



# BARKS & BYTES NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2023



The year 2023 is officially in the second half and before long it will be close to Christmas! Hard to think about that when some of the days have been so hot but this is summer. Our annual picnic and Members Annual Awards Program were held last month and what a great day it was with good attendance, good and plenty of food and goodies, and fellowship. It was nice to see people who cannot make the meetings or training and who may not even have a dog that they are training at the present time in attendance. It was a nice way to take the time to converse with everyone which we do not always get time to do at our general meetings or training. And, most important, to celebrate with those of us who are getting Awards Recognition. There will be a list of those and their dogs who are getting recognized with an award and there were many. More on that later.

Judy Skorup, once again, graciously agreed to write a nice article on the Rally National Championship. Kim Folander and her Boxer, Charlie, also added a few things to her experience there. Both were competing at the Masters Level. The AKC puts out a list of qualifying dogs at the beginning of each year. This covers all the dogs competing in Rally Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent and Masters who have at least 3 scores of 193 or better. The National Obedience Championship is by invitation only based on OTCH points. More on this will be down further in the newsletter.

August will also be the last full month in which we will be training outside. Right now we have had to cancel a few times due to the weather. Please be sure to check your emails to make sure that classes are still being held. From those I have talked to, all are more than willing to train in hot weather, as we know how valuable our classes are. Das Awkscht Fescht, August 4 to the 6, and the Wheels of Time, August 25 to the 27, held this month will also have our weekly training sessions cancelled because these groups take over the Park for those weeks. As stated last month, the Park is always looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen. If you have nothing to do these weekends Amy and Diane Angermeier would love to have you volunteer. You can contact Diane at 610-967-1531 or em7777ail [drang@ptd.net](mailto:drang@ptd.net).

**\*TRAINING\*** - Our training schedule will remain the same unless you receive an email telling you otherwise.

**\*TRAINING ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS\***

**These classes will be held at the gazebo.**

• OPEN	4:15 PM to 5:15 PM	PHYLLIS BRODERICK, INSTRUCTOR
• UTILITY	5:20 PM to 6:20 PM	PHYLLIS BRODERICK, INSTRUCTOR
• NOVICE	6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM	PHYLLIS BRODERICK, INSTRUCTOR DEBBIE ACHENZIE, ASSISTANT

***DROP-INS ARE WELCOME AT THESE CLASSES!***

***These classes are held at the large oak tree at the end of the parking lot.***

• TEACHING OPEN	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	JOANNE SUMMERS, INSTRUCTOR
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***NO DROP-INS ARE ACCEPTED FOR THIS CLASS!***

• ADVANCED BEGINNER	6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	JOANNE SUMMERS, INSTRUCTOR
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***DROP-INS ARE WELCOME!***

**\*TRAINING ON THURSDAYS\***

• NOVICE	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	DUSTY SPRINGER AND
• NOVICE 2	10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	DEBBIE ACHENZIE, INSTR UCTORS

***DROP-INS ARE WELCOME!***

• PUPPY CLASS	5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	TERRY PAPINEAU, INSTRUCTOR
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• BEGINNING NOVICE (For dogs w/no prior training)	6:00 PM to 7:00 PM	TERRY PAPINEAU, INSTRUCTOR
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***\*RALLY\****

• NOVICE	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	CAROL HAHN, INSTRUCTOR
• ADVANCED/EXCELLENT	6:00 pm to 7:00 PM	CAROL HAHN, INSTRUCTOR

***DROP-INS ARE WELCOME IN THESE CLASSES!***

### **\*SPRING POINT SHOW AND NOVEMBER POINT SHOW\***



Gail has nothing to report on the Spring Point show. However, the Fall Point Trial in November is coming along, and Terry has scheduled a match show prior to the point show. Look for it under DogMatchShow.com. As this is written most of the Open and Utility time slots are taken. However, there are plenty of available slots in Beginning Novice and Novice. For those of you who are taking classes in Beginner Novice and Novice, this is a wonderful opportunity to find out what it is like working in a ring environment. It does not matter if you feel your dog or you aren't ready, it is a match and you can work on whatever you want (even playing in the ring) and it is most important, for the EXPERIENCE and making it fun for your dog. And best of all, it is in the same building where you are taking classes and where the actual trial will be held a few days later.

