

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:

Karissa Schacher

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

"Until one has loved a dog, part of their soul remains un-awakened."



* Artist rendition of a shiny golden, not Shaq

Shaq needs help keeping his ***Shine On!*** Shaq has a very important job - he helps his blind owner Bill navigate through life and the roads of Amarillo.

According to local hairy dog experts golden retrievers take copious amounts of grooming to keep their Shine On.

For only \$300 AOTC can provide a year of beauty treatments for Shaq at the hands of our own talented Carol Bishop.

Please open your hearts and wallets to help Shaq keep his Shine On.

Make checks out to AOTC and give to Christi Ferguson or mail to her at
3711 Paramount
Amarillo, TX 79109



Bill and Shaq

Calendar of Events:

NEXT MEETING

Tues March 9 7:00p.m.
AOTC Building

Mar 9 Agility Entry Opens
Mar 11 Obed.Class Signup
Mar 13 Rally meeting
Apr 13 Club meeting
May 11 Club meeting
May 29-31 Agility Trial

Important meeting for everyone participating in Rally!
Saturday March 13th 10:30am after Rally practice at the AOTC club building. The Obedience Committee would like to have your ideas on how to improve the sport of Rally so we can make suggestions to the AKC advisory committee.

From the AKC:

As some of you are aware, the Companion Events Department actively seeks input from the sport fancy for each of our sports every four years; 2010 is the year for Rally. The information received during this solicitation will be combined with other ideas and suggestions received over time for improvements to the sport and its regulations and presented to the Rally Advisory Committee. The committee will review the information and format the collected data into recommendations to promote and help improve the sport.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES

Registration for Obedience Classes will be Thursday March 11th from 6-7:30 pm at the AOTC club building . Proof of rabies vaccination from a veterinarian is required for entry into class. Classes are 6 weeks in length for 1 hour, classes will start the week following registration. Cost is \$25 for AOTC club members and \$65 for non members.

Monday

6pm Puppy with Lynne

This is a class limited only to puppies six months and under. This is to help with the puppy woes and worries of teaching the simplest steps in getting your puppy out and about. Will teach some basic commands but mainly consists of socialization. For the safety of your puppy, she will need to have had at least her second set of puppy vaccinations to attend. Please bring soft treats for your dog.

7pm CGC/Basic O with Elise and Gayla

You and your dog will learn the basics of training. At the end of six weeks your dog will come when called, walk on a loose leash, sit, down and stay. There will also be information regarding socialization, grooming and health.

Tuesday

7pm Novice Obedience with Lisa

We will work the beg skills needed to show in OB shows. This class will work on heeling, sits, downs, fronts, stays and attention. This class is for the person wanting to show in obedience and the dogs in this class should already have taken a beg or household class.

8pm So you think your dog can sit, down? with Lisa

Most people think their dog know the commands sit and down but can your dog down while you sit in a chair, while you are tossing a ball from one hand to another hand? If not them maybe you have not done as much as you could with this command. Think about when a person comes to the door, tell dog "sit", and it will happen; dog is pulling on the leash, you say "sit", dog stops pulling on the leash. Having a few of the basics commands to fluency will really help most pet owners life's. I will work on teaching the sit and down command and how to take the command all the way to fluency. Taking a command to this level will help the dogs be able to handle the many stresses we ask our dogs to perform in. We will work on how to wean the dog off food, and work around distractions, and how to proof the command without setting the dog up to fail. The focus will be not the commands taught but the steps to get the result. I hope most owners will come out of this class with a understanding of how to take a command to fluency. The owner will then be able to apply all of the techniques to other commands, We also will work on a solid stay and if time allows work on recalls too.

Wednesday

6:30pm Household Manners with Carolyn and Ginger

You and your dog will learn the basics of training. At the end of six weeks your dog will come when called, walk on a loose leash, sit, down and stay. There will also be information regarding socialization, grooming and health.

Thursday

1:30pm Household Manners with Christi

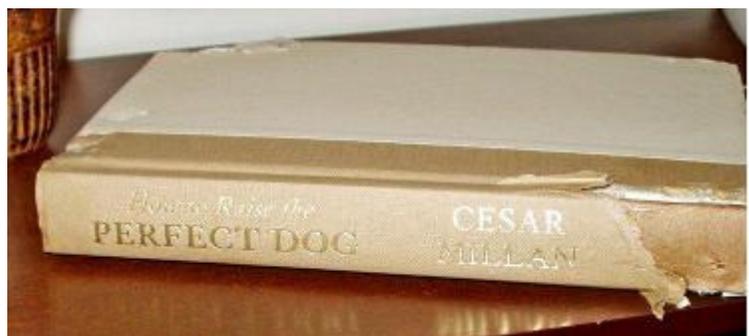
You and your dog will learn the basics of training. At the end of six weeks your dog will come when called, walk on a loose leash, sit, down and stay. There will also be information regarding socialization, grooming and health.

6:30 pm Basic Rally with Janice, Gail and Teresa (Beginning obedience skills required for entry)

7:30 pm Advanced Rally with Janice, Gail and Teresa

AKC Rally is the new dog sport that is taking the nation by storm, a successful stepping stone from the AKC Canine Good Citizen® program to the world of obedience or agility. Rally offers both the dogs and handlers an experience that is fun and energizing. The canine team moves at their own pace, very similar to rally-style auto racing. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but it can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition.

Conformation classes will be offered on Saturdays at 2:00 pm. The instructors will be Mary Gonzalez & Twinkey Moore. For information regarding conformation classes, contact Mary at email rexy5711@yahoo.com



Spotlight

ON OUR AWESOME TEACHERS

And now for the fabulous Andrea Wright!!



