



RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB PAWPRINTS

"May we be as good, as noble and as deserving as our dogs think we are."

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**We hope everyone
had an amazing holiday
break & are looking
forward to the new year!**



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NEXT MEMBERS MEETING MARCH 10TH / 7:30PM

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Letter from the President

Happy New Year One and All!

I wish everyone a wonderful 2026 filled with joy and good times with our 4-legged friends!

We will have a busy year ahead with our annual obedience trial coming up and the move to the new building. It will be a very exciting year! We will be looking for volunteers for various projects, especially when we install the floor.

What are your training goals for 2026? I've thought about doing rally with Buzz and I would also like to get his NW2 title in nosework. Talk to your instructor so they can help you meet your goal.

I look forward to seeing what you can accomplish this year with your training partner.

**Happy Training!
Birgit**



Letter from the Secretary

A huge thank you to all the members who renewed for 2026. I appreciate all the contact information updates - it makes communicating with everyone much easier.



For the few members who would still like to renew or are interested in staying connected to the Club but are no longer training, please email me at rpdt.secretary@gmail.com, and we'll set that up.

I'm looking forward to training with you all in 2026 - let's make some fun and wonderful memories together!

Respectfully,
Martha Nelson
rpdtc.secretary@gmail.com



BUILDING UPDATES



We are happy to share that we are seeing progress. The mats for the floors have been purchased, construction will soon be underway on the ADA-compliant bathroom & other essential functional items are actively being worked on & finalized.

We know everyone is eager to begin training in the new space & we truly appreciate your patience & support as we continue pushing forward to make everything ready-safe, comfortable & perfect for both our members & their pups!



COMING SOON!

1530 LEE ST. - DES PLAINES, IL 60018

- 6,000 SQ. FT SPACE
- 12 FT CEILING
- BATHROOM FACILITIES
- PLENTY OF PARKING
- STREET VISIBILITY & SIGN MARQUEE
- WALKING DISTANCE FROM CHASE BANK, JEWEL, WENDY'S, O'REILLY, DMV & MORE!
- PROPER HEAT & AIR CONDITIONING!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS ON WHEN WE WILL OFFICIALLY MOVE CLASSES TO THE NEW BUILDING WILL BE PROVIDED VIA EMAIL OR BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR SOON! STAY TUNED!

Thank you to the crew who helped organize and put away all the items from the storage unit. All ribbons were counted and are ready for our April trials. Thank you Gloria & Bill, Lois & Ed, Brad & Barley, Martha, Julie, Todd, Paul, Kari, Birgit & Wilson & Buzz and our supervisor Mikey!



Supervisor Mikey!



Taking Ribbon Inventory





Everything from the storage unit put away.



When you're done working, you entertain Buzz!



BLAST FROM THE PAST!

After we moved items from the storage unit to our new training center, we were reunited with many treasures - back issues of Paw Prints! We'll revisit some highlights of our Club's history regularly, but the most striking thing is that they had many great ideas. The Club's size was also much larger, and it's helpful to see past successes as a roadmap for future goals.

In June, 1995, the Club prepared for a CGC test. A limit of 75 dogs! The Lake Park Fest is now a Fall carnival, but it is still a well-loved Des Plaines event. I loved that they were able to secure small sponsorships (the dog bandanas from Pedigree Dog Food) and created good-will with the community.



The next thing on the agenda is the Lake Park Fest, sponsored by the Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce and the Des Plaines Park District. We have been asked to put on a Canine Good Citizenship test for Sunday, June 25th, at the North end of Lake Opeka. The test will start at 11:00 a.m. and go till about 5:00 p.m. They are going to furnish an overhead tent so the dogs will not be exposed to the sun or rain and if this program goes well we may be asked back for future fests. We will need volunteers for the day and for set-up (which will consist of putting up ring gates and a table for the judges and stewards).