We hope to see that almost every slot is filled by our students!! Also, most of the experienced trainers, normally enter their dog more than one time. So do not wait to enter and if you have any questions, see your instructor or talk to any of our more experienced members.

November will be here before we know it and Terry, and the Club will **need lots of helpers**. So, mark your calendars with these dates. **Wednesday, November 1, will be a members only rally match, Thursday, November 2, will be a rally trial, Friday, November 3 will be a members only match, Saturday, November 4, will be an obedience match open to the public, and Sunday, November 5 will be a "bare bones" obedience point trial.**

### **\*PUBLICITY AND MEMBER OF THE MONTH\***

Dusty Springer has nothing to report and there is no member of the month for August.

### **\*SUNSHINE CLUB\***



- Please keep Rita's husband, **Ken Brian**, in your thoughts and prayers as he undergoes some health issues.

- **Carol McCarthy (who recently passed away) – Carol's Dogs' Update –**

*Sent to Debbie Achenzie by Leslie Adams.* "Because I know you cared about the dogs, I wanted to send you an update — **Nilson** has a new home with a lovely family in Emmaus and is fitting in very well. **Kixx** is also in a new home with a loving family. Thanks for all your concern..."

**ADTC MEMBER OF THE MONTH NOMINATION FORM**

Any member of ADTC is eligible for recognition as a member of the month. To nominate someone, please complete the following form and return it to Dusty Springer. Forms may be submitted by mailing them to Dusty Springer

at 1242 W. Minor St, Emmaus, PA, 18049, or by emailing them to [bohooch@yahoo.com](mailto:bohooch@yahoo.com).

First and last name of nominee:

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Why is this ADTC member being nominated? (For example, this person has helped me to train my dog when I was a new member, this person made me feel welcome, this person has served ADTC in numerous capacities for many years, etc.).

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Date nominated

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If readily available, Nominee's contact information:

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Please note: The nominee will be contacted within a week after the form has been received. However, inclusion of the nominee's article in the newsletter is dependent on how quickly he or she responds to the request for information and a picture. Also, a nominee may choose to decline to participate in the program. Thank you.

ADTC/rab

Dec-28-2021

**\*ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB CLOTHING\***

Every three years or so, we offer our members a chance to purchase clothing like sweatshirts, jackets, vests, hats, etc. with our logo on it. I have the Charles River lined jacket and I love it as it is so warm in cold winter weather. Donna Barto has agreed to handle clothing orders which she has done the last few times. Please see the information below. Members usually bring some of their items to meetings so people will see them and try them on for sizing. Since our July meeting was not held and then cancelled due to wet weather, more information will be at the August meeting. Members who have some of the shirts and sweatshirts, etc. please bring them to the meeting so members can see them and try them on.

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ADORABLE  
DOGS  
2023 Calendar



*"No matter how little money  
and how few possessions you own,  
having a dog makes you rich."*

**ADTC CLUB ATTIRE - ORDERS DUE BY 8/23/23**

**VEST, POLO, T-SHIRTS, CREWNECK, PULLOVER HOODIE AND FULL ZIP HOODED SWEATSHIRTS, CHARLES RIVER JACKET, UNLINED JACKET, BASEBALL CAPS AND SUN VISORS**

All items are available in club colors with yellow or blue embroidered or screened logos, club or paw. All are men's/unisex sizing except for unlined jacket and vest.



**JERZEE TEE SHIRTS:** Long and short sleeved: ADTC logo on front.

Long Sleeved: S-XL \$14.00 2XL-3XL \$16.00

Short Sleeved: S-XL \$ 11.00 2XL-3XL \$13.00

**JERSEY KNIT SHORT SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS:** ADTC logo on front.

S-XL \$18.00 2XL-3XL \$20.00

**CREW NECK PULL OVER SWEATSHIRT:** ADTC logo on front

S-XL \$18.00 2XL \$20.00 3XL \$22.00

**PULLOVER HOODIE SWEATSHIRT / FRONT POUCH POCKET:** ADTC logo on front

S-XL \$24.00 XXL-XXXL \$26.00

**FULL ZIP HOODED SWEATSHIRT:** ADTC logo on front

S-XL \$32.00 2XL \$34.00 3XL \$36.00 (no yellow/gold)

COLOR CHOICES FOR ALL ABOVE: royal blue, navy, gold/yellow

**UNLINED POLYESTER VEST OR JACKET, FRONT ZIPPERED POCKETS:** ADTC logo on front

MENS AND WOMENS

**VEST:** S-XL \$32.00 2XL \$34.00 3XL \$36.00

**JACKET: UNLINED WITH POCKETS**

S-XL \$82.00 2XL \$84.00 3XL \$86.00

NOTE SEPARATE COLOR CHOICES: black, red, navy, royal

**CHARLES RIVER JACKET:** Hooded, wind/water resistant nylon with heavyweight ash grey lining, side pockets and inside cell phone pocket. ADTC logo on front.

