



# BARKS & BYTES NEWSLETTER



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## Welcome to the ADTC **DECEMBER** issue of Barks & Bytes

Welcome to the **DECEMBER 2025** newsletter.

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.**

It is hard to believe that the year 2025 will be over by the time you get this newsletter. It has been an exciting year for our club. President Gail James, the entire Board, and our Training Director, Terry Papineau, is always working hard to make sure that everyone has a chance to participate in our classes. We had two Point Shows. One in the spring and one in the fall. They have been extraordinarily successful and were well attended! We are excited how many members (and others from the obedience/rally community) attended!

- Many thanks to both Terry and Gail!
- Many thanks to all the members who came to set up and tear down
- Many thanks to all the people that volunteered to steward.

**None of this could not have been accomplished without the help of every one of you!**

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!!**

**Class update:** Our obedience/rally and nosework classes are filled and many with wait lists. We would love to offer more classes, but we do not have enough qualified instructors or available time in the building. So when the new sessions open, do not hesitate to apply.

**We also had a sizable number of new members join in 2025!** Soooo....welcome to all of you! We hope that you will all take advantage of what ADTC offers. Please attend the Christmas Party. IT is a fantastic way to get to know everyone!

**Newsletter Articles:** We hope everyone reads the piece on STEWARDING that was in last month's newsletter. It was especially geared toward newer members. It was written in hope people would understand what Gail is asking for when she looks for volunteers to steward (at our & those sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club.) Lehigh Valley Kennel Club is a conformation club primarily. It also offers obedience and rally. Thanks to Gail, who is a member of LVKC, so she has offered to supply stewards for their shows. If we did not supply stewards we are sure there would not be obedience/rally offered by those clubs.

. – all the best, *Jacqui*



BARKS & DECEMBER 2025

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## 2025 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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The 2025 board of directors and officers are listed below.

<b>President:</b>	Gail James	<b>Board Members:</b>	Debbie Achenzie
<b>Vice President:</b>	Steve Markowitz		Edie Rysdyk
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Amanda Greene		Susan Van Ocker
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Linda Eldon		Sherry Hanley
<b>Correspondence Secretary:</b>	Kathryn Dyer		Lilliann Sanderlin
<b>Training Director</b>	Terry Papineau		

### ADTC committee chair and volunteers

<b>Publicity</b>	Jennifer Weidman
<b>Website &amp; Facebook:</b>	Steve Markowitz & Amanda Greene
<b>Librarian:</b>	Edie Rysdyk
<b>Membership:</b>	Debbie Achenzie
<b>Donations:</b>	Cris Courduff
<b>Newsletter co-editor:</b>	Jacqui Hartranft & Stacey Nash
<b>Sunshine coordinator:</b>	Sherry Hanley



**NOTE: Our general membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.**

## ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB GROUP EMAIL

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The group email is: [ADTC-MembershipGroup@groups.io](mailto:ADTC-MembershipGroup@groups.io)

# TRAINING

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**The schedule will remain the same for this session with the following exceptions.** The Christmas and New Year holidays are falling on Thursday, there will be no classes the week of Christmas and the week of New Years Day. The first classes of 2026 will be on January 7. There will also be no classes on December 10 and 11, which is Wednesday and Thursday due to the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club obedience and rally trials. Many of our members will be busy helping to steward or have entered their dog in those two days. And many thanks to everyone for doing this!!

## **UPDATE FROM GAIL:**

The Board and Training Committee, after some discussion, and realizing we usually cancel classes due to the conflict with the Lehigh Valley KC shows, will cancel the classes for December 10 and 11th. Many of our members enter these shows, and we provide the stewards. We have had a great working relationship with Lehigh Valley and want to support the club to keep Obedience and Rally trials in our area. The meeting that was scheduled for Dec. 10 will now be held before our Christmas Party at 6:00 in Macungie.

No Training November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving  
No Training December 10 & 11 - Lehigh Valley Shows  
ADTC Christmas Party - December 16 and General Meeting 6:00 pm  
No Training December 24 & 25 - Christmas  
No Training December 31 & Jan 1 - New Years



# FACEBOOK!

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**ADTC on Facebook** Follow the new public Facebook page: [Facebook Page - Allentown Dog Training Club](#); this is a screenshot of the cover photo and profile picture. This page has the yellow logo with blue border (the previous page has the yellow only logo).



