

Ithaca Dog Training Club

Monthly Newsletter

June 2020

July Meeting

4th Tuesday of every month.

Date: July 28, 2020

Location: Susan Morse's House(10 Sunset West Circle, Ithaca, NY)

Outside

Arrive Time - 5:30pm

Dinner – Start 6:00pm

Board Meeting – 6:30pm

General Meeting – 7:00pm



Directions to Susan's House: Take Route 13 North from Ithaca – Turn left on Pickney Rd (2nd left after Lower Creek Road and 4-H acres) – Stop at stop sign (Lower Creek Rd – Go straight – Take the next left on to sunset West Circle – Quick left at number 10. Drive up past the ring and park on the grass – We will meet between my house and training building.

Program: Food (and drinks) provided by the club – Please bring a chair, bug spray, light jacket, and anything else you will need. Please practice social distancing.

Letter from the President:

As we have been told at the end of June, we are in Phase IV of the COVID plan, we will try to have a meeting in July. This is allowing 50 people to gather. We request everyone where a mask except when eating of course, and please be careful to be in social distance.

We are planning to have one or two people to serve with mask and gloves. Pizza, wings, drinks, and a wrapped desert is being planned. This could be cancelled if the status changes. If you are at all ill or been exposed to COVID, please stay home. As it questionable about animals getting sick, I would suggest not to bring your dog. The agility ring is not set up at this time completely.

As we have not met for a while, we will be voting on the officers and board, report from the life membership committee, training committee, show committees and any other activity.

We are hopeful we can meet. This meeting will be outside. There are no bathrooms for humans. Sorry, we need to limit contact in the house. If we must cancel, we will put it on the list.

Meanwhile, hug those pups and enjoy the good weather outside! - Susan

June Meeting Minutes: Cancelled



From the Library Committee—

This month I asked Lynne Wilks about her training background and what she recommends in the way of training, and here is what she wrote:

Thanks to Marguerite for asking me to tell my story. First, I confess that I am a relative newbie to formal dog training. When I grew up, we had off-leash dogs. They all would have passed the CGC test except for the on-leash walking part. In fact, I am not sure my family ever even owned a leash. The only time one was necessary was to drag the dogs into the vet's office. This function was always accomplished with one of my father's belts, the tail end passed through the buckle. That being said, they were still well-self-trained dogs. They followed us to school and

walked themselves home. They amused themselves during the day visiting various businesses or keeping the mailman company on his walking route. They were ready to walk us home after school. They waited patiently leash-less outside the five-and-dime or the library. Needless to say these were ALL male dogs. Female dogs would have been too expensive as they would have to have been spayed. With only one exception they were all “daddy is a traveling man” mixes - a spitz/springer, a maltese/?, a german shepherd/husky... We did have one purebred dog, a male puppy-mill pekingese, who was a wizard at learning tricks.

Shortly after we arrived in Ithaca, we lost the older dog who had travelled across the country with us. I decided it was time for a female dog, a purebred and perhaps one I could do AKC events with. I was looking for a dog that would do well with children and fit reasonably in a canoe. After much research, I decided on the American Water Spaniel.

A little promotional bit for the AWS breed: Like any other breed-specific fan, I cannot imagine why everyone doesn't want one. They are a great mid-size dog, full of personality. They are smart and funny. Outdoors or on a mission they can go forever, but they can also be couch potatoes at home. They love hunting and most AWS owners are hunters. However, they are also sturdy therapy dogs. They do well with tracking, nose work, and agility. You do have to train them carefully. They do not tolerate harsh handling in the slightest. Even yelling can cause a negative reaction. In all my years with AWS dogs, the only real negative I have come across is that they do not like to be left alone. (Well, they do also like their food.) They are a breed that is in danger of extinction and part of my mission is to get them out into venues where they can be seen.

Our first AWS arrived thirty years ago and with her I entered my first foray into the formal world of dog training at IDTC. I still remember how awkward I was at leash handling. It took a good ten years before I started feeling competent. About ten years ago, I felt comfortable enough to help at the beginning levels and have helped teach Puppy, Beginner, and CGC classes. I think that because I came to formal training so late and was so incompetent when I started, I can still remember the kinds of mistakes I made and be alert to them with beginning students. As well, the patience required to train AWS makes me more able to help novice handlers appreciate even the small steps they are making. I get a great deal of pleasure co-teaching a CGC class with Lynne Anguish out at William George. The class forms teams of owner/staff member, their dog, and a student. The teams work to accomplish the CGC requirements so that the dogs can visit on campus. Additionally, the students work with the dogs to earn their novice trick dog title. Because of Covid, that is now on hold, but I hope we will be able to get back to it in the future.

