



## Annual Meeting Agenda January 13, 2009

Call to Order and Welcome

Minutes of January 8, 2008 Annual Meeting, Krista Hunt

Nominations, Stacy Pampuch – voting takes place

Officers & Staff Reports

President, Corrie Barrows

Vice President, Katie Brittan

Membership Coordinator / Office Manager, Mary Verness / Nanette Malcomson

Treasurer, Mary Steinbauer

Director of Training, Jan Heck

Dept Head Reports

Obedience, Jane Jacobson

Agility, Anne Bentley

Tracking, Mary Beth Percy

Flyball, Jane Jacobson

Therapy Dogs, Carol Ouhl

Committee Reports

Agility Trial, Kristin Omdahl and Alexis Erickson

Obedience Trial, Jane Jacobson

Flyball Team and Tournament, Karen Radford

Rental Administrator, Alexis Erickson

Web Page, Janna Netland-Lover

Newsletter, Holly Manning and Cynthia Baxter

Achievements, Robin Kilbury

Obedience Run-thrus, Patty Fulton

Volunteerism, Dawn Barker

Unfinished Business

Update on job descriptions, Nanette Malcomson and Mary Steinbauer

New Business

Possible Expansion, Jan Heck and Mary Steinbauer

Announcement of new Board members

Adjourn

### **Please Note:**

- Only members who have paid their 2009 dues are eligible to vote at this meeting.
- After the nominating committee makes nominations, nominations will be opened to the floor. At this time any member in good standing (as defined in the by-laws) may nominate any other member in good standing as long as s/he has consent from the nominees to do so. If any member so nominated is not present at the meeting, his/her consent must be in writing and presented to the recording secretary at the time of nomination.
- All committee reports should be limited to ten minutes in length. This includes discussion of the report.

## 2008 President's Report

2008 was a big year for TCOTC! This year we were lucky enough to get a new Agility Department Head, a new club logo, new learning opportunities in the form of Club Days and seminars, new class offerings, new instructors, assistants and front desk volunteers, new mats for the annex and we even got a new front door! While we enjoyed these changes we also kept on doing what we do best with all of our classes and annual events. The Board of Directors continued to work towards a higher level of organization within our club while also striving to meet the goals of our club mission statement. I give my deepest thanks to the scores of people who spent countless hours working in many different ways to keep our club successful for another year. It is because of you and your support that we have such a wonderful club.

Submitted by **Corrie Barrows**, President

## 2008 Vice President's Report

- There was a new outlet installed in the Annex which will help with all the cord problems we were having during agility trials.
- The bathroom hand dryers have been problematic. They were fixed, then not working, and then we thought we would need new ones. Then they were fixed again. On the decision block – an electrician will be looking at both the hand dryers and the malfunctioning pop machine which blows the fuse each time it's plugged in.
- The awards were moved to a more eye catching spot in the meeting room so that traffic in the entry way wouldn't be an issue.
- Equipment needs were monitored throughout the facility. The agility contacts were painted, and there are plans to paint the weave poles and wash out the tunnels in the spring. There were 3 new tunnels purchased.
- With the help of Nanette and my dad, we hauled away old computers and dead light bulbs to recycle. It was more light bulbs than I ever would've guessed (but of course couldn't remember for this report!)
- A various number of helpers came to install the new Annex mats. With the organization of the Omdahls and quite the team effort, they look awesome!
- Need a clock at the front desk
- New copier was purchased
- New toilet tissue roll dispensers were installed
- Plans for painting the wood stairs or resurfacing them if possible
- Plans for building a place for all the folding chairs so that they would be easier to move
- Dutch door installed in the meeting room. Plans to possibly convert the 2<sup>nd</sup> door into a dutch door (more air circulation in the summer).
- Also there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> window that will be installed, location to be determined.

Huge thanks to Jack Matlock for all the work he does for the club!

And to those people who helped me out, 'cuz I still feel like I haven't got a clue – thanks!

Submitted by **Katie Brittan**, Vice President

## 2008 Office Manager/Membership Coordinator Report

The Office Management role is much the same as last year. We still have divided the position into three parts. Mary Steinbauer has the financial responsibilities, Nanette Malcomson has the office support responsibilities, and I have the computer related responsibilities. This is a generalization of the position. Nanette's and my role interconnect and we support each other as the need requires.

This report references the computer related responsibilities of the position.

We still maintain our membership data in an Access database. Each membership and entry into each class is entered into the database allowing us to create class listings, volunteer and training interest listings, and assist in the club's monetary checks and balances. In 2008 we have tracked 281 classes. Our goal is to track all classes so we may best provide the club with accurate data.

The class breakdowns for 2008 are:

162 obedience (up 19 from last year)

90 agility (up 12 from last year)

11 therapy (same as last year)

4 tracking (down 2 from last year)

11 flyball (up 7 from last year)

1 observer (down 1 from last year)

2 conformation (the same as last year – although conformation is currently made up of run throughs with no class dates)

Here are some comparison figures on membership along with 2008's figures:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Household memberships	451	475	
Junior memberships	2	0	
Lifetime memberships	7	8	
Single memberships	687	691	
Total memberships	1147	1174	1231
New memberships	696	742	741

We continue to respond to many class related emails that the club receives on a daily basis. This ranges between 5-15 emails per day. The most frequently cited reference for how people found out about us is our website.