The most important thing is entries. It is an advance-entry program, so anyone who is interested should call Marion at [REDACTED], and I will get an entry out to you. **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**, and also there will be a limited entry of 75 dogs, so enter early. Pedigree Dog Food has offered doggy scarves and The American Kennel Club has given their blessings. Entry fee is \$5.00. Come out and show the rest of our town what a Canine Good Citizen really is. It is also a good time for us to pass out literature about our club and let others know how they can become active in Rand Park Dog Training Club. Remember, old blood is good, but new blood is always needed to keep the club alive and fresh in its ideas.

That's all for now; remember, this is your club, so let us hear from you.

Marion Meseth, Prez.

DECEMBER'S MEMBER MEETING MINUTES



DRAFT - TO BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Des Plaines Leisure Center

DATE: 12/16/2025

Meeting Called to Order: 7:35PM – Motion: accept the minutes of October 7, 2025, made by Gina, seconded by Gloria, motion carried.

Members Present: Matthew Greathouse, Bill Urquhart, Gloria Urquhart, Brad McGinnis, Gina Varilek, Jill Spooner, Debbie Egan-Bolton, Danielle Sofia, Erin Straka, Paul Straka, Lois Mayer Yep, Sue Bowman, Marie Doerpinghaus, Audrey Drechsler

Board Members Present: Maria Divane, Kathy Bauries, Todd Doerpinghaus, Martha Nelson, Birgit Mantilla

Board members not present: Candido Martinez, Jackie Montero, Kari Sheridan, Lisa Merlin

PRESIDENT: Birgit Mantilla -

Merry Christmas, thank you for being part of the club. Thanks to everyone who helped with the move. Bill U. fixed the draft on the door at the new building, saving us a lot of heating expense. We'll have several upcoming projects we'll need help with:

- Sorting and evaluating the old equipment from the storage unit.
- Organizing how we store equipment to quickly and safely find it.
- Install the puzzle-mat flooring. Martha will send out announcements.

On the hospitality table, we have extra cookies for humans and dogs.

Continued...

VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Baureis - no report

SECRETARY: Martha Nelson - Membership drive - for those who have already renewed, thank you. 2 more weeks to get it done. Can renew today!
Please update your contact info if it has changed.

TREASURER & INSURANCE: Candido Martinez - absent no report

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Todd Doerpinghaus -
We have opened new bank accounts with Village Bank & Trust which has excellent customer service.

DIRECTOR: Maria Divane - no report

DIRECTOR: Lisa Merlin absent - no report

DIRECTOR: Kari Sheridan absent - no report

COMMITTEES 2025

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING: Jackie Montero – absent, no report

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRAINING Kathy Baureis -

This is the last class of the year, and our students are doing very well. We are looking forward to training in the new building.

- Audrey qualified and got 4th place in Novice A.
- Julie Minibole and Don Martin both qualified in Novice A.

It's great to see our members doing very well in competitions.

If you want to know more about how to compete, just ask your teacher.

AUDIT AND FINANCE: Martha Nelson, Deborah Egan Bolton, Jill Spooner – no report

BANQUET: Annice Coughlin, Wendy Mejia - no report

BYLAWS AND POLICIES: Kathy Baureis, Wilson Mantilla, Tom Merlin - no report

DEMONSTRATIONS: Barb Pische –
January 10th @ 10 am, and subsequent second Saturdays of the month.

EQUIPMENT: Al Baureis -
We have 8 sets of jumps. We will make redundant ones available to members, first-come, first-served. We'll also need to get a displaceable jump to meet AKC standards.

FACEBOOK: Birgit Mantilla, María Divane
Get a photo with your dog at the lovely Christmas setup, and we'll post it on Facebook.

FIT DOG CLUB: (need a chairperson)
Looking for a chairperson to run the club. Please talk to Birgit if you are interested.

Continued...

