



The MESSENGER an Official Publication of BVKA

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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NEXT MEETING DATE ** CHANGE IN VENUE **

Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, April 9, 2026 at the Burlington Library, 820 E Washington, Burlington**. Social Hour will begin at 6 p.m. with the business meeting following at 7 p.m.

As discussed and agreed at the March business meeting, meetings will now occur at the Burlington Library on a trial basis for three months. The idea is to provide boxed meals from Haggens and Diana will put out an email asking for requests after she determines a gluten free and vegetarian option. Please mark this change in your calendars!

UPCOMING BVKA EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- OBEDIENCE/RALLY FUN DAY: April 26 at Country Classic Kennels, Arlington
- 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

Obedience and Rally Fun Day is Here!! Thank you Mike and Linda

Date: Sunday April 26th
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Where: 2026 Country Classic Kennels, 9332 99th Ave NE, Arlington
Julie Germano's Training Building
Schedule: Obedience will be held in the morning and Rally in the afternoon

Get ready for the May Cluster obedience and rally trials! Or just come have fun with your dog. BVKA is again hosting an Obedience and Rally Fun Day. Each run will be 9 minutes in obedience. Rally will be a run-through in a course, of the level you chose. We'd like to start at 9, and end by 4. We can start with entering 1 to 3 runs per dog in obedience. In rally, 1 to 3 courses. If we end up with empty time slots, then we can always add more runs per dog. Rally will be in the afternoon only. Obedience will be in both rings in the morning, and one ring in the afternoon. It would be nice to again have people bring food to share for snacks/lunch. Looking for a volunteer to help organize the food.

Please contact Linda Kriegel at THEKRIEGELS@WAVECABLE.COM if you did not receive a copy of the application.

The poster features a green background with a white scalloped border. At the top center is the BVKA logo. Below it, the text reads "SAVE THE DATE!" in bold green, followed by "Obedience, Rally and FUN!" in a cursive font. A circular badge on the right contains the date and time: "SUNDAY APRIL 26 9AM TIL 4-ISH". On the left, there is a photo of a person training a dog. Below the date, the location is listed: "LOCATION COUNTRY CLASSIC KENNELS 9332 99TH AVE NE ARLINGTON". To the right of the location is another photo of a person with a dog. At the bottom, it says "SEND THE ATTACHED APPLICATION TO LINDA KRIEDEL THEKRIEGELS@WAVECABLE.COM".



MIKE'S DELEGATE REPORT

The big east coast freeze is over. There were still some places with snow on the ground, mainly in parking lot piles where the lot had been cleared. Temperature was in the mid-60s. The meeting rooms seemed far colder. Consensus was that AKC had the heat turned off in the different conference rooms, so the delegates wouldn't fall asleep. Much warmer in the halls and lobby.

Biggest task for the March meeting, always the same, is the election of the next class of members to the AKC Board of Directors. This year there were 3 openings. In addition to the 3 candidates from the nominating committee, there were 6 others running. Two of the 3 committee candidates were elected. The third was from the petition nominations. Was hoping for a bit more fresh perspectives for this class. In the end, even with all the whining about a need for a change, that wasn't the way the election happened. One newly elected member is a returning board member, after serving the one year hiatus required by the by-laws after two full terms.

AKC's Legislative Relations work is near the top of the list of important departments. Not only do they monitor legislation at the federal level, but at each state as well. They are also available to help fight restrictive regulations at the local city and county levels. The 2026 Farm Bill is supported by AKC. They are still worried that one of the provisions may be switched out in House committee, with one that is pushed by the animal rights groups. It is being watched carefully. Another federal initiative that is being watched, is a strike force that includes USDA, DOJ, and Health & Human Services Dept. The idea is to make animal abuse a federal crime, with oversight by the DOJ. Problem with this is that DOJ has no experience in animals. USDA has done this in the past. They are well versed in animal husbandry. On staff at USDA are plenty of vets. DOJ has none.

A peer-to-peer initiative is being set up for the clubs, by the clubs. The goal is to be a resource to help clubs with putting on shows and trials. Volunteers will be able to answer questions, and provide help where needed, to keep clubs active and able to stage their events. This will be a great help for BVKA, with our limited knowledge of Conformation.

