



The MESSENGER an Official Publication of BVKA
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September 2025

Welcome to Fall Y'all



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Marilyn Lindsey

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Secretary: Diana Sandoval

Treasurer: Denise Vasquez

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Next Meeting Date

Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, October 9, 2025 at Bob's Burgers and Brew** in Burlington, 9394 Old Hwy 99 at the Cook Rd exit from I-5. Social time and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. so please come a little earlier than usual. The business meeting will start about 6 p.m. followed by our last speaker of the year, Tracy Dietz, at 7 p.m.

Tracy has been a fixture in Oak Harbor for many years and is best known for her training facility in north Oak Harbor on Whidbey, Fluffy Butt Dog Training. Tracy will talk about her facility and the many training options she provides including dock diving, for those dogs who love the water. No matter which dog activity you and your dog enjoy, or if you're trying to decide which might be best for your pup, come and enjoy an evening with Tracy as she helps to get you on the right path toward success. Take a lesson, rent a practice field, take your dog for a swim, get your dog certified as a Trick Dog, evaluated as a Canine Good Citizen, or learn about FETCH and FIT dog for which Tracy is also certified ... it's all there at Fluffy Butt. For more information, Fluffy Butt's website is [here](#). We look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming BVKA Events

There are no other BVKA events scheduled for 2025, we successfully did 'em all! What an amazing time it has been this past year as everyone came together as a Team to help create so many rewarding and fun events. Not one of those events would have been remotely possible without YOU, so thank you to all for stepping up to help. Nicely done, Best Team Ever!



News and Announcements

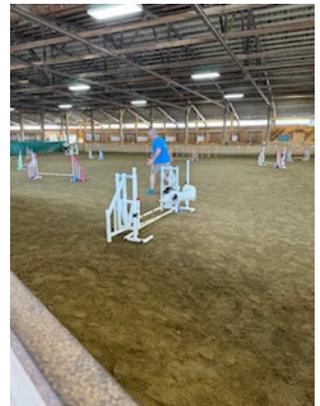
Wrap Up from Denise - Fall Agility Trial

The September Agility Trial is over (tired sigh) and it was an incredible success.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You sincerely, from the bottom of my heart. These events cannot happen, cannot be successful, without the members who work so hard and with so

much enthusiasm and generosity of their time. Some of you spent all day bar-setting and leash running. Many of you sent goodies (memories of those lemon bars and fudge), and others worked at the ACT. I cannot reiterate enough how much I (and all our entrants) appreciate the contribution of every single one of you. To you all, the most important THANK YOU! came from our entrants: some people from Canada who *don't* hate us, a couple of gals who drive from Spokane who'll only come over for a Bell Vernon trial, a lively, enthusiastic crowd during briefings, and *everyone* grazing off the hospitality table. *Most importantly*, a couple of judges who told us that we were "killing it." They both appreciated that we have such a supportive club, so many members at hand to fill any position, and Bill said that this is the first time since the last time he judged one of our trials that he never had to call out for volunteers to work a ring. Of particular note, Deb and Diana kept the coffee brewed and the food table full; it's a job that is so much harder than those grazers can know. Mike, who actually runs the show (Thank You!), we all know who really does all the work. Oh, and Mike, let's not forget about the very successful ACT Friday evening with 30 entrants, 15 of whom were true newbies. Again, hats off to you.

Every one of you make these trials so smooth, so seamless, and, honestly, make the job of Chair easy; neither Bonnie nor I ever have to worry about some 'thing' falling through the cracks. It ran beautifully with no committees, no serious bad dog behavior, and the trial made money and the ACT made money ... and I'm so glad it's in the can. To all, my heartfelt Thank You!



Wrap Up from Mike - ACT1J at the Fall Agility Trial

Last Friday was our ACT1J. The letters ACT stand for Agility Course Test. The J tells you this was a Jumpers course. It is an introduction to AKC agility for new handlers and their dogs. Experienced handlers also enter to get ring exposure for their young dogs.

