



# BARKS & BYTES NEWSLETTER



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## Welcome to the ADTC February issue of the Barks & Bytes

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Welcome to the FEBRUARY BARKS & BYTES NEWSLETTER!!

*It is still the beginning of a New Year! ...*

*... hopefully you made more training time for your dog as one of your resolutions for 2026.*

We are so lucky to have great trainers with a wide variety of classes for everyone to take advantage of. Do not hesitate to apply to any of the classes. There are limits on the number of entrants. Remember, we only have the building a day and a half. Terry has done a great job scheduling classes.

### Also a reminder:

- we are in the middle of the winter season so please check your emails in case classes have to be cancelled due to bad weather.
- See below for our new board for 2026. Be sure to support all who volunteered to serve.

Regarding the new board: We were unable to vote the new board for 2026 and the new constitution and by-laws because we were short of a quorum at the general meeting on January 7. PLEASE MEMBERS WE NEED TO HAVE MORE OF YOU TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS. We understand that most people do not want to go out at night, especially in the winter, but our club is only as good as our membership. It is your Club and our Board works very hard to hold classes as well as holding two trials a year. **PLEASE try to attend some of these meetings and let your Board know that we support them and appreciate them volunteering for these offices.** As a solution we chose to call a special meeting on a virtual platform, ZOOM to have the necessary quorum. Thanks to all who attended and voted to approve everything!

Due to the cold and sometimes nasty weather, training outside can be difficult. We are listing several simple but very important things you can do inside your home with limited space. There is a list of about 13 things which can be done by almost everyone. Most of it is to help perfect fronts, finishes, turns, things like that but especially for the novice people to practice what you have done in class. We will put the list at the end of this newsletter so it will be easy for you to make a copy of it AND THEN USE IT!! You do not have to practice everything at one time but do practice things you may be weak in.

There are also match shows. Yes, at times they can be hard to find but that makes it more important than ever to check <https://dogmatchshows.com> . Some fill quickly, like **Dauphin DTC, Char-Wills German Shepherd Rescue** runs a great one in New Ringgold (one is planned for March). **Suburban DTC** is getting their new building up and running they will be holding monthly match shows too! They also plan to host obedience and rally point shows in the future. **Top Dog Obedience Training** in New Jersey also has monthly match shows. Putting on these events requires a lot of volunteers. So, try to help when you can. Lastly, if you have tennis courts in your area and dogs are allowed, they are a great fenced in places to train. But be sure that dogs are allowed.

**As most of you know, help is always needed at the two shows we host in spring and fall. We are always looking for help.** I had written an article in the October 2025 issue of BARKS & BYTES as to what a steward does in a trial. Please look it up and read it again if you did not take the time to read it at the time the issue came out. One of our newer members who had never been to a dog show told us that she learned so much when she stewarded at a trial. And she is correct; it is a great way to learn about showing!

**So, enjoy the BARKS & BYTES. – all the best, *Jacqui***



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to the ADTC January issue of the Barks & Bytes.....	1
2026 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS.....	3
ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB GROUP EMAIL .....	3
MEMBERSHIP .....	3
TRAINING .....	3
SPRING POINT SHOW .....	4
ADTC AWARDS PROGRAM .....	4
WEBSITE & FACEBOOK.....	4
SUNSHINE .....	5
LEHIGH VALLEY DOG FOOD BANK.....	5
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	6
WELCOME.....	6
MEMBER OF THE MONTH.....	7
TRAINING EXCERCISES YOU CAN DO IN YOUR HOME .....	8
ATTACHMENTS (at the end): Lehigh Valley German Shepherd Club fundraiser, First Aid event	



# 2026 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Here is the slate of officers we elected for 2026.

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

## ADTC committee chairs

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



# ALLENTOWN DOG TRAINING CLUB GROUP EMAIL

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

## MEMBERSHIP

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**The deadline for membership renewal passed on January 15.** We welcome everyone that renewed so you can continue to train with us, enjoy our events and receive this GREAT newsletter. Many thanks to Debbie Achenzie for continuing as our Membership Chairperson.