S-XXXL \$70.00

COLOR CHOICES black, navy, forest, maroon

**COTTON BASEBALL CAP OR SUN VISOR,** blue or yellow @ \$12.00 each

**See order form on next page**

**ADTC CLUB ATTIRE ORDER FORM - ORDERS DUE BY 8/23/23**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEE FLYER FOR FULL DESCRIPTIONS**

**POLO SHIRT**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**LONG SLEEVED JERZEE TEE SHIRT**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**SHORT SLEEVED JERZEE TEE SHIRT**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**SWEATSHIRT ...Specify Crewneck, Pull Over Hoodie or Full Zippered**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNLINED VEST OR JACKET...SPECIFY MENS OR WOMENS**

Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**BASEBALL HAT OR VISOR**

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost

**CHARLES RIVER JACKET**

Size \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail Order Form and Check Payable to ADTC: due by 8/23/23**

**TO: Donna P. Barto 4862 Jasper Road, Emmaus, PA 18049**

**610-965-0235**

**\*PICNIC AND ADTC ANNUAL AWARDS\***

As stated in this newsletter, many thanks to Chuck and Debbie Achenzie and their committee for making arrangements for our annual picnic now held with our Club Awards. Great food and fellowship were had by all. The larger pavilion was just perfect. Please scroll down to ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB AWARDS FOR MORE INFORMATION. We hope to see more names listed next year!!

**\*ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB AWARDS\***

First of all, many thanks to Judy Lasso and Pat Gombocz for all their hard work in compiling all the information you sent to them at the end of last year, 2022. They check and double check to make sure that everything is correct, names, titles, spelling and so on. Each year they do a wonderful job and MANY THANKS TO THEM. We also want to thank Chuck and Debbie Achenzie, Dusty and Bill Springer, Edie Rysdyk and her husband for setting things up in the Pavilion which was a perfect size for our group. The caterer provided plenty of great food and members brought in so many wonderful desserts. Not to mention that everyone wanted a piece of Katie Dyer's beautiful and delicious cake. Katie can train her dogs, sing with a concert choir and bake beautiful and delicious cakes!! But besides Katie's cake, there were also so many other wonderful desserts. Thank you all for bringing them.

MANY MANY BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE MEMBERS AND THEIR DOGS WHO RECEIVED EITHER PLAQUES, PLATES FOR THEIR PLAQUES, OR CERTIFICATES. Everyone there put in many hours of training and coming to class to achieve their plaques or certificates. We know you were all thrilled to be recognized for all your dedication and hard work. And most important, what a great way to bond with your dog. It is a team effort. We hope to see many more members receiving awards next year.

AND LAST BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, SUPER THANKS TO ALL OUR INSTRUCTORS WHO TO SPEND HOURS OF TIME TEACHING THEIR STUDENTS AND THEIR DOGS THE "INS AND OUTS" OF OBEDIENCE AND RALLY AS WELL AS HOW TO BE A BETTER DOG TRAINER. We cannot thank all of you enough for your time and devotion to your students and to this crazy (at times) dog sport. I am listing in no special order the names of our trainers: Phyllis Broderick, Terry Papineau, Joanne Summers, Dusty Springer, Debbie Achenzie, Carol Hahn our Rally Instructor. Please be sure to thank them for all they have done for without them, there would be very few awards.

