

**Officers 2012-2013**

**Lynne Tellman,**  
President  
**Carolyn Archer,**  
Vice President  
**Melody Boren,**  
Secretary  
**Jeri Berryman,**  
Treasurer

**Board 2012-2013**

Teresa Tucker(1)  
Carol Bishop (2)  
Terry Hetzel (2)  
Carol Brand (3)  
Gail Hefley (3)

WELCOME

New Members:

Katie & Aaron Gray

Linda Hayhurst

Sueanne & Chris  
Hardie

Sharon & Bill  
McClendon

Newsletter

Terry Hetzel

Email brags, club  
news, articles, etc **by**  
**the 28th** to be in the  
next newsletter to:

terry8410@suddenlink.net

please note in the subject  
line: For Newsletter or  
Brags

**Calendar of Events: NO meeting in September** The SPLASH event was our September meeting.

**NEXT MEETING Tues OCT 9 at 7 p.m. AOTC Building**

**Fri. Oct. 19 Halloween Party**

**Tues Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.**

**Tues Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.**

**Note: The club will not have an event for Responsible Dog Day as previously noted in the August minutes.**

*A few words from our Club President ...*

*“Try something new”*

In June I decide to try an AKC activity that was new to me. I went to my first Earth dog event.

Let me explain a little about what happens at Earth dog events. First of all the trial was really small. I would say not more that 40-50 dogs for all classes with 2 trials on the same day. The first class I entered was Introduction to Earth dog. It is a chance for new dogs and handlers to learn exactly what happens in this very different sport. The dogs had to go through a 9 inch square tunnel for about 10-12 feet, make a 90 degree turn and go another 6 feet to the rats. Then they are to bark or in some way make noise for 30 seconds. It is mostly an instinctual thing and either dog understands or not. Sound easy right? NOT!

First let me tell you about the tunnels nothing exciting right? Aimee is an agility dog. She knows what tunnel means, but..... To create tunnel the host club digs a trench to accommodate a 3 sided wooden structure that they sit into trench. The 3 sided structures are covered with tarps, dirt and leaves. They then lay a trail by using rat poop and water to create a scent. They judge takes one dropper of the scent to lay a trail from the beginning of the tunnel to the rats. Yes one dropper full to scent a 15 or more feet. At the end section of the tunnel there is a set of dowels going up and down blocking off the end of the tunnel. There is a trap door on both sides of the dowels. The trap doors are to allow the rats to be put behind the dowels (It would be inhumane to allow the dogs to really get rats) and the trap door before the dowels is so the handler can remove their dog.

Continued next page...

**Sunday Agility  
Practice is at  
7:00 PM**

## *“Try something new “....*

So here goes---Aimee and I get up to the line where the scent starts and I tell her tunnel and she heads in the right direction. Now I know Schnauzers are small, but 9 inches is really small, smaller than a piece of paper. Aimee gets her head inside and comes back out. I command tunnel again and in she goes to her shoulders, tunnel command, another try, she is actually lying on her stomach and crawling in. I finally get her all the way in to the tunnel and she makes it to the corner to turn. Ohhh no. Here she comes back out. It is really dark inside and she does not understand to turn the corner. The judge takes mercy on me, and after I send Aimee back inside, we open the trap door at the rat end of tunnel so she can see light and figure out the turn. Not Qualified. But hey we are new.

Saturday afternoon—second try at Intro. Aimee gets into the tunnel easily enough. Yeah!! Then she comes back out. She knows where the rats are, so she goes to dig them up, tunnel and all. I send her back in the tunnel and she actually make the turn when the trap door is open with no problems, but actually making noise for 30 seconds no not this time. Not Qualified again.

Sunday Morning –3<sup>rd</sup> try at Intro. Aimee goes in, comes out digs up tunnel, goes back in with second command turn the corner makes a little noise, comes out digs some more, goes in scratches the ground for 5 seconds, comes out and digs again, returns into the tunnel and finally stay whining and scratching sounds for 18 seconds. Not Qualified again. UGHHHHHH This was a lot more difficult than I thought is would be. We leave with no qualifying legs and the judge having to rebury the tunnel.

No way you would go back right? It is too hard. I am not even describing Dreamy’s experience. Not good news. But YES I would go back and I think it was a wonderful experience. Why?? **Because I had help and support!** I met with 2 friends from ABQ. They told me what to expect, praised my efforts, and told me how much Aimee had improved. The trial secretary was very kind and allowed me to make some changes in my entries. \*Entries do not close until 30 minutes before a trial starts so it was legal.