## TRAINING

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**The new six-week session is now in session.** We should not have any more disruptions because of the calendar, but we may because of the weather. So as mentioned earlier please check emails to make sure classes have not been cancelled. We hope that everyone got the classes they wanted. When the next session starts, do not hesitate to send in your form.

And as mentioned earlier, we have made a list of things that you can do IN YOUR HOUSE! These are simple things that you do not need a lot of room to practice but mean so much when you get in the ring and may cost you those points. And remember to play with your dog in between doing some of the exercises!!!..



# SPRING POINT SHOW

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**Our Spring Point show will again be held at Orchard Hill in Barto** where it has been the last several years. **This year the date is May 16, Saturday and Berks Dog Training Club will be holding their trial on May 17, Sunday.** Gail has the judges scheduled. Cris Courduff is taking care of the ribbons, rosettes and other prizes. If you would still like to donate please get in touch with her to make sure that the deadline has not passed. She can be reached at [criscourduff@verzion.net](mailto:criscourduff@verzion.net). Our show attracts great dogs and handlers because of our beautiful rosettes and cash prizes among other things and that it is well run. Hardly any clubs offer cash prizes today so many handlers are quite surprised when handed an envelope with money!! **Look for the opening date to be around April 1.** Do not hesitate to enter as the last two years Rally filled quickly.

*Do not forget that closer to the time we will be needing volunteers f  
or help setting up and tearing down, stewards for both Rally and Obedience ..*

plus anything else that might come up. Pictures are always appreciated for our website and social media! What a great way to spend a Saturday watching your friends and their dogs in the ring!!

# ADTC AWARDS PROGRAM

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**Many thanks and CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who have applied to Judy Lasso and Pat Gombocz for AKC title awards this year.** The deadline has passed and Judy did send out a list of those applying for awards. We will be looking forward to our picnic and celebrating members' accomplishments this summer. Many thanks to both Judy and Pat for all their work on this important committee. Nothing is better than being recognized by your Club for your and your dog's accomplishments.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON THE LIST.**

**AND MANY THANKS TO OUR GREAT TRAINERS WHO SPEND SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME**

**HELPING OUR MEMBERS EARN THESE AWARDS!!**

# WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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**With the snow we have been having, we bet members have taken great pictures of their dogs having fun in the snow.** So, send them to Steve Markowitz and Amanda Greene to put on our website and/or Facebook. They would love to have them and make our website much more interesting. You can also list some great things under **ACHIEVEMENTS** for this newsletter

*PICTURES ARE ALWAYS THE BEST!!!*

Steve can be reached at: [smarko1@rcn.com](mailto:smarko1@rcn.com) Amanda can be reached at: [amandamariagreene@icloud.com](mailto:amandamariagreene@icloud.com)

## SUNSHINE

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**Sherry Hanley has some sad news to announce.** Several of our Members have lost some special friends. Please keep **Bill and Dusty Springer in your thoughts on the loss of Pete** who loved to attend Phyllis's Open class. Also **keep Leslie Adams in your thoughts on the loss of Tilly.** It is just so hard to lose these friends. Losing a beloved dog or other family pet is so difficult and maybe more so than losing a human member.

On a **HAPPY NOTE**, **Debbie Knappenberger wants to thank everyone for their cards and well wishes on her recovery from her fall.** She is doing much better and is looking forward to starting PT soon.... Spice says she is looking forward to coming back too!!

## LEHIGH VALLEY DOG FOOD BANK

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**Joanne Summers wants to thank everyone who donated to this great organization.** She reported that they were amazed and so grateful for your donations.

Please see the picture of all the donations! These are needed year around. We cannot imagine having to give up your pet because you do not have the money to feed them. This organization is a great help to keep animals in their homes and not in a shelter as many of them are crowded this time of the year. Joanne is hoping to continue to collect food all year as the need is so great. My husband drives for Meals on Wheels and he often takes pet food for their clients along with their meals.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

The German Shepherd Club of the Lehigh Valley is holding a fund raiser at P.J. Whelihan's on February 7 th .