A Jumpers course only has jumps and a tunnel. There are two runs. If the dog and handler earn qualifying scores for both runs, they have achieved an ACT1J title. Even if they don't qualify, this is a great beginning for new dogs. Over two thirds of people that enter one of these ACTs go on to compete in agility.

There were 30 dogs entered in Friday's ACT1J. That means 60 total runs. Half of those were brand new to agility. There were even three 4-H members competing. The first run had 18 qualifying runs out of the 30. One less team qualified in the 2nd run - 17 Qs. Thirteen teams earned an ACT1J title. Twenty-two different dogs had at least one qualifying run. One of the 4-H members earned a title. Both of the other two, each qualified in one of their runs.

Thank you to the volunteers that made this a great experience for all that competed. Most importantly, dogs and their handlers had a fun time. We hope to see them soon in a regular agility ring.

Delegate Report - Thank You Mike!

Other than having to leave the house at 3:45am for an early morning flight, travel to and from Newark was uneventful. Helps that I sleep for almost the entire flight.

My expectation was that the most discussions would be about AKC raising the event fee - \$1 on Jan 1st, 2026 and another \$1 on Jan 1st, 2027. That was part of nearly every conversation between delegates. AKC pretty much shut down any and all interactions at the committee and regular meetings. Most meetings began with someone from AKC staff explaining that this was necessary, and was a done deal. No negotiating, and no further talking about it. Their presentation took far longer than what I wrote, but that was all that they would entertain.

The most interesting part of why the fee increase is needed, was finally AKC admitting that their IT systems are outdated and awful. Anyone that has tried to use their website already knows that. The cost to bring the systems to acceptable levels is too much for one year, even with the extra cash from raising the fee. The VP of IT is tasked with coming up with, at least, a 5-year plan for the upgrades. Very likely the plan will be more like a 10-year plan.

1. Limited Registration was one of the most controversial topics. Never was made clear if it was brought to the Dog Show Rules Committee by the AKC board or staff. It was rejected by the committee. A sub-committee was formed to discuss options for making a change.

Some of you are wondering what is Limited Registration. When you buy a puppy, the breeder chooses what type of registration with AKC that puppy will have. Full registration is just that. The puppy is eligible for everything AKC offers. Currently Limited Registration does not allow the puppy to compete in Conformation, and any progeny from a dog with that registration cannot be registered with AKC. The dog is allowed to compete in any AKC Companion or Performance events such as agility, obedience, scent work, etc. At any time in the dog's life, the breeder is allowed to change a dog with Limited Registration to full registration. It does happen fairly often.

The proposal was to allow dogs with limited registration to compete in Conformation. That is what the overwhelming majority of delegates disagreed greatly with. Breeders do not want dogs that they consider to not be show quality to be shown. Permitting them in the show ring will harm the reputations of breeders. This is especially true of dogs that have disqualifying faults. For instance, in Shelties and Beagles, dogs over a certain height are disqualified. Once measured out for being too tall, that dog may not show again in Conformation. Any dog that is DQ'ed in breed, is still able to compete in all the other sports. This proposal doesn't change that the progeny of dogs with Limited Registration would not be eligible for AKC registration. A puppy from a dog with Limited Registration would have to go through the Canine Pal or ILP programs to be able to compete in the other sports.

The committee came up with 3 options. First would be to accept the proposal from AKC. That was a resounding NO. Next was a change of name for Limited Registration. Many buyers wonder why they should bother registering a dog that is classified as limited. Words can convey things that people find distasteful. Suggestion was presented to rename it to Companion Registration, since those dogs are allowed to enter all the Companion sports. This will most likely be a part of any recommendation. The third option discussed was to make three levels of registration. Full registration wouldn't change. There would be a middle level allowing the dog to compete in Conformation, but not to be bred. To compete in breed, the dog must be intact. Any accidental breedings would have to go through the other options such as Canine Pal. The other level would be the Companion Registration that registers the dog in its breed, and it may enter any of the dog sports except Conformation. The registration packet would include information for the owner about the different opportunities for that dog.

