

C-WAGS COMES TO VIRGINIA

Canine – Work And Games

<http://www.c-wags.org/index.html>



C-WAGS Logo

PVSSC members may remember Laurie Williams, she spoke at our club in 2009 about her experiences on the first TV reality show about dogs, *Greatest American Dog*, which aired on CBS in 2008.

Laurie is known throughout the DC area as a trainer and judge for AKC, UKC and WCRL (formerly APDT) rally. She is the owner of Pup 'n Iron Canine Fitness & Learning Center in Fredericksburg, VA. Laurie has been a professional member of APDT since 2002 and is currently on the APDT Board of Directors, serving as the vice president and Chair of the Rally Obedience Committee.

More than 10 years ago Laurie launched APDT rally in Virginia and it was enthusiastically received. Trials are



Laurie Williams

now regularly held throughout the region and some might say, APDT has been the favorite rally venue among many rally competitors – that is, *until now!*

APDT rally provides the opportunity to engage with our dogs while in the trial ring and to provide positive reinforcement by “treating” at stationary exercises and praising throughout the course.

Laurie continues to influence training and competition. She introduced C-WAGS to Virginia at the Pup 'n Iron Camp Rally Mania on August 1, 2013.

At the very first session on Day 1 of Camp Rally Mania, the C-WAGS philosophy and trialing were introduced to a group of 29 canine rally enthusiasts by Ali Brown and Kim Pike. On Friday night, August 2, 2013 the first C-WAGS trials were held in Virginia at Pup 'n Iron. Ali and Kim judged eight (8) C- WAGS trials at Pup 'n Iron: 4 Starter and 4 Zoom.



Ali Brown

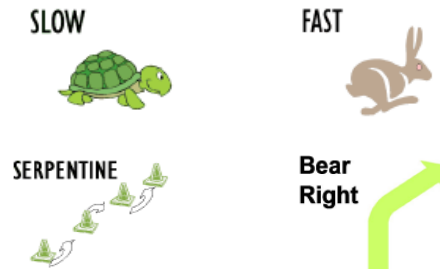
Starter is equivalent to novice / level 1 in other venues and Zoom is totally different from anything else.

Zoom is a fast course where dog and handler “keep on moving” – there are no halts – no sits, no downs, making Zoom suitable for our older dogs, or dogs who have trouble in the “sit or “down” position(s). The handler-dog team has two minutes to navigate the course, with a maximum time of three minutes. If the team is over the 2-minute time, points are deducted. At The Pup 'n Iron

Run thrus and trials, it was apparent the dogs enjoyed the fast pace of Zoom, and actually so did the handlers.

C-WAGS is based on positive reinforcement and handler/dog teams with the goal to make rally obedience *fun*. Handlers may treat at the end of any exercise and teams may begin, or compete at any level.

The signs are easy to comprehend using words and cute pictures. This eliminates a lot of the stress for the handler and as a result is less stressful for the dogs. A few examples of signs are:



To earn a title, the dog/handler team must earn four legs. C-WAGS also offers titles in obedience, scent and game programs.

Laurie did more than simply introduce another rally venue. With C-WAGS she excited a group of rally exhibitors. Dogs quickly improved performance levels with each trial as they were able to relax and simply “have fun” with their handlers. My own dogs were engaged and enjoyed the new venue, especially Zoom. C- WAGS is now the favorite rally venue for many!

Look for upcoming C-WAGS training and trials in our area soon!

Thanks Laurie for introducing C-WAGS, an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable way to compete while creating positive bonds with our dogs. . .

For additional information or questions, go to the following links, or email Cathie.

Pup 'n Iron Link: <http://www.pupniron.com/>

C-WAGS Website Link: <http://www.c-wags.org/index.html>

For a complete list, go to the FAQ section of the C-WAGS website. Link: <http://www.c-wags.org/FAQ.html>

Ali Brown link: <http://www.reactivedog.com/about/ali-brown/>

CAMP RALLY MANIA

By Cathie Skoog



Taken from My Camp Tee-shirt

Pup 'n Iron Canine Fitness & Learning Center hosted the 2nd annual Camp Rally Mania in Fredericksburg, VA, August 1 – 3, 2013.

