussing, poor Sophie went on and did the three obstacles that I asked. I think I laughed about that one the whole way home in the car. I see duct tape for my mouth as a new accessory for my training bag.”*

I can remember having Carolyn in some of her very beginning agility classes. Not only was Sophie shy but Carolyn seemed a little tentative as well. This team has really come out of their shell to be a full fledged member of the rowdy AOTC gang. Just the other night I watched Sophie hit some killer weave entrances with style and grace and thought to myself “Wow, they have made such progress in such a short time.” It seems only yesterday that I was grabbing Carolyn's shoulders and spinning her around for correct front cross position. I'm sure we will see that MACH bar in this team's future.

Personally it is so wonderful to see our new members excel and progress and then give back to new students what they have learned. Thanks Carolyn. Laveta



The amazing Sophie doing her thing!

V of the Airways



Carol Bishop - I was letting you know about brags for Jett in Garden City Kansas. She qualified 4 out of 6 times with 2 double Q'S one on Sat and another double Q on Sun. She got two legs in Open Standard Preferred, and 2 legs in Ex A Jumpers Preferred.

Gail Hanson - Belle picked up one Rally Excellent leg and Emmy received two Rally Novice legs at the Lubbock obedience trial.

Joe Nelson - At the Sandia Dog Obedience Club's two day agility trial in Albuquerque, Tag earned two triple Q's with one first place, two second places, and two fourth places. She likes cold weather and snow.

Carolyn Archer - Sophie earned her OAJ title in Garden City, KS in style. She was perfect and blazing fast with a score of 100 and beat the standard course time by over 11 seconds. She also earned her first leg in Open Fast. Old mom will need to run fast to keep up with her and also will need to watch her tongue a little too. :) Carolyn & Sophie, now known as Sophie Nuveaux Archer, CGC OA OAJ NF TDInc.

News from the Obedience Front.....Judy DeShong

My plan was to start the first show of the year in Abilene, but Mother Nature had other plans for us. 14 inches of snow kept us from going. So our first show was in Midland. Trucker (aka pretty boy) started out kind of shaky, we placed 2nd in Utility (195 1/2) and 4th in Open (196) on Saturday. We did the fun match and managed to calm down and start remembering what we had been working on. Trucker placed 2nd in Utility (198) and 3rd in Open (197 1/2). We manage to pick up a few OTCH points.

We went to Lubbock, the last weekend in February, we managed to qualify both Open and Utility in the 190's. Sunday, NQ, utility got the best of us, but we manage to pull it together and place 2nd in Open (197 1/2). couple more OTCH points.

It is off to Garden City on the 12-14th of March, wish us luck!!!!!!!

A note from our Club President Arliss Johnson:

I was reading an article printed a few years ago in Front and Finish and thought it would be a good idea to share it with everyone. We all travel many miles with our dogs and I know that not all people travel with them in crates. A loose dog, in the car or (heaven forbid) a pickup bed isn't going to be there long if you are involved in an accident. All it takes is for one person to open the car door and that dog will be gone. I won't even go into the pickup and where that dog may be.

But what happens if you are knocked out and can't tell anyone about your precious cargo? If your dog is in a good crate, it should still be there. What happens when they haul you off in the ambulance? How will anyone know what to do with your dog?

I would love to see everyone put vital information on their dogs' crate. Meredith Fleming and I witnessed a german short-hair pointer make a very good escape from a double lock wire crate. Luckily, the dog came right up to us after being called. We put him back in his crate and used a chain collar to secure the opening. The owner came back about 30 minutes later and I told her what had happened. She blew it off, but at least her dog was safe this time.

Two years ago in Abilene, I recognized a fellow obedience exhibitor being loaded into an ambulance. I didn't know her name, but knew she was crated next to me. A very short time later, the President of the Abilene Kennel Club came into the obedience building and was asking if anyone know so and so. I said no, but she may have been the person taken away in the ambulance. I was able to tell the Abilene people which dog was hers and they took the dog over to the conformation building to keep an eye on it. Luckily the person was released from the hospital and collected her dog prior to the Best in Show judging.

We have all heard stories about PETA. I now introduce myself to the people that are crating around me. That way, I know their face and which dog(s) belong to them. I would rather be embarrassed by asking someone "Why are you getting that dog out?", than to have even one dog released at a show. Or have anti-freeze poured into a bowl in a crate.