IMPROVEMENT: Wilson Mantilla, Paul Straka -

A hiccup with the building – the bathroom. The city requires that we have 2 bathrooms, one of which must be ADA. We have three quotes; one contractor is revamping his contract to reflect the economizing we need. We are considering ways to lay down the puzzle mats, including a combination of volunteers and hired labor. Tom Merlin has stepped down from the project due to time constraints. When the Board meets on Friday, we'll divide the responsibilities. We'll have poop bags available when we are open (at the new location). Whoever opens and closes will also have to bring in / out the poop bags.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: Birgit Mantilla - no report

LIAISON TO PARK DISTRICT: Kathy Baureis - no report

MARKETING & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: on hold until we move into the new building.

NEW MEMBER PACKETS: Martha Nelson -

A few new members! Paw Prints will introduce them and their dogs.

OBEDIENCE TRIAL: Erin Straka & Birgit Mantilla -

Erin is our trial chair, Martha will be the Rally Steward, and Margaret Henning is the Chief Steward for Obedience.

Save the dates:

- Rally trials (2 trials) Friday, April 24th, 2026

Judges: Loretta Lazarra & Mary Simpson

- Obedience trials (1 trial each day) Sat/Sun April 25th & 26th, 2026

Judges: Loretta Lazarra & Wayne Koutsky

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Tom Merlin - absent, no report

PAW PRINTS: Danielle Sofia -

If you have submissions, stories, or other materials, please send them in.

Birgit asked the membership to submit stories that they think the membership would like to read.

REGISTRATION: Birgit Mantilla -

4 dogs for beginners. The word is out that we are getting a building, so experienced trainers are asking for information.

TRAINING COMMITTEE: Jackie Montero, Birgit Mantilla, Kathy Baureis - no report

TRIAL, SPECIAL, AND ANNUAL AWARDS: Lisa Merlin and Erin Straka -

We need to order them in the first week of January to take advantage of the sale.

Continued...

WEBSITE: Todd Doerpinghaus - no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Todd will be the new Treasurer as of January 1st, and Paul Straka will become the Asst Treasurer.

- President - Birgit Mantilla
- Vice President - Kathy Baureis
- Secretary - Martha Nelson
- Treasurer - Todd Doerpinghaus
- Assistant Treasurer - Paul Straka
- Directors: Lois Mayer-Yep, Lisa Merlin, and Jill Spooner.

Motion made by Gina to accept the board, seconded by Gloria. The motion was carried. We will vote on the new DOT in January.

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Bill U made the motion to adjourn, Gina seconded it, and the motion carried.



CURRENT CLASS SCHEDULE

SESSION #1

January 6 - January 17th 2026

January 6th	WEEK 1
January 13th	WEEK 2
January 20th.....	WEEK 3
January 27th.....	WEEK 4
February 3rd.....	WEEK 5
February 10th.....	WEEK 6
February 17th.....	WEEK 7

FEBRUARY 24th - BREAK / NO CLASS

Class Schedule on Membership Meeting Night:

- 5:15 - 5:50PM
- 6:00 - 6:40PM
- 6:45 - 7:25PM
- 7:30 - 8:10PM - Members Meeting
- 8:15 - 8:50PM

SESSION 2 BEGINS MARCH 3RD, 2026



SAVE THE DATES!



2026 OBEDIENCE/RALLY SHOWS HELD FOREST CITY DOG TRAINING CLUB

JANESVILLE BELOIT KENNEL CLUB
SAT & SUN, JANUARY 24 & 25 - OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIAL
<https://janesville-beloitkennelclub.com/>

FOREST CITY DOG TRAINING CLUB
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 - 2 RALLY TRIALS
SAT & SUN, MARCH 28 & 29 - OBEDIENCE TRIAL ONLY
<https://www.forestcitydog.com/>



RAND PARK DOG TRAINING CLUB
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 - 2 RALLY TRIALS
SAT & SUN, APRIL 25 & 26 - OBEDIENCE TRIAL ONLY
<https://randparkdtc.org/>



FOREST CITY DOG TRAINING CLUB
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 - 2 RALLY TRIALS
SAT & SUN, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20 - OBEDIENCE TRIAL ONLY
<https://www.forestcitydog.com/>