Cutie pie Jake with mom

This month we are featuring a rather new teacher to our ranks, Andrea Wright. Although Andrea came to us by way of Colorado, she was born and raised a Panhandle gal in Shamrock TX. Currently she is the CFO at Upshaw Insurance. She is married with one 6 yr old son, Jake (a real cutie).

Andrea started agility in Las Vegas, Nev. and trialed in California, Utah, Arizona and Colorado. The need for agility training in Pueblo caused her to open a school which led to becoming partners with an obedience trainer at an indoor training facility.

Currently she has 4 shelties, 1 aussie heeler mix and 2 goats, Ellie Mae and Jethro. She has trained horses in the past and just about every kind of farm animal. Her 1st dog ever was a St Bernard who apparently had a mind of his own. An aussie x blue heeler, Ms Harlie Belle started Andrea on her formal dog training career. Andrea says, *"She was so bad I had to go to obedience with her and we loved it. Harlie was also the hardest dog I have trained because she is so smart but her attention span is very, very short and she was so rowdy it was a challenge. She is going on 14 years old and still challenges me."*



In addition to Harlie, Andrea has these sheltie K9's to work with: *"Jaxon is 10 and does not see well enough to do agility anymore. He misses it very much"*. Jaxon was Andrea's 1st agility trial dog. *"Truxton is 9 and I am running with him. We need 14 double q's for our MACH and we don't seem to be getting there very fast. Willie Mack is one year old and he is doing agility great at home, but has some social issues. Otis T is the wonderdog. He is 1 year old and loves agility and is doing great"*. She has put an AX and AXJ on Jaxon before his sight went and Truxton has his MX and MXJ.

Left to right: Truxton, Harlie (hiding), Andrea holding Willie, Otis & Jaxon in rear.

Andrea's goals with her dogs: *"I always want to MACH my dogs but most of all, I want to enjoy the process of getting there. I get such a rush from running agility, especially if it has been a run that I really felt connected to my dog. You can't come off a run like that without feeling like you're walking on air"*.

Andrea wants her students to feel this same way about agility. She wants everyone to relax and enjoy the training process so that everything else will fall into place. Andrea says, *"Before they even know it, they will be doing things they may have not felt possible in the beginning."*

Spotlight

continued

Her philosophy of training is to have fun with your dog. *"A happy dog will be a good agility dog. And don't expect to have the perfect dog right off. The dog never expects us to be the perfect trainer or handler."*

What does Andrea like about teaching? *"I love seeing the people and the dogs have that light bulb moment. To see the progress they make and know you had a hand in it is very rewarding for me."*



left to right: Harlie, Truxton & Jaxon

From my perspective Andrea is a wonderful asset for our club. She has taught for the club at the excellent level. Her classes feature a lot of distance work which is so valuable at the higher levels of competition. To top it all off she is just a really nice gal. Of course I could be prejudice since her son Jake is my boyfriend! Just kidding guys. Don't call the coppers.

V of the Airways



**First Ribbon with
First Agility Dog
PRICELESS !**

REGULAR CLUB MEETING MINUTES Feb. 9, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. January minutes and Treasurer Reports were approved.

Committee Reports

Obedience: Canine Good Citizen tests will be at the end of classes in February or March. Watch the newsletter. Need obedience teachers as classes are filling up.

Agility: Just had Basic signup evening of meeting. Need volunteer for hospitality for May trial.

4Paws 4H : Briana reported the group had demos of trimming dog claws at their last meeting. The group also discussed fund raising and going to the state 4H convention I July in Hutto.

Therapy: Testing for Therapy dogs will be February 20th at the AOTC training building. Those interested should visit the therapy dog website then call Arliss with questions.

Unfinished Business:

Ben and Janice Johnson were presented with the award for Outstanding Club Members. Thanks went to the organizers of the banquet for a great time.

Gayla said everyone is needed to pitch in and clean the building. We will be having a big cleaning day in the spring, and hope everyone will come help.

New Business:

The AKC has changed the rules for allowing mixed breeds in AKC trials. There is now no differentiation in classes, all pure breed and mixed breeds will be in same classes. AKC received many complaints from clubs not wanting to have to have 2 sets of ribbons, etc. so is allowing mixed/pure breed competition. The club voted to allow mixed breeds to compete.

1st Readings: Michael and Rene Havel, Linda Poole, Tim and Emily Pillsbury, Jacki Smith Schzaafsa, Quincy Kiser, and Jayna Lueders

2nd Readings: Karissa Schacher

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Feb. 9, 2010 PM

Called to order at 7:50 pm.

Board members present: Gayla Blades, Larry Vanover, Christi Ferguson, Carolyn Archer, Jeri Berryman, Melody Boren, Arliss Johnson, Elise Lavin, Terry Hetzel.

Club now has shop vac to make cleaning the building easier.

New Business:

Board discussed possible outreach project for club.

AKC has raised fees for trials. Since AOTC is a recognized club, but not member club, we will need to remit more for upcoming trials.

Janice Johnson and Melody Boren will look for a second computer for club.

Old Business:

Board will appoint committee to investigate feasibility of renting field next to building for agility. Suggestions for this committee are: Murphy and Judy DeShong, Carolyn Archer, Christi Ferguson, Ben Johnson, and Janet Nelson.

Discussion of hospitality budget for future trials.

The club banquet was over budget due to weather conditions and precarious travel conditions. The club paid for 42 meals and we actually had 36 present.

Board will present budget proposal to club at March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

We're asking members to bring unopened rolls of paper towels & toilet paper to help replenish our supplies. Having the paper 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!