

DOINGS UPDATES

March 2023 Edition



DOCOF Officers

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DOCOF Updates

By Ron Seeley

Greetings from Kero Mountain Resort in Sevierville, TN. Luci & I are enjoying our vacation during my Spring Break from driving a school bus. The weather is brisk, 30 degrees in the morning then warming up to around the upper 40's to low 50's. Stanley and Ripley are loving the cool weather and going for walks on the hiking paths. It is a time when we reflect on our lives and kind of recharge our batteries. It also allows me to think about DOCOF and where you folks want DOCOF to go in 2023 and beyond. Also, to bring all of you up to speed on what your Board and I are working on.

This year Rachel Flatley has agreed to do an obedience seminar for us on May 13 & 14, 2023 at IPOC. We are offering 20 working spots plus unlimited audit spots and as Rachel always does, she is including an extra working spot and donating that money to DOCOF. I know you have not seen Rachel in the ring much lately, but I assure you she has a lot of great ideas on how to help you get the best results out of your dog when you are in the ring. So, whether you are an experienced handler or new to our sport and showing your first dog, you have an opportunity to learn a lot and have fun with your dog that weekend. We all enjoy having fun with our dogs and learning how to improve their performance. Plus, you will help support DOCOF by attending. The title of her seminar is *Recipe for the Ultimate Obedience/Rally Performance Cake*. Rachel will provide you with eight (8) ingredients that will improve your performance in the obedience and rally ring. I have attached the registration form in this email for anyone that needs one. It is also available on our website. Just click on the Events tab and you will see her Bio. At the bottom is a link to access the Registration Form.

I am also working on bringing Rally into DOCOF as a Special Event Trial (SET) just like we did for obedience. Our committee consisting of Carol Ann Klein, Becky Babicz, Aimee Kincaid, and Lodge Weber with some additional help from Deb Neufeld are working with me so I can get approval from AKC. My goal is to present our ideas at the Annual Meeting at DOCOF and get your approval so we can implement it for DOCOF in 2024. As soon as I get AKC's approval, I will send it out to our DOCOF Delegates so you have some advanced notice on what it will look like. Then hopefully, our discussion will not take up the entire meeting time.

To give you an idea on what we are working on, I want to offer Novice, Advanced, Intermediate, Excellent, Master, and Rally Choice. A team will consist of 4 dogs that choose which class they want to enter. The dogs can earn up to 100 points each with a perfect team score of 400. Ties will be determined by time just like in a regular Rally trial. You will be able to work towards a RAE and RACH title.

Carolee Boyles is still working on bringing Adele Yunck down for a seminar. She was not successful earlier this year, but we hope to make it happen soon. If you have any suggestions on who you want to have as a seminar presenter, please write to me and I will try to make it happen.

Ron Seeley
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(772) 971-4151

DOCOF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2022

Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg

Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM

Board members present: Ron Seeley, Ken Kincaid, Terri Bell, Lodge Weber, Carolee Boyles

Delegates present see signup sheet.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Loni Coleman moved Deb Neufeld seconded to accept the minutes of the 2021 meeting as printed in Doings. Approved.

Ron expressed disappointment at the low turnout for this year's DOCOF, especially since we now can earn legs at DOCOF. The good news is that we can now earn AKC legs and titles here.

Secretary's report: No activity other than taking minutes at the meeting.

DOCOF 2023 business: Carol Ann Klein is not here to talk about judges, since she is ill with COVID. Ron asked for suggestions for judges for 2023.

Deb suggested Cheryl Pratt, who does both rally and obedience.

Terri Bell suggested Helen Smith.

Deb suggested Rick Cox.

Ken suggested Marina Pavlovsky.

Carolee suggested Nancy Heidt for rally only.

Ron has been working on the possibility of incorporating the ability to earn rally legs into DOCOF the same way we're doing with obedience. He sent ideas to the committee but hasn't heard back from the committee members.

Discussion followed about ways to add rally trial to the weekend. Several people felt that adding rally would bring in more participants.

Ken pointed out that there are a lot of people who don't know what DOCOF is. We aren't allowed to have the email addresses of club members, so we can't promote DOCOF to individual people; we have to rely on the clubs to promote DOCOF. There are a lot of new people in clubs who don't know who we are or what we do. This has always been a problem.

What this amounts to is that we are now discussing whether DOCOF is relevant enough to sustain.

Loni said we need to market DOCOF at obedience and rally trials.

Contact with clubs is difficult, and even when we communicate with them, they don't always inform their membership. Aimee said training clubs do a better job, perhaps because they are smaller than other dog clubs.