Why this long story? Because I want our new members to feel the help and support that I felt not just that week end as a novice handler, but also to the “family” feeling I get each time I participate in any AOTC event. I want to encourage our long term members to try something new and experience the challenges it provides. How are we going to do this? I want your input. I want you to give me ideas. What can we do to encourage new members to get involved, how can we get those who have been members for years to participate in activities they have not previously done, and what changes do we need to make AOTC the club that is a family that people want to join and participate in. How am I planning to do that? I am going to try something new. **We will have our regular October meeting at 7:00. Then afterward I am going to hold a CLUB HOUSE MEETING.** This is your chance to share what really keeps you involved, activities you enjoy participating in, how we can help those new members, where the club is headed, and what are the places where we are falling short. Please try to think of some possible solutions if you think things need to change. If you think the club is perfect I want to hear that as well. I plan to end this meeting no later than 9:30. I hope you all make plans to attend and give your input.

I hope I see you before the October meeting, but if not, I want to see you come with suggestions on ways to improve our club.

*~Lynne*

# Obedience Classes

## Last session for 2012

- **Sign-up** for the obedience classes is **Thursday, September 13th from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Training Building.** (9785 Amarillo Blvd. West)
- **Classes begin the week of September 17, 2012.**
- Please be sure to bring the correct money (\$85 for non-members/Discounted price for members). Cash or checks only. No credit cards. Proof of rabies vaccination from veterinarian required for entry into class (exception young puppies).

### CLASSES

<b>Monday</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>	<b>Basic Obedience</b>	<b>Gayla Blades &amp; Elise Lavin</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:30-7:30</b>	<b>Household Manners</b>	<b>Brenda Carrigan &amp; Melody Boren</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:30-7:30</b>	<b>Rally</b>	<b>Mary Powell</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00-7:00</b>	<b>Puppy</b>	<b>Jeri Berryman</b>

# Halloween Party

## AOTC Halloween Party & Costume Contest

**Friday, October 19th at 7:30 pm at the AOTC building**

**Dress up your furry friend or dress up with them!**

**Win Prizes!**

**Categories to include:**

- Best costume**
- Scariest costume**
- Funniest costume**
- Original costume**
- And others**

**Please bring a dessert or a finger food.**

**See you there!**



# WAGS

**Heather Partain : Savvy** got a leg in Beginner Novice with a first place in Oklahoma City!

**LeeAnn McNeil :** Hoss got his MXP Fast title today it took 13 tries to get the 10 legs.

**Gail Hefley :** The corgis had lots of fun in Levelland. **John and Belle** got 3 Q's in T2B all with blue ribbons, and another Q in Excellent Standard with a first place. **Gail and Artie** received their first Q's in Excellent A Standard and Jumpers. The Artie Party also got another Q in Open FAST with a first place. Not to be out done, Emmy came home with a brand new sporty harness.

**Carolyn Johnson:** **Sophie** and I had an amazing weekend in Levelland. It was our first show since January and after my two broken arms debacle. The first day in the ring Sophie qualified in all three classes entered-a triple Q plus 11 seconds under time in both Std and JWW! We came back and got another Q in JWW on Sunday. What an amazing cattle dog and redheaded noodlehead. Still basking in the glow. St. Louis and Cattle Dog Nationals here we come!!



## *A Thundering Success*

I have three dogs, Sophie, Loki, and Pinky. They came to me in that order, and though Loki is the pack leader after me, there was the occasional struggle (girl fight) between Sophie and Pinky for second in command. As Pinky got older, these were less frequent. But finally I figured out that these scuffles were only during storms, when Sophie would shake, drool, and need reassurance. Pinky would sit on her head for some reason, and that didn't work out so well for any of us, but worse for Pinky as Sophie doesn't moderate her bite AT ALL. Other club members suggested that I put her in the bathroom, which worked great as that is where she generally goes during a storm anyway. I kenneled Pinky during storms and Loki and I would hang out happily with NO DRAMA. But I wondered about the

Thunder Shirts. I read lots of reviews, asked for club feedback, and made the plunge in July. At first Sophie thought the shirt would kill her. She would sit very still. As she adjusted to it, we actually had some thunder and lightning, though no rain. As soon as I heard it, I put the shirt on her and she just sort of melted into the floor. When we had a real storm, with rain and the whole nine yards, she relaxed when her shirt was put on, and just lay down. Again. So I am a believer. I have so far kept Pinky kenneled while the storm is going, but she sniffed it during one of our practice sessions and just went on with her business. I may get Pinky one, too.

Thunder Shirts are also used for excessive barking, aggression, and stressful events like vet visits, car rides, etc. The thinking behind the Thunder Shirt is based upon the research of Temple Grandin, who has created calming equipment for ranching and the beef industry. The gentle squeezing of the shirt calms the animal down and relieves anxiety. If you have an anxious dog, you know how sad it is to watch and not feel you have a remedy. This worked for us.

I am a believer, though your mileage may vary.

