



Pacific Northwest Scent Work Club

www.PNWScentWorkClub.com

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PNW Scent Work Club – General Meeting Summary

Date: April 15, 2026

Time: 6:39 PM – 8:14 PM (PDT)

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Participants: Judi James, Jenny Barbee, Nicole Wright, Susan Smith, Donna Morgan-Murray, Marybeth Kostrikin, Diane Brown, Mary Clarose, Tracey Gamley, Diane Elliot, Wendy Snyder, Tamra Busch, Lauren Kuperstein

Last Meeting Minutes Action: Decline the reading of minutes from our last meeting. Motion made, seconded, and carried.

Purpose of Meeting: To review recent events, plan upcoming trials, discuss volunteer programs, and address logistical and safety considerations for summer events.

Meeting Summary

The meeting focused on reviewing the success of the March Gaston trial, planning upcoming scent work trials, refining volunteer incentives, and improving event logistics. Members discussed site logistics, volunteer management, raffle and fundraising ideas, and strategies for keeping dogs safe in hot weather. Key decisions included confirming future trial sites, adjusting volunteer rewards, and enhancing communication and education for members.

Key Topics Discussed

1. March Gaston Trial Review

- The event was highly successful and well-received for its organization and venue quality.
- Feedback included improving layout and separating the photo booth from staging areas.
- Future adjustments: better crowd flow, signage, and possibly relocating ribbons and photo areas.

2. Upcoming Trials

- **Aurora, OR (June 20–21, 2026) Sniff into Summer Event:**
 - Novice/Advanced on Saturday; Excellent/Master with Interiors on Sunday.
 - Smaller crew, no raffle or photo booth, simplified layout.
 - Possible outdoor ribbon area and judge-distributed Q ribbons.
- **Albany, OR (July 25–26, 2026) Hot Fun in the Sun Event:**
 - New venue at Linn County Fairgrounds replacing Savvy Dog.
 - Air-conditioned event center, large parking, RV space, and ADA access.
 - Potential lunch buffet via concessionaire; trial limit set at 375 entries.
- **Yamhill, OR (November 7-9, 2026) Holiday Trial:**
 - Contract confirmed; affordable pricing and expanded warm, dry space.
 - Will follow a holiday theme similar to last year.

3. Site and Safety Considerations

- Albany chosen partly for safety—reduced fire risk compared to Savvy Dog’s dry fields.
- Discussion on educating exhibitors about how unsafe it is to leave cars running, especially in tight parking lots. Group discussed heat management and safe car setups.
- Nicole and Judi to publish an article on keeping dogs cool (fans, shade cloths, etc.).
- Members shared tips on cooling gear, fans, and crate setups. Marybeth suggested sharing links on where to get this equipment.

4. Volunteer Program

- Current model provides guaranteed trial entry for volunteers.
- Proposal approved: add a **\$5 credit per completed volunteer card (8-hour shift)** toward future runs.
- Goal: increase participation and recognize contributions without large budget impact.
- Seeking key roles: timers, trailer unload/load, score runners, and a paperwork sorter to help our trial secretary. (Hospitality is not needed for the next two trials)
- Volunteer role descriptions and coordination improvements planned.

5. Raffle, Fundraising, and Prizes

- Raffle baskets remain popular; themes to match event seasons (“Hot Fun in the Sun” for Albany, “Holiday” for Yamhill).
- T-shirts, wine, and toys were top raffle items that drew interest.
- Considering limited club-branded shirts or hats for prizes or sales.
- Candy and small treats suggested to be offered as volunteer appreciation items.
- NQ (non-qualifying) raffle or consolation prizes discussed for participants.

6. Communications and Website

- Jenny to update the club website with new trial details and volunteer sign-up info.
 - Members encouraged to whitelist the club's email to avoid spam filtering. Club email is PNWScentWorkClub@gmail.com
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Major Decisions or Agreements

- Confirmed trial sites and dates for Aurora, Albany, and Yamhill.
 - Approved \$5 volunteer credit incentive system.
 - Agreed to publish dog heat safety article and promote cooling equipment.
 - Decided to simplify Aurora trial logistics (no raffle/photo booth).
 - Continue themed raffle baskets and explore limited club merchandise.
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Action Items and Owners

Action	Owner
Update website with Albany trial info	Jenny Barbee
Email members for interest of logistics for trial setup	Jenny Barbee
Finalize Albany contract and walkthrough	Judi James & Nicole Wright
Publish dog cooling safety article	Judi James & Nicole Wright
Draft volunteer credit program details	Judi James & Nicole Wright
Source raffle items and shirts for Albany/Yamhill	Diane Brown & Judi James
Share window grate vendor info	Marybeth Kostrikin
Coordinate candy/gum volunteer treats	Lauren Kuperstein
Prepare info for use of Recall instead of Agility Gate	Judi James

Next Steps / Follow-Up

- Schedule Albany site walkthrough and announce volunteer participation opportunity.
- Implement volunteer credit system before next trial.
- Post educational materials on summer dog safety.
- Prepare raffle baskets and merchandise for summer and fall events.

Next Meeting: To be scheduled prior to the June Aurora trial.