Because I do not hunt, I do need to give my AWS dogs other activities to keep their brains busy. I have dabbled in agility and tracking. Most recently I have gotten into the nose work venues. I was in the first Nosework class Nancy Almann offered at IDTC. As hunting dogs, my AWS approach nose work as a fun flushing activity. At my first nose work trial, Bix earned his NW1 title with a first place. Ruby has earned her NW1, NW2, and two NW3 titles...twice coming in fourth and twice coming in second. It is fun to see my little 28-pound dog go into a field of GSDs, Labs, Malinois, and Goldens and just really rock it. She is also doing well in the AKC trials where she has an overall excellent title and is working toward her masters title.

Though I didn't start formal obedience training until later in life, I have always taught my dogs tricks. Ruby just earned her AKC Elite Performer title and we had tremendous fun getting her act together. I really enjoy judging for trick dog titles. It is great to see handler/dog teams just having fun. I think the trick dog venue is great for beginner handlers who are still working out the kinks of leash handling because it is so much more forgiving. It also is a sneaky way to teach the dogs focus.

In terms of advice.

- Don't say "my dog is stubborn" or "I guess he doesn't want to work today". Figure out if your dog really knows what you are asking. Break it down into smaller pieces. Change out a word that isn't working. Step away and have a fun moment. Does your dog need to go to the bathroom? Is your dog overheating? Is your dog feeling ill? Is your dog environmentally stressed? Is the dog bored with the rewards you are offering?

- Remember that your dog is always learning even when you aren't formally training. Learning is a skill animals depend on for survival and they learn more quickly than you think. They do learn that they can get on the sofa when you aren't looking. They do learn the best time to steal something is when you are in the bathroom. They do learn that going under the table with a towel will earn a treat when they are lured out. They will also learn from your mistakes, so it is good to be as clear as you can from the start.

- Enjoy your dog!!!!

The library has most of the books I have read about training. I advise reading about a variety of training approaches and then adapting them to your own dog and your own handling. I think it is a mistake to take any one training method as written in stone. Also, reread. Different problems arise with different dogs. Something you might not have paid attention to when you had dog A, might prove to be invaluable with dog B. Also, read general books about dogs. I enjoyed Alexandra Horowitz's "Inside of a Dog." These books help you see the whole complicated creation a dog is.

Librarians Note:

The book *Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know*, by Alexandra Horowitz, 2010, is soon to be in our library.

Lynne also recommends the book *Secrets of the Snout*, by Frank Rosell, 2018. Lynne says about this book: "It is available at the public library. As a translation it is a bit stilted, but it has a lot of interesting facts about the wide world of canine scent work. (Identifying different types of beaver poop, sniffing out rotting utility poles as well as search and cadaver work.) It is probably not worth buying for the club, but those who are interested could check it out."

In this age of the corona virus and no meetings, it's hard to get books or DVDs to dog club members. Some of us have more time on our hands for dog training due to the Pandemic. If you'd like to supplement your training with library materials, you can find an updated list of library materials on the club website. Contact me at idtclibrary@gmail.com with any requests and I'll find a way to get you anything you would like from the library. The virus lives on hard surfaces like cardboard or plastic anywhere from one to three days. You could always "quarantine" a book or DVD for a while once you get it.

Be sure to contact Marguerite about the new books and videos that are in the library. She is doing a terrific job keeping up with new publications, Both the written word and DVDs.



2019-20 (updated 6/26/20)

Officers

President: Susan Morse sm32@cornell.edu/607-347-4860

Vice President: Linda Centurelli BlackdogColby@gmail.com

Secretary: Abby Christman: ajc93@cornell.edu

Treasurer Pat Welch: pawelch1164@gmail.com

Board Members

Tammy Osmeloski (5/18 to 5/20) TTIA607@gmail.com

Steve Anderson (5/18 to 5/20) sta111@verizon.net

Shirley Kielmann (5/19 to 5/21) mskielmann@yahoo.com

Kathy Hildreth (5/19 to 5/21) kphildreth@yahoo.com

Marguerite Hart (5/19 to 5/20) meh120000@gmail.com

Officers and Board members will continue on until we can get an official membership meeting.