Other interesting statistics from our database:

### Top 10 Breed Count from Class Reg.

Labrador Retriever	185
Golden Retriever	154
Shetland Sheepdog	109
Border Collie	89
German Shepherd Dog	70
Australian Shepherd	67
Boxer	66
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	57
Portuguese Water Dog	48
Lab X	48

### Top 10 Breed Count from NEW MEMBERS only Class Reg.

Labrador Retriever	102
Golden Retriever	51
Australian Shepherd	33
Lab x	28
Shetland Sheepdog	23
Boxer	22
Border Collie	22
German Shepherd Dog	19
Pembroke Welsh Corgi	19
Boston Terrier	17

**And lastly, for the year 2008...**

The most popular female dog name from class registration lists was again **LUCY** with 33 registrations.

New members only most popular female dog name was **STELLA** with 14 registrations.

The most popular male dog name from class registration lists **RILEY** with 19 registrations.

New members only most popular male dog name was **JACK** with 11 registrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the club as part of the Office staff again this year.

Submitted by **Mary M. Verness**, Office Manager/Membership

**2008 Director of Training Annual Report**

Thank you for allowing me to be Director of Training for another year. And yes, we are still training. I would like to thank TCOTC's board for skillfully bringing our club through another year. This year the board had many issues to tackle ranging from continuing to develop and organize all the jobs that keep this club functioning. Also, the board works very diligently to keep this club fiscally sound.

As Director of Training, I am very pleased to announce that all the Department Heads have been selected and are working as a team. Anne Bentley is head of Agility, Jane Jacobson is head of Obedience and Flyball, Mary Beth Percy is Head of Tracking and Carol Ouhl is Head of Therapy also known as Tail Waggers.

TCOTC's lead instructors have been busy too. There is one lead instructor for each night/day. The lead instructor makes sure the building is opened before classes start and closed/locked at the end of the training session. They have to handle any incidences between dogs, handlers and dogs or any other situation that might happen. The hardest part of the job is to ask each instructor and assistant who work on that night if they are willing to continue. The lead instructor compiles a class schedule for the night/day. By week 6, new class sheets are printed for the next session and members may sign up and pay for the next session. Class instructors will help members select the next appropriate class for their dog. These people have evaluated 22 new members in which 5 went to Level 1, 14 to Level 2, 1 to Level 3 and 2 to Rally O, plus 3 children who wanted to train their dogs.

Thanks go to the Office staff for keeping all these classes full and preparing the class lists and collecting the fees. They are truly the "behind the scenes" workers who get all our members into the classes of their choice.

The instructors are paid but not nearly enough for what they do to keep our club members with training and introducing anything new in the curriculum. They put in extra hours preparing the classes and improving their own teaching skills. At their side is a trusty assistant. They are the people who help the instructors give individual attention to everyone in class. Jane Jacobson organized the Puppy/Tweener instructors who created a wonderful folder for new class members. This folder replaces the single sheets but includes that same type of information with a table of contents. Julia Humiston did the bulk of the writing with input from Mary Beth Percy, Nancy Herlofsky, Jane and myself.

The front line people are so busy getting everyone into the classes, completing check-ins, selling TCOTC merchandise, collecting and checking out books from the library, answering the phone, listening to voice mail, handing out leashes to new Level 1 students and willing to help out with anything when an instructor needs extra help. We call these industrious workers the desk people. They are the first people you greet as you come into the building to check in. I extend my thanks to these people for the consistency for being there every week, their wonderful pleasant attitude and their knowledge of knowing where to go to get help for those who need it.

Again, this year we reviewed and updated the Level 1 curriculum in Obedience. The Level 2 and Level 3 will be aligned to the new Level 1 curriculum this year. Agility Foundation classes will be reviewed by the Agility Foundation instructors with Anne Bentley, Department Head.

The tracking instructors continue to track in heat, cold, light rain (and no lightning) under the guidance of Mary Beth Percy, Department Chair. We had 3 Level 1 tracking classes and 2 Level 2 tracking classes. We ask that

these new student become involved with the two tracking tests as a prerequisite to working with the “advanced” classes on the weekend.

Jane Jacobson, Flyball Department chair, schedules and leads the instruction for the flyball classes. The graduates of these classes will need to contact existing flyball groups when they are ready to compete.

In 2008, we had started the “Club Night” sessions. Club Night is open to all members and is organized by TCOTC members. This year’s topics included: Crate Games (DVD by Susan Garret and practice time), Canine Rehab and Injury Prevention (Dr. Julia Tomlinson from TC Rehab), Canine Good Citizen Test – How to earn your GCG, Skijoring by John Thompson of Skijor Now and Helping Your Dog Through Fear by Carol Ouhl, Therapy Department Head. We already have 5 months of activities for our members on the club nights. Our club nights will either be on a Friday evening or a Saturday morning or early afternoon. A special thanks to Dawn Barker, board member, for contacting Dr. Tomlinson, club member Carin Offerman for organizing the Skijoring, all the volunteer helpers for the CGC, and Carole Arndt for creating the announcement posters for Club Night. Get involved by submitting a topic, finding a presenter or attending the session.

The staff had the opportunity to attend 12 staff meetings. There are four meetings for each of the major venues Agility and Obedience and 4 staff meetings for other venues and all staff meetings. These meetings are used to keep all staff members current on any changes or issues or new skills to learn.

