



**The MESSENGER** an Official Publication of BVKA

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## **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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## NEXT MEETING DATE

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Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Bob's Burgers and Brew** in Burlington, 9394 Old Hwy 99 at the Cook Rd exit from I-5. We will have speakers at this next meeting so please come a bit early at 5 p.m. for social hour, the business meeting will begin at 6 p.m., followed by our speakers at 7 p.m.

We are excited to announce that our speakers in March are the owners of Stellar Motion, Haley and Jennaka. Below is a brief introduction but for your convenience and more information, here is a link to their website: [StellarMotion](#). Another informative presentation you cannot miss!



**Your local resource for expert-led canine rehabilitation, fitness, and weight management.**

Hello! We are Haley and Jennaka - best friends, Licensed Veterinary Technicians, and Certified Companion Animal Rehabilitation Therapists. Our journey began in the fast-paced world of emergency veterinary medicine, where we gained invaluable experience and a deep commitment to helping animals thrive.

Over the years, we discovered our true passion: rehabilitation. We found fulfillment in helping pets regain their strength, mobility, and joy. That passion led us to create **Stellar Motion**, a space where healing and movement come together, and where pets (and their owners) feel supported every step of the way.

We're so excited to bring our shared vision to life and can't wait to meet you and your furry family members!

## UPCOMING BVKA EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

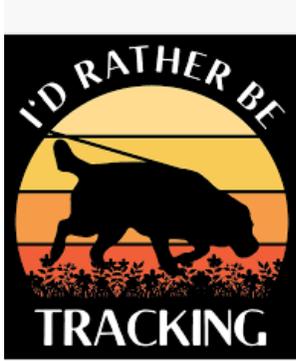
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- OBEDIENCE/RALLY FUN DAY: Date TBD
- SPRING AGILITY TRIALS: April 17-19 at Fun Fur Paws, Mount Vernon
- NORTHWEST CLUSTER DOG SHOW: May 15-18 at the Lynden Fairgrounds  
(*May 15-16 Mt. Baker All Breed Cluster Days/May 17-18 BVKA All Breed Cluster Days*)  
(*NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: May 14th (Due to All Breed Cluster Days)*)
- BARK IN THE PARK: June date TBD
- FALL AGILITY TRIALS: September 11-13, Fun Fur Paws, Mount Vernon  
(*NO BVKA GENERAL MEETING: September 10th (Due to Fall Agility Trials)*)

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Tracking Test Report from Ramon



Over the weekend of January 31st and February 1st, BVKA held its Tracking Test at Chuckanut Farms in Bow. We had seven tests, four Tracking Dog Tests (TD) and three Tracking Dog Excellent Tests (TDX). Some exhibitors traveled from Canada and we had one from Oregon. Of the four TD tests, three passed; of the three TDX tests there were no successful tests. The weather played a major factor with heavy rain at times and gusty winds.

BVKA wants to thank all the volunteers for helping in successfully putting on the test session, without their assistance it would not be possible to give exhibitors the opportunity to attempt to title. BVKA would like to thank:

**Judges:** Lisa Klein and Kayelene Hawthorne for successfully plotting these tracks over two days and final test day and putting up with the rainy weather, wind and cold.

**TDX Tracklayers:** Karen Vallo, Debbie Humble, Diane Longstreth, and Roxie Millsap

**TD Tracklayers:** Mike Kriegel, Lauren Zirker, Karen Vallo, and Michelle Hammerschmidt

**TDX Cross-track layers:** Janet Elliot, Tami Mattox, and Deb Van Emmerick

**Pole Carrier:** Courtney Shawver

**Drivers for Cross-track layers:** Sarah Kahn and Leila Irvine for driving the tracklayers to their designated tracks and keeping the process running smoothly.

**Drivers:** Barb Fuller, Marilyn Lindsey, Jean Groesbeck, Joanne Mather

**Hospitality:** Provided warm meals which were greatly appreciated, Judge Hawthorne mentioned that it was the best feed test she had been to. Thank you Pat Logen, Bonnie Logen, and Diana Sandoval.