2. Many agility competitors are waiting for the chance to migrate unused MACH points and Double Qs to count towards a PACH, when their dog moves to the Preferred classes. This was announced to tentatively start on July 1st of this year. At the June meeting, we were told that due to IT programming issues it would be delayed to January 1st, 2026. At this meeting, the date was stated as January of 2026. A little change, but it sounds like even being five months later than originally intended may not be quite enough. Dogs that have already made the move will be grandfathered to get those prized points and Double Qs.

3. Another hotly debated topic was term limits for the AKC Board of Directors. It was to be voted on by the delegates at this meeting. Instead a vote was taken to send it back to Committee

to work on the wording and structure of the amendment to the bylaws. Currently board members may only be on the board for two consecutive four year terms. After those eight years, the person must be off the board for one year before again being able to run for the board. The proposed change was to make that hiatus four years before being able to again be on the board.

4. There was also a proposed change to the Dog Show Rules regarding Show or Trial Event Committees being called for assorted reasons. These are things such as poor sportsmanship, verbal abuse of a judge or other exhibitors, or the one we are most familiar with, dog-on-dog attack. The proposal was to require a fee to be paid by the complainant to file a report asking for a committee meeting. Most likely the fee would be about \$50. If the committee found cause, meaning the accused was found guilty of the charge, the fee would be returned. If the committee found no reason, meaning the accused was found not guilty, the fee would be kept by the club. Seems as if our fellow exhibitors in other parts of the country call committees as a weapon against those they want to punish. An example was given from a recent cluster. There were six committees called during the weekend. Only one of those was decided to have merit, and the person was found guilty. Our cluster has had only one committee called in the past three years. That was for a dog-on-dog attack. The committee found that there was reason for the report asking for a committee. The proposal was supposed to have a vote. As with the previous issue, due to being too vague, the vote was to send it back to make the changes to the rule more clear.

Many other topics come up either in committees, or at the general meeting. This report is already very long. Those items of most interest have been included. I'll be glad to provide more information, or answer any questions, if anyone has a need to hear more about what was discussed.

Bragging Rights!

This photograph I took of Rock-it and Dora at Cannon Beach won a silver award at the International Pet Photography Awards competition. *Submitted by Bonnie and wow! Beautiful!!*



Bragging Rights!

Karma got an invite to Orlando!! We aren't going but it was fun to get.
Submitted by Pat and huge congratulations!



Journey is the covergirl for the September issue of "Perspectives The Delegates' Publication." Doing weaves, at last November's Sammy trial. Photo was done by Pixpup. This is the second time she has had her picture in Perspectives. She was part of the photo spread of old dogs in the September 2024 issue. *Submitted by Mike and way to shine Journey!*



Bragging Rights!

Sig and Z did some things the past couple of months. Sig finished her Trailing and Locating level 2 title and Urban Challenge Game 5 title (with a HIT, she was very tired). UC 5 is "Silence" so the dog has to locate the quarry, ignore all the distractors, and the handler cannot say anything after crossing the start line. Z has been very busy! He finished his Trailing and Locating brace level 1 (with Sig as his partner). He also finished his Shed Dog level 2 title and then took HIT in his first level 3 trial. And to finish, in early September he completed his CD title with 2 first places and a HIT. *Submitted by Tami and great job Sig and Z!*



Billie Jean and I went to the American Beauceron Club National and Regional Specialty held in Greeley, CO September 5-6 and earned highest scoring Beauceron in Rally at both specialties. Billie and I earned triple Q's in Masters, Excellent and Advanced at 2 trials each day for cumulative scores of 511 and 530 respectively. After another triple earned on Sept 7th, she now has 6 legs towards her RