



ADTC BARKS & BYTES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



This is the final newsletter for 2023, and what a year it has been for our dog training club. Thanks to our training director, Terry Papineau, and our Board of Directors, we now have more classes offered from Utility to Puppy Kindergarten. And for the first time, we held a fall point show at our building in Macungie Park. We also had several match shows to prepare yourself and your dog for the point show. We had a nice entry and many of our members participated. It was good to see Novice classes in both Rally and Obedience with more entries than normally seen at obedience/rally trials. Sadly, though, the year was also sad as we lost two of our beloved trainers, Carol McCarthy and Linda Krasley. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers as we celebrate this joyous season. Christmas is a hard time for families who have lost someone during the year. We all miss Carol and Linda and will be thinking of their families during this blessed season.

As we prepare for Christmas and the Year 2024, Rita and I wish all of you happiness and health for the coming year. We look forward to anything you wish to add to your newsletter. Anyone is welcome to write an article. **AND DO NOT FORGET OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** which is listed further down. A time for fun and fellowship!

In addition, several of our members also had a great year. They were listed in the November newsletter under ACHIEVEMENTS. Two of our members earned their Rally Championship, RACH, with non-traditional breeds and two more of our members earned their Obedience Trial Championship, OTCH. These are wonderful accomplishments not only for those members but also for our club trainers. Although these two ACHIEVEMENTS are difficult to earn and an honor for those who have achieved them, that does not mean those earning their Rally Novice title or those earning their Beginning Novice title are any less important to celebrate. It is not an easy thing to enter your dog in these beginning classes. Match shows are wonderful but entering a real trial will show you where you and your dog are and what you need to work on. We had the wonderful opportunity to enter both the trial and match shows at the building where we train and it was wonderful to see that many of you took advantage of that. AND MANY, MANY THANKS TO OUR TRAINING COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE TO MAKE OUR TRAINING PROGRAM SO SUCESSFUL! AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO TERRY PAPINEAU, TRAINING DIRECTOR FOR HEADING THIS NEW ENDEAVOR FOR ADTC. WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

With all this being said, Judy Skorup wrote a great article on Emma earning her RACH which was listed in the November newsletter, but we held it back because it is a story of succeeding against many odds and not giving up no matter what people say. It is a lesson for all of us. Have a goal and do the best that you can to reach that goal, even though you were told you will never be able to do that. We hope that Judy's experience will help all of you who wish to get your dog's Novice, Open or Utility title or your dog's Rally titles including the RACH like Judy and Emma did. It may take a long time but it will be worth it all in the end.

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AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Timothy Thomas
Vice President
Conformation

Precautions Regarding Canine Upper Respiratory Illness

There are a lot of unknowns about this newest canine illness. We should all do our best to work to avoid the spread of this disease by following these basic recommendations:

- Keep your dog up to date on vaccines including but not limited to Bordetella, Parainfluenza, and Canine Influenza, and avoid direct contact with other dogs.
- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, but is showing no symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine your dog for a minimum of 2 weeks. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- If your dog has been exposed to a dog with an upper respiratory illness, and is showing symptoms, it is recommended you quarantine your dog for a minimum of 4 weeks after all symptoms have passed. Do not take it to any areas where other dogs will be.
- Absolutely do not take your dog to any events if it is showing any signs of respiratory illness such as coughing, sneezing, wheezing, any nasal discharge, lack of energy, or difficulty breathing.
- Avoid sharing water and food bowls among dogs. Dog bowls should be washed regularly.
- Regularly wash or sanitize your hands, especially after handling dogs.
- If in doubt, speak to your veterinarian.

While judging guidelines *recommend that judges ask the exhibitor to display the oral exam*, during this time and out of an abundance of caution, **judges are expected to have the exhibitor display the oral exam and may personally examine the mouth ONLY if absolutely necessary.** Where applicable, judges must conduct thumb exams.

If necessary to personally examine the mouth, the judge **MUST sanitize their hands after examining the dog**, and as a general practice, are strongly encouraged to sanitize their hands after examining each entry. Re-examining of dogs should be minimized.

Clubs hosting conformation events should provide hand sanitizer/wipes for judges and stewards to use between dogs. Equipment used to measure and/or weigh dogs should be sanitized before and after each use.

Responsible actions by exhibitors, judges, and clubs are necessary to minimize any risks to our dogs. We thank everyone for their thoughtful cooperation and diligence in taking these extra measures.