**HERE IS THE LIST OF MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED THEIR AWARDS ON JULY 8. We are looking forward to seeing many more new names added to the list for 2023.**



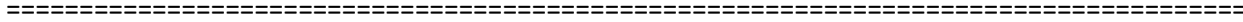
## Allentown Dog Training Club Awards

# 2022

Last Name	First Name	Dogs Name	Title	Award
Achenzie	Debbie	Freddy	Companion Dog Excellent	plate
Artim	Barbara	Iris	Companion Dog Scentwork Exterior Advanced Scentwork Container Advanced Beginner Novice Scentwork Buried Advanced	CD plaque and extension
Artim	Barbara	Spencer	Scentwork Container Adv. Elite Scentwork Buried Excellent Scentwork Excellent	plates
Barto	Donna	Chip	Scentwork Interior Novice Scentwork Exterior Novice Scentwork Buried Novice Scentwork Container Novice Scentwork Novice	plates
Bockman	Lindsay	Fallon	Rally Advance Excellent 2	plate
Brucker	Wilma	Stanley	Rally Advanced	Certificate
Campbell	<b>Sally</b>	Mamie	Rally Novice	Certificate
Courduff	Cris	Ruger	Barn Hunt Novice	extension
Dengler	Allen	Gemma	Fast Cat 4 Scentwork Exterior Novice Scentwork Novice Coursing Ability Advanced Fast Cat 5	Certificate
Dengler	Anita	Rita	Open Fast Preferred Fast Cat4 Scentwork Exterior Advanced Coursing Ability Advanced Agility Excellent Fast Preferred Companion Dog Scentwork Buried Advanced Scentwork Interior Advanced Fast Cat 5	CD plaque and extension
Dyer	Katie	Windsor	Trick Dog Novice	Certificate
Dyer	Katie	Saoirse	Canine Good Citizen	Certificate
Eldon	Linda	Mollie	Rally Master 2 Rally Advanced-Excellent 2 Rally Advanced-Excellent 3	plates

Grotzinger	Barbara	Ciyde	Preferred Companion Dog Excellent	plate
Hanley	Sherry	Muzzy	Beginner Novice Fast Cat	Certificate
Hanley	Sherry	Legend	Canine Good Citizen Rally Novice	Certificate
Hartranft	Jacqui	Abbey	Utility Dog Excellent 2 Obedience Master 2 Obedience Master 3	plates
Hartranft	Jacqui	Cooper	Companion Dog Excellent	extension
Hilperts	Diane	Kirby	Rally Novice Canine Good Citizen	Certificate
Iobst	Sue	Frankee	Companion Dog Novice Agility	CD plaque
Katz	Barbara	Loki	Rally Intermediate Beginner Novice Canine Good Citizen	Certificate
Katz	Barbara	Ember	Canine Good Citizen	Certificate
Kondash	Evelyn	Breeze	Canine Good Citizen Trick Dog Novice Trick Dog Intermediate Trick Dog Advanced	Certificate
Krapf	Tracy	Monty	Canine Good Citizen	Certificate
Lasso	Judy	Rocky	Canine Good Citizen Trick Dog Novice Trick Dog Intermediate Trick Dog Advanced Barn Hunt Novice	Certificate
Linker	Irwin	Casey	Community Canine test	plate
Merkel	Sharon	Allee	Rally Excellent	plate
Merkel	Sharon	Kylee	Companion Dog	CD plaque
Merkel	Sharon	Rhory	Rally Advanced	Certificate
Minnich	Mary	Aslyn	Trick Dog Novice Canine Good Citizen	Certificate
Papineau	Terry	Baci	Utility Dog Herding Champion Companion Dog Excellent Herding Inter. Course A Sheep Herding Exe. Course A Ducks Herding Exe. Course A Sheep Agility Fast Excellent	UD plaque and plates and extension

Petrusjanz	Debra	Annie	Utility Dog	UD plaque and extension
Sacco	Susan	Echo	Rally Excellent	plate
Sacco	Susan	Paige	Trick Dog Novice	Certificate
Skorup	Judy	Emma	Rally Master 4 Therapy Dog Excellent Master Draft Dog Rally Master 5	plates
Snyder	Samantha	Finn	Companion Dog Rally Master	CD plaque
Snyder	Samantha	Lake	Companion Dog Rally Novice Beginner Novice Coursing Ability	CD plaque
Springer	Dusty	Tess	Rally Novice Rally Intermediate Beginner Novice	Certificate
Stehly	Kathleen	Raisin	Open Agility	plate
Snyder	Samantha	Finn	CD Challenge	plate
Hartranft	Jacqui	Cooper	CDX Challenge	plate
Papineau	Terry	Baci	UD Challenge	plate



**\*ITEMS FOR SALE\***

- Ken Krasley has some items for sale. Please call him for more information -

Still available - He is selling a complete Max 200 obedience ring which is 40x50. It consists of 17 ten-foot sections painted white, one 5-foot gate and 18 stands for the ring gates. Linda bought it not that long ago and it has only been used once or twice. You can check the price of them at Max200. He is asking \$800 for the entire set. Please get in touch with him at 610 972-2438 or [kenlin@rcn.com](mailto:kenlin@rcn.com).