Jeanette Rodgers suggested doing an open house to invite clubs to come and get interested in DOCOF. She said maybe we need to have a fun statewide get together to generate interest.

Dorothy Herman thanked the board for serving. She said there's a lack of interest in the DOCOF weekend, and said we need to put the responsibility for generating interest back on the clubs, not on the board.

Ron said one thing is that DOCOF has changed. We used to have a lot of ancillary things, such as a BBQ. We don't do those things anymore. Loni said we can do a BBQ and Ron asked her if she would do one for next year.

Also, Pics & Pages aren't here because they aren't getting enough business for them to come. Other photographers have declined coming because they don't have the manpower.

What followed was some general discussion that if we add the ability to get rally legs, we may generate some more interest.

Carolee said we need to find a way to get in touch with individual members without relying on the clubs. One way might be to have something to give individuals who sign up for our mailing list, so we can build a mailing list. This is something that retailers do.

Deb already has a mailing list that she can send to. She is willing to send out emails for DOCOF if we provide them to her.

More discussion followed. Bobbi Graves said it needs to start with the delegates. They need to promote it. The board can't be expected to do it on their own. We aren't going to survive unless we do that.

Jan Wencel went back to the idea of reaching out to individuals who are not part of the hierarchy of clubs. We need to talk to them and get them asking their clubs "Why aren't we doing this?" We need to talk about history and why this is important.

Loni does a 3-fold brochure for Dog Training Club of St Petersburg. She livestreamed some practice runs on Facebook the day before the meeting and got a number of shares and hits. That has good value because it's live and current. It gives people a reason to engage.

Other ideas: We could print posters to hang up at the clubs. We could have DOCOF members go out and talk about DOCOF to clubs. We could print a handout to give people to take home from trials.

Because we're a seasonal event, we don't send out information all year. So, we're not visible all year. If we send out an issue of Doings in January, we might get more people interested in being on the rosters for the clubs.

Deb suggested that we change the rules for the roster, so the deadline is later in the year to give us time to recruit more people for rosters and teams. Deb moved to change the 6-month rule to 3 months, that is, you must be associated with a club or organization for that long to be on a DOCOF team for that organization. Jeanette Rodgers seconded. Ken asked if this is a rule or is in the bylaws. Deb found it and said it's a rule, not in the bylaws. This change would set the deadline as June 1. We would also

need to change the language of our rules that say someone must be associated with a club for 6 months to 3 months to participate. Passed unanimously.

Terri went back to the ideas of posters and brochures. Are we going to pursue that? Ron said we don't have a lot of income, and without extra income we can't afford it.

Ken said K-9 performance solutions will pay for the brochures and posters. Luci said if we do that, she will send them to the corresponding secretary of every dog club in Florida.

Ron asked if we should pursue an obedience seminar for next year as a fundraiser. Deb suggested Adele Yunck. Aimee will contact her.

Membership committee: Deb has an application from K-9 Performance Solutions. Aimee spoke about KPS. It is a membership-based training organization. Lot of hard-working obedience people train there. Part of the reason KPS is joining is simply to support DOCOF.

The vote to accept KPS into membership was 10 yes, 0 no.

Treasurer's report: Lodge said our account showed \$12,810.66f as of August 31, 2022. We had two successful fund-raising events during the year, the Pat Hastings seminar and the Maggie Eslinger seminar. He reminded DOCOF members to pay their dues for the upcoming year.

Election: Deb moved to elect the existing slate of officers and board. There were several seconds.

But Ken said he does not want to run again this year.

Deb nominated Ron Seeley for President. There were several seconds. He said he will stay on for one more year.

Deb nominated Loni Coleman for 1st VP. Ken seconded. Loni accepted.

Luci nominated Terri Bell for 2nd VP. Terri accepted.

Treasurer: Lodge will stay on.

Secretary: Carolee will stay on.

The vote to accept this slate was unanimous.

Unfinished business:

Ken recommends that we do away with the website. Nobody uses it, and it's expensive. We can put forms and information on Facebook.

Deb moved to do away with website. There were several seconds. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ken will continue publishing Doings.

New business:

None.

Motion to adjourn. 2:21 PM

UPDATES & REMINDERS

ANNUAL MEETING

DOCOF's Annual Meeting, will be held on Saturday, September 2nd, after the conclusion of the Rally event, at the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg, 4400 34th St N # B, St. Petersburg, FL 33714. Everyone is welcome to attend -- all Delegates or their Alternates are expected. Only delegates OR their alternates may vote.

