



The MESSENGER an Official Publication of BVKA
Web: bellvernonkennelassn.com
Facebook: Bell Vernon Kennel Association
Editor: Debbie Thompson / d.thompson0@me.com

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MEMBER CONTACT FOR SPORTS AND EVENTS

Tracking: Ramon Sandoval / rsalp211@gmail.com

Obedience: Reta Bray / chapala22@gmail.com

Rally: Pat Lamont / tjandpatlamont@yahoo.com

Agility: Denise Vasquez / mrscdv@aol.com

Nose Work: Martha Roberson / mhrob55@outlook.com

Next Meeting Date

Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, January 8, 2026 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. *Note: Our January speaker had to cancel.*

Upcoming BVKA Events Mark Your Calendars!

- 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

News and Announcements

Save the Date!

The Bell Vernon Kennel Association holds its annual banquet and awards dinner each year to celebrate the successes of its members as well as the successes of members' dogs. The party is all about you! But the banquet is not only a time to present and receive recognition for your successes in 2025, it is also a time to share a great meal with friends and have some fun and good laughs throughout the evening. This banquet and awards dinner will have something special for everyone so we hope you can attend. Mark your calendars for February 7th at Max Dale's in Mount Vernon and look for more information coming soon.

*Your Party Planners
Jean and Debbie*



Volunteers Needed!

All-Breed Tracking Test & Tracking Dog Excellent Test
Chuckanut Farms
7210 Worline Rd, Bow WA
Sunday-February 1, 2026

BVKA will be hosting an All-Breed Tracking Test and Tracking Dog Excellent Test on February 1, 2026 (Sunday). The test consists of planning and plotting on January 31st (Saturday) and the actual test on the 1st. Our premium has four (4) TD (Tracking Dog) and three (3) TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent) slots.

TD Test is an initial tracking title test. The test is over moderate terrain and varies in length but must be at least 440 yards and not more than 500 yards in length. TDX Test is a progression tracking title from a TD title. The test is more difficult than the TD test both in terrain challenges and length; length must be at least 800 yards and not more than 1,000 yards in length. Both tests are planned and plotted by the judges and vary based on available space in selected fields. Plotting consists of using the available terrain for incorporating the required elements (corners/turns, obstacles and articles) that are necessary for the TD and TDX tests.

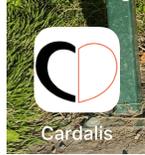
We will need volunteers as track layers for both TD and TDX tracks as well as TDX cross-track layers. Individuals wishing to volunteer for these tasks will need to be available for both days with a starting time of approximately 7:00 am; ending times vary. Track layers are individuals that walk a designated path (track) set by the judges. Judges walk the track with the track layers on plotting day, marking the route with flags that are provided. The track layer then walks the track on test day, independent of the judges, and removes their track flags; TDX cross-track layers remove the cross-track flags. TD and TDX tracks layers have to map (diagram), for reference, the track walked with the assistance of the judges. TDX cross-track layers must walk a designated track set by the judges that intersect with the track layers track at specific intervals set by the judges.

Volunteers will also be needed for driving the judges and tracklayers. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this will need to have a vehicle to accommodate three passengers. This may seem daunting, but most of the tasks are all pretty straightforward, and someone will be there to answer questions. Any help will be greatly appreciated. The tracking community is relatively small, so help is always welcome. If you have any questions please let me know.

*Thank you,
Ramon*

This is a great app and it's free! Belle sometimes has labored breath (not panting) and her vet told me about this app so that I could record her breathing. All I do is tap the screen and it emails a report to the vet on her breathing rate. The app is "Cardalis Health and Fitness, Heart Disease Monitor."

Look for this image,
Jean



Bragg And Wags!

Dora earned her MACH at the Samoyed club trial this last Sunday. She did it in style, with earning three double Qs in a row! I am very pleased with how the two of us have been working together lately. Dora earned 5 of the double Qs at 16 inches, then remeasured lower to the 12 inch class, and didn't have another double Q for nearly a year! 😊 So much for a lower height being easier! Dora has worked her way through tunnel biting issues, a long break due to 2 knee replacements on my part, no agility trials due to COVID, and two litters of puppies. We have become much more of a team lately. She is now officially GCH CH MACH Leason Simply Adorable VCD1 RE PT MX MXB MXJ MJB MFS T2B CGC TKI.

Also, Dora earned her 18th double Q on a trip to Hawaii. Connie and I attended a trial there on a visit last month. We had a blast at the small outdoor trial. Below are a few photos from that trial, too. *Huge congratulations Bonnie, such an accomplishment and one to be so proud of. We all are celebrating with you!*



The weekend of November 29th and 30th, Bailey received certification from SARDUS (Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States). She was able to successfully pass one trailing test on each day through Bellingham neighborhoods.

On the 29th she was able to find the “runner” on a 2 hour old, 1 mile track, in 47 minutes.

On the 30th she was able to find the “runner” on a 12 hour old, 1 mile track, in 38 minutes.

This image says it all! ♥♥ Amazing job Bailey, hearty congratulations to both you and Ramon! I hope if I'm lost and need rescued, you'll be assigned to find me.



The Tail End

Brain Studies of Dog Responses to the Scent of a Familiar Human (2015)

Emory University's Gregory S Berns

fMRI (Functional MRI) studies have revealed something amazing about dogs. Their love for their owners goes beyond food, toys, or even other dogs. Scientists discovered that when a dog smells its owner, a special part of its brain actually lights up more than it does when the dog smells food or another animal. This part of the brain, called the caudate nucleus, is connected to feelings of love and reward. The reaction is so strong that it shows dogs aren't just recognizing a familiar scent, they are feeling joy and affection. It proves that when our dogs look at us or come running to greet us, it's not just habit. Deep inside their brains, they truly love us, in a way that's powerful and real.

Isn't it amazing how a four-legged creature who doesn't even speak your language can become your entire world. Author Unknown

As the sun sets on another year, I would like to send my personal holiday cheer and gratitude to the very people, you, who make BVKA so special. Thank you for all you do to help keep us successful and for your friendship and fun along the way. From my family to yours, merry everything and a happy always! Debbie

