

# **WSOTC Obedience Instructors**

## **Jean Rassbach – Beginning Obedience/Basic Manners**

Jean has been training dogs since 1960 when she took her Lakeland Terrier to an obedience class. She enjoyed the class, and continued training and showing her dogs in obedience trials. She assisted with classes and became qualified to teach all levels of classes from Puppy to Utility. In 1979 she became an American Kennel Club approved Obedience Judge, and judged throughout the U.S. and Canada. She retired from judging in 2004. Jean is a member of NADOI (National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors), and APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers). In addition to Obedience, Jean participates with her own dogs in Agility, Rally, Tracking, Nosework, and Earthdog. Her dogs are all certified Therapy Dogs who visit hospitals and nursing homes.

## **Dee Carlson – Novice I and II**

Dee has shown in AKC Obedience Trials since 1980 earning many Obedience titles on many breeds of dogs. She has also earned titles with my dogs in Conformation, Rally, Tracking, Agility, and Field. She has been a WSOTC member since February 1996 and became a WSOTC Obedience Instructor in 1997. Over the years, she has taught various classes for WSOTC, including Puppy, CGC, Rally, Beginning Obedience and both Novice Competition classes. She has also taught obedience classes for other organizations. She frequently stewards and/or chairs obedience and agility trials and “judge” at local obedience matches.

When not involved with teaching obedience, she and her Belgian Tervuren do therapy work and conduct dog safety classes with the Seattle/King County Humane Society. As the owner of Avalon Pet Partners, her daytime job, she performs behavior consultation and modification for her client’s dogs, gives private lessons for competition and home obedience, shows client’s dogs, teaches conformation ring handling, and provides pet sitting for creatures of all types in the Redmond, Woodinville, Bellevue and Kirkland areas.

## **Shari Wright – CGC Chair**

Shari Wright was born into a family of dog lovers. At the time of her birth, her mother bred the very popular English Cocker Spaniels and her father was an avid bird hunter and trainer. There are pictures of Shari as a toddler being pulled in her little red wagon in a parade by a male cocker. Also early on, her father became a Cougar hunter and acquired several types of hounds which included Blue Ticks, Black and Tans, Walker & Redbone Hounds to help him track the cats. At that time, there was a bounty on cougars and her dad supplemented the family income by hunting them.

This early association with dogs has likely influenced her ease at dealing with and training dogs. In her adult life, she has owned many breeds including a Beagle, German Short Hair, Irish Setter, Sheltie, Miniature Poodles, and a Cocker Spaniel. (all fairly easy to train). In 1990 she purchased an Alaskan Malamute and after discovering the mischievousness of the breed decided that she needed help. She took classes at W.S.O.T.C. and quickly learned to appreciate the knowledge, professionalism, and friendliness of the staff. She became a member of W.S.O.T.C. in 1993, taught her first class shortly thereafter and has not missed teaching three sessions per year since. She has assisted or taught various classes including Puppy, Beginning Obedience, Novice 1 Competition and Canine Good Citizen (CGC). She is an AKC certified CGC Evaluator. She certified her Malamutes with CGC and received a CD title on her Malamute with very high scores.