



PNW Scent Work Club Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00PM PST

Via Zoom

Club Members in Attendance & Introductions:

Donna Morgan Murray – GSD –Involved in SW since 2011 and AKC SW since 2017 when it first began.

Diane Brown – New to dog world, 2 yr old Rottweiler, hoping to complete Novice level in Nov.

Cheryl & Mike Beckage – Border Terrier - New to SW and new members.

Mary Clarose Staffordshire bull terriers since 2008

Lauren Kuperstein – Pembroke Corgi, SW since 2022, has been working as our trial secretary.

Jenny Barbee – GSDs – Involved in SW since 2023.

Amber Morris – Great Dane and a new Weimaraner puppy - Involved in the dog world since 2023 in tracking, rally and SW.

Lynn Owens – Havanese, she is a breeder and has been involved with SW since 2022.

Gretchen Lambert – GSD – Involved in SW since 2024. (Puppy out of Jenny Barbee’s dog Ghost.)
Nicole Wright has helped train Gretchen and Ginger.

Susan Smith – Springers - 50 years in dog world – SW since the beginning and also a founder of the PNW SW Club.

Sarah Miller – GSD – Involved in the dog world a long time, multiple different sports, SW since 2024. (Also, a puppy out of Jenny Barbee’s dogs.)

Heather Huber – Dobermans – SW since 2020, started competing during COVID 19 with cardboard boxes in the living room via zoom.

Tracy Onion – Miniature Schnauzer – 2025 is their first year involved in SW.

Amber Beck – New to SW and interested in learning, supporting and helping PNW SW Club.

DeAnna Cormany -GSDs – Involved in SW since 2024 – Working towards becoming a SW judge.

Maria Vincic – Belgian Malinois X Border Collie Mix – Involved in SW since 2024 – This is her first dog.

Nancy Royse – Involved in the dog world since 2005, musical freestyle, pet therapy, animal assisted crisis response – She started in SW in 2017 and was also a PNW SW Club founder.

Barb Butler – Irish Setter - I apologize, the Secretary missed this intro.

Nicole Wright – Dalmatians – SW since 2018, training dogs for 22 years in California, Virginia and New Hampshire breeder, owner, handler of grand champions, her dogs do almost every sport you can think of and a whole lot more.

Tracey Gamley – Labradors – I apologize, the Secretary missed this intro. A member since 2024.

Judi James – Keeshounds, Springers -SW started in tracking back in the 60s thought about SAR but didn't like the rain and cold. Involved in AKC SW since the beginning. President Founder of PNW SW Club. Breeder of Springer Spaniels.

Diane Elliot – Bouvier des Flanders- Involved in SW and other stuff.

Phyllis Dinmore – She was in attendance but having some connection issues. She is our club Secretary and has been involved with SW since the beginning and is also a founding member of the PNW SW Club.

Membership has hit 50 members this month.

Judi is delighted to have so many members in attendance tonight. We hope as membership grows, we will have more opportunities to have members' volunteer.

Club Founders and History:

Judi, Phyllis, Susan and Nancy started this club together. This started when Judi and Susan showed up at one of the first AKC SW trials in the western United States at the Clark County Fairgrounds. It was pouring down rain when they arrived that morning at the trial, there was nothing ready. The judges and the AKC director at the time Penny Scott Fox were somewhere on the property trying to set things up. The club members who were supposed to help were absent. So, Judi and Susan gathered several other local competitors with experience in hosting AKC events and jumped in to help. Onofrio was the Superintendent but this was their first SW trial. They had found the needed paperwork midmorning that we could use and several of the exhibitors found a white board and made up a list for the run order. Many exhibitors after they ran their dogs would then volunteer to lend a hand as a timer, steward, coordinator or recorder of the results. Everything was recorded on paper and they manually went through results to find

out who was 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Luckily Judi and others that had experience in working events though manual processes were able to keep the event running through the weekend. Judi says after that first night and after we had gotten dried off, we decided that a club was needed. Judi made up an application and started passing them around the next day. So, this is how the PNW SW Club was started.

Donna Morgan-Murray chimed in to reaffirm that this trial was even worse than Judi had described. She was one of the judges and recalls it as the trial from hell! It was cold, wet, icy, muddy and miserable. They were drilling holes in the ground for buried (newcomers – the original buried element used sand boxes for Novice, but the other levels had hides actually buried in the ground) with borrowed gear because the club had nothing as far as gear or equipment. It was also an incredible experience in that so many people rallied around to help, including competitors scoring dogs. Thanks to Judi we haven't had that much difficulty since.

