



Board of Governors 2018/2019

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From the President's Desk

Well, the weather is still hot, but fall is right around the corner – I hope.

On the other hand, we're smack dab in the middle of hurricane season. IF we are warned of a hurricane headed toward Jacksonville, please be on the lookout for an email asking you to spend an hour at the club helping to secure ring gates, agility equipment, and anything else that could be a missile in hurricane-force winds. It didn't take long at all last year and would have gone faster with more help. Cross your fingers that I don't have to send that particular email!

We are planning our October trials which will include such fun pre-trial activities as a work day to spruce up the grounds and Pressure Washing day to shine up our ring gates and equipment.

Although these activities are not generally considered, "fun," they are necessary. The more people we have participate the faster the work is accomplished. A lot of the friendships in the club were not formed during meetings or classes but rather with hands holding rakes and trash bags.

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Meetings

Board Meeting –
Sept. 13, 7:00 pm

General Meeting –
Sept. 20, 7:30 pm

Potluck



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No training will be allowed on the grounds during the General Meeting

New Members



Please Welcome our new Provisional Members:

Kathy and Charles Vaughn with
Carin Terriers Reggie and Allie

President's Desk (Continued)

And don't forget, those hours count toward your discounted classes and opportunity to obtain a key for 2019 or signatures on your Provisional Member Card!

Entries for our October 13th/14th trials close on Sept. 26 and there are limits, so if there's a chance you'll want to enter, don't wait too long.

DOCOF is behind us and K-9 can hold its head up high! Congratulations to **Susan Howard** and **Winston**, K-9 Team Member and winner of 2018 DOCOF High in Trial! Read on for more details elsewhere in the Tails...

The September General Meeting (9/20) is a Pot Luck dinner. Please join us and bring a dish to share. (If you can't bring a dish, *just bring yourself!*) Get in touch with Lana Wells to co-ordinate dishes at police202@aol.com

See you there!

Ginny

Upcoming Events

September

09/09 – CCI – 2:30 pm

09/13– Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

09/14 – Show and GO! – 6:00 pm

09/20 – General Meeting – 7:30 pm

09/23 – CCI – 2:30 pm

09/29 – Grounds Clean Up

09/30 – Grounds Clean Up

October

10/07 – CCI – 2:30 pm

10/11 – Trial Set Up – 5:00 pm

10/11 – Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

10/12 – C – Match – 5:00 pm

10/13 – AKC Obedience and Rally Trials

10/14 – AKC Obedience and Rally Trials

10/18 – General Meeting – 7:30 pm

10/21 – CCI – 2:30 pm

November

11/04 – CCI – 2:30 pm

11/08– Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

11/15 – General Meeting – 7:30 pm

11/16 – Irish Setter Club Specialty (All day – Grounds and Clubhouse Reserved)

11/18 – CCI – 2:30 pm

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Christy Reifsneider** on becoming an ANWI™!

Associate Nose Work Instructors (ANWI) are enrolled in the NACSW™ (National Association of Canine Scent Work) instructor certification program and have demonstrated their commitment to teaching K9 Nose Work® as developed by the founders of the activity and sport. The NACSW™ is also dedicated to educating and certifying passionate, highly skilled instructors for the activity & sport of K9 Nose Work®, helping to bring K9 Nose Work® to dogs and their people around the globe.

Victoria Ford and Merlin (Min Pin)

While in Ninilchik, Alaska, Merlin became the first min pin to earn the NACSW NW 3 Elite title!



Diane Cohen and Puff

Puff is being honored by Wolfson Childrens' Hospital on Sept 23rd for his 80th pet therapy visit. He is the longest serving dog at Wolfson's

Diane Cohen and Isaac

Isaac got his first utility leg at the Mid Florida trials in Daytona, first place.

DOCOF, 2018

So another DOCOF weekend is over. DOCOF stands for “Dog Obedience Clubs of Florida,” and exists as a “club for clubs” to give one grand competition on Labor Day weekend every year. The exhibitors compete as teams from the clubs, and at the end of the day the scores are tallied, and the clubs are ranked. It’s a great big match that is unique in the country; people actually move to Florida to be able to compete at DOCOF.

I’ve been doing DOCOF since about 1995 and can tell you some weekends are good, some are disastrous, many are simply forgettable. But some are successful not only for our club’s score but for the camaraderie we experience, and this year was one of those.

This year’s DOCOF was held at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. We spent Saturday practicing in the rings we would show in on Sunday. One of the rules is that each club must provide either a morning and afternoon steward or one all-day steward. Thank you, Robin Wallen, who came along specifically to serve as K-9’s all-day steward. She brought Blue and they did get some practice time in the ring as well and exposure to a big, crowded, noisy trial atmosphere.

Each team is allowed 9 members; 3 dog/handler teams each for Novice, Open, and Utility. The lowest score for each class is dropped so only 2 scores in each class count. Also, a dog/handler may NQ in one exercise, but the team is allowed to keep the rest of the points earned. K-9’s team only had 2 dogs in Open (Diane Cohen and Isaac and Elaine Nabors and Lycan). We had 3 in Utility (Dianne Strickland and Saxon, Melissa Hess and Adam and me and Annie) but Melissa had to cancel due to a family emergency so that left Dianne and yours truly. Our Novice group was originally Diane Cohen and Isaac and me and Jack but THANK GOD Susan Howard said she would join the team with Winston to run in Novice. (Jack has his talents-Barn Hunt-and I love him dearly, but he has as much business in the ring doing Obedience as I have in the Operating room doing brain surgery!)

I was privileged to see Susan and Winston’s Novice run and correctly guessed they would score in the high 190’s. As it turned out they earned a 199 and High in Trial (the highest score of the approximately 250 dogs that showed that day!) It was an amazing accomplishment for Susan and huge honor for K-9!

But that wasn’t the only trophy we earned; Dianne Strickland and Saxon earned 3rd Place overall in Utility out of 56 dogs competing! Diane Cohen and Puff managed a nice qualifying score in Novice (at that point I scratched Jack’s name off the board) and although our other scores were not successful for every exercise we managed to gather enough points for **6th place out of 27 teams competing.**

So, K-9 Obedience Club can hold its head high.



Team K-9! Left to right: Robin Wallen, Elaine Nabors and Lycan, Diane Cohen, Puff and Isaac, Dianne Strickland and Saxon, Susan Howard and Winston, Ginny Ruskuski and Annie. (Not pictured – Melissa Hess and Adam, who would have been there had they not had a last-minute family emergency.)

We did well for a team that was short team members and – dare I say it? – we did better than some clubs (I won’t name names) that have dozens of members who do Obedience exclusively, have OTCh’s on their teams and have more resources for training.

But what will I remember about this particular DOCOF? Seeing Lycan’s silhouette, alert and watchful as he cuddled next to sleeping Elaine in the motel room we shared, and Jack next to me, watching Lycan, tail thumping, Our dinner at the Puerto Rican restaurant where NOBODY spoke English, except Team K-9, And of course, getting lost on the Fl. Turnpike and ending up at the airport....

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