Demonstrations this year were limited to April at the University of Minnesota, June at Hennepin County Government Center (and we got a pizza lunch) and August at the State Fair. Although we usually go to Folwell Park, the Association for Folwell Park changed the date and we were unable to attend. The state fair demonstration has changed. We worked dogs every hour we were there. Hennepin County put pictures and a link to our website on their website. We had a nice grassy knoll to work on. There were people all around us.

A special thank goes to Anne Bentley and Robyn Kilbury who generously helped TCOTC host two seminars. We had a tracking seminar with Maureen Foley and an obedience seminar with Sue Ailsby. Both were well attended and a lot of fun.

The club hosted 3 Canine Good Citizen Tests although four were scheduled. We had to cancel one in February because we had a snow day in January and needed to hold a make up class on a Monday.

**Canine Good Citizen Report**  
(Including 2005 – 2008)

<b>Categories AKC Records</b>	<b>2005 4 Tests</b>	<b>2006 4 Tests</b>	<b>2007 3 TCOTC 1 Guide Dogs</b>	<b>2008 4 TCOTC</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Total for all 4 years</b>
<b>Total Dogs Entered</b>	76	67	72	54		269
<b>Passed</b>	59	53	66	47		178
<b>Purebred Passed</b>	45	40	41	37		163
<b>Mixed Breed Passed</b>	14	13	25	10		62
<b>Dates for 2009:</b> Feb. 19 (Thurs.), Apr. 20 (Mon.), Jun. 21 (Tues. a.m.), and Dec. 30 (Wed.)						

I wish to thank all the members who continue to train at TCOTC, encourage new people to join, and volunteer time to help TCOTC with all the activities during the year.

Submitted by **Janice K. Heck**, Director of Training

## **2008 Obedience Department Report**

The TCOTC obedience department continues to train puppies and dogs from 7 weeks to any age, three nights and one morning a week. We have 3 hours of classes beginning at 5:50 at night and 9:30 in the morning. It is our goal to have every ring used in the prime training times of 7:00 and 8:15 and we are currently striving to meet that goal.

Puppy and tweener classes continue to be a popular choice for socializing new puppies and educating new dog owners. A new puppy and tweener curriculum was started which included an information folder. This was developed to take the place of the individual handouts and was primarily written by Julie Humiston, with editorial assistance from Mary Beth Percy, Nancy Herlofsky, and Jan Heck. It has been very well received by many students.

Level 1 classes continue to be limited to 12 dogs and handlers. The new level 1 curriculum was begun early in the year with positive feedback from instructors and students, alike. The level 2 curriculum is currently under review and revision with the major outcome of passing the AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

Staff meetings are given 4 times a year for the obedience staff. However, any staff member is welcome to attend. Meetings are developed to answer staff questions, build skills, and encourage rapport. Meetings have included such topics as the new level 1 curriculum, shaping, and developing the new level 2 outcomes.

Many thanks go to all our dedicated instructors, assistants, desk people and office staff for another excellent and successful year.

Submitted by **Jane L. Jacobson**, Obedience Department Head

## **2008 Agility Department Report**

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Agility Department Head for TCOTC, a role I assumed in October 2008. With the continuing support of Jan Heck, Director of Training, and a host of competent and talented instructors and assistants, I'm happy to say the agility program is alive and thriving!

### **Facilities and Equipment**

The big news for 2008 is that we added new mats to the Annex! Thanks to all the people who helped plan and implement the mat installation project, including Richie and Kristin Olmdahl who took charge of the planning and technical / logistical details. I can't begin to list all the people who helped make this happen – it was quite a team effort. The new mats were laid on top of the old ones, providing added cushioning. This project involved careful measurements, laying out of the mats to settle, and finally cutting, laying, and taping – all coordinated with tight time tables to be in place for our November agility trial and the Sue Ailsby seminar, which was held in the Annex. If you haven't had a chance to stop in and see them yet, please do so soon!

We have received very favorable comments about our new mats from club members as well as exhibitors at our fall trial and seminar. But we have learned from our experiences with the old mats, and this time we are taking special precautions to protect them. We are not putting heavy equipment, wire crates, or chairs with feet on the mats without extra protection. We are also asking people to bring indoor shoes with them during the winter, to prevent tracking salt and sand into the Annex.

### **Agility Programming**

From an agility program standpoint, we made progress in several areas during 2008. At the time last year's agility report was written, we were unable to add new Foundation agility classes, and had even removed non-members from our waiting list. During 2008 we rebounded, and added three new Foundation classes. The team of

instructors who taught these classes are currently collaborating on a rewrite and improvement to the Foundation curriculum. We are planning to add at least one Foundation class in early 2009, and are developing an evaluation process for incoming Foundation students.

We also have recognized how hard it is in the wintertime for people to train, gain access to equipment, or work on improving specific skills. So, we are making plans for open training sessions and some “mini seminars”, to be developed internally for our own students. We also hope to bring in at least one public agility seminar during 2009 as well.

### **Agility Staff**

We have experienced staff changes and growth in 2008 as well. Recently we promoted two agility assistants, Katie Brittan and Laura Breckheimer, to the role of instructors, and they both hit the ground running. We also welcomed Ruth McAlindon back, as she rejoined the Monday night instruction team late last summer. Finally, during the winter of 2009, we expect to offer the Observer class again and then bring a few new assistants on board.