- Still available --- Sue lobst has a dog swimming vest for sale. Please check it out in the picture and the description below.

She wanted it noted that it was recommended by a chiropractic veterinarian for an older dog who likes to swim. It is easier on their rear end and hind legs because the rear starts to sink, and the float coat keeps the dog level.

*This is a Ruffwear water vest. I bought it for Quid. He never used it but when he got older, I bought it just to be safe. It's a size medium and it's too big for Frankee. I paid \$70, but I will take the best offer.*

Please get in touch with her at 484 788 8739 or email [fordogs@ptd.net](mailto:fordogs@ptd.net) for further information.



**\*UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST\***

Mary Minnick sent us the following information. The Lehigh Valley therapy dogs are having a pasta dinner on November 4th which you can order to take home. Please see the flyer and the order form to fill out. If you have any questions, please see Mary Minnick at training or call her at her phone number 610-435-1747.



# Annual "Paw-sta" Dinner

Sat Nov 4, 2023

Lehigh Lodge, Rt 100 Macungie PA



Support your local Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs by picking up a tasty \$9 meal. All orders will be "TO GO" ie "DOGGIE BAGS"

- Orders must be received by Oct 28, 2023
- Email order form to [lvtd@lvtherapydogs.org](mailto:lvtd@lvtherapydogs.org) or
- Mail to 4027 W Chew St Allentown PA 18104 or
- Return order form to LVTD member
- Pay by check (made out to LVTD) or cash in advance or at pickup
- Select pick up time below and enter time on forms

(circle your pickup time so you remember)

4:15   4:30   4:45   5:00   5:15   5:30   5:45  
 6:00   6:15   6:30   6:45   7:00   7:15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up Time

Pasta with sauce  
or

Pasta no sauce

Meatballs  
or

No meatballs

Salad

Italian

or

Ranch

or

No dressing

Choc Chip Cookies

or

Brownie

or

Oatmeal Cookies

**\*ACHIEVEMENTS\***

Even though getting an awards and recognition for what you have achieved in 2022 is an ACHIEVEMENT AND QUITE AN HONOR IN ITSELF for each year. But some of us have ACHIEVEMENTS each month which we love to list in the newsletter. Although all those getting recognition at our Awards Celebration belong in the ACHIEVEMENT COLUMN, we also want to recognize those who have ACHIEVEMENTS each month. No ACHIEVEMENT is too small to be listed here. It is your column each month.

**Pat McNally and CJ (Cosmopolitan and So It Goes)** finished his Rally Intermediate title in July at the Princeton Dog Trialing Club trial. He had a first place with a score of 100 and a second place with a score of 97!! Pat said she finally understands the loose leash concept! BIG BIG CONGRATULATIONS!!! GREAT SCORES.

Pat also reported that CJ completed his PT in Shepherding title at Scarlett Mills Farm. Pat told me that PT stands for PRE-TRIAL TESTED ON HEAVIER ANIMALS such as mature sheep. It is the second level before CJ will start to herd the flightier trial sheep. WOW!! That is exciting to see your dog doing that but scary that he might get hurt. BIG BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH! It is great seeing our dogs doing different things and especially things they were bred to do.



**\*RALLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP\***

As was mentioned last month, two of our members attended the Rally National Championship in July in Wilmington, Ohio. **Judy Skorup with her Great Pyrenees, Emma**, attended this prestigious event for the second time. She has qualified six times but decided to compete in Masters last year and this year. **Kim Folander and Charlie, her Boxer**, also competed last year and for the second time this year. Last year she and Charlie competed in Intermediate. Previously this event for Rally was held for only one day, but this year AKC added the extra day. We asked both Judy and Kim to write something on their experience there especially since it went from one day since its inception to two days.

Although Kim does not show Charlie herself, she has a handler who shows him for her. She thought that it was a wonderful experience and urged others to attend the one next year if they qualify. It was held at the Roberts Center in Wilmington, Ohio once again. She felt that making it two days was much better than trying to squeeze everything into one day. In order to qualify you do need scores of 93 or better in all the venues from Novice on up to Masters. She urges those who qualify to enter, although entries go into a lottery to be chosen. She did feel AKC should hand out more ribbons because of the large number of entries.