They will donate 15% of sales that day to the Club. So, if you are looking for a great night out with good food and drinks and support a great cause Check out the information in the enclosed flyer or email Mary Minnich (see flyer at the end).



## PET FIRST AID & CPR CLASS Hosted by Schuylkill County Animal Response Team WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Pet owners • Pet sitters • Groomers • Trainers • Foster & rescue volunteers. No prior medical experience required.

### CERTIFICATION

Participants will receive a **Pet First Aid & CPR Certificate** upon completion

# WELCOME

Cris Courduff is pleased to announce she has welcomed a new puppy into her home. CONGRATULATIONS CRIS ON YOUR NEW FRIEND AND TRAINING PARTNER!!

## EZBROOKS SKY DIVER, Call name TROOPER

Our newest member of the Courduff/Stehly Clan which includes 1 Toy Poodle-**Echo**, 1 Golden Retriever-**Barley**, 2 Black Retrievers-**Luna & Rasin**, and Cattle-Dog/Boxer **Dude**. Trooper can't wait to meet you all, after he is cleared by our Vet. I must be crazy, but our home is so empty since we lost Ruger.

*Cris & Tom*



## MEMBER OF THE MONTH



### My name is Gregory Shoemaker.

I have been a member of the ADTC for around three years.

As of this date I am a 68-year-old retired educator. I am married to Laurie Pantalone Shoemaker who was also an educator. We have been married for 45 years. Although we have a Hellertown mailing address we live in Williams Township.

I retired from public education after 34 years. I worked in both the Easton Area School District and the Nazareth Area School District. My education experiences include being an elementary remedial math teacher, teaching fourth and fifth grade for several years. After these classroom experiences I moved into being an assistant elementary

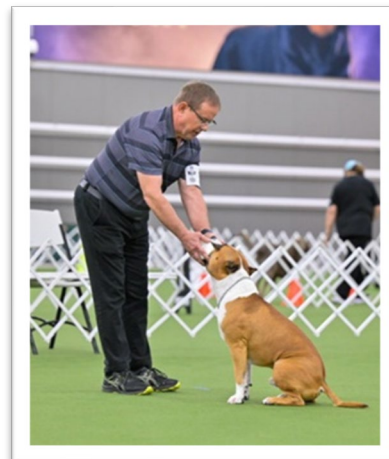
principal, a head principal and then a Director of Elementary Education. I finished my education career as the principal of the Bushkill/Kenneth Butz Elementary School in Nazareth, Pa.



My wife and I enjoyed all our educational experiences. I retired a little over eight years ago. My wife retired a little over a year before me. Since my retirement, my wife and I travel and visit different places around the United States in our RV. We chose to get an RV so we could take our two dogs, Ryder and Boomer, with us when we travel.

My wife and I have had several dogs during our 45 years of marriage. Our first dog was a Doberman Pincher. Early in our marriage, during the early 80s, I was a substitute teacher and met a person who trained protection dogs. He had an American Staffordshire Terrier which was protection trained as well as a show dog. He (Mugs) won

BOB at the Westminster Dog Show. One of his puppies (Lucky) was the first AmStaf that we owned and the first AmStaf that I trained. I was able to put a CD on him. We have owned and trained 6 other AmStafs since Lucky. Currently we have Ryder who is 15 years old and Boomer who just turned 4 in December. Ryder is a grand champion with a CDX obedience title. Boomer is a grand champion silver and has a CDX obedience title. I am hoping to put a UD on Boomer sometime this year. It has been challenging to train Boomer to perform some of the UD exercises consistently but I have had fun meeting different members of the ADTC and learning about what it takes to train a dog for a Utility Degree title. With the help of Phyllis, Terry and Joanne and the different members of my classes, I am hopeful Boomer will earn his UD sometime this year. - Gregory