In late 2008 we also began implementing an “adjunct instructor” program. This program brings in individuals from time to time who are qualified to fill in as instructors, and can also help teach mini-seminars. The “adjunct” program allows us to expand our talent base, usually with people who can’t make regular or long term teaching commitments.

This report wouldn’t be complete without acknowledging two new roles in our department:

- **Kathy Murphy** is now coordinating new student registrations. We developed an evaluation form to collect better information on prospective students. This helps us narrow down which classes they belong in, and also assess the interest level for starting new classes. In the near future, Kathy will begin a waiting list for Foundation classes, with first priority going to “active” club members.
- **Katie Brittan** has taken responsibility for agility equipment, as the primary “go-to” person for equipment issues. She also took on the big job of painting equipment before our November 2008 trial, which she coordinated during the installation of our new mats.

Submitted by **Anne Bentley**, Agility Department Head

## **2008 Tracking Department Annual Report**

2008 was a busy year for TCOTC’s tracking group as is evidenced in the activity report below.

### **Classes**

Two orientation sessions were held in March for those registered in the level 1 classes. Three level 1 classes with 5-8 dogs per class began in April; instructors/assistants were Julie Sharbo/Jolynn Wedekind, Ted Jewell/Jan Heck, Mary Beth Percy/Tracy Platt/Nancy Rowe. One level 2 class with 8 dogs was instructed by Jan Heck with Micky Trent and Robin Kilbury as assistants.

### **Seminar**

The Club sponsored a tracking seminar that was held May 30, 31 and June 1. Marge Schultz was key to planning the content, reserving locations and working with judge Maureen Foley of Michigan who was our presenter for the 3-day event. Robin Kilbury and Anne Bentley did a fantastic job feeding the 34 participants. We had great weather for our two days of outdoor tracking at Willow River. Maureen shared her knowledge and experience with us and offered insights into many of our tracking questions.

### **Certifications and Tests**

This year we held two certification events. Becky Johnson tested 7 of our tracking dogs on two separate occasions in February and March. 4 of our dogs were certified as ready for the Tracking Dog test (3 have since gone on to successfully complete their TD title!)

Two TD tests were held. The first was April 27 and tested 7 dogs. Club members Nancy Rowe and her German Shepherd Dog, Vinnie; Bill Gray and Bloodhound, Sherick Dakota Hellavachance4Gut; Mary Beth Percy and Lakeland Terrier, Amanda all passed and received their Tracking Dog titles.

Our second TD test was October 26 and we tested 11 dogs, 2 of whom already had their TD titles but took advantage of the opportunity for further experience. Of our 11 entries, 7 passed. Club members Wendy Gray and her Bloodhound, Ohana; Patty Fulton and her Corgi, Echo passed our fall test and received their Tracking Dog titles.

### **Run Thru**

January 1, 2008 was our second annual fund raiser. The event was so popular that the agility, rally and obedience rings were in constant use from 8:30 in the morning until well after 3:00.

### **2009**

2009 looks to be another busy and exciting year for those interested in tracking. Our 2009 classes will continue to be offered to current Club members before non-members to assure the maximum opportunities for TCOTC folks (the availability of sign up sheets will be announced in late February/early March). We are looking to hold two tracking tests again as well as exploring sponsoring another seminar. We continue to hold weekend practice sessions for those who have tracking skills consistent with our level 2 graduates.

Submitted by **Mary Beth Percy**, Tracking Department Head

### **2008 Flyball Department Report**

Flyball classes continue to be a popular activity for TCOTC members. Flyball I introduces dogs and handlers to the sport and skills of flyball. Flyball II refines and improves the skills learned in Flyball I, and Flyball III strives to prepare the dog and handler to join and participate in a tournament. In 2008 we continued to build a curriculum to develop a better, safer turn at the box and for the dogs to ignore other running dogs.

Six sessions of classes were held in 2008 with 3 Flyball I classes, 3 Flyball II classes and 6 Flyball III classes. 28 dogs completed Flyball I and II, and 34 dogs completed Flyball III.

Submitted by **Jane L. Jacobson**, Flyball Department Head

### **2008 Therapy Dog Department Annual Report**

#### **State of the State**

The two major developments this year were these first two items:

1. Local metro hospitals requiring all therapy teams to become registered with Delta Society to ensure they are re-evaluated every 2 years. This coincides with hospitals' requirements to retrain and re-evaluate all volunteers to maintain hospital accreditation.
2. We now have at least one metro hospital that has instituted breed bans on registered therapy animals. The current ban involves Akitas, Dobermans, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers.
3. Polly is also now teaching her own therapy dog classes in Burnsville (where she lives) in addition to assisting me in classes
4. Polly has given a couple of therapy dog overview seminars for groups in Detroit Lakes and Brainerd that want to form visiting groups.
5. Polly and I attended this year's APDT Conference in Louisville, KY

## **Visits by Tail-Waggers (TW)**

members are currently visiting 12 facilities

- children's surgical units
- group home for adults with developmental delay challenges
- assisted living
- skilled-care long term care facilities
- Alzheimer's units
- women's shelters
- hospital cardiac surgery recovery
- adjudicated juvenile boys

Two of our facilities donate to the Club yearly to show their appreciation for the couple of Tail-Waggers who travel far to the west to visit them

We have several long term previous members now visiting with new dogs having retired or lost their previous experienced dog

We also have had a couple of experienced volunteers re-evaluate with another of Tail-Waggers dog to be able to continue visiting after the loss of their own dog.