Sincerely,
Tim Thomas

VP of Conformation
The American Kennel Club, Inc.

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100 Raleigh, NC 27617-3390 Tel 919-816-3639 Timothy.Thomas@akc.org

TRAINING INFORMATION

Everyone should have gotten applications via email to sign up for the next session starting November 29 and 30. Also, drop-ins may be available, but get in touch with the instructor to make sure there is room.

There was an added decision by the Board not to have training December 13 and 14 due to the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show at Ag Hall since members are entered and Gail need stewards, it was best to cancel. We also know it is such a busy time with our Christmas party the day before. But if we want the Kennel Club to keep obedience and Rally in their shows, we need to supply stewards. Please contact Gail if you can help. Remember no stewards, no obedience and rally trials.



FIRST ANNUAL FALL POINT SHOW AND MATCHES*

GREAT JOB ALL!!

It was a hectic five days for all of us but it all went well and members and those from outside our club enjoyed themselves and did well. We got great feedback and quite a few felt the match shows were helpful and would like to see them offered more often. We received a lovely letter from a member, although she could not participate this year, was told by several people who attended how nice everything was and how welcoming our members were. See Terry's report. Our members came out and helped with set up and tear down, stewarding, showing their dogs and everything in between. Several people who

were not members stayed and helped with taking down the gates and chairs and putting things away. Many, many thanks to all who helped!

Many thanks to Terry for urging the Board to do this and then taking charge. And many thanks to Gail James who works behind the scenes to get everything approved by the AKC and filing all the paperwork involved, both before and after the shows. And not to mention our two Obedience judges, Phyllis Broderick and John Landis, who agreed to judge our obedience trials at no cost to us. Thank you so much. And also, although not a member and probably will not see this but thanks to our Rally judge, Laura Rixham, who judged without charge in memory of Linda Krasley who was her mentor and helped her become a Rally judge. And, of course, thanks to our members who come to class and worked with their dogs and then entered these matches and trials. Yes, we did have outside people entered, but we also had a nice entry from ADTC members, some of them for the first time.

And we also cannot forget Amy who runs Macungie Park and the building. She puts down the mats and takes them up each week. She worked very hard to get the heat on but unfortunately the unit was broken and needed to be replaced. The dogs loved the cooler place, and it really was not bad until many of the people and dogs left. Having the sun come out was a help.

Thank You from Terry

I just want to thank the wonderful members of ADTC for making our new shows a success. I can't begin to thank all of you individually because there were so many of you who helped and I don't want to leave anyone out. But, for those who volunteered months ago, or just showed up and jumped into those who came to clean up I offer my heartfelt gratitude. You know who you are. And of course, this could not have succeeded without our wonderful judges John and Phyllis. A special thank you to Gail who does a lot of behind-the-scenes work that many are not aware of.

We received many compliments from exhibitors for our hospitality, the friendliness of members, the site and I was encouraged to do this again next year. So, you have a year to get your dogs ready to show. I look forward to working with all of you and I'm so proud to be a part of this club.

With much gratitude,

Terry mterrypepineau@gmail.com

This is a letter from Leslie Adams to Terry sent on November 13.

Hi Terry - just wanted to let you know that talking to several people who attended the show they had nothing but wonderful things to say and some of them are considering membership to the club saying that everyone was so nice and helpful. You should be extremely proud of the job you did. I just know how difficult it is. Thanks for all your hard work and I look forward to being able to work next year. My new puppy kept me away this year. Leslie Adams.

Training Director's Report November 8, 2023

The next session will start on November 29-30. The schedule will go out hopefully this weekend and the website will be updated when the registration forms go out. I have been asked to provide a nose work class which we will offer this session taught by Judy Lasso. Don't yet know the time or day. Stay tuned.

Our first indoor show was held this past weekend. It was a huge success. In obedience there were 58 dogs, 75 classes, and in rally there were 54 dogs, 84 runs. The match shows were filled with the public match bringing in quite a bit of money. I think we will try to offer this more often. We got lots of compliments for our hospitality and the friendliness of our club members. We really pulled together to put on a first-class show. I'm just going to read one email. I will leave the financial of this show for Linda to tell you about. But I would like to thank everyone who came out to help from those who baked to those who cleaned. Everything you did was greatly appreciated. We will be doing this again next year so start training those dogs so you can enter.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Papineau
Training Director



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Here is the list of officers for the 2024 Board. Many thanks to the nominating committee headed by Sherry Hanley, Chairperson. Other members are Phyllis Broderick, Dusty Springer, Cris Courduff and Lilianne Sanderlin. And many thanks also to those agreeing to serve our Club in 2024.