Training Committee 2020-21

Two-year term:

Member: Marian Szebenyi (3/20-2/22 – 2 years) dms35@cornell.edu/564-7230

Member: Lynne Anguish (3/20-2/22 – 2 years) lja2@cornell.edu

Member: Jean Bonasera (3/20-2/22 – 2 years) ausabledogs@yahoo.com

Second part Two-year term:

Member: Betty Baldwin (3/19-2/21 – 2 yrs.) bhb5@cornell.edu

Member: Diana Travis (3/19-2/21 – 2 yrs.) dianatravis2@gmail.com

One-year Term:

Member: Anne Williams (2/20-3/21- 1 yr.) no e-mail 607-277-7219

Member: Deb Bain (2/20-3/21- 1 yr.) dab14@cornell.edu

Note – There is no Training Director for 20-21 – Jobs will be distributed and Posted

Address Corrections:

Susan Beals

bealsie2@gmail.com

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Cuyler, NY 13158
607-423-5576

Newsletter Editor

Linda Centurelli
BlackdogColby@gmail.com

Misc. Committees

A.T.T.S. Lynne Anguish & Tom Szebenyi 564-7230 – Pending date
CPE Agility Trials 2020 – committee members pending

These trials are pending---

Aug 29 & 30 – Tammy O. Chair, Linda C. Sec.

Nov 27 & 28 & 29 –Debbie Keith (chair) debbiek@rom27.com

Suzanne Etherington (secretary) etherington1@juno.com

CU/Pavilion Coordinator: Deb Watrous dwatrous22@gmail.com

Class Materials Coordinator: Jean Bonasera ausabledogs@yahoo.com

Equipment Maintenance – Agility only – Joe and Tammy Osmeloski

Equipment Maintenance – Other: **Vacant**

Equipment Sales/collar fitting: Kathy Hughes kahughes1907@gmail.com/607-379-1907

Finance Committee – Anne Williams, Betty Baldwin, Pat Welch

FLKC Liaison: Marg Pough

Graduations:

Beginners: Eva Stilwell emb38@cornell.edu

Advance: Eva Stilwell emb38@cornell.edu

CGC: Hannah Robinson hannahL6@yahoo.com

2019 ACT Test: Pending - **Vacant**

Historian: Lucille Straub lucillestraub@me.com

Holiday Party 2020: Brenda Finnicum dogweaver@frontier.com

IDTC Yahoo list serve: Linda Pacioretty lp@bionxs.com

Interclub: Deb Bain dab14@cornell.edu /347-6518

Judges Selection: Deb Bain dab14@cornell.edu /347-6518

Library: Marguerite Hart meh120000@gmail.com

Match Show Chair: **Vacant**

Membership Steward: Susan Beals (see above)

Newsletter copying/mailing: Deb Bain

Paws for Thought Coordinator: Tammy Osmeloski

Photographer: **Vacant**

Point Show Spring 2020: Debbie Keith

Point show Fall 2020: Shirley Kielmann mskielmann@yahoo.com/607-229-9495-Chair, Jean Bonasera
Co-Chair

Programs: Nancy Almann willowcreekakitas@yahoo.com

Public Information: Betsy Root 387-7082 loveapoodle@yahoo.com

Registrar:

Beginners: Marian Szebenyi

Advance: Judy Roberts winddance@zoom-dsl.com

Agility: Instructor registering their own classes

Nosework: Instructor registering their own classes

Refreshments:

Meetings: Diana Travis dianatravis2@gmail.com

Beg Graduations: Diana Travis

Advance Graduations: Diana Travis or instructor if off site

Sunshine: Deb Bain & Pat Welch

T-shirt coordinator: Sue Yanoff

Trophies Ribbons & end of year awards: Betty Baldwin: bhb5@cornell.edu/257-1683

Web Pages:

General: Marian Szebenyi

Facebook & List serve updates: Linda Pacioretty lp@bionxs.com

Welcoming Chair: Abby Christman ajc93@cornell.edu/440-532-9545



Submission date for newsletter: The 5th of each month.

Please send anything you might like me to publish: articles, pictures, short stories of some your events, silly stories, jokes, etc. Club members will enjoy reading these and it brings our members closer since we all have the same love-our dogs.





Monthly Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter Editor
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