\*You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the page, but you do need to have an account and be logged in to follow and/or interact with the page.

# PRIVATE MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP!

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**ADTC on Facebook (members only) too!** [Facebook Group - Allentown Dog Training Club - Members Only](#); this is a screenshot of the group cover photo, it is a cartoon image of the group photo from the main page and website.



\*You must have a Facebook account and be logged in to join the group. This is a private group.

*From Jacqui: I have noticed a lot more entries in Facebook on Allentown Dog Training Club. Many thanks to Amanda Green our secretary for her work in getting things list. And of course, Steve Markowitz is always looking for pictures to make the website more interesting. If you have any questions please contact either of them for more information*

## WHAT CLASS DO I ENTER?

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Last month I wrote about what a steward does during either obedience or rally. I hope that all of you understand what is involved and are aware of how important a role the steward plays in making sure that the classes go on without a problem. The role of the table steward is the most important and thankfully Edie Rysdyk has volunteered to take on this important job.

But now on to the question of what class do I enter, A or B. In obedience it is quite simple. You have only one time ever to enter as an A COMPETITOR IN NOVICE A. That is for anyone who has NEVER earned an AKC obedience title. In both Open and Utility, unless you have earned an OTCH (Obedience Trial Championship) you may enter the A class until you earn your title. For those who have an OTCH you must always enter the B classes even when starting this a new dog. For non OTCH members you may stay in the A class for 60 days before moving up to the B class. If at any time you are unsure if you are in the correct class, you can always enter the B class to be sure and not lose the qualification if you figured wrong.

As to Rally, new people who do not have any AKC title enter Rally A until they earn their Rally Novice title. The 60-day allowance also applies to that as well. If you earn a Rally Novice A title, that can throw you into the B class in Obedience and that includes Beginner Novice. That is why it is important to have the rulebook in hand and READ IT!!! Again, if you have any questions, be sure to ask your instructor. You do not want to enter the wrong class and lose a qualification for that mistake!! To be on the safe side you can always enter B and that will ensure that you will be okay.

I could not find anything definite in the rule book for Beginner Novice. It is an optional class, so I was not sure if that sent you into the Novice B class when and if you titled in that. I asked Phyllis's opinion (as well as mine), since it is optional, it does not but she said it was also a little tricky. She suggests getting your Beginner Novice title first, then go into regular Novice. If you are unsure and want to be on the safe side, just enter the B class.

## MEMBERSHIP

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**Debbie Achenzie announced that we have welcomed new member**

**Ingrid Pranzo**, Her email is [ikpranzo@aol.com](mailto:ikpranzo@aol.com)

She has standard poodles and a labrador retriever. She is already training in our Rally classes.

WELCOME TO ADTC INGRID and we hope you will be able to attend our Christmas party!

## WEBSITE

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To add anything to our website, please contact Steve! Steve can be reached at: [smarko1@rcn.com](mailto:smarko1@rcn.com)

# FALL SHOW ROUND UP AND UPCOMING SPRING SHOW

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Nothing is currently advertised for our Spring Point Show in Barto currently. However, we do need to do some planning and ask members to sponsor rosettes and cash awards for our classes. **Cris Courduff is taking pledges for sponsors.** This is not only for the many rosettes but, we also give cash awards as well. We are one of the few clubs who award cash. Please check the enclosed flyer to see what is available and contact Cris to see what has been taken.

- You may sponsor a ribbon in honor of a person or dog.
- In memory of a dog or person, that individual or dog must be deceased according to AKC rules..
- There is a deadline as the information must go the trial Superintendent for publication. (It was in the November newsletter and is also on our website and in this newsletter again.)

Our Fall point show, rally and obedience matches were quite successful. Many thanks to all who came out to volunteer in some way. It cannot be done without the cooperation of everyone. The entire show was filled with a waiting list of people wanting to enter. **So we are doing something right!** It is a nice small show with plenty of parking and crating. We do need more trials like this one as sadly the larger conformation shows are dropping obedience/rally. This is only the third year for this show!!!

**THANK YOU TERRY FOR GETTING THIS STARTED AND OFF THE GROUND!!!**

## DOGFOOD FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

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**Joanne Summers has offered to collect dog food which she will deliver to organizations that supply dog food for pets in needy families.** This service helps keep pets with their families where they belong and not in shelters. My husband drives for Meals On Wheels each week and many many times he also delivers pet food along with the meal.