For anyone interested or thinking about attending next year, you will know once the AKC lists all the qualifiers in 2023 around February or March. Judy wrote a great article on what the rules are, how to apply and how to be accepted and hopefully have your name drawn, which some classes have a long waiting list. And, most all, you will experience what it is like to compete in a large national event with dogs and trainers from all over the USA and Canada.



## The 2023 AKC Rally National Championship by Judy Skorup

In mid-June 2023, the AKC held their Rally National Championship in Wilmington, Ohio at the Roberts Centre. The mornings and evenings were cooler than in July 2022 and less humid. This year, the Rally Championship trial was divided over two days, with most classes competing twice on one day and only once on the other day. Eligibility was determined by qualifying scores earned between December 1, 2021 – November 30, 2022. Your dog had to have earned a title at that level during those months and had to have earned at least 3 scores at that level of 93 or more points out of 100. Championship classes competed four times: once each in Master, Choice, Excellent and Advanced classes. The 216 exhibitors in the Championship level class were divided into six groups of 35 exhibitors each = a challenge to walk each course and really learn it in 10 minutes with 34 other people on the course too. The Master level class had 55 exhibitors, the Excellent level had 146 exhibitors, the Advanced level had 128 exhibitors, Intermediate had 102 exhibitors and Novice had 192 exhibitors. Maps of all courses at your level, the times you had to walk the course(s) in the early am (7:30 - 8:30 am), and your ring #s (between 1 – 8) were given to you Thursday afternoon before the trials began. The trials began at 8:30 am and went until finished – easily 5:30-6:00 pm for the Championship level. Exhibitors lined up early to set up crates and chairs outside the huge room. Each exhibitor was given an area 3' x 5' for your crate, chair, and gear. This was a little tight for those of us with giant breed dogs! There was a Great Dane, a Leonberger, two Newfoundlands, two Bernese Mt. Dogs, a Greater Swiss Mt. Dog, my Great Pyrenees, and a Mastiff. I saw quite a few exhibitors I had met at various trials in PA, NJ and DE plus several judges I had shown to in the past! The eight rings were set up in two groups of four rings with a practice ring at one end of the room next to the crating area. There was activity, noise, people, and dogs everywhere. There were a few dog supply/accessory vendors in the lobby and at one end of the huge room.

I had Emma in the trial room most of Thursday afternoon to get her accustomed to the noise, people, dogs and set up. We walked around the huge room several times, she sniff inspected the ring gates, the vendors' booths, hallways, went in and out various doors and walked the grounds of the center and nearby hotel. She had time to get used to her crate and our neighbors, something she needed to get her out of total livestock guardian mode.

A professional photographer took dog and dog plus owner portraits Thursday afternoon before the trial began. Emma and I had our eight-minute session in the late afternoon. While the trial was progressing in all eight rings, the photographers were snapping photos of every exhibitor in every ring all day long. Rings 1 and 8 had videographers at work non-stop. Emma and I were in rings 3 and 4, so no video this year I thought. Not true! AKC decided to video several giant breed dogs in action: a Saint Bernard, a Newfoundland, and a Great Pyrenees. We were not at our best on that course, but we did qualify and showed that a giant breed can successfully compete at the Rally Master level, just not at a fast pace nor perfectly.

This year the AKC accepted 300 more dogs than in 2022. Acceptance into the event was different in 2023. Normally your entry is either accepted or you are on a wait list. If your wait list number is very high, you do not get in. In past years, we were on the wait list at #40 for Intermediate and #42 in Novice and our entry fee was returned both times. This year I received a letter telling me I was "on hold". They had filled the 40 spots in the Master class but would see if all the other classes filled before accepting additional exhibitors into the Master class. After entries closed, we received our acceptance notification. It helped to have two days for the competition, but the wait to compete was very, very long (6-8 hours) and tiring. It was also better to only have to compete once or twice during the day, not three or four times, at least for a mature Great Pyrenees. With over 800 dogs entered, the judges had two very long days and really