FOREST CITY DOG TRAINING CLUB



ANNUAL SPRING OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIAL 2026

Rally Judges - Joni Monnich & Suzanne Maybourne

- Rally Novice A & B, Advanced A & B, Excellent A & B, Intermediate, Master, CHOICE

Obedience Judges - Jeanne Thomas & Suzanne Mayborne

- Novice A & B, Open A & B, Utility A & B, Beginner Novice A & B, Grad Novice, Grad Open, Preferred Novice

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

- 2 Rally Trials

SAT & SUN, MARCH 28 & 29, 2026

- Obedience Trials Only

ENTRIES CLOSE

MARCH 11, 2026

PREMIUM AVAILABLE SOON

**TALL TO SMALL
ALL DAYS**

Make checks payable to: livetrial.net

FOR REGISTRATION

TRIAL SECRETARY
ROBERT OLSON
817 OGDEN AVE #4439
LISLE, IL 60532
SECRETARY@LIVETRIAL.NET



RPDTC ANNUAL SPRING OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS 2026

Friday, April 24th, 2026 - 2 Rally Trials

JUDGES: Loretta Lazarra & Mary Simpson

Saturday April 25th - Obedience Trial

Sunday April 26th - Obedience Trial

JUDGES: Loretta Lazarra & Wayne Koutsky

LOCATION

Forest City Dog Training Club, Rockford



*Thank you to our members
who volunteered for
the trial committees.*

*We will be in need of
stewards all 3 days to
make our trials a success!
Please mark your calendars.*

UPCOMING AKC EVENTS!



The dates below are for events with ***CLOSING DATES THRU END OF MARCH*** with ***SOME EVENTS IN APRIL***.

Ask your instructor for more info about trials! Fun to watch, more fun to do!

OBEDIENCE				
EVENT NAME	CITY	STATE	EVENT DATE	CLOSING DATE
German Shepherd Dog Training Club of Chicago, Inc.	Hanover Park	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Topline German Shepherd Dog Club of Illinois, Inc.	Hanover Park	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Central States Collie Club	Huntley	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Central States Collie Club	Huntley	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Chicagoland Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.	Huntley	IL	Feb-26	Feb-26
Chicagoland Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.	Huntley	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
Great Lakes Belgian Tervuren Club	Huntley	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
Great Lakes Belgian Tervuren Club	Huntley	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
South Side All Breed Dog Training Club, Inc.	New Lenox	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
South Side All Breed Dog Training Club, Inc.	New Lenox	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
Kennel Club of Yorkville, Illinois	Dekalb	IL	Apr-26	Mar-26
Kennel Club of Yorkville, Illinois	Dekalb	IL	Apr-26	Mar-26

RALLY				
EVENT NAME	CITY	STATE	EVENT DATE	CLOSING DATE
Stone City Kennel Club	New Lenox	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Stone City Kennel Club	New Lenox	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Central States Collie Club	Huntley	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Central States Collie Club	Huntley	IL	Feb-26	Jan-26
Chicagoland Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.	Huntley	IL	Feb-26	Feb-26
Chicagoland Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.	Huntley	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
Great Lakes Belgian Tervuren Club	Huntley	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
Kennel Club of Yorkville, Illinois	Dekalb	IL	Apr-26	Mar-26
Kennel Club of Yorkville, Illinois	Dekalb	IL	Apr-26	Mar-26

SCENTWORK				
EVENT NAME	CITY	STATE	EVENT DATE	CLOSING DATE
Car-Dun-Al Obedience Dog Training Club, Inc.	Algonquin	IL	Feb-26	Feb-26
Car-Dun-Al Obedience Dog Training Club, Inc.	Algonquin	IL	Mar-26	Feb-26
Greater Chicago Area Scent Work Association	Elmhurst	IL	Mar-26	Mar-26
Greater Chicago Area Scent Work Association	Elmhurst	IL	Mar-26	Mar-26

Want to plan more dates? Looking for a premium?
Search here! webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search

SENIOR VISITATION

TO PARTICIPATE:

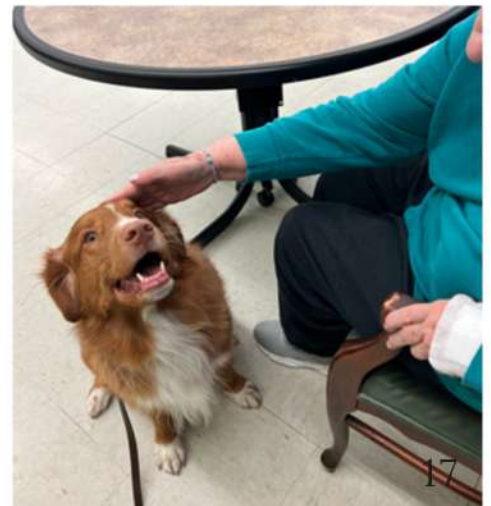
- 2nd Saturday of the month**NEXT DATE FEB. 14TH • 10AM**
- Dogs must be comfortable around other dogs in tight spaces
- Dogs must be comfortable being petted by several people
- The residents must not feed dogs at any time
- You must be a member or a current student and your dog must be well behaved and non-reactive to participate in demonstrations

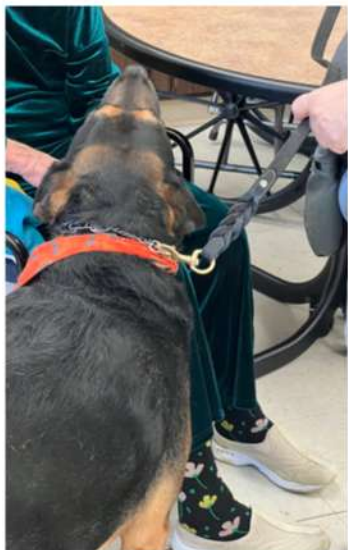
LOCATION:

Ascension Living
Nazarethville Place
300 N River Rd
Des Plaines IL 60016

Interested in participating? Before attendance, please contact Barb Pische at at 872-276-3331 or remi2332@sbcglobal.net

Our gratitude to the Rand Park members and students who are giving up their Saturday morning to visit with the seniors at the nursing home. Thank you Maryellen, Kathy, Liana, Martha, Clyde, Judi, Marge and our program leader Barb! Photos from the January 10th visit.





PAW-SOME PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT!



DAVID & "KOBE"

Sometimes the true impact of dog training shows up far beyond the classroom. David recently shared an update with Martha & Birgit that reminded all of us at RPDTTC why we do what we do.

After signing up for an associate membership earlier this week, David explained that his father is stable and doing better—but still needs close care and supervision. Right now, David's focus is where it should be: staying with his dad, helping him, and keeping an eye on him. While he isn't sure when he'll be able to return to training classes, he hopes it will be sometime soon, and he's looking forward to seeing the new building when the time comes.

But what David shared next, truly touched our hearts -

Several months ago, David's father spent 3 ½ weeks at Glenview Terrace Rehabilitation Center. When David found out that pets were allowed to visit, he didn't hesitate—he brought Kobe with him every single day. Kobe was calm, well-mannered & friendly with the staff & other patients, making visits brighter & more comforting for everyone around him. David credits Kobe's excellent behavior to the consistent training & hard work they've put in through RPDTTC over the past couple of years.

Birgit captured what so many of us feel:

David & his dad have always been wonderful people. David worked diligently in class & gave his full effort to every skill they practiced. More than once, he had to leave early because his father had fallen at home. Eventually, David began bringing his dad to class each week because he couldn't leave him unattended. It was clear then & it's clear now—David's dedication & love for his father is unwavering. Now, seeing Kobe stepping into this role so naturally—being steady, gentle & reliable—feels like the perfect example of how training, commitment & heart come together when it matters most.

David & Kobe, we're proud of you & can't wait to welcome you back when the time is right. ❤️🐾

To share your story about you & your four legged family, send an email with subject line "Spotlight" with photos you'd like included to: rpdtc.pawprints@gmail.com to be featured in a future issue of pawprints.