ADTC Board Slate:

President – Chuck Achenzie
Vice-President – Gail James
Recording Secretary - ** Tracy Krapf
Corresponding Secretary - Katie Dyer
Treasurer - Linda Eldon
Members - Debbie Achenzie
 Edie Rysdyk
 Steve Markowitz
 Sherry Hanley
 **Lilianne Sanderlin

PUBLICITY REPORT

There will be no Member of the Month this time. We were all too busy preparing for our shows and matches.

Publicity Committee Report for October 2023

“The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley.” (If you don't speak Robert Burns, “The best laid plans of mice and men/ oft' go awry.”) Such was the fate of this year's Macungie Halloween Parade. The vehicles were assigned, the bags were packed, the marchers were ready, and the rain came down. This year's parade was cancelled due to inclement weather, and no rain date was available.

However, Gail James, Donna Barto, Deb Achenzie, Jennifer Colligas, and Bill and Dusty Springer met on the Tuesday before the scheduled parade to pack goodie bags. The group packed approximately 300 bags and shared dog stories. Many thanks to Gail, Deb, Donna, Jennifer, and Bill; it was a most enjoyable get together.

Respectfully submitted,

Dusty Springer, ADTC Publicity

Trophy Fund Sponsor

Chris Courduff is in charge of our trophy fund for our TWO trials. Our next trial will be our annual Spring show now held in May at Orchard Hill in Barto. Emmaus loves to win beautiful rosettes and it is to our advantage to offer them. Check the application and please donate so we will have a nice number of entrants. Next year, the Berks Dog Training Club will also be holding their trial the day after so hoping we have a nice number of entries. Chris needs the paperwork by January 31, 2024.

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.

First and last name of nominee:

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.).

Date nominated _____

If readily available, Nominee's contact information:

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.

ADT

***Trophy Fund Update as of 11/30/2023 by Chris Courduff ***

- **Members of ADTC:**

Our 2024 Obedience and Rally Trials are coming soon:

Our Club is fortunate in having our Members Support our Class Trophies & Ribbons for both Obedience and Rally.

At this time, **Obedience** donations are being covered nicely.

Still Available:

HIT Cash \$50

HIT & High Comb. [Rosettes @ \\$12.00](#)

10 - 1st through 4th Rosettes @ \$15.00.

- **RALLY AM & PM:**

Still available:

PM: High Score Adv. B & Ex B comb. @ \$50.00

PM: High Score Tripple Score @ \$50.00

- **AM & PM: (Not so much)**

Almost all 1st Place Cash @ \$25.00

Almost all Rosettes

Almost all 1st Place Cash @ \$25.00

Almost all 1st through 4th Rosettes @ \$15.00 ea.

I know it is the Holidays, but I have only till JANUARY 31st to collect.

Thanks for your support.

Cris Courduff

Trophy Chair



ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB

2024 Obedience & Rally Trial Trophies

NOTE: Trophies in honor of dogs may only be offered in memory of deceased dogs.
Those in honor of people may only be offered in memory of deceased person.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ 1st place cash prize ADTC "**Obedience**" @ \$25.00

Listing to read: Offered by _____

if donating for a specific class/classes, please list class/classes _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ set(s)-of 1st thru 4th place **Obedience** rosettes @ \$15.00

Listing to read: Offered by _____

if donating for a specific class/classes, please list class/classes _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ 1st place cash prize ADTC **Rally AM** @ \$25.00

Listing to read: Offered by _____

if donating for a specific class/classes, please list class/classes _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ sets of 1st thru 4th place **Rally AM** rosettes @ \$15.00

Listing to read: Offered by _____

if donating for a specific class/classes, please list class/classes _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ 1st place cash prize ADTC **Rally PM** @ \$25.00

Listing to read: Offered by _____

If donating for a specific class/classes, please list class/classes _____

I would like to sponsor # _____ sets of 1st thru 4th place **Rally PM** rosettes @ \$15.00

Listing to read: Offered by _____

If donating for a specific class/classes, please list class/classes _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ for the General Trophy Fund or Toy Fund

Listing to read: Offered by _____

Trophies not awarded at the 2024 trial will be applied to the General Trophy Fund for future trials.