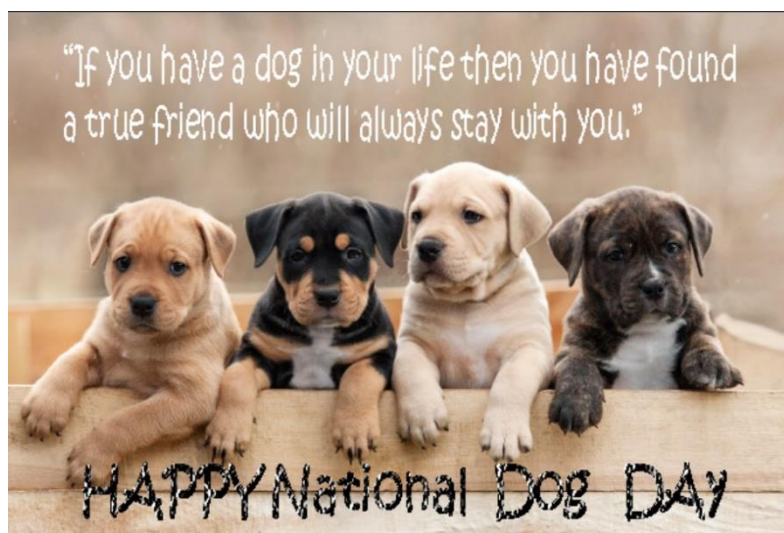
kept the exhibitors moving. Unlike at our normal local/semi local shows, there was very little conversation. Most judges' greetings were "# \_\_\_, come into the ring. Are you ready? Forward." If your dog paused for more than a couple seconds or did a sign incorrectly, you heard "Move on to the next sign". At no level could you repeat any sign!

For me, one unattractive part of this event was the attire of some exhibitors.

Some obviously forgot or didn't care that there were video cameras and cameras with huge telephoto and zoom lenses aimed at every ring all day long. Many photos were taken of exhibitors' backs and while aiming at our dogs, the cameras also focused on the human body from the waist down. With most competitors aged 50+, the sights were, at times, not beautiful. Several lady exhibitors chose to wear tight shorts and tops with flip flops; others needed a little more coverage or support on the top. Although the clothing guidelines for companion dog events have been relaxed since I began competing almost 25 years ago, I still don't wear shorts or blue jeans into the Obedience or Rally ring. As long as I have a Great Pyrenees, I will always wear white or off-white slacks and matching footwear in the Rally and Obedience ring and never a skirt!

In conclusion, the AKC Rally National Championship was a wonderful experience, I am very glad Emma qualified, was invited to compete (for a sixth time) and that we went to Ohio. Again, this year, Emma was one of several Great Pyrenees eligible and invited to attend the RNC, but she was the only one who went. She has competed at both the Rally Master and Rally Championship levels at this event, no small accomplishment for her breed. We were surrounded by Border Collies, Aussies, and Golden Retrievers who usually went very quickly and effortlessly through the courses, but there were other breeds who completed the courses at a more leisurely pace like Emma. We did not go with the goal of earning a combined score to put us in the top 20 or even top 50, we went to do our best, have some fun with other exhibitors and represent the Great Pyrenees breed. If your dog is eligible next year, do enter, go, set up your dog's crate with or near exhibitors you know, compete, and enjoy being at a competition where you and your dog are among the best Rally dogs in the USA at your level!

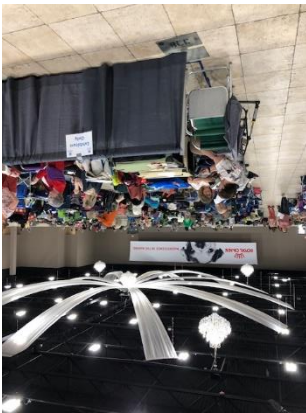
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THANKS TO JUDY FOR TAKING THE TIME TO WRITE THIS INTERESTING AND INFOFORMATIVE ARTICLE ON HER EXPERIENCE AT THE RALLY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2023. SO READ ON AND ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT JUDY AND EMMA'S EXPERIENCES THERE AS WELL AS SOME OF HER OBSERVATIONS.



These pictures are the rosettes and trophies for the master class and then the championship class and winner of it all.



The photos shown here are the crating area with your 3 x 5 spot for crate w/dog, chair and gear plus the blue carpeted practice ring. Each dog and handler would have two to three timed minutes in the practice ring to do any exercise you wished, including playing with your dog. All three jumps were available for you.



Shown here are the Advanced or Master Course being worked. You can see the other rings in the cluster of four rings. Also shown is the photo Emma waiting (all day) to compete for her third Master Course.

# NOTES