FESTIVE HOLIDAY FUN!

Festive photos from our holiday class to end the year with.
Fun games, photo ops & treats for all!





CANINE GOOD CITIZEN



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CGC GRADUATES!

The Canine Good Citizenship tests are given to students at the end of the current session. See your instructor for more details & to schedule your test.



Matthew & "Charli", Sue & "Vega" & Giedre & "Simba"

SPECIAL BRAG HIGHLIGHT!

Special Congratulations to our very own Jackie & Candido! They are expecting their 1st baby in March. A little girl who they shall call Charlotte. Welcome to the family!



BARK & BRAG GALLERY



Don & "Yoshi", Audri & "Mochi", Julie & "Hazel"
Northwest Obedience December 13th - Judge Loretta Lazarra



Congratulations to Team Lacey! Lacey is ranked 13th fastest dog in the nation
in the small class division. She loves barnhunt and finding those rats!



Audri & "Mochi"
4th Place Novice A - 1st leg



"Charlie" GRC Title
Certificate of Confirmation



Julie & "Hazel"
Don & "Yoshi"



Janesville-Beloit
2nd Leg - Second Place



Northwest Obedience
Qualifying Score in Novice A - 1st leg



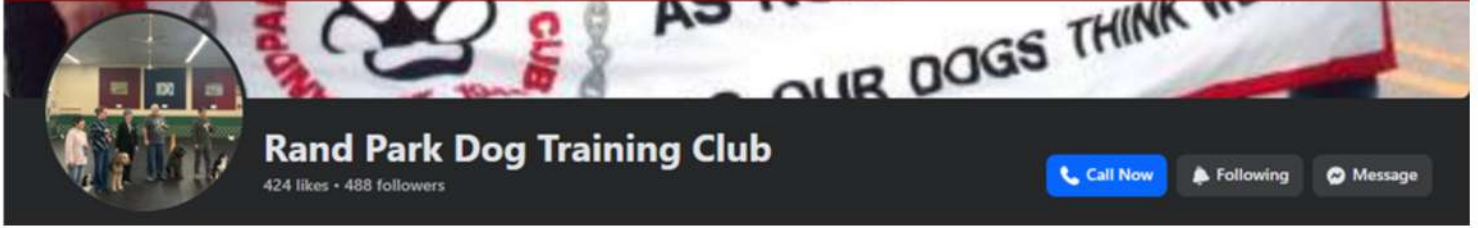
Janesville-Beloit
3rd Leg, 1st Place & Title