AKC posts a list of the largest scent work trials, and we have consistently hosted the largest trials in the state of Oregon and probably Washington too. She says the main club goal was to have the best run trials and she thinks we have been doing that and hopes to continue that strength going forward!

Tualatin Trial at Grow Construction

We had a great trial in July at a new site. Nicole Wright to go over the details.

This location, Grow Construction, is a new site and this was our first trial here. We really moved quickly through the trial with the parking lot being so close. We also had it set up that each level would run, leave, and the next level would run. That was key as we had such a small parking area. We had a huge volunteer base and a great flow with the signed tent entrance system. The weather was nice and not too hot as the asphalt would have been hot for the dogs. Nicole is employed at this company and has been talking about doing another trial there next year. Amber Morris was the volunteer coordinator for this event. She thought it went really well. This was her first time being a volunteer coordinator, but everyone agreed she did a great job! There were a lot of people helping out, she said sometimes we had too many volunteers, which is a great problem to have! We had a lot of interest in people asking to join the club. Lauren said she thinks it was convenient with the parking area being so close making it easier to stage from their cars. Overall consensus was that this was a great and well-run trial. Maybe our best run yet!

Up Coming Trials:

Yamhill County Fairgrounds, McMinnville, OR – Nov 8, 9, and 10. – Our trial at this location was in December last year and was our largest trials, or at least on a per day basis. We are doing full

trials on Saturday and Sunday of all four elements. Monday will consist of two detective trials running concurrently (competitors will run one and switch to the next one) and we will also be running two HD trials on Monday. This is a bit different from what we have done in the past. Premiums should be out around the 1st of October. It will be posted on AKC's website and will be posted on our website. www.pnwscenworkclub.com (Newly upgraded and updated website. Please go visit if you haven't recently.)

Maplewood Grange, Aurora, OR – Nov 29 & 30. - This is a small trial, will consist of two trials each day. Novice and Excellent levels will run on Saturday, you will get to run twice in that, it will be only Container and Buried and HD. In the AM we will run Novice and the PM we will run Excellent and in between we run HD for both levels. We will do the same on Sunday but for Advanced and Masters levels. This is right on 99E, so we will park you as far away as possible but leashes are needed for safety with staging in your vehicles. We are still looking for stewards, timers and helpers for these events.

Banfield Administrative Offices, Vancouver, WA - January 2, 3, 4. Saturday and Sundays all elements and all levels, plus detective. (There are talks about possibly doing a detective trial on Friday after setup.) This is Lauren's work and is an excellent opportunity to use this is a cool site! State of the art interiors, there is lots of offices, all one level, garden areas and more. Lauren also says there is a mock vet hospital in the building and she is excited to use that space.

We are Changing to Random Draw Entries:

Since our last trial filled in less than 3 hours, the club has decided to move to Random Draw method for entries. **The random draw method gives everyone who enters during the draw period has an equal chance of getting into the trial.** This consists of a one-week window called the draw period in which competitors can submit entries, just as you would do so at any trial. If at the close of the draw period, our entries exceed the maximum trial limit, we will select entries randomly as to who gets into the trial. This is done electronically through Seceerrier. With Random Draw method, there is an opportunity to reserve up to 15 % of draws for volunteers for each day. (Rules prohibit our reserving space for workers using the first received method) We feel that the most valuable benefit we can offer our volunteers going forward would be a guaranteed entry into a trial.

Judi went on to explain the process of Random Draw back in the 60's (and before!) when these were drawn manually. Competitors would put all their entries into one envelope and mail them in. Once all the envelopes were collected (in no particular order) then they would draw an envelope at random and all the entries in that envelope would be entered into the trial. This would be repeated until they get to the last envelope and/or reaching trial limit. That last selected envelope would allow that competitor to be able to select which of the final entries

they wanted to use, and the rest go onto a waitlist until the waitlist is full. Now Random Draw is done electronically, so the drama of watching someone pull envelopes out of a hat is gone. Secreterrier charges a dollar per entry whether you are drawn, waitlisted, withdrawn or dropped. This dollar per entry fee is a cost of this service and is non-refundable.

(This will be explained in the Premium List. Judi encourages everyone to read the Premium list as she spends a lot of time writing it and it fleshes out how the regulations are enforced.)