To Sponsor **Obedience** @\$50 ea: High in Trial High Combined

Listing to read: Offered by: _____

To Sponsor **Rosette** @\$12 ea: High in Trial High Combined

Listing to read: Offered by: _____

To Sponsor **Rally AM** @\$50 ea: High Scoring Advanced B & Excellent B Combined High Scoring Triple Score

Listing to read: Offered by: _____

To Sponsor **Rosette** @\$12 ea: High Scoring Advanced B & Excellent B Combined High Scoring Triple Score

Listing to read: Offered by: _____

To Sponsor **Rally PM** @\$50 ea: High Scoring Advanced B & Excellent B Combined High Scoring Triple Score

Listing to read: Offered by: _____

To Sponsor **Rosette** @\$12 ea: High Scoring Advanced B & Excellent B Combined High Scoring Triple Score

Listing to read: Offered by: _____

Questions? Please contact Cris Courduff at: criscourduff@verizon.net or 215-536-1219.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Trophy forms and payment must be received by January 31, 2024

Please send to:

Cris Courduff, 2410 Camp Rockhill Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie wants to remind everyone to get their paperwork and dues in before the end of the year. Please contact her if you have any questions. You must sign the release on the back of the form.



ADTC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your Allentown Dog Training Club dues are due by **January 1, 2024**. Payment of your membership dues by 1/1/24 allows you to vote at the January meeting, be eligible for awards and continue to train with the club.

All meeting minutes and membership lists will be posted on the ADTC website.

Complete the form below and **sign the WAIVER** on next page.

1. Make checks payable to **ADTC, Inc.**

2. Return Form to:

ADTC, Inc.
c/o Debbie Achenzie
1935 Kensington Road
Bethlehem, PA 18018

- SINGLE MEMBERSHIP **\$35.00**
- EACH ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER **\$15.00** (include all names)
- LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP **MUST SIGN THE WAIVER on next page.**
- MARK BOX IF ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION HAS CHANGED
- ADDITIONAL DONATION FOR THE 2024 TRIAL GENERAL TROPHY FUND. If you wish to donate for a specific class or prize, use the Trophy Pledge form in the Members area of the website.

Name: _____
(including additional household members)

Street: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

E-mail Address: _____

Breed/Breeds of dogs you own: _____

Please read and sign the WAIVER, RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ASSUMPTION OF RISK and AUTHORIZATION on next page.

ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB, INC.
WAIVER, RELEASE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ASSUMPTION OF RISK
AND
AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF PHOTOS & EMAIL NOTIFICATION

I understand that my attendance and participation in any Allentown Dog Training Club, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "ADTC") class or activity, including but not limited to, obedience and rally training, is not without risk to myself, my dog(s) or any family member or guest who might be present at such function. Some dogs to which I might be exposed may be difficult to control and/or aggressive towards other canines and people, and may be a cause of injury even when handled with care. I expressly assume the risk of such damage or injury while attending any training class or other activity of ADTC or while on the ADTC facilities.

In consideration of the enrollment for training, and as an inducement to my participation in ADTC classes or activities, I hereby waive, release, discharge, and covenant not to sue ADTC, its officers, members and/or agents from any and all liability of any nature, for injury or damage which I, my dog, or any family member may sustain, including specifically, but without limitation, any injury or damage caused by the action of another dog or by participation in the foregoing activities.

In consideration of the enrollment for training and as an inducement to my participation in ADTC classes or activities, I additionally hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the ADTC, its officers, members and agents, of and from any and all claims, causes of action, losses, damages, judgments, costs, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, which in any way arise from my or my family members or guests' acts, omissions and/or negligence, irrespective of whether the acts, omissions and/or negligence of the ADTC, its officers, members and agents, or any third party contributed to the loss.

I hereby certify that I am over the 18 years of age and I have read this paper and am fully aware that this contract constitutes a waiver and release of any and all liabilities because of injury to me, my dog, dogs or other property.

I hereby grant the Allentown Dog Training Club, Inc., including its officers, directors and members (hereafter collectively the "Club") permission to use my likeness in photographs, images and/or videos in any and all of its publications, including web space (internet site) and Facebook, and in any and all other media, whether now know or hereafter existing, controlled by the Club, in perpetuity, and for other use by the Club.