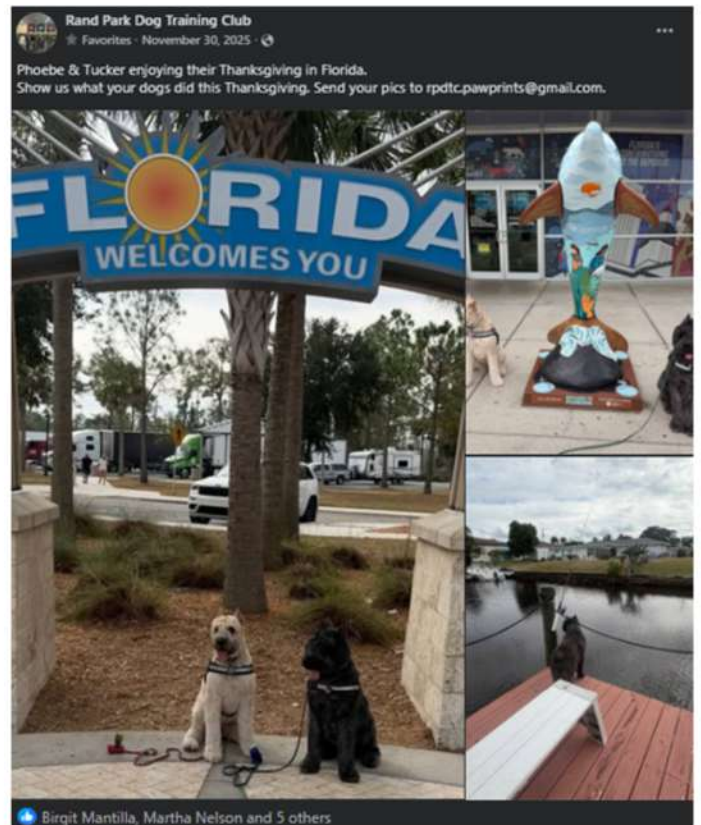
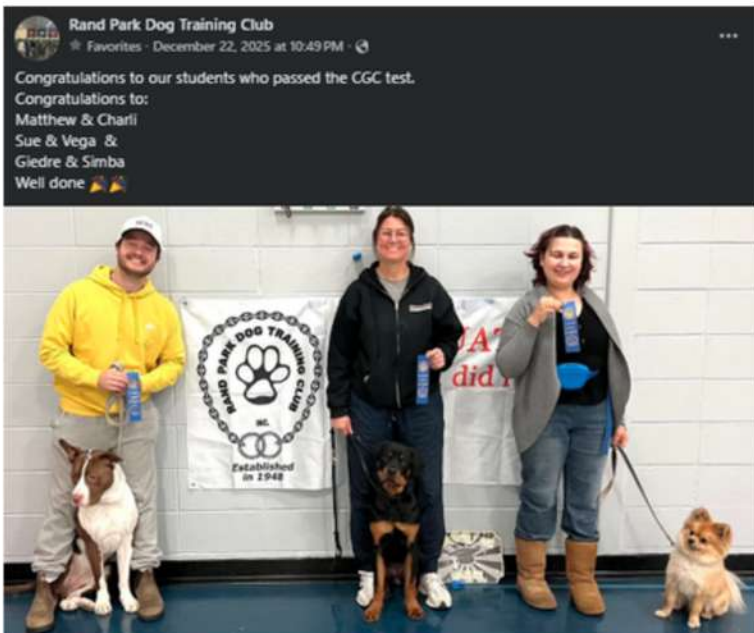
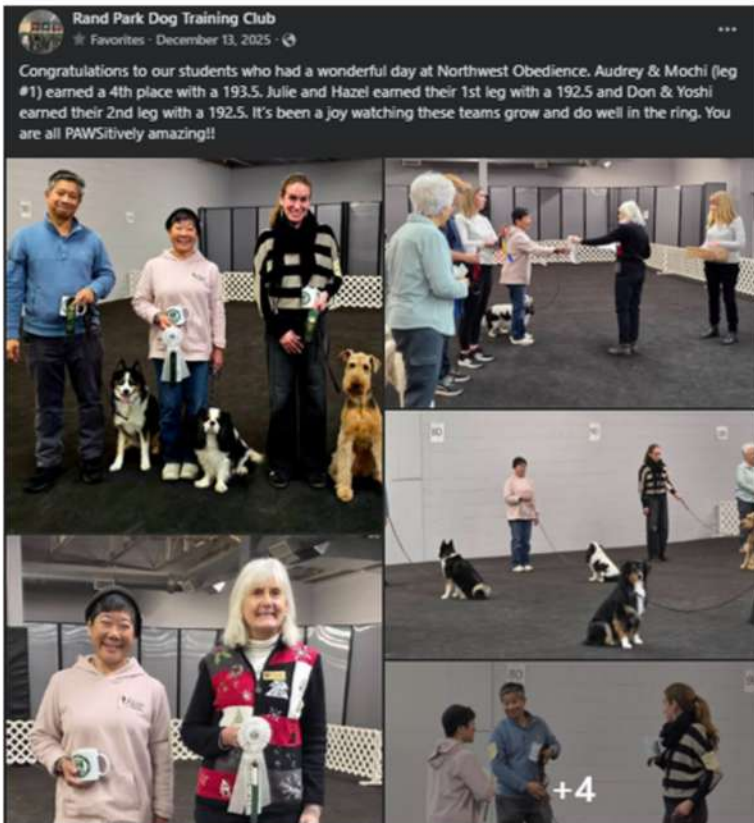
Northwest Obedience
Qualifying Score in Novice A - 2nd leg



SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Be sure you're following along the club's Facebook page for more updates! Check out some of our more recent posts!