Volunteer Committees

Nicole Wright to go over details.

Nicole says when she first joined the PNW SW Club a couple of year ago and there were about three or four people volunteers running the show. We really need to setup volunteer committees to have more people volunteering to do the work. There are big benefits to volunteering such as being able to watch other competitors. This is an excellent learning opportunity to those new to the sport. It is really cool to watch a Detective dog run! It is a social club; we would love to have fun and support one another. We really need help in areas such as:

- Photo Booth Committee: Setting up the photo booth. With back drops and props.
- Volunteer Coordinators: help pre-plan volunteer needs prior to trials, organize and train positions.
- Social media & Website: This is a great way to get involved too. Post on our Facebook page. It is open for anyone to post. Provide information for our website, photos of you and your dog and articles for the site.
- Snap Shots! Someone to take photos at the trial. Not just professional ones. It is supposed to be fun; this is a social club.
- Annual Events Committee: Organize events such but not limited to volunteer appreciation BBQ, housekeeping events such as trailer event we have coming up or an award banquet or other such events.
- Membership Committees: Sents out a welcome package for new members. Talk about rule books and people to man the table. Answer questions about club membership.
- Trial Hospitality: arranging food, give aways, picking up food or water. Someone to train people how to use Agility Gate. Someone to man the tables. Someone to set up the photo booth.

Let us know where you best experience and knowledge is to help us.

Amber Morris – Volunteers, we have a small number of people who have signed up to help but we need more. Wanting people to set into some of the more key roles like volunteer coordinator like she did at the last trial, so everyone can compete with their dogs.

Jenny Barbee says there is a volunteer page that has a Volunteer Form that members can fill out to outline their areas of interest in volunteering. There also is a link to email Amber directly.

www.pnwscentworkclub.com/volunteers

Upcoming Volunteer Event:

TRAILER & GEAR Clean up – October 12, 2025 @11AM. We need to meet in Salem and reorganize and label the totes and gear used for our trials. And we need to adjust buried due to new rule change in buried boxes.

<https://pnwscentworkclub.com/events>

Volunteer Compensation Change:

We found out at the last trial that giving away free runs was too expensive. We are changing our volunteer compensation to be a pull for the random draw instead of free runs. We are hoping some of your volunteers from our last trial will convert their free runs to a pull instead.

We didn't provide a treasury report at this meeting but our treasury is currently at about \$8,200. We still owe the volunteers about \$2000 in compensation for the last trial. Each trial costs us approximately \$12,000 or more depending on the site we use and how many judges we hire. We can't afford to keep compensating volunteers without raising fees. The results are that we will have to cut back in other areas such as our beautiful rosette ribbons. Judi just placed ribbon order for \$2500 for the 3 events coming up. We still have many ribbons on hand, had we had to do an order from scratch it would be closer to \$4000. We invest a lot of money in our ribbons because our competitors want them.

Only Limited Trials Going Forward:

Since all our trials seem to fill quickly, we are going to do limited entry trials and random draw going forward. This helps us with knowing how many judges to hire, finding the appropriate facilities and parking accommodations, etc. Someone asked why we collect entry fees at the time of entry instead of after the draw is done and you know you got into the trial. Judi explained that ALL AKC events describe an acceptable entry as submitted with the required entry fee, on an official form and signed by the owner. There's a long list of what information must also be on the entry form. (See CH 3, Sec 16 of SW Regulations)

Facility Search:

Nicole asks everyone to be on the lookout for facilities. This means you need to know someone that has a connection to the facility to start the conversations. Great locations such as a business with a large parking lot, fairgrounds, and schools are excellent facilities for scent work.

Sarah Miller spoke up, as she is a principal of an elementary school! Yay! This is so exciting! Thank you, Sarah! Judi or Nicole will be reaching out to talk to you about this possible opportunity! We have been hoping for a school location for a long, long time!

Nomination Committee

To elect new officers or board members. All of the individuals who have been serving have been aging out and wanting to bring in new blood. So, they are putting together a nominations committee. Details for how this committee works is in the club constitution. This will be happening sometime in the middle of October they will present a list of nominations, or possible may have elections. Please let us know if you have interest in serving as an officer or board member.

Next Club Member Meeting:

Sunday, October 12th, 2025 during the trailer clean up event in Salem, OR.

Judi James motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.