



**The MESSENGER** an Official Publication of BVKA  
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**November 2025**



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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## Next Meeting Date

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Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Bob's Burgers and Brew** in Burlington, 9394 Old Hwy 99 at the Cook Rd exit from I-5. Social Hour will begin at 6 p.m. with the business meeting following at 7 p.m.

## Upcoming BVKA Events

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- TRACKING TESTS: February 1st at Wesen Farms, Bow
- ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET: February 7th at Max Dales, Mount Vernon
- *NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: February 12th (Due to Annual Awards Banquet)*
- OBEDIENCE/RALLY FUN DAY: March date TBD
- SPRING AGILITY TRIALS: April 17-19 at Fun Fur Paws, Mount Vernon
- *NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: May 14th (Due to All Breed Cluster Days)*
- NORTHWEST CLUSTER DOG SHOW: May 15-18 at the Lynden Fairgrounds  
*(May 15-16 Mt. Baker All Breed Cluster Days/May 17-18 BVKA All Breed Cluster Days)*
- BARK IN THE PARK: June date TBD
- *NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: September 10th (Due to Fall Agility Trials)*
- FALL AGILITY TRIALS: September 11-13, Fun Fur Paws, Mount Vernon

## Let's Welcome Our New Members!

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We are excited to announce that we have three new members to celebrate joining our Bell Vernon Kennel Association Club.

First, Joann Mather, is a retired dog trainer, a former obedience, rally, agility, and tracking judge, and currently participates and has a continued interest in conformation and rally. Joann has two Shelties, Mattie and Soleil. Hearty welcome Joann!

Secondly, Heather Kalda has been a dog owner/breeder of Shih Tzus and a handler and exhibitor since 2007. Currently she participates and has a continued interest in conformation, agility, and rally. We also heartily welcome you, Heather!

Last but not least, let's welcome Shirley Stiles who is also a member of the Mt. Baker Kennel Club. Shirley will be helping us navigate the conformation show this May at the Northwest Cluster Dog Show and we could not be more grateful. Shirley is also a dog owner/breeder of Boston Terriers and Brussels Griffons, and currently participates and competes in conformation.

## News and Announcements

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Provided by Earl and the AKC Companion Events Department on October 7, 2025

*We're excited to share that Samantha Williams of California has joined the AKC team as a Part-Time Field Representative for Obedience and Rally. Samantha brings a strong background in dog training and a passion for the sports, and we're thrilled to have her on board. She will officially begin her new role on October 13th. Please join us in giving Samantha a warm welcome to the AKC family!*

## Bragging Rights!

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Jean shared that Marilyn saved the day recently by running Superman (aka Manny) at the agility trials at Fun Fur Paws, and earning TWO double Qs!! *"Thank you, Marilyn!!"* Manny now has enough points to go to Temecula for Agility Nationals in March 2026! Jean is recovering from her fractured fibula and will be back at Fun Fur Paws running Manny once again over Thanksgiving weekend. *Huge congratulations to Marilyn, Jean, and Manny!*



In the Bell Vernon Kennel Club agility trial on September 12 and 13, Brad and Gabby loved the very challenging courses which truly tested their skills. Gabby ran 10 times over the two days. She had six qualifying runs, placing:

- Preferred Premier Jumpers: Qualified and placed First
- Standard OPEN Preferred: Placed First and picked up her first leg
- Jumpers Masters Preferred: Placed Third
- FAST Excellent Preferred: Placed First and picked up her third leg and XFP title
- T2B Preferred: Qualified twice and placed First and Second

*Congratulations Brad and Gabby!*



The September Messenger celebrated Brie for finishing her FAST Novice title but at the time, we didn't have a picture of her. So, we are going to continue our celebration one last time, with Brie's picture, because she is retired now and we want to remember this beautiful girl. As Susen said, she wanted Brie to go out with a smile. *Awesome job Susen and Brie!*



Sarah's English Cocker Spaniel earned his AKC TD (Tracking Dog) title on November 9. He also earned his NACSW Nosework 1 title on October 11. *Hearty congratulations Sarah!*



Karma got her Rally Masters title in Lynden. You have to have 10 qualifying scores and she qualified every time she was entered. Such a good girl! *Well done Pat and Karma!*



Tia passed her TD (Tracking Dog Test) at the Chuckanut Dog Training Association Trial on November 9th. She finished in three minutes and her handler, Diana, just hung on ... the distance was 440 yards in three minutes!



*Diana and Tia, you nailed it!*



“Denise and I went to Monroe to watch Deb and Pat in Obedience (which we unfortunately missed) and to learn more about the job of ring stewards for conformation so that we can be more useful at the Cluster. Because of a conflict I showed Emily Anderson’s Chase and went into the conformation ring for the first time in 55 years! It was a blast! Adalyn made her debut in conformation with Chase in the Pee Wee class. I wish they had that in agility. She can't wait to do it again! Deb made her Obedience debut and received a qualifying score! Yay Deb!!!”



*High Fives to Jean for getting back into that ring; Outstanding job to our future member and conformation handler, Ms. Adalyn; and, Deb thanks you for the shoutout! 🥳*

# DOG FRIENDLY THANKSGIVING

Dogs **CAN** have

**Carrots**

**Celery**

**Turkey (no skin)**

**Corn (no cob)**

**Sweet potatoes**

**Green beans**

**Apples**

**Pumpkin**

Dogs **CAN'T** have

**Onion**

**Leeks**

**Ham**

**Turkey bones**

**Casseroles**

**Garlic**

**Grapes**

**Stuffing**