## **Training**

Offered 4 classes for both Introductory and Intermediate visiting skills

Offered 2 advanced classes for those completing Intermediate who wanted to expand their knowledge

We continue to receive donations of training "equipment"/ costumes/ toys/ etc

My two assistant instructors continued again this year: Polly Ames and Erin McKee

- My other assistant, Myra, who was with me for 3 years has gone on to other endeavors.
- we continue to provide an intense amount of individual trainer attention

Classes have been steady with 3 to 5 students.

- That class size is a little lower than I would like
- But the student progression is much faster with that small class size

## **Community Outreach**

As a result of observations made at the Halloween Party of many handlers having trouble helping their frightened dogs, I offered a "concur fear" session for a club event. There were about 30 attendees and many dogs and handlers gained some good skills. Thanks to the other instructors who pitched in to help the handlers

I continue to offer at least quarterly Free Therapy Animal Overview Seminars for the public

- We typically have had between 15 and 30 attendees with their dogs.
- We obtain most of our student's from this venue.
- Many of our students - continue to come from other obedience schools or those who have trained on their own at home.
- During those overview seminars I assess each dog-handler team to determine if they have sufficient obedience skills and the dogs are mentally mature enough to be eligible to register for the class.
- TCOTC's website continues to draw heavily & provides immediate "hits" no matter how people are searching for therapy dog info.
- We continue to see a good percentage of people coming with young puppies wanting to learn what is involved to give their new puppies a solid foundation for later therapy dog involvement.

Some members continue to do one-time special demos at various facilities and events which frequently brings a cash donation to TCOTC

April, 08 Open House at the U of M Veterinary School

- We had very little space in a corner in their spare "agility" building
- Marsha L was instrumental in getting us time to do a quick demo
- We had at least 2 teams for each hour available to answer questions.

### **Halloween Party**

The food and raffle for the humans continues to be well attended.

This year we had only one child even though it was a Saturday afternoon - probably due to conflict with many other kids activities that weekend.

“therapy dog obstacle course” remains a big favorite “game”

Carol Brandenburg again did a tremendous job to obtain fabulous raffle items

- inspite of having far less time to devote
- She had many more negative responses from businesses due to the economy
- We ran the raffle in a standard fashion this year so that not all people holding tickets received an item.
- Carol and I have continued to stockpile for future years. All donations of raffle items are welcomed. They don't have to be Halloween related.

We raised well over \$400 this year. That only occurs because Carol B and I beg or buy all the items given away.

A very, very special thank you to all the Tail-Waggers (and their spouses and friends) who come down early to decorate, help run the games, keep the kitchen running, sell raffle tickets and most of all CLEAN UP!

- As with all our TCOTC events, it could not happen without all the wonderful volunteers

Submitted by **Carol Ouhl**, Theraphy Dog Department Head

### **2008 Agility Trial Report**

In 2008, TCOTC offered eight days of agility trials held over three weekends. All trials were one-ring trials held in the Annex because in 2006 the green mats in the ring room were determined to be unfit for agility.

This year TCOTC continued the search that had begun in 2007 for appropriate matting for the ring room. If new matting could be found that would work for both agility and the day-to-day uses of the ring room, we thought we would resume holding two-ring agility trials. Unfortunately, finding appropriate matting that would suffice for the extreme variety of activities held in the ring room proved to be incredibly difficult and more time consuming than expected. No final decisions on matting were made, and therefore all 2008 agility trials were held in the Annex.

During this time, the condition of the Annex matting continued to degrade to the point of needing replacement. These mats served their purpose very well for 8 years, and so the club decided to proceed with installing the same type of mats in the Annex again. The new mats were in place for the November trial, and feedback from competitors was very positive. This flooring update was extremely well-received and we expect it to continue to draw entrants to our trials for years to come.

Additionally, the one-ring trials continued to be popular with exhibitors due to extended crating space and ability to have the bleachers for better viewing. To save on expenses, we decided not to rent the bleachers for the November trial and instead placed chairs in the Annex area for viewing, which also worked quite well. We also hired only one judge for each trial day, which limited the entries to a smaller number than previous years but had some benefits such as shorter days for competitors and trial committee.

We tried something new this year and offered the FAST class on our Friday only trials. This is a new class for the AKC and after trying out the class with smaller entries this year, TCOTC will be ready to offer it on a larger scale as it becomes more popular.

The trial committee began investigating ways to make the agility trials more profitable and looks forward to implementing some of those ideas in 2009.

2008 Trial Dates:

March 2 (200 entries - Excellent only)

March 3 (330 entries – all levels)

March 4 (330 entries – all levels)

Trial Chair: Kristin Omdahl

May 11 (330 entries – all levels)

May 12 (330 entries – all levels)

Trial Chair: Alexis Erickson

November 23 (250 entries – Excellent only)

November 24 (330 entries – all levels)

November 25 (330 entries – all levels)

Trial Chair: Kristin Omdahl

Submitted by **Kristin Omdahl**, Agility Trial Chair

### **2008 Obedience Trial Report**

The 2008 TCOTC obedience trial was held on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Rally and obedience entries were down from previous years, mirroring trends seen by other clubs in this area, although our entry fees were up because we raised prices to cover increased AKC fees. TCOTC continues to be a popular venue for both competitors and judges due to our well proportioned area and excellent stewards, led by our chief ring steward, Corrie Barrows. Thank you to everyone that contributed to making our obedience trial a success.

