

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:
Shanda Kerr

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

Agility Trial

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 your help.

Agility Equipment Cleaning & Loading

On Sunday, May 23 after club agility practice, we will clean the agility equipment and load it into the trailer.

On May 23, practice will be from 1:00—3:00 pm. At 3:00 we will start cleaning equipment. Make your plans to train early and stay to help clean and load. Please bring towels, scrub brushes and buckets for cleaning.

Please plan ahead for your training needs. There will be no equipment at the agility field the week of May 23.

Calendar of Events:

NEXT MEETING
Tues May 11 7:00 p.m.
AOTC Building

May 23 Equip Clean/Load
May 29-31 Agility Trial
June 8 Club Meeting
June 26-27 Obedience & Rally trial
July 13 Club Meeting
Sept 18 TriState Parade

Agility Trial

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

Dues are Due !!

Club membership dues are due by July 1, 2010. If not paid by Aug. 1, your membership will lapse. Membership dues for 2010 –2011:

Family \$35
Single \$25
Junior \$10

Bring payment to the next club meeting or mail to :
Treasurer, AOTC
PO Box 32272
Amarillo, TX 79120

Obedience Classes

Sign up for the next obedience class session will be Thursday, May 13 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the AOTC club building. Classes will start the week of May 17.

Household Manners: Monday 7:00 pm - Teresa and Meredith

Puppy Class: Wednesday 6:30 pm - Jeri

**Rally I and II: Thursday 6:30 pm Rally I - Arliss and Gail
7:30 pm Rally II - Arliss and Gail**

Basic Obedience: Saturday morning at 9:00 am- Scott and Denise



Half Time at the dog show !

RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

This is a call for contributions for the June obedience trial RAFFLE! All AOTC club members are asked to donate new items (doggy theme would really be cool; but we'll take anything). If you can't think of anything to give, money is always appreciated (we'll do the shopping for you). Donations can be brought to the AOTC club building - usually you will find someone at the building Monday through Thursday after 6:00 pm. The raffle committee will group and design the various raffle packages with whatever we have available. So give us a lot to work with! If you have questions, the raffle committee will find answers - just ask Brenda Carrigan, Bonnie Carson, Judy DeShong, or Elise Lavin. And THANKS, in advance, for your generosity!!

Carol Bishop: new girl to the Bishop crew—Piper

Jett Q'd 5 out of 6 times with 3 first places and 2 titles. She got her Open Standard Preferred title and her EXC A JWW Preferred title. She also got a double Q ON SAT.

Brags

V of the Airways:

Edie finished her Open FAST title and her MXJ title in Wichita Falls.

New club t-shirts are available to order. Orders must be paid in advance and must be placed by the May club meeting. The t-shirts are expected to be in by our May Agility Trial. The order form and additional information is posted on the club website on the Members/Meetings page: <http://aotcdogs.com/members.html>. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Brand at labradored@cableone.net

Club T-shirts

BEST DOG IN THE WORLD

By T'Mara Goodsell via Therapy Dogs, Incorporated

Years ago, I owned the very best dog in the world.

I was a child when we got her. She was a graceful brown hound, a foundling who taught me that our pets are not purchases, but ordained.

She romped when I did and knew how to smile in that funny way that only some dogs have. She grew up with me, always there when I needed her. My grown hand still remembers the sleek bump on top of her head and that gentle divot just past her nose that fitted my index finger just perfectly.

She passed away during one of my college vacations. My heart broke then. I knew that there would never be another dog like her, and there hasn't been. I was sure that I could never love another dog as much as I'd loved her. Fortunately, I was wrong about that part.

My next dog came into my life when I was married. My husband traveled for a living and I was often lonely. This dog grew into a lumbering Wolfhound-Sheepdog mix who taught me patience. He was a large grizzled sentry, that dog. He rarely left my side until the children were born, when he became their guardian too. I can still feel that swirl of fur along his back and the weight of his chin when it rested in my lap.

When he passed away, my heart broke. As much as I had loved that childhood dog, I had been wrong. This was the very best dog in the world. There would never be another like him and there hasn't been. I was sure I would never love another dog as much as I'd loved him.

I was wrong again.

We got the next one, a loping black Lab-Terrier mix, when the children were little. He taught me the importance of adapting. He was everyone's dog from the beginning, and that was just as it should be.

When he played tug of war with the children, he dragged them across the kitchen floor as they shrieked with laughter. He always seemed to sleep in the room of the child who needed his company the most.

These days his face is expressively gray. He spends more time with me since the almost-grown children aren't around so much. The other day my oldest, home from college, played tug of war. We all laughed-just a little-as the dog was gently pulled across the kitchen floor.

He is, of course, the very best dog in the world. I will never forget that exquisitely soft tuft of fur behind his ears or the tickly feel when he nuzzles. There won't be another dog like him.

And that's okay, because we will never be at this point in our lives again.

Sometimes I've wondered why two species that get along so well should have such different life spans. It just doesn't seem right. And then I wonder if that's part of the lesson: To teach us that love itself has a spirit that returns again and again and never really dies.

It's amazing, in a way, how they bring to our ever-changing lives, exactly what it is that we need at the moment. They make room for one another, this family of dogs who have never even met. And they fit-into our families, into our lives, into our memories, and into our hearts-because they always have been and always will be the best dogs in the world.

REGULAR CLUB MEETING MINUTES April 13, 2010

7:07 pm

March minutes approved . March Treasurer's report approved.

Committee Reports

Education : Nothing to report

Agility: Trial Memorial weekend . May 23 to load and clean equipment. Carol Bishop is ring steward. Volunteers contact Carol. Ben and Janice are managing equipment. Watch for announcements from them.

Obedience: Club is finishing second round of classes; need teachers for next session to give volunteers a break. If interested contact Teresa Tucker. Gayla and Elise will be conducting CGC testing April 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the training building. **Rates have increased: \$10 for the test that goes to club, plus \$8 for the certificate that goes to AKC.

1st reading: Becky Gulde; Debbie Stull

2nd Reading: Shanda Kerr

Old Business:

Club approved raising membership dues to \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. Terry reminded us that dues are payable July 1st. If dues aren't paid by August 1st, membership lapses.

New Business:

Tshirts with new slogan on sale until April 26, so they can be delivered by next meeting. Carol Brand is the contact. She will send information to the Yahoo! Groups.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 13, 2010 7:48 PM

Minutes accepted. Members present: Christie, Carolyn, Jeri, Arliss, Terry, Larry, Melody, Elise.

New Business: TriState Fair Parade coming up. Elise Celebrate Food, Family and fun, September 18, 2010. Would be good to include 4Hers. September is also RDOD month.

Old Business: Field next door to training bldg— Judy is talking to agility field committee. Landlord is willing to plant grass, provide shade.

Lots of questions remain. Some issues: prairie dogs, snakes, mowing, irrigation. We are in the investigative stage, still looking at options. Melody needs to look at website to see if articles are up to date

Elise: getting together to go over ribbons.

Jeri is having rattlesnake signs made.

Adjourned at 8:09.

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.

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 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