I acknowledge my participation with the Club is voluntary and I will receive no financial compensation, and I will make no monetary claim, or any other claim against the Club for the use of the photographs and/or video.

I hereby hold harmless, release and forever discharge the Club and its members, officers and directors from and against any and all actions, claims, demands, complaints, lawsuits and any other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of, or be caused by the use of any such photographs and/or video.

I authorize Allentown Dog Training Club, Inc., to send me notifications by use of email.

Signature of

Owner/Member/Participant and Parent _____
(If member is under the age of 18)

Additional Household Member _____

Date _____

September 2023

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LEHIGH VALLEY KENNEL CLUB OBEDIENCE AND RALLY TRIALS

Lehigh Valley Kennel Club is looking for Stewards for Rally and Obedience on December 13 and 14, it is a Wednesday and Thursday. If you can give me a couple of hours I would really appreciate it. You will get breakfast and lunch! The show doesn't close until next week, so I don't have any time yet but will get that out as soon as I receive the information from Rau. Please email me at jamesgang12@verizon.net

Thank you, Gail - Obedience and Rally Chair for LVKC

Gail James is the obedience chairperson for these trials which are held at Ag Hall in Allentown every year. They are held for two days on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14. To reemphasize, we know it is such a busy time with our Christmas party the day before. But if we want the Kennel Club to keep obedience and Rally in their shows, we need to supply stewards. Please contact Gail if you can help. Remember no stewards, no obedience and rally trials.



AWARDS PROGRAM

Judy Lasso and Pat Gombocz need to have your awards to them by December 31, 2023. The awards will be presented at our picnic which is scheduled for June 2024, at the Pavilion in Macungie Park where we were at last year. Judy and Pat would like you to use the form from the website as they have had problems reading handwriting. They want to make sure everything--names, titles, etc. are correct so they double check everything. Thanks to Steve Markowitz you can fill the form out on the ADTC website and send to Judy. If you have earned an AKC title in December and have not gotten your certificate by December 31, fill out the form and send it to them by December 31, 2023. It is a good idea to put on the form that you will be sending a copy of your title when you get it from AKC. The important thing is that you get the form to them before December 31, 2023.

We are enclosing the form here just in case there is a problem in using the form on our website.





ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB AWARDS APPLICATION & TITLE RECOGNITION

If you and your dog earned an AKC Title in 2023 while you were a member of ADTC, please fill out this application.

For Award eligibility requirements please refer to the ADTC Regulations, Section 8.

Any questions, please contact Judy at judylasso319@gmail.com

Directions for filling out application:

1. Application must be filled out completely.
2. Include with application a copy of your AKC certificate for **all titles** earned in 2023.
3. **Mail** application to Judy Lasso, 319 Chestnut Street, Freemansburg, PA 18017-6862. Application must be received by **December 31, 2023**.
4. If you have a CD plaque with empty plates, include 1 plate for each new title earned.

Member Name _____ **Email:** _____

Dog's Registered Name _____
(Include all title abbreviations)

Dog's Call Name _____ **Breed** _____

Please check one of the following:

- Dog Bitch

Please check one of the following:

- My dog has earned an AKC title, but has not yet earned a CD (Certificates will be awarded).
- My dog earned its CD during the past year (Plaque will be awarded).
- My dog earned its CD prior to becoming a member and I have earned an AKC title during the past year (I do not have a plaque).
- My dog earned its CD prior to this year and I have earned an AKC title during the past year. I have a plaque and am enclosing a blank plate for each title earned.
- I do not have any empty plates (or not enough). I need an extension to my plaque.

Please complete this section if your dog earned a Regular CD, CDX, or UD title in 2023. Scores needed to be considered for Club Challenge Award:

Title _____ **Title Abbreviation** _____ **Date Earned** _____
1st Leg Score _____ 2nd Leg Score _____ 3rd Leg Sore _____

Title _____ **Title Abbreviation** _____ **Date Earned** _____
1st Leg Score _____ 2nd Leg Score _____ 3rd Leg Sore _____

Please complete this section for all other AKC Obedience (including Preferred), Rally, Agility, Field, etc., titles earned in 2023. Remember to include a copy of all AKC certificates.

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

If you earned a CD in 2023, please list any titles earned in previous years and include a copy of your most recent AKC certificate.