Submitted by **Jane L. Jacobson**, Obedience Trial Chair

## 2008 Flyball Team Report

### **Tournament**

There were no teams who chose to participate in the single dog racing event this year. The team will evaluate the event prior to the tournament next year to determine if we will plan to continue offering the event. Because it is an educational opportunity, the team would like to continue providing this opportunity to new dogs and handlers. Improved advertising to area teams and heavier promotion in flyball classes may help bring additional participation and revenue for this event.

The number of teams who participated in the tournament was similar to the original estimate. There were a total of 17 teams running on Saturday and 22 teams running on Sunday and the original estimate was 22 teams per day. One club had to drop participation of two teams just prior to the tournament Saturday.

Tournament set-up went smoothly and there were no issues with lights or jumps. There was no damage reported to jumps or boards. One minor issue was noted in one of the side mats when a long, thin strip was found missing from one of the black side mats on Sunday morning. There was no report from any competitors as to what happened. The hole was taped over for the remainder of competition. A break in the PVC frame of the backdrop was also noted at set-up time. Both equipment issues were reported to Jane Jacobson at the conclusion of the tournament.

There was one reportable injury to a person during the tournament. The injury required stitches at a nearby urgent care facility, so the team determined it would be best to submit a report. Lornell Brand, an RN, assessed the injury and submitted the report.

Final tournament financials show tournament income, expenses and profit totals to be slightly better than original estimates. A summary of estimated and actual tournament income and expenses is located on the following page. Further details regarding any expense or income can be provided on request.

Overall tournament administration went smoothly. No major issues were encountered and racing started on time both days. A number of excellent volunteers were enlisted, keeping judging and scoring positions filled throughout the day. The flyball team always appreciates the excellent assistance we receive in hosting this tournament.

### **Flyball Boxes**

Through the combination of fundraising events and private donations the team secured two used flyball boxes from Animal Inn. The boxes are in excellent condition, have been painted and now display the TCOTC High Spirits logo. Replacing three older models that released the balls in an erratic pattern, the boxes are a great asset for the team and flyball class participants.

### **Tournament Scoring Paperwork**

Documentation and methodology for creating tournament scoring paperwork was upgraded this year and can be made available to assist any interested flyball team. We were able to provide some assistance for the Brat Pack tournament in December and previous corrections to the spreadsheets were verified.

### **Class Participation**

A few members of the team have continued to assist in flyball classes and training this year. The team would like to express our appreciation to Jane Jacobson and Corrie Barrows for allowing us to participate in the flyball classes and improve our exposure to potential new members.

Submitted by **Karen Radford**, High Spirits Flyball Team Leader

## 2008 Web Page Report

### Site Usage

Visits	Visitors	Pageviews	Pages/visit	Avg Time	Percent New Visits
26,632	14,610	11,261	4.18	3min 43sec	54.86%

### Traffic Sources

Search Engines	Direct Traffic	Referring Sites
53.28%	31.81%	14.85%

### Content Overview

General	Obedience	Calendar	Puppy	Agility
24.33%	12.35%	8.62%	5.77%	4.57%

TCOTC has started an account with Constant Contact, which will allow us to better communicate with our members via email. Constant Contact is a service that provides mass email capabilities via opt-in lists. Users will be able to subscribe to the list at any time via a form on our website, and unsubscribe any time via a link in the emails that are sent out.

Submitted by **Janna Netland-Lover**, Webmaster

## 2008 Newsletter Report

New features for 2008 included the Cover Dog and Instructor/Volunteer Profile. The goal for these features is to make the newsletter more appealing visually and to increase reader interest. Response to both has been very positive.

Also, we separated Bouquets & Biscuits from the newsletter for two reasons: to make the file size more manageable, and to allow the newsletter to be published by its first-of-the-month deadline.

Submitted by **Holly Manning**, Newsletter co-editor

## 2008 Achievements Report

To date, club members have reported 172 titles or special honors earned in 2008. They may be a few more that have yet to be submitted.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Number</u>
Agility	124
Rally	17
Conformation	8
Tracking	8
Obedience	5
Flyball	4
CGC	2
JRT Specialty	2
Freestyle	1
PWC Specialty	1

Submitted by, **Robin Kilbury**, Achievements Coordinator

## 2008 Obedience Fun Match Report

5/23/2008

Class	Judge	Entries		# Qualified	Winner - Owner / Dog / Bree
		Q	NQ		
Beginner	Jane Jacobson	1	0	1	Claire Dolan, Kasha, Golden Ret
AKC Pre-Novice	Jane Jacobson	4	0	4	Claire Dolan, Kasha, Golden Ret
UKC Sub-Novice	Jane Jacobson	2	0	1	Lynnda Lenzen, Java, Dalmation
AKC Novice A	Julie Humiston	3	2	3	Nancy Rowe, Vinny, GSD
AKC Novice B	Julie Humiston	3	0		
UKC Novice A	Julie Humiston	0	0		
UKC Novice B	Julie Humiston	0	0		
AKC Open	Jan Heck	3	0	1	Patty Fulton, Piper, Pem Welsh Corgi
UKC Open	Jan Heck	0	0		
AKC Utiltiy	Patty Fulton	2	1	1	Tiffani Flaws, Queixo, Port. Water Dog
UKC Utility	Patty Fulton	0	0		
Rally	N/A	9			
Totals		27	3		