**Secretary:** Sal Sanders for organizing the entries of the tests and providing the judges with the necessary information and materials.

Special thank you to Jan Wesen and her family members for allowing BVKA the opportunity to sponsor the tests on their farms.

And last, but not least, thank you Denise Vasquez for coming out in the bad weather and risking melting in the rain in order to fulfill Treasurer duties.

## Public Service Announcement From AKC - Thank you Jean

We are thrilled to partner with the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC®), Canada's primary registry for purebred dogs, to recognize CKC titles earned in Conformation, Obedience, and Rally. Dogs that are AKC registered or listed and have earned eligible CKC titles may now have those titles recorded on their AKC records and reflected on their AKC pedigree. Dogs that have previously earned qualifying titles are also eligible to apply.

The AKC Title Application Portal (TAP) provides a convenient way for owners to apply to have CKC titles recorded on their dog's AKC record and pedigree. To learn more about the Title Recognition Program and to access TAP, visit the AKC Title Recognition Program webpage or [click here](#).

**WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**



## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

### VICE PRESIDENT MIKE KRIEGEL

Hi, I'm Mike

Home is with my wife, Linda, and 4 dogs. There are 2 Beagles and 2 Golden Retrievers in the household. Before retiring, I worked in Logistics with a food distributor. We delivered to anyone that prepares meals - restaurants, cruise ships, schools, prisons, and others. One of our customers was a chicken farm. Did you know they feed sugar to the chickens? That sugar high increases egg production. My job was as an efficiency/management analyst. Probably won't surprise many of you that my job was to tell people where to go, and how to get there with the lowest cost and highest productivity.

Conformation is where I started. That was many years ago, before I entered high school. We'll just say it was some time in the last century. That was long enough ago, that to enter Junior Showmanship I paid a dollar at ringside, day of the show. Nowhere near as big a deal as it is now. After a few years of not being successful, I switched to Obedience. That went much better.

Over the years I've put titles on 14 dogs. Most were mine, but there were a few that I trained and showed for clients. There have been 8 different breeds, in 4 of the AKC groups. The dogs have taken me all over the North American continent. Competitions have been in 10 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and Mexico. We've run in Agility and Obedience Nationals. Obedience was long before AKC decided it would be a good idea to hold their own Nationals.

When I was putting my first CDX on a dog, I met Virgil Radcliffe. Very sure he is no longer with us. He said my dog and I were having such fun in the ring. It was a great model for new exhibitors. He wanted me to give back to the sport. To help others to have the same enjoyment with their canine partners. There was an ulterior motive for him. He was the Chief Obedience Ring Steward for most of the Obedience trials in Southern California. Over the years, I've been an Obedience steward countless times, event chair for Obedience and Tracking, and lots of time as an Agility course builder or Chief Ring steward. My work as a ring volunteer has included numerous Nationals, Regionals, and Invitationals. Linda and I taught Obedience for 10 years. That was before Agility existed. Proud to say that 3 of our students put in the time and effort to earn their Obedience Trial Championships (OTCH). I've instructed kids, and led 4-H clubs, in 3 states. In Snohomish County, we were 4-H club leaders and active with the county leadership group for 15 years.

Dogs have provided me with many fulfilling and exciting adventures. There have been, and still are, many great friends. Most are canine, but some are human. Never could have guessed all the things I've done, and places I've been, because of the dogs.

One of my best highlights happened at Fun Fur Paws. An exhibitor finished her first MACH. She was sitting up against the wall outside the Jumpers ring, cuddling with her dog. Tears of joy ran down her face. She surprised me when I congratulated her. She said "Today is because of you. When I started, if people bothered to talk to me, they told me I was clueless and my dog was stupid. They said I probably wouldn't ever make it out of Novice. You talked to me. On a good day, you were there with congratulations. On tough days, you consoled us. You found a silver lining. You were there when we got our first leg. Finished Novice. Finally made it out of Open. Now look at what we did. It's because you showed me how to have fun, no matter what. You knew this was possible. Even for us."