~ Melody Boren ~

**News from other local clubs....**

*The Panhandle Kennel Club (PKC) is holding a trial September 13—16 at the Civic Center. The Premium is on Onofrio. If you would like to volunteer to help at the trial, contact Mary Powell at [celebritysamoyed@aol.com](mailto:celebritysamoyed@aol.com).*

*Amarillo Alliance of Search K9s is hosting North American Search Dog Network's week long fall seminar to be held at High Plains Retreat Center, Amarillo October 15-20, 2012. Training venues include: Air Scent/Scent Specific, Land & Water Cadaver; Beginning & Advanced Mantrailing. They will need help laying out trails and other activities. Contact Chuck Doxon 806-674-1856 if you would like to volunteer to work and/or learn more about this event.*

## AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG PROPERTY LAWS

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my mouth, it's mine.
3. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
4. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours.
6. If it just looks like mine, it's mine.
7. If I saw it first, it's mine.
8. If it's edible, it's mine.
9. If you have something & put it down, it's mine.
10. If I chew something up, all the pieces are mine.
11. If I get tired of it, it's yours.
12. If I want it back, it's mine.

*Shared by Sophie Johnson-Archer*

**Minutes from Club Meeting of August 14 , 2012**

Called to order at 7:05.

July minutes approved.

Treasurer's report approved.

Had a short presentation by Chuck Dodson of a local Search and Rescue group.

They will be holding a Fall Seminar with nationally recognized instructors. They need volunteers for air scent searches, to set trails, and HRD recovery. October 16-19 at the High Plains Retreat Center in Canyon.

The Panhandle Kennel Club also needs volunteers for their show, October 13-16.

They will be having a Meet the Breed day too. Contact Mary Powell or Arliss Johnson.

Committee Reports:

Education: Splash Water Park on Tuesday September 4 3:30-8:30.

Agility: Classes are coming up. Watch the Yahoo! Group. Beginner classes started

August 13, Mondays at 7.

Obedience: Next session will start September 17. Sign up Thursday

September 13. Club members can sign up at meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Rosie Davis, Connie Hill, Hailey Jellison.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Datie Gray, Linda Hayhurst, Susanne and Chris Hardie, Bill and Sherry

McClendon.

**Club minutes continued...**

Old Business:

Club will not be participating in Tri-State Fair Parade this year. Halloween party will be October 19, with lots of contests. Snake proofing clinic will be held as a fundraiser for Amarillo Gun Dogs on August 25 starting at 8 AM. Interested people should contact Janet Nelson. Cost of \$35 per dog.

New Business:

Following the October meeting, Lynne will be holding a Clubhouse Meeting to address concerns and suggestions.

Lynn bought colored Zip ties and other items to mark Xpens at agility field.

Reminder that our Yahoo! Group is very public and needs to reflect positively on the club.

Adjourned at 7:47.

**Board Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2012**

Called to order at 8:00.

July minutes approved.

Terms for Board Members:

Teresa Tucker: 1 year

Carol Brand: 3 years

Gail Hanson-Hefley: 3 years

Terry Hetzel: 2 years

Carol Bishop: 2 years

New Business:

Need information for newsletter. Send to Terry Hetzel.

Adjourned at 8:25.

**REMINDER: MAILED correspondence must be sent to the club's PO box. Mailing address is: AOTC**  
**ATTN: (whoever) i.e. Jeri Berryman, Treasurer**  
**PO BOX 32272**  
**Amarillo, TX 79120**

Check out AOTC on FACEBOOK (at Search just type in Amarillo Obedience Training Club and click LIKE) see more behind the scenes photos and news about the club Thanks Gail for the great job in updating/maintaining the club's face.

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS using the club building**

PLEASE do not adjust the air conditioning. It is programmed to automatically come on and go off for class times. If you have special times you need to use the club building and need the air conditioning, please contact Judy DeShong.

PLEASE check BOTH doors at the club building before you leave the training building. If you go out the second door by Judy's ring, you have to slam it shut to get it to lock. If you don't, the wind will catch it and blow it wide open. Please secure the building when leaving. THANK YOU.

Last one to leave the AOTC building, please check the following:

HEATER must be MANUALLY turned on and off. DO NOT turn heater 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! Please empty the trash when full.

**want More Info...**

Gail Hanson-Hefley will be coordinating special request topics at the monthly club meetings. Email Gail at jandg3216@gmail.com with your requests for demos, mini-training, seminars, info sharing, want to know, etc.

AOTC training facility : 9785 Amarillo Blvd., West, Amarillo, TX  
 AOTC agility training facility: 8009 E Farmers Ave , Amarillo, TX  
 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 Carolyn Brand at labradored@cableone.net  
 AOTC Obedience : direct questions to Teresa Tucker at tatucker5004@yahoo.com  
 AOTC Member Directory updates: Jeri Berryman at aggiefan316@hotmail.com  
 AOTC Education Coordinator: Scott Spencer at scottproperty@sbcglobal.net