9/22/2008

Class	Judge	Entries		# Qualified	Winner - Owner / Dog / Bree
		Q	NQ		
Beginner	Mary Beth Percy	3	0		?
AKC Pre-Novice	Mary Beth Percy	3	0		?
UKC Sub-Novice	Mary Beth Percy	1	0		?
AKC Novice A	Patty Fulton/Linda Munson	3	2	1	Patty Peterson / Riley / Beagle
AKC Novice B	Patty Fulton/Linda Munson	3	2	0	
UKC Novice A	Patty Fulton/Linda Munson	0	0		
UKC Novice B	Patty Fulton/Linda Munson	0	0		
AKC Open	Lois Walton	4	4		?
UKC Open	Lois Walton	0	0		
AKC Utiltiy	Lois Walton	0	0		
UKC Utility	Lois Walton	0	0		
Rally	N/A	8			
Totals		25	8		

Submitted by **Patty Fulton**, Obedience Fun Match Coordinator

## TCOTC Volunteerism

### Did you know that ...

- **TCOTC is more than just a training school.** TCOTC also offers members many fun activities including a Halloween party with games and great raffle prizes, Club Days with a variety of educational topics, and sponsors trials, tournaments and fun matches. No other local club or training school offers the breadth of activities and training classes available at TCOTC.
- **TCOTC is a non-profit organization.** TCOTC is a club that relies on member volunteers to run the club and has no full time employees.
- **TCOTC has the lowest prices for training classes in this market.** We are able to maintain our low prices because of the volunteer efforts of our members. Member volunteers assist at trials, man the front desk, maintain our website, manage trials/tournaments, serve on the Board and many other tasks that keep our club running. Without this volunteer workforce, we would need to hire people to perform these duties and our class charges would rise substantially.
- **TCOTC is the only training school in the Twin Cities that totally utilizes positive reinforcement training approaches.** While other schools may embrace positive methods for agility, we are the only program that will never recommend a choke or pinch or shock collar. Our members compete effectively in all arenas and have well-mannered dogs at home.
- **TCOTC could use more volunteers.** Although our operations run smoothly, many hands make light work. In addition, we would love new insight as we seek to expand our offerings to meet members' needs.

### How can I help?

We welcome anyone with a special passion or skills to contact Mary Verness and let us know how you'd like to help. Our needs are broad and include painting (walls and equipment), electrical work, plumbing, emptying the dehumidifiers, minor construction, cleaning, filing, mailings, etc.

At the present time, we would like to fill the following new volunteer positions:

- **Volunteer coordinator** – this person(s) would help match volunteers interests to current needs and would assist trial committees with finding volunteers when necessary.
- **Club Days Committee members** – assist in varied tasks which may include recruiting presenters, selecting Club Days topics, creating posters and marketing Club Days
- **Marketing coordinator** – this person(s) will mail information to vets who request brochures and will develop plans to market new services if applicable. Also includes updating and redesigning internal posters and Bulletin Boards to more effectively promote TCOTC activities.
- **Supply assistant** – assist the Office Manager by ordering building and office supplies and getting them to the building. They will also monitor collar and leash inventory.
- **Renters liaison** - help with event set up and event take down, includes ensuring shoveling takes place
- **Mat Cleaning** – day time help to clean the mats with the carpet cleaning machine or to spot clean mats.

In addition, we have need for the following ongoing needs (no experience needed):

- Help at CGC tests
  - Be "the crowd"/distractions
  - Help at the desk with registration
  - Collect the forms after each test
  - CGC evaluators
  - Publicity (put up posters and sign-up sheets on clipboards)
  - Set up and take down for ring barriers and equipment
- Help at Fun Matches/Run throughs
  - Be a steward (ring or gate) or pole setters

- Registration and check-in help
- Set up and take down for ring barriers and equipment
- Help at TCOTC Agility Trials, Obed Trials, Flyball Tournament
  - Need stewards, pole setters, registration and check-in help
  - Set up and take down for ring barriers and equipment
- Help at Tracking test
  - Workers to administer the test
  - Cross track walkers (simply walk with another person)
  - Cooks who love the outdoors and like to grill
  - Photographer
  - Labeling Ribbons
  - Buyer for gloves and start articles
- Help during therapy dog class
  - Humans are needed to assist with class exercises
    - Anyone is welcome to come into class WITHOUT their dog to be a crowd scene or "patient" for us to visit.
    - On certain weeks, children are needed for class exercises.
  - Run games at the annual Halloween Party and help decorate the room
- Shovel (snow removal) before classes and spread “salt” de-icer
- Bring in empty poop bags
- Volunteer to work on one of the bulletin boards. Each venue has a bulletin board (tracking, CGC, Awards, Therapy or Tail Waggers, News)
- Write an article about your training experience at TCOTC.
- Assist with the Annual Banquet
  - Preparing trophies by cleaning them of dust, etc.
  - Delivering and collecting trophies for engraving
  - Purchasing/creating table “gifts” (candy, small notebooks, etc.)
  - Displaying trophies at the annual banquet

Please contact Mary Verness (Office Manager) and let her know you would like to help. You can either email her at [tcotc1@aol.com](mailto:tcotc1@aol.com) or leave a note in her mailbox at TCOTC.