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

Title _____ Title Abbreviation _____ Date Earned _____

REMINDER - To ensure accuracy send a copy of the certificate for each AKC title earned in 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS



BIG, BIG CONGRATULATION TO **WILMA BRUCKER AND STANLEY** WHO EARNED THEIR RALLY EXCELLENT TITLE ON NOVEMBER 2 AT THE ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB TRIAL. We know that Wilma and Stanley, who is 12 years old, have been working in Rally for quite a while and this is a wonderful accomplishment for them. They finished it in style with a wonderful blue ribbon—FIRST PLACE.

Big, Big Congratulations to **Mary Minnich and her German shepherd Aslyn** for earning a first place in Beginner Novice. She won this after a three-way run off for first place. Terry had to take over the class after Judge Phyllis became ill. Aslyn also earned her title--what a great way to do it!



MORE BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO **JOAN GAROFALO AND CUTE LITTLE LUNA** WHO WON SECOND PLACE WHILE GETTING THEIR RALLY TITLE under Judge Laura Rixham. Luna looks so cute going around the Rally courses. We are looking for her to get more titles.

Here is a story by Judy Skorup written to let us know, NEVER GIVE UP!! Judy had a goal when she got Emma as a Great Pyrennes puppy, a breed not known for doing well in either Obedience and Rally. Her goal was to earn a RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE—RACH. In the process, Emma also earned many other titles, some for which her breed is noted. But this title, Judy will tell us, was the one she is most proud of and hardest to earn. We noted this in the November issue but this is the story of Judy and Emma's journey.

Mission Completed: Emma Has Her RACH!

Success: Emma Earned the RACH!

When I started training my first Great Pyrenees in Obedience and later in Rally, long time Pyr owners told me Pyrs don't do obedience, or they can't be taught to do obedience. That was in the late 1990's. Thankfully, a Great Pyrenees owner and trainer named Jane Gill told me that it was possible and gave me numerous tips to get me started in Obedience. I still train with her suggested 3-4 different types of yummy treats, and it works!

Fast forward to the arrival of Rally: Pyr Merlin earned a RA, Pyr Bonnie earned her RE and retired breed Champion Pyr Keenai earned his RN, then retired. For Keenai, off lead activities did not work – he just stood, stacked, and grinned at the judge!

Emma arrived in 2016, demonstrating a lot of energy plus a willingness to do everything and we were off and running! She quickly earned her BN, RN, CD, RI, RA, and RE. Emma's first Rally instructor, Jeanne Anne Polichetti, owned several Pyrs who earned multiple Rally titles, including the first Pyr to earn a RACH. A little more time and Emma had an RAE. Then came the first RM.

Decision time: Should we test for the RACH title? Yes. It would take longer for Emma than other dogs as testing three times in one day was enough, so never two trials in one day nor testing back-to-back days. Earning the 20 triple Qs was not especially hard and earning the required 150 points in the Advanced and Excellent classes was easy, but the Master points were a challenge. Emma often earned Master scores in the upper 80's, good effort, but no points. Noisy locations with multiple rings were very distracting for a livestock guardian dog, so we attended more distant smaller trials with fewer rings.

The Master points kept increasing and we earned several more Master titles. When the Master point count reached 125, I suspected we would finish the RACH in 2023. However, at 7 yrs. old, Emma was bored and tired of Master Rally courses so our progress slowed. We entered two trials at Lower Camden County Dog Training Club in Lindenwold, NJ on October 22, needing 6 more Master points for the title. I thought we would probably earn 5 points in one of the two trials, meaning I would need to find and enter another Rally trial in November or December to earn the last point.

Of course, there is always at least one sign in every course that Emma does not want to do, even though she can do it easily when she wishes. There it was: #307, the Halt, Send to Cone, and Sit. She sat and looked at it. At first, no command nor hand signal was obeyed. Then, she slowly got up and went straight to the cone, sat and grinned at me. Happy verbal praise to Emma and the rest of the course flowed slowly, but nicely. We finished to a round of applause from the spectators at the trial and left the ring.

I knew we had qualified but expected to lose points for crooked sits and slow responses. Several exhibitors commented to me about how hard it is to work a non-traditional breed off lead in Rally and Obedience and how they could not do what I had done. They would not have the patience.

***EMMA* (Continued)**

I looked at our score – a 95/100. I did check the rule book to be sure. Reality hit – we had just earned our last Master points, our seventh Rally Master title and the RACH! The huge white, golden yellow and black RACH rosette was presented after the class received ribbons. A couple of Obedience club members took photos of Emma and me with her rosettes.