**There is a great need for this and it is much appreciated** by the clients. She has a large can where you come in the door and please put the food in there. She will check on it several times a week and deliver the food to where it should go. Thanks in advance. She will continue doing this for some time. I cannot imagine having to give up my pet because I do not have the money to feed it. **Such a worthy cause!! ...and Best of All keeping pets out of the shelters which are filled right now.**



## ITEMS FOR SALE

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Mary Ann Giles has a wooden crate for the taking. Please contact Mary Ann Giles if you might be interested at [marweg606@gmail.com](mailto:marweg606@gmail.com). The picture of it is listed below. It is 20 inches high and 18 deep.



## ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

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**Judy Lasso and Pat Gombocz oversee the important job of going through the members' applications for AKC titles they have received throughout the year 2025.**

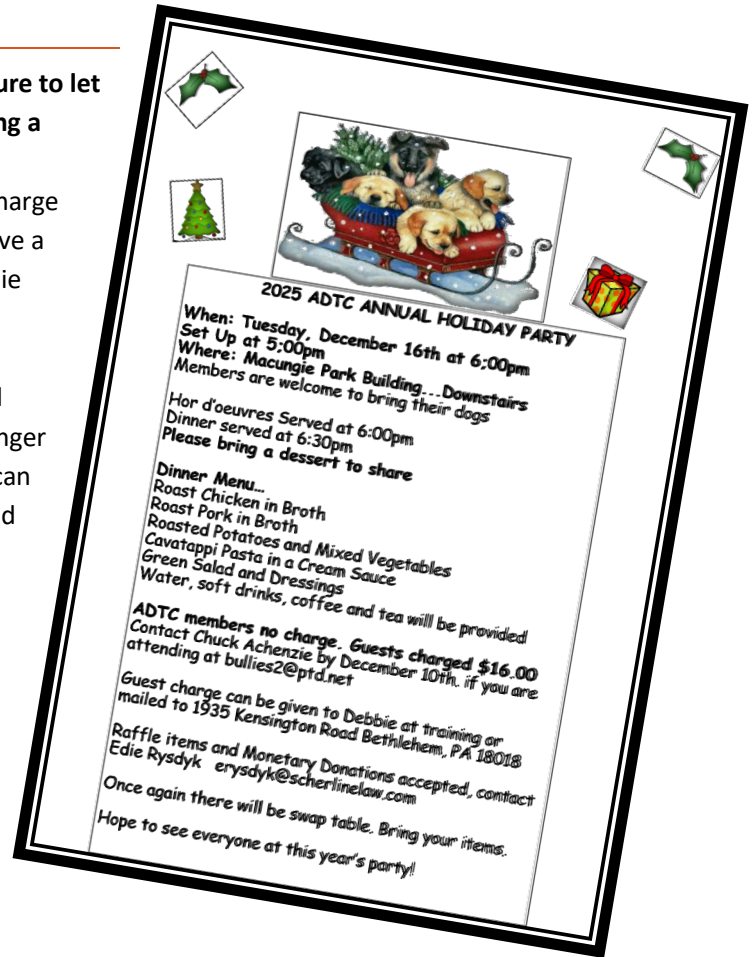
- This year the time limit has been extended to January 15, 2026.
- You will also need to send in a copy of your AKC certificate along with the filled-out application which can be found on our website.
- Since we are an AKC recognized club we can only award members who earned titles in AKC events.

If you have a question as to whether you are entitled to recognition from the Club for a title do not hesitate to ask Judy or Pat. Beautiful plaques are awarded for earning your Novice title. These come with plates which will be engraved with other AKC titles that you earn. In addition, plaques are awarded for those earning their Utility Dog title and Obedience Master titles, and Obedience Trial Championship titles and for earning a Companion Dog Excellent the Club gives a lovely engraved award. Certificates will be awarded to those who earned titles in FETCH, CGC and things like that. For those earning Rally titles, you are awarded beautiful certificates as well as beautiful. **These plaques and certificates are something everyone in the Club can strive for!! They will be awarded at our picnic in July. So be sure to write the date down on your calendar when it is announced.**

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please see the enclosed flyer for the menu and be sure to let **Debbie Achenzie** know if you are coming and bringing a **guest**. Please bring a dessert and there are always wonderful and delicious ones to enjoy. There is no charge for members but guests are charged \$15. We will have a Chinese auction which is always exciting thanks to Edie Rysdyk as well as members who bring in items for it. There will be a guess the number of biscuits in a jar. And also as with last year, Judy Lasso has offered again to have a table with dog items which you no longer have a need for. They are free for the taking or you can leave an item in its place. All leftovers will be donated to a dog rescue in the area.