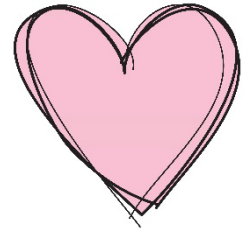
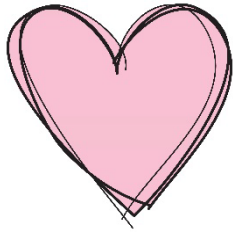
## TRAINING EXERCISES YOU CAN DO IN YOUR HOME

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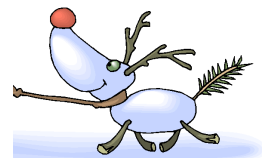
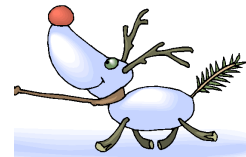
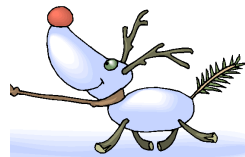
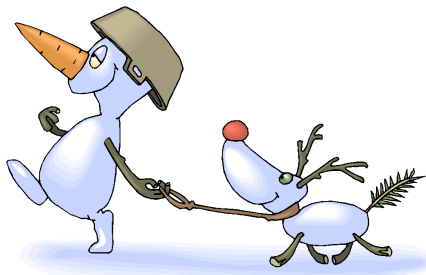
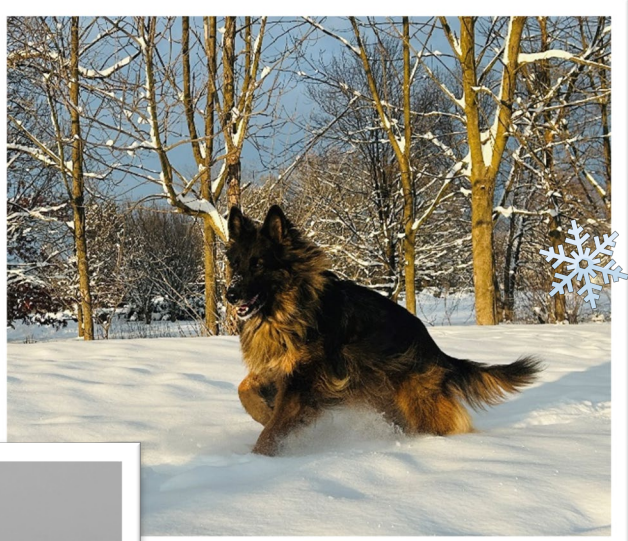
**These are things all of you can do at home in a small space.** Almost all are exercises we go over in our obedience/rally journeys. What you learn in Novice builds on what you learn in the beginning and throughout your dog's obedience/rally career. (from Connie Cleveland's website). Have fun and let us know how you are doing.