Submitted by **Dawn Barker**, Board of Directors

## New Space – To Rent or Not to Rent

### What could TCOTC do if they had extra space?

TCOTC would have another space where we could potentially offer 3 hours of training for 4 nights per week. Instructors could offer short session classes (more than 1 class but less than 9). We could have run-throughs or open ring time for individual members

**Proposed Phase 1 should be ready to implement in March.** The suggestions below are an example of the types of classes that could be offered. Suggestions from the membership welcomed for other types of classes.

<b>Monday</b>	Run-throughs (in addition to Tuesday). Also, we would advertise to other clubs.	Control unleashed (1 and 1 1/2 hour classes.	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mini sessions (examples: loose leash walking, scent articles, etc.)	Open ring time (members may work their dog in the ring.)	Gentle Leader Class
<b>Wednesday</b>	STAR Puppy or CGC (AKC Puppy tests)	Puppy/Tweener classes	Puppy/Tweener classes
<b>Thursday</b>	Shadow handling, distance work, weave poles mini sessions in the new area.	Mini sessions: Trick training, Shaping	Introduction to Rally Class

### Sample income and expenses for the Phase 1 chart with classes.

	1 <sup>st</sup> hr. Inc.	Exp.	2 <sup>nd</sup> hr. Inc.	Exp.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hr. Inc.	Exp	Total Inc.	Total. Exp.	Profit
Mon.	\$30 6 people	\$30.00	\$640 10 mem	\$72.00			\$640.00	\$48.00	\$512.00
Tues.	\$400 4wks 10 mem	\$48.00	\$120 4 wks	\$48.00	\$400 4wks 10 mem	\$48.00	\$920.00	\$144.00	\$836.00
Wed.	\$400 4wks 10 mem	\$48.00	\$275 4 wks 5 mem.	\$48.00	\$275 4 wks 5 mem.	\$48.00	\$850.00	\$144.00	\$706.00
Thurs.	\$400 4wks 10 mem	\$48.00	\$400 4wks 10 mem	\$48.00	\$360 10 mem.	\$48.00	\$1,160.00*	\$144.00	\$1,016.00
							<b>\$3,690.00</b>	<b>\$952.00</b>	<b>\$2,791.00</b>

These are all estimates. The classes would need to fill.

**Phase II will include adding new classes and adding new assistants and instructors.** Volunteers who would like to become assistants or instructors should sign up for and observer class (to become an assistant) or an assistant to instructor class to become an instructor. Usually, an assistant starts out by working in the ring with an instructor. The instructor will give guidance to the new assistant. The assistant should assist with at least 3 different instructors. The assistant should then co-teach with an instructor and be responsible for teaching 90 % of the class. Assistants should ask the instructors they have assisted, to write a recommendation on their coaching skills as an assistant and then on their teaching skills when co-teaching with an instructor.

The Director of Training, the department heads and any interested member will start to organize and implement new classes. Some of the ideas already generated are: Freestyle (dancing with dogs), Frisbee Freestyle, Hunt training, small dog playgroup, “How to enter a dog show”. Any instructor or new instructor who wants to teach a new class, will need to develop an outline of the skills that will be taught, determine the number of weeks and present that information in a timely manner to the Director of Training (Jan Heck) and the appropriate department head (Agility – Anne Bentley, Flyball and Obedience – Jane Jacobson, Therapy – Carol Ouhl, Tracking – Mary Beth Percy).

**NEW LEASE FOR THE SECOND Half of this year and 3 consecutive years. Our contracts extend from July to the next June.**

Current Contract through 06/10 - Total Cost/Month \$652.87

2nd year contract 07/10 – 6/11 - Total Cost/Month \$1240.87

**What needs to be done before we can use the new space?**

The first step in this process will be from you the membership who will need to determine if this is a viable proposal. As a member of TCOTC, you will be asked to help transform this new space into usable training areas. We will need every member to help paint, roll out mats, think of new creative classes to offer, and the list will grow. This is an exciting time. We have the opportunity to revitalize our club and training opportunities.

The Capp Building Manager will do some of the remodeling. We will need volunteers to finish the job. See “how can members help?” section.

Our club will need to determine the access points to the new space and the ventilation/heating.

If the members approve the additional space, the Director of training, department heads and instructors will begin a search for training new instructors and assistants. This will be another opportunity for members who wish to become assistants and assistants who wish to become instructors or adjunct instructors. If you are interested in becoming an assistant or instructor, there will be sign up sheets on clipboard that will be passed around during the annual meeting.

New class offerings will be developed with an approved curricula and knowledgeable instructors. Written outlines of new classes should include number of weeks, outlines of class lesson plans, number of students for the class (lowest number and highest number), and approval by the Director of Training (Jan Heck) and the department heads (Agility – Anne Bentley, Obedience – Jane Jacobson, Therapy – Carol Ouhl, and Tracking – Mary Beth Percy).

It may be possible to have our flyball team renters use just the ring room (new lanes will be laid north and south instead of east and west). The membership will need to consider the cost of adding doors between the new space and ring 1 and ring 2 and also adding an exhaust fan.

The membership will also need to consider mats. We may have enough green mats to cover the new area. However, we need to think about raising money for better mats for the ring room in the future.

**How can members help?**

We will need people to roll out the green mats in the new space.

We also need painters.

We may need help in installing a barrier or roll up garage door.

There may be other projects in the near future.

The more help we get, the faster the job is finished. Consider the tasks that you would volunteer to do. Your participation is needed! **There will be sign up sheet for volunteering to help.**

Submitted by **Janice K. Heck**, Director of Training