Suggestion was made for clubs to adjust their Junior Memberships. Most clubs, including BVKA, have a lower membership fee for juniors. This ends when the junior ages out, at 18. In an effort to support the young adults a little more, the suggestion is to keep the discounted membership until age 21, or even 25. Downside here is that this may involve a change to by-laws. All depends on if the definition of junior member is in by-laws or standing rules.

Overall, entries for all AKC sports were down 1.5% in 2025 when compared to 2026. Conformation lost the most entries - 4.5%. Agility was down 1.6%. Rally, FastCAT and Scent Work were all up for the year. Scent Work had the most growth - up 13.1%.

In Obedience, the definition of fast is changing. Currently the regulations state that handler and dog must “run.” Update will remove “run.” The handler and dog will be required to have a noticeable change of pace. This may go into effect on June 1st.

Some obedience changes for later in the year: The leave your dog and walk around the ring, including going behind the dog, will become a T pattern in front of the dog; The Novice leave your dog and get your leash will be changed to 15ft, the same distance as in the Open class. Currently it is 30ft for Novice; The Recall will change to allow a handler to give verbal “AND/OR” signal. Current rule only allows one or the other. These changes must be voted on by the Board of Directors. If approved, looking at later in the year for them to start.

The Agility contact obstacle study has been completed, but the results haven’t yet been published. Or released. No change from December.

Upcoming Agility changes are minor. A different tire is allowed in ISC only - saloon door tire. It matches what is seen when we compete in Europe. That became effective on March 1st. There are 3 changes that will start June 1st, pending board approval. Trials that only allow Novice and Open, may have 2 trials in one day. Even with this, there wouldn’t be enough entries to pay for a building and equipment, so BVKA won’t be doing this. FAST will allow a 2nd obstacle to have different points in each direction. Currently this is seen sometimes on the A-Frame, or within the send for the Excellent/Master class. Last is to allow day of move-ups. Currently move-ups must be done the prior day - Friday for Saturday, as an example. This would let an exhibitor still move up on Saturday. Change could be to move up classes, change jump height, or move from Regular to Preferred. Unclear if the deadline will be the same as move-ups in Conformation, Obedience and Rally - deadline is half an hour before the start of the first class of the day. There is a proposal to allow the wall jump in all classes Novice to Excellent/Masters. No timeline for this one. Not going to see this at Fun Fur Paws, unless it becomes a required obstacle. The wall is extremely expensive, and very labor intensive for bar setters. The Robins and Melissa have no intention of buying one, until they must.

Closing this out with one other news item. Due to health issues, a member of the Companion Events Committee (Obedience, Rally, Agility, and Tracking) had to resign as a delegate. Per AKC by-laws, the committee voted to appoint a replacement to finish his term. The term is for the March, June, and September meetings. Running for re-election at the September meeting will be required to continue after that. They chose someone that has been willing to ask questions of the AKC VP of Sports and Events. Seems as if that person has a question or two at every quarterly meeting. Something that the VP doesn’t always appreciate. That person is me. Good news for BVKA. AKC pays \$400 per meeting, saving the club \$1,200 for the 3 meetings left in this term.

Whoa Mike!
Companion Events Committee Delegate
Congratulations!!

Hearty Welcome New Member! Rose Kalda

Rose is a dog owner, handler, and breeder. She strives to have the healthiest and prettiest Shih Tzu dogs. Rose is also a Vet Technician. She competes and/or is interested in conformation and agility.



Just a Follow-Up ...

If anyone would like to reach out to our March Guest Speakers Haley Pettingill and Jennaka Rowland with Stellar Motion - Canine Fitness & Rehabilitation with a thank you for their presentation, or for any other reason you may wish to contact them, here is a link to their website: StellarMotion.com.



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Hi, I'm Denise

As most of you know, I have quite a storied past; that is, I have soooo many *stories*! Just ask me, I'm sure I can find one that'll surprise you! Been lucky to have lived all over the country, had awesome experiences (SuperBow!), met amazing people (drinking with Rick Springfield, dining with Joe Biden), and traveled to beautiful, historic places. For those who don't know: I grew up in Michigan and have lived in AZ, NC, VA, DE, WA and CT. We retired in WA; our kids went to high school here, fell in love with the Pacific NW, and refuse to live anywhere else.