DOCOF ROSTERS

DOCOF Rosters are due by June 1, 2023. Please send to Deb Neufeld at: obdnn@aol.com

2023 DOCOF Judging Panel

Novice: Ms. Leslye Pinnell
2156 Berkshire Terr.
Lawrenceville, GA 30049
rocketpaws2015@gmail.com
(770) 687-3186

Open: Ms. Pat Gannon
2489 US Highway 69
Mineola, TX 75773
pgannon46@gmail.com
(903) 569-8015

Utility: Ms. Donna Eddins
30400 Germantown Rd.
Bartlett, TN 38133
dogwoods4dogs@aol.com
(901) 219-9405

Rally: Advanced & Master
Carol Ann Klein
534 NE 94th St.
Miami Shores, FL 33130
cak@bellsouth.net
(305) 751-5861

Rally: Novice & Excellent
Brenda Critelli
17716 Roanwood Ct.
Parrish, FL 34219
whitedogs1@msn.com
(727) 599-8179

RAFFLE

We will again host our very popular raffle to benefit DOCOF. Each club and vendor must bring a donation item, gift certificate or gift basket with a value of at least \$25 for the raffle. Each item should include a donor card so winners can send thank-you notes, just as we do for regular obedience trials.

DOCOF Photographer

Aaron Goldberg

Aaron Gold Photo

aarongoldphoto@gmail.com

(619) 954-9292

Aaron had a booth at last years AKC Classic. He does great work. Aaron worked at the Daytona Obedience Trial. You can visit him on Facebook www.facebook.com/AaronGoldPhoto It will be nice to have a photographer again at DOCOF, so I hope everyone will ask Aaron to capture their dog's run, or have a photo done of your team.

Forms you May Need

This is where our new website will be able to assist you. Please visit <https://DOCOF.org> and click on Downloadable Forms. There you will find several forms that may be helpful to you in order to submit a team for DOCOF. While you are there, take time to fill out the Registration Form for the Rachel Flatley Obedience Seminar. I guarantee you will have a great time!

You will find links to forms such as Team Update Form, Emergency Substitution Form, a Team Captain Checklist, and a Team Unification Form. You will also find other tabs that contain information that is useful to you and your team. Our website is still under construction, so If you need something that is not available on our website, please contact me and I will point you in the right direction.

Positions We Need to Fill

Raffle Table:

Deb Neufeld has stepped down as the person overseeing the Raffle table for DOCOF. Deb has been doing that job since the as long as I can remember. The raffle always brings in a nice income for DOCOF and so many of your members donate great items that they put together to raffle off. Therefore, I am looking for a volunteer to take over for Deb. This job would require you to work the raffle table and walk around selling raffle tickets during the DOCOF weekend. It of course would be easier if 2-3 people helped so if you are interested, please contact Ron Seeley.

RING PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

Please take the time to read the Run-through procedures and share with your team members. SET UP & TEAR DOWN Set up start time for Friday of DOCOF weekend will be announced as we get closer to Labor Day. DOCOF team areas may only be set up AFTER all of the rings and equipment are completely set up. That includes cleaning the ring mats. Do not attempt to put up your team tables and decorations before the announcement to do so is made (after the work for the event is finished). If you bring a dog, you may set up only the crate for your dog while you help with the set-up work. Team captains should be aware that those listed as tear down helpers on entry forms MUST STAY for the complete tear down of the rings at the end of the competition on Sunday. One or two rings are left up longer so that awards may be presented. This area must be broken down and mats rolled before the tear down crew leaves. The Event Committee will decide what action is to be taken if your team members do not fulfill this responsibility: It could affect your future team entries. We appreciate your cooperation so that all the events will run smoothly. In an ongoing effort to prevent excited teammates from ruining the performance of the dogs working in surrounding rings, team captains are again asked to coach handlers on their teams to remember that other teams are showing. Gentle applause is okay, but screaming and shouting should be curbed. If you wouldn't want it to happen to you during your turn in the ring, don't do it to someone else! Thanks for your good sportsmanship. Save your voices for cheering and palms for loud clapping at the end-of-day awards presentation.