(full sized flyer is at the end!)



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

As a “new” member as of just a few months ago, I’ve already taken a few ADTC classes with my German Shepherd Meredith Grey. If you go back 5+ years ago, many may remember me when I use to be a member and trained my Dachshunds and dogs I had with my mentor Phyllis Kraft. But alas COVID happened and priorities changed in life and I let it lapse. Thank you for welcoming me back

A year ago I was diagnosed with Stage 2A breast cancer and underwent surgery, chemo, and radiation due to my young age at diagnosis. I’ve shown Meredith in conformation since she was a puppy and always wanted her when she retired. Fate stepped in, and I was able to have her this year. I saw how biddable and eager to please and train, and thought I can do performance/companion events with her while I heal. She really has exceeded all my expectations with only 6 months of training - Fast CAT titles, a herding PT title, Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Beginner Novice, and 1 leg towards Rally Advanced. Can’t wait to continue training and work towards our 2026 goals with ADTC



I’m also active with many local all-breed clubs, Lehigh GSDC, parent clubs, as well as the American German Shepherd Dog Club Charitable Foundation and have served various positions with them, including Obedience Chair for many years. Happy to help ADTC any way I can.

*-Lauren Gerloff*

# ACHIEVEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**IRWIN LINKER AND SIBERIAN HUSKY EARNED THEIR RAE TITLE AT Top Dog School in Flanders, New Jersey on November 15. BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO LINK AND CASEY!!**



**ANOTHER BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO DUSTY SPRINGER AND TESS!! They earned their SECOND RALLY TRIPLE HIGH IN TRIAL at the Dauphin Dog Training Club trial on November 16. Not an easy thing to do and they have done it TWICE!!**

**AND BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO MY CO-EDITOR STACEY NASH AND HER TWO SHEPHERDS, MILO AND SCARLET!** Stacey is a fairly new trainer and she not only took one of her dogs but she took the both to Golden Rule Dog Obedience Club in New Jersey for the German Shepherd Club of Northern New Jersey trial on November 22. They both did a great job and came home with these ACHIEVEMENTS.

MILO FINISHED HIS NOVICE TITLE AND HIS 'SISTER' SCARLET FINISHED HER BEGINNER NOVICE TITLE! She adopted Both Milo and Scarlet from Char-Wills German Shepherd Rescue in New Ringgold where she volunteers.



**CONGRATUALIONS TO NEW MEMBER LAUREN GERLOFF AND MEREDITH!** They Earned their BN title!



## 2025 ADTC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

**When: Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00pm**

**Set Up at 5:00pm**

**Where: Macungie Park Building... Downstairs**

Members are welcome to bring their dogs

Hor d'oeuvres Served at 6:00pm

Dinner served at 6:30pm

**Please bring a dessert to share**

### **Dinner Menu...**

Roast Chicken in Broth

Roast Pork in Broth

Roasted Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables

Cavatappi Pasta in a Cream Sauce

Green Salad and Dressings

Water, soft drinks, coffee and tea will be provided

**ADTC members no charge. Guests charged \$16.00**

Contact Chuck Achenzie by December 10th. if you are attending at [bullies2@ptd.net](mailto:bullies2@ptd.net)

Guest charge can be given to Debbie at training or mailed to 1935 Kensington Road Bethlehem, PA 18018

Raffle items and Monetary Donations accepted, contact Edie Rysdyk [erysdyk@scherlinelaw.com](mailto:erysdyk@scherlinelaw.com)

Once again there will be swap table. Bring your items.

Hope to see everyone at this year's party!



## **ADTC MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Your Allentown Dog Training Club dues are due by **January 15, 2026**. Payment of your membership dues by this date allows you to vote at the January meeting, be eligible for awards and continue to train with the club.

Dues received after January 15<sup>th</sup> will cause your membership to lapse. Please note that no grace period or extensions will be granted. You will have to go through the process to rejoin. Paying \$175.00 for a class of your choice and \$35.00 for dues to re-join the club.

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

<https://www.allentowndogtrainingclub.com/>

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 2026 TRIAL GENERAL TROPHY FUND.  
If you wish to donate to 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** \_\_\_\_\_