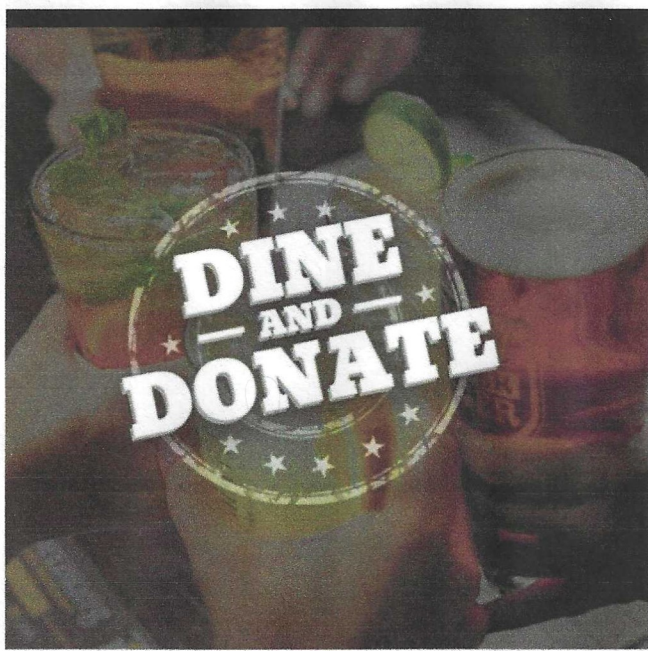
1. **PIVOTS** are so important for Rally but also for many of the Open and Utility exercises. Be sure to practice both left and right pivots as well as 90 degree and about turns.
2. **HOLD**-- The dog needs to understand holding an object like dumbbell or gloves until you tell him/her to release it. You can use a toy to start.
3. **TARGET**-- Having the dog focus on a target such as a cookie on a lid. Important to teach focus. Have dog focus on cookie (you will have to hold by collar) then send to get it. Must come back to you immediately when called. Use a leash or flexie to make sure they do return to you immediately!
4. **STAYS** both sit and down. Normally done in a group for novice but you can make sure dog knows that he/she is to stay sitting and down when told and not get up unless released. Can tempt to get up by placing cookie or toy away from him/her. Another very important skill needed no matter what you do. Put in down or sit stay when working on making his meal.
5. **RETRIEVING**-- Dog can learn to retrieve dumbbells or other objects. Very important if you want to go on to Open. Can do in a small space on a flexie or leash. Make sure they have a good HOLD before starting on this.
6. **BACKUP** needed for Rally among other things. Catherine Zinsky has a great video teaching this so check it out by typing in her name Catherine Zinsky Dog Trainer. She has many great videos which you might find very useful for many of the exercises.
7. **HEEL AT SLOW** good to work on keeping dog's attention among other things. Can also do left/right turns, sits and about turns. Do as many steps as you have room for. Make sure dog keeps head up and pays attention to you! As dog gets better can add distractions.
8. **FINISHES** practice left or right or both which is needed for Rally as well as obedience.
9. **FRONTS**-- good fronts are so important so you do not lose those pesky half or whole points. Be sure to use a front box of some kind to make sure dog is straight. If you do not have a front box or front mat ask your trainer about how to make one. You can also use sticks to guide dog into a straight front. Straight sticks (guides) like we have in the wagon can be bought at Home Depot.
10. **POSITION CHANGES** from sit to down to stand and mix it up. Important for Signal Discrimination in Open but also very important in Rally
11. **STAND FOR EXAM**-- Have as many different people as you can go over your dog. Have them wear hats and coats to look different. You never know what judges will wear but fortunately most dress pretty conservatively but there are always some!!
12. **RETRIEVING ON FLEXI**-- See Number 5 as very pretty much the same. Important to use a flexi and get dog (and you) used to it. Again a front box or mat is helpful to have your dog's fronts straight.
13. **FIND HEEL** is a fun game where dog stays and you go a few steps with back to dog and then call dog to heel. Can do on or off leash but dog needs to come to heel position.

*Finish with a game or jump up for fun!!*



Some fun photos of our members' dogs!





To Benefit



February 7 2026


PJ Whelihan's  
4595 Broadway  
Allentown PA 18104

We are honored by this opportunity to partner with PJ Whelihan's to raise funds for Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club. They will donate 15% of receipts when you mention you are there to support our group. Great food and drink in a quaint establishment for a good cause. Lots of TV's too for the sports fans out there!

Dine in or Carry Out...  
Just mention  
Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club  
(or bring this flyer)

# **PET FIRST AID & CPR CLASS**

**Hosted by Schuylkill County Animal Response Team**

 Be prepared. Save a life. This hands-on, community-friendly class teaches everyday pet owners and animal lovers how to respond in an emergency.

## **WHEN**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

## **WHERE**

**Training Building**





2 East Railroad Street

New Ringgold, PA 17960

## **COST**

**\\$15.00 per person**

## **WHAT YOU'LL LEARN**

-  Pet CPR & choking response
-  Wound care & bleeding control
-  Injury, shock & poisoning response
-  How to recognize emergencies & when to call a veterinarian

*Designed for dogs and cats*

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

Pet owners • Pet sitters • Groomers • Trainers • Foster & rescue volunteers

No prior medical experience required.

## **CERTIFICATION**

Participants will receive a **Pet First Aid & CPR Certificate** upon completion.

## **REGISTRATION & QUESTIONS**

 **570-778-6886**

 [diane.scart@gmail.com](mailto:diane.scart@gmail.com)