RING PRACTICE PROCEDURE

Run-through practice donations have been a great fund-raiser for DOCOF. Please come on Saturday and support your tournament generously. If you come and help us set up on Friday night, you will be able to get in an extra run-through after all the tournament preparations have been set up! This includes steward tables and raffle and trophy tables. Friday Evening – Run-throughs for donations and after setup crew is finished will be available after set-up is completed. ONLY those folks who help with set up are eligible. Run-throughs end no later than 9:00 PM. **Saturday** – Run-throughs for donations will be available to all after the Rally Event has completed. Run-throughs end no later than 9:00 PM. All normal ring practice rules apply. Practice donations: \$5 for 5 minutes; no consecutive runs; No group exercises. Procedures: You must purchase a ticket before putting your name on the sign-up board. Tickets (\$5 for 5 minutes Novice/Open; \$10 for 10 minutes Utility; \$1 per dog per set of groups) are available for purchase at the Run-through table located in front of the Raffle tables. Run-throughs will be done on a time-slotted basis. Each block of time will be 5 minutes. Dry erase boards holding the signup sheets with times on them will be at each ring. When you purchase your ticket, you will go to your ring and sign up for a block of time—5 minutes or 10 minutes. Groups will be done in alternating rings once every 45 minutes to an hour. Timers will be located at each table and each person, whose turn it is, must start the timer upon entering the ring. Each ring can handle between 8-12 dogs per hour. As you enter the ring, please cross your name off the signup sheet. No names can be moved up. If you are not ready when it is your turn, your name will go to the bottom of the list, or, you will lose your turn. Please be mindful of your time and be ready to vacate the ring when you have reached your 5 or 10 minutes. When needed, please assist by helping with a run-through, being a post, or resetting jumps. Please be respectful of other exhibitors' turns and times. **Sunday** – Begins the DOCOF Obedience SET Trial.

STEWARDS

Remember, one full day steward or two half-day stewards are required per each team entered. Morning stewards need to report in by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday. Afternoon stewards please report in BEFORE GROUPS to ensure full coverage for stays. REPORT TO THE CHIEF RING STEWARD.

Thank you, stewards. Not only are you enabling your team to compete, but you're also playing a huge part in making this tournament possible!

TOURNAMENT CRATE SPACE

There will be no food preparation. Clubs must make the best use of their allotted space. Please keep tables and chairs at a minimum. Crate space for each team will be marked out ahead of time. This allows all clubs to have reasonable space. If your team does not need all of its allotted space, please feel free to share with others around you. If you need more space than allotted, please stack crates (including under your lunch tables) and stack coolers on crates, etc. Please make sure things are stable when stacking them! Teams who are new or clubs/schools sending more or fewer teams than in previous years will be assigned a team space once entries are closed based on available spaces.

Tournament Scoring

Since this is a Special Event Trial, SET, scores will NOT be available until the class is complete, just like any AKC Obedience Trial. In Utility, Directed Jumping will be scored as two (2) separate exercises for the Team score. However, for a dog entered in the SET, it will be scored as one (1) score just like any AKC Obedience Trial. Judges scoresheets shall reflect the separate scoring, and the Trial Secretary will combine the scores for dogs entered in the SET. If anyone feels there is an error in their score, please have your Team Captain approach the Trial Secretary to resolve any issues. **NOVICE DOGS:** Any Novice dog that is entered in the SET and NQ's an exercise, will NOT be allowed to participate in Group Stays. **HOWEVER,** that same dog will be allowed to participate in Group Stays for a TEAM score, in a separate ring or after the Novice class is completed, whichever is available.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKEND EVENTS

All Events will be held in the Events Center St Pete Dog Training Club 4400 34th St N # B, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

Friday, September 1, 2023:

Setup No crating until setup is complete. Setup volunteers have first shot at practice. Set up crew is designated by their club. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!** The time for set-up will be announced later.

Saturday, September 2, 2023:

8:00 am Rally Team Competition begins In Building "A". Obedience may practice in the rings set up in Building "C".

Open & Utility Run Throughs: after completion of Rally til?

3pm DOCOF Annual Meeting.

Sunday, September 3, 2023

7:15 a.m. All judges and stewards in place at their rings. Stewards report to Chief Ring Steward Luci Seeley.

7:55 am. National anthem and opening remarks.

8:00 am. Annual Event begins.

11 am – 12:00 pm. Lunch Break ALL rings.

After Judging is Complete Awards Presentation Tear down and clean up. Designated volunteers report and begin clean-up.

EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT DOG TRAINING CLUB of ST. PETE COME AND HAVE A FUN WEEKEND!

2023 MEETING PROPOSED AGENDA

September 2, 2023

Roll Call – Delegates Only

Upon check-in, delegates (or alternates) will be given a card that identifies them as a voting delegate.

Call to Order

Minutes of the last meeting. As posted in Doings. Approval required by delegates

President's Report.

Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report. Published in Doings and report on by Lodge Weber.

Committee Reports.

Judge's Committee Carol Ann Klein.

Election of Officers.

Election of New Members.

Unfinished Business.

New Business.

Adjournment