As most of you know ... me, not so much ... I became interested in dog agility when I got Indiana as a puppy. Started formal training with Marie when he was a year old and loved, loved the sport. After years (years!), my boy qualified for Nationals! Ten days later (yes, I am playing this card), I had a stroke and I am so very fortunate to have a real, true friend who forced me to work hard to walk, run, practice, and to just go to the event four months after the stroke! Thank you, Jean! I'll always brag that Indie finished in the top 50% tile of his class, in spite of his gimpy, addled handler. He is just the best boy. Hoping for another amazing agility dog, I got Tony Stark ... and we've had our, um, challenges. At 4, he's still in the Special Needs classes; I am working hard on Conrad to get Sheltie number three in hopes of lightning striking twice.

Pat got me more involved with the club by gently encouraging me to volunteer, first as Sunshine chair, then September trial chair, then, oof, as Treasurer. She has a real gift for persuasion! As much as I complain, I am honored that you trust me to keep the books! As I said before, if you want to know more, just ask! I'm always happy to regale you with some amusing antidote!



BRAGS AND WAGS!

Little Riley is my ADHD pup that I never expected to be able to keep it together long enough to compete in anything, so I'm super proud of him for proving me wrong. He earned his Odor Recognition Test title for scent work last month. That's a pre-novice title that NACSW requires - 3 tests to prove that your dog can recognize each odor (birch, anise, cloves). I was very proud that he was able to pass all three on his very first try. He also earned his ACT 1J at the trial a couple of weeks ago. Like I said, I never expected him to compete in anything so I'm super excited for both of us. Looks like we're off and running!



Congratulations Marilyn and Riley!

BRAGS AND WAGS!

Cygnus, Logan and I had a productive and fun time at the Evergreen Belgian Tervuren trial - Cyg earned his 1st Excellent Preferred Standard leg with a 1st place and he earned his 9th Master Fast Preferred leg and 1st place. Logan earned his 2nd Open Preferred Standard leg with a 1st place, his 1st EVER Novice Preferred Jumpers leg with a 2nd place also earning his 1st ever Double Q!!! He also earned his 5th Excellent Preferred Fast leg with a 1st, I then moved him into Masters where he also earned his 1st Master Fast Preferred leg with a 2nd - which was also a proud day for me since Cyg took 1st and Logan took 2nd on the same course - beautiful!!! I am very proud of these 2 - they are a joy to run and play with!!!



Congratulations Tracy, Cygnus, and Logan!

THE TAIL END

Cluster To-Do List Volunteers Needed

Judge Transportation: It appears that members from the Mt. Baker Kennel Club will handle most of the transportation. This will be verified. Also, Christina volunteered to drive judges in the evening.

Pee Wee Sign-up Table/Awards (Sunday): Denise will be handing out awards and Diana will be manning the Sign-up table.

Conformation Catalog Table (7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday/Monday): Volunteers are needed to sit at the table to answer questions and ensure the table is stocked throughout the day. Marilyn and Diana plan to be in the conformation barn.

Obtain/Arrange Flowers (Thursday): Pat has volunteered to obtain and arrange the flowers.

******Change the Judge's Tables (Saturday Afternoon):** A volunteer is needed to put the BVKA banners on the judges' tables.

Judges Bags Stuffed and Transported (Thursday): Denise, Jean, and Sheila will be putting together the Judges' Bags before Thursday. Denise will need help transporting the bags to the fairgrounds (maybe Jean).

Hospitality Room Help (Thursday, Sunday, Monday): Carole is the hospitality chair for the cluster. Debbie and Diana will be assisting Carole with set-up. We could use another volunteer to help on Sunday and Monday to make sure the tables stay stocked.

Set-up Obedience/Rally (Thursday): We will need volunteers to help with setting up on Thursday. We normally start setting up at about 10:00 a.m. until we finish. There is usually a pizza lunch available for all the volunteers.

Transport "stuff" from Denise's house to the Cluster: Denise will need help transporting Q awards, Pee Wee bags, Juniors' bag items (which will be assembled on-site), and plaques.

Assemble Junior bags on-site Saturday Evening

*******Please Note: The board has received emails from various members willing to assist with various tasks. Thank you to those members!! As the event draws nearer, we will have a better idea of where volunteers are most needed. There will be a schedule sent out to all the volunteers.**