The article I was reading suggested you laminate and hole punch the following information and attach it to your dogs crate. Use cable ties to attach to the crate.

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT

Unless requiring immediate medical attention

DO NOT REMOVE DOG FROM CRATE.

Dog might be frightened and bite or run away.

Please take it to the nearest vet for any necessary treatment and to be held in safekeeping until called for by an authorized person. All expenses guaranteed by the owner or her/his estate.

OWNER: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CITY: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

VET: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FRIEND: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FRIEND: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

HOME: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

MICROCHIPPED

I pray that no one will ever have need to use this, but better prepared than not.

REGULAR CLUB MEETING MINUTES Mar 9, 2010

Called to Order: 7:08 February minutes were accepted. Treasurer's March report: Approved
 1st Readings: Mitch and Carrie and Hannah Presnall; previous members Carol Brand made motion to waive 2nd reading for Presnalls, sec by Lynne Approved., Shanda Kerr
 2nd Readings: Presnall family, Jackie Smith-Schaafsma, Linda Poole, Sasha Thomas , Quincy Kinser

Committee Reports:

Education

No report.

Obedience

CGC class will be Mondays at 6PM. Lynn's class will be 7-8PM.

(Puppy)

Therapy: Small turnout in Feb, but have good group of dogs. Thanks to AOTC for allowing to use building for testing.

4H

no report this month

Agility

Caitlin is accepting entries for May agility trial Memorial weekend. Sat Sun Mon. Sun before trial equipment will be cleaned and loaded.

Class signups are Thursday 6-7:30 March 11. Terry urged us to fill out forms completely and bring cash or check. Household manners with Carolyn will be starting after the agility classes.

Janice and Ben are in charge of equipment for the trial. Janice will be sending out information.

Thanks to Ben and Janice for fixing potty area for dogs.

New Business:

We have AKC approval for June trial.

Club needs a cost of living raise. Board is proposing increasing dues for single and family memberships. Discussion next month.

Carol Brand has worked on a new design for the club shirts. She is teaching a forced fetch class. She also talked about the club getting a defibrillator. Questions about training. These machines are simple to use, and won't deliver a shock if it isn't safe.

Lynne: Mats in east ring are worn. We need to replace with mats from other building. Seconded by LeeAnn.

Old Business

Board has prepared a budget proposal for members to look at. Discussion will take place at April's meeting.

Adjourn at 7:59.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Mar 9, 2010 8:18 PM

Members present: Arliss Johnson, Gayla Blades, Jeri Berryman, Larry Vanover, Melody Boren, Elise Lavin, Terry Hetzel
 Call to order: 8:18PM Minutes approved Gayla Jeri 2nd

New Business

Board will answer questions from membership regarding budget in April. Any changes will need to be published before club renewal date. Christie wasn't at meeting to bring up Shaq and his need for grooming. It will be brought up at next meeting for donations to meet this cost.

Carol Brand presented during the meeting, much discussion regarding AED, and possible club wide CPR certification. Arliss will look into getting presenters. Red Cross has a dog dummy so we could learn pet rescue.

Ben has suggested a jump making party for the club. We will announce next meeting.

Old Business

Conformation classes—should be paid to AOTC. Jeri: money goes to Obedience. Club bought new computer, so Agility and Obedience will have one each for trials. Arliss: agility has a refurb, may need one for that soon. Caitlin Kelley was asked to check with other trial secretaries to see what software they are using. Members can ask other clubs also what software they are using. Jeri filed the club income tax return. We saved money on our return this year.

Gayla suggested o have a big building cleaning day. One will be on Sat April 17 at 10 AM . We will replace the mats at this time in the east ring. Have members bring their leafblowers . Need to email about donating cleaning supplies too.

Adjourn at 8:56 pm.

We're asking members to bring unopened rolls of paper towels and toilet paper to help replenish our supply. Having the paper towels in plastic will allow us to store them without them getting dirty or wet.

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 Laveta Bryan at voftheairways@hotmail.com
 AOTC Obedience : direct questions to Christi Ferguson at aotcobedience@yahoo.com
 AOTC Member Directory updates: Erin Orr notify Erin at : norinfox@sbcglobal.net

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!