FROM THE K-9 KITCHEN

4 INGREDIENT PUPPY TRAINING TREATS

These 4-ingredient homemade puppy training treats are cut small, perfect for training! Easy to make, healthier, and cheaper than store-bought!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 large eggs
- 2/3 cup pumpkin purée (canned or fresh)
- 3 tablespoons peanut butter



SERVINGS: 20

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Add all the ingredients to the bowl of a stand mixer. Using the paddle attachment, mix until combined. If it's a little dry, add some water. If it's wet, add a little more flour.
- Knead the dough together on a clean surface and roll it out really thin (between 1/8-1/4 inch thick).
- Cut squares and continue rolling/cutting until all the dough has been used. Transfer to an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 25-30 minutes. It may take longer to bake them until crunchy, depending on how thin/thick you rolled the dough and the size of the treats.

Notes: Transfer to an airtight container only after the treats are completely cooled. Use within 2 weeks.



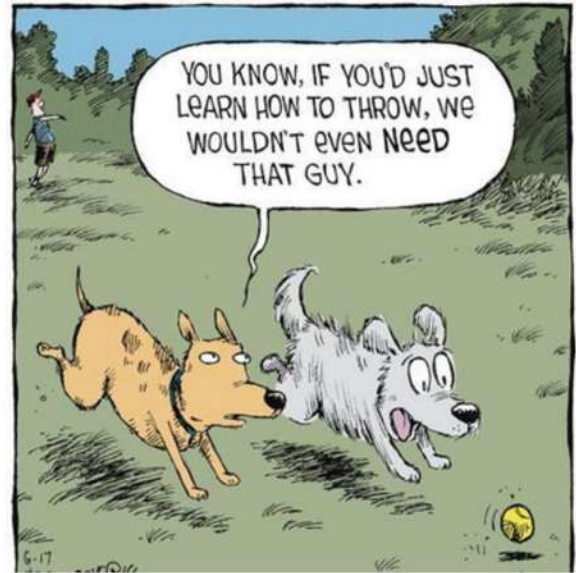
<https://thewoksoflife.com/barleys-first-weeks-and-homemade-puppy-training-treats-1/>

OFF-LEASH HUMOR

What Do Dogs Get After Training? a Pet-Degree



Speed Bump by Dave Coverly



THANK YOU TO OUR PAWPRINTS CONTRIBUTORS

BLAST FROM THE PAST - Martha Nelson & Birgit Mantilla

K9 KITCHEN & HUMOR - Danielle Sofia

NURSING HOME VISITS - Maryellen, Kathy, Liana, Martha, Clyde, Judi, Marge and our program leader Barb

FROM THE PRESIDENT - Birgit Mantilla (President)

FROM THE SECRETARY - Martha Nelson (Secretary)

**NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
IS MARCH 5TH FOR THE MARCH 15TH ISSUE.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - *Birgit Mantilla* rpdtc.president@gmail.com
 - Vice President - *Kathy Baureis* rpdtc.VP@gmail.com
 - Secretary - *Martha Nelson* rpdtc.Secretary@gmail.com
 - Treasurer - *Todd Doerpinghaus* rpdtc.Treasurer@gmail.com
 - Asst. Treasurer - *Paul Straka* rpdtc.Asst.Treasurer@gmail.com
-
- Dir. of Training - *Sue Bowman* suembowman@gmail.com
 - Director - *Jill Spooner* jaspoon@att.net
 - Director - *Lois Mayer-Yep* lpmayer@juno.com
 - Director - *Lisa Merlin* lmmsail64@gmail.com
-
- PawPrints - *Danielle Sofia* rpdtc.Pawprints@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!

Notice of training cancellation will also be posted on:

The club's website www.randparkdtc.org

our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/RandParkDTC