Virgil, I think I've done what you asked of me all those years ago.



## **BRAGS AND WAGS!**

So tired after the weekend of shows Toodle-oo just hung her lips up on the crate rather than holding her head up.

Your Editor can't stop laughing!  
Thanks for sharing, Linda



# BVKA 2026 AWARDS BANQUET











AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

# THE TAIL END

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## **30 Fun and Fascinating Dog Facts Courtesy of AKC August 2023**

Here at the AKC, we never get tired of learning more about dogs, whether it's a new study on canine behavior, a statistic from our database, or even just cool facts about a dog's impressive physical and mental abilities. You may know some of these already, and others may be more of a "wait, really?" situation, but we think you'll find all of them entertaining. Check out these 30 fun dog facts.

1. The Labrador Retriever has been on the AKC's top 10 most popular breeds list for longer than any other breed.
2. A dog's nose print is unique, much like a person's fingerprint.
3. Forty-five percent of U.S. dogs sleep in their owner's beds.
4. Speaking of sleeping ... all dogs dream, but puppies and senior dogs dream more frequently than adult dogs.
5. Seventy percent of people sign their dog's name on their holiday cards.
6. A dog's sense of smell is legendary, but did you know that their nose has as many as 300 million receptors? In comparison, a human nose has about 5 million.
7. Rin Tin Tin, the famous German Shepherd Dog, was nominated for an Academy Award.
8. Dogs' noses can sense heat and thermal radiation, which explains why blind or deaf dogs can still hunt.
9. The French Bulldog was first named the most popular breed in 2022.
10. The name Collie means "black." (Collies once tended black-faced sheep.)
11. Yawning is contagious — even for dogs. Research shows that the sound of a human yawn can trigger one from your dog. And it's four times as likely to happen when it's the yawn of a person your pet knows.
12. The Dandie Dinmont Terrier is the only breed named for a fictional person, a character in the novel "Guy Mannering" by Sir Walter Scott.

13. Dogs curl up in a ball when sleeping to protect their organs — a holdover from their days in the wild, when they were vulnerable to predator attacks.
14. The Basenji is not technically “barkless,” as many people think. They can yodel.
15. The Australian Shepherd is not actually from Australia. In fact, they are an American breed.
16. ... And the Labrador Retriever is originally from Newfoundland.
17. Human blood pressure goes down when petting a dog. And so does the dog's.
18. There are over 75 million pet dogs in the U.S. — more than in any other country.
19. A person who hunts with a Beagle is known as a “Beagler.”
20. Dogs are not color-blind. They can see blue and yellow.
21. All puppies are born deaf.
22. Dalmatians are born completely white. They develop their spots as they get older.
23. Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. We humans have between 2,000 and 10,000.
24. When dogs kick backward after they go to the bathroom, it's not to cover it up, but to mark their territory, using the scent glands in their feet.
25. A study shows that dogs are among a small group of animals who show voluntary unselfish kindness towards others without any reward.
26. The Norwegian Lundehund is the only dog breed created for the job of puffin hunting.
27. Greyhounds can beat cheetahs in a race. While cheetahs can run twice as fast as Greyhounds, they can only maintain that 70 mph speed for about thirty seconds. A Greyhound can maintain a 35 mph speed for about seven miles. The cheetah may start out first, but the Greyhound would soon overtake them.
28. The Bloodhound's sense of smell is so accurate that the results of its tracking can be used as evidence in a court of law.
29. According to Guinness World Records, a Great Dane named Zeus is the world's tallest male dog. Zeus is 3 feet, 5.18 inches tall.
30. What about the shortest dog? According to Guinness World Records, the shortest dog ever recorded was Pearl the Chihuahua. She measures 3.59 inches tall.