Our goal has been reached! It may take more time for some breeds, but with planning, patience, persistence, and a strong bond with your dog, earning a RACH is possible.

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Emma and I are very appreciative of our friends, club members and instructors who encouraged and supported us, gave us training tips and Rally instruction to earn this title. Thank you to instructor Jeanne Anne Polichetti, followed by Judge Linda Krasley, and instructors Sharon Wendelgass and most recently, Carol Hahn. Emma is only the second Great Pyrenees to earn the RACH title.

Emma is now retired from Rally and will focus on other activities she enjoys: Nose work, Therapy Dog visits and running in Fast CAT races.

SUNSHINE

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers. We know they would all appreciate cards and prayers.



✚ This message is to sadly inform you of the passing of **Katie Dyers' beloved golden retriever, Saoirse.** Saoirse died on Wednesday, November 22nd, in a freak accident while playing outside. She broke her neck and died instantly.



✚ Katie is absolutely devastated. She was the best of the best! Personal expressions of condolence may be mailed to Katie: Katie Dyer, 3920 Pleasant Ave. Allentown PA 18103 or email to teamfur@ptd.net.

✚ **Joanne Summers** is still facing some health issues. We hope she will be feeling better soon. We are sure she will appreciate your good thoughts and cards.

✚ **Ken Brian** will be having surgery the first week in December. He is the husband of my co-editor, Rita. Since he is Rita's main caretaker, she will be staying with her daughter while he is in the hospital. You can send cards to her address, 649 Walnut Court, Red Hill. PA 18076-1350. And most of all keep him in your thoughts and prayers. I am hoping that Rita will be back home by December 25 to do the January newsletter.

✚ **Chuck Achenzie** has been diagnosed with cancer. He started chemotherapy on November 27. He would appreciate cards, emails, and well wishes which can be sent to him at 1935 Kensington Road, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Who's New?

Big congratulations to our co-editor Rita Brian and her husband Ken on the birth of their great grand-nephew, "**Grayson Clyde Slowinski**" who was born on November 21, 2023. They are hoping for a family reunion sometime this summer when they will get to meet him.



ITEMS FOR SALE AND ITEMS LOOKING FOR

- Ruth Thom has several items suitable for small dogs. She has a crate and mat for a Bichon sized dog, a food and water holder. She can be reached at 267-424-4754 for more information.
- Linda Eldon is looking to purchase four or five sections of the plastic folding gates. If anyone is looking to find a new home for gates that they no longer had a need for, please get in touch with Linda at 610-845-2435 or email her at aeldon1980@aol.com
- Many of our members, including myself, over the years have purchased collars and leashes from ON LEAD. Kim, the owner, retired and did sell the business but it did not work out. I am happy to report that it is back with a new owner under the name of LEADING LEATHER and who Kim will be helping get started. I have not had a chance to check it out but with Kim involved I am sure it will be fine. We will all be happy to have these quality collars and leashes available from a local person again.
- **Note to members who put things in this column:**

I will run your item or items one time. If you would like to have it repeated, you will have to get in touch with me. I do not have time to try to get in touch with you to see if you want it repeated. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas Party and Get Together will be held on December 12 which is a Tuesday night rather than a Wednesday night. It is changed to Tuesday because many of our members will be entered in the LV Kennel Club trial at Ag Hall on Wednesday and Thursday. If not entered, there will be many who are helping steward. So, mark your calendars and we hope to see all of you there. More information is on the flyer below. Edie Rysdyk is asking members to bring items to donate to the Chinese auction that night. You can also send her a donation to purchase other items for it. You can call her at 610-533-5051 or erysdyk@scherlinelaw.com.



**This year is the club's 70th Anniversary.
We encourage all members and significant others to
attend our Holiday Party!
FOOD, RAFFLE, and FUN**

When: Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m.
following a short *General Meeting*.

This year's Holiday Party will be held downstairs in
Macungie Hall.
Members are welcome to bring your dogs.

Set up at 5:00, tear down after party. All help accepted.

Please bring a dish to share.
Entrée, Appetizer, Side or Dessert
Water, soft drinks, coffee and tea will be provided

Raffle items and Monetary Donations accepted, contact
Edie Rysdyk. erysdyk@scherlinelaw.com

Hope to see everyone at this year's party!



MERRY CHRISTMAS