

# APOTC SUMMER NEWS 2019

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am so glad summer has finally arrived. Hopefully we will be outside doing fun things with our dogs. Just a reminder, the tick population in Erie County is growing and many of our Veterinarians are seeing more cases of Lyme disease. Check your dog when coming in from the outside – ticks like hidden crevices including ears, underneath collars, webs of feet and underneath the tail. Some natural oils that work for many dogs are lavender, peppermint, geranium, lemongrass and citronella. Of course there are many other products that can be found on line or through your Veterinarian.

Hope to see all of you at the picnic.

## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

President - Beth Rapp

Vice President - Melanie Shufan

Recording Secretary - Betsy Olson

Corresponding Secretary - Janet Norman

Treasurer - Kathy Croft

Board Members - Jodi Casillo, Lee-Ann Czytuck, Marilyn Flower, Ann Gehrlein, Sandy Globa

## AUGUST TRIAL INFORMATION

The dates are Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Both obedience and rally trials will be held both days.

If you have donations for the raffle please get them to Melanie Shufan, 1411 Robison Road East, Erie, PA 16509. She needs them by August 1.2019.

The trials are held at the Bayfront Convention Center with plenty of free parking and admission is also free so come to see some magnificent dogs performing at a very high level. It is both gratifying and inspiring to see what dogs can really do. If your dog is not entered than it may not attend but you are more than welcome to come and talk with the people who have entered their dogs and our club members who can also answer questions.

## ANNUAL APOTC PICNIC

Our annual picnic will be held on July 9th at the Erie Kennel Club building on Wattsburg Road. Festivities begin at 6 pm. If you haven't signed up yet please contact Beth Rapp ASAP and tell her what you are bringing. You will also have a choice of meats, chicken or steak. Beth Rapp and Amy McGarvey are acting as the head honchos for our picnic. And thank you for taking it on.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Trainers and everyone who has a dog can always learn more. Karen Grettler was kind enough to forward an article that she found helpful and worthy of discussion. I have found that different trainers have differing views and it is always good to explore our techniques.

Here is what Dr. Becker, DVM said in an article entitled "From Fearful to Fear Free". I am paraphrasing her thoughts.

Dr. Becker begins by talking about what was once called a dominant dog which he calls a misnomer. She believes it is not a personality trait but rather it is situation specific. As a trainer she found these dogs to be extremely insecure and fearful. People who believed their dogs to be dominant often employed harsh methods in training which caused the dog to be fearful of its owner/trainer.

She further maintains that it has been discredited that owners/handlers have to be the alpha of the pack in a dog-human relationship. Rather, she says, it's about instilling discipline and creating a relationship with your dog. It's about making yourself a worthy leader with and turning your dog into a disciple. You choose an approach which makes you much more interesting than the environment that surrounds your dog. You don't push your dog around, you become the dog's partner.

OK, trainers and dog owners. What do you think? Let the discussions begin.

## FALL CLASSES

Our Fall classes begin on September 5<sup>th</sup> and run until October 24<sup>th</sup>. They are held at the Erie Kennel Club facility at 9457 Wattsburg Road (Route 8). Anyone wishing to enroll their dog should contact Janet Norman at 814 866 5609. There are two sections offered: puppy class and beginner class.