I registered Mollie and Savannah for Camp Rally Mania hoping the training would improve their rally performance. In June Savannah

shut-down in the ring and although she should be ready to move to Level 3 / Excellent, she lacks the self-confidence and lacks the drive she has in agility and luring. Mollie is ready to advance to Level 3 / Excellent but has picked up some bad habits which I need to correct before we proceed to a higher level of rally.

The training turned out to be nothing like I expected when registering for the training. It EXCEEDED my expectations by a zillion. The training at Camp Rally Mania was extraordinary and I saw immediate results. I have already penciled in the dates for 2014.

Pup 'n Iron did an excellent job of selecting quality trainers. The training was exceptional and all trainers were available throughout the day and evening for individual consulting on specific problems.

Below is a list of some of the training offered at Camp Rally Mania:

- Retrieving
- Fast Recalls
- Fast Downs
- Drop on Recall
- Signal Exercises
- Musical Rally
- Total Ring Prep
- Read End Awareness
- The Reactive Dog
- Transitioning to Off Leash
- Building Motivation & Drive
- C-WAGS Starter Rules
- C-WAGS Zoom Rules
- C-WAGS Starter Run Thru
- C-WAGS Zoom Run Thru
- Heeling and Attention
- Right Side Heeling
- Fronts and Finishes
- Attention and Heeling
- Shaping Behaviors

The Trainers were Exceptional

Trainers don't get much better than **Laurie Williams**, the owner of Pup 'n Iron. Read more about Laurie in *C-WAGS Comes to Virginia* on page 11 or at link: <http://www.pupniron.com/about-us> She is a busy lady!!

Sara Jacobs from New Jersey has been training and showing dogs since the 1980s and has multiple obedience, rally, agility, and hunting titles on her dogs in AKC, UKC,

ASCA, and WCRL. She does water rescue and is an instructor in server clubs in New York and Pennsylvania.

Ali Brown (mentioned in *C-WAGS Comes to Virginia* on page 11) earned her B.S. in Psychology and her M. Ed in Human Development / Behavioral Science. Ali started her career as a behavior therapist / consultant with mentally challenged children and adults, switching to working with dogs in 1998. Ali has been published several times, has training DVDs, and contributes to publications and blogs, and served on the APDT Board of Directors. Ali was a wealth of information, she explained and trained us in C-WAGS, and she was awesome when she took a dog and demonstrated how to teach a dog to go around a cone.



Susan Brogan

Susan Brogan has been training and competing in performance dog sports since the 1980s. Susan has earned multiple titles in obedience, rally, agility, flyball and canine musical freestyle. She worked with us to develop our *Rally Rhythm*, which I found useful during the trials.

Deborah Jones holds a PH.D. in psychology, specializing in social behavior and learning theories. Deb is an assistant professor at Kent State University. She is an



Dr. Deborah Jones and Copper

advocate of clicker training, published multiple books and DVDs, is a contributor to publications and magazines, and a guest speaker on clicker training and agility training. Deb served on the APDT Board of Directors. Deb and her Border Collie Cooper earned Master Agility Championship (MACH) title and two weeks later earned the Utility Dog (UD) title in obedience.

Kim Pike is a certified obedience and nose work instructor. Along with Ali, Kim trained campers in C-WAGS. In 2012 Kim became the first C-WAGS Scent Detective judge on the East Coast.

Camp Rally Mania introduced us to C-WAGS, and Starter and Zoom trials were held on Friday night. On Saturday night WCRL trials were held and on Sunday, UKC rally trials.

I learned a lot of new training techniques, Mollie earned two new titles and Savannah earned several legs and somewhat perked up in the ring as a result of the training. Lunches, socials and even a cookout was part of the Camp activities. Most importantly I met and became friends with wonderful people, and Mollie and Savannah became friends with Gordon, the Collie.

I look forward to seeing all of our new friends at future trials and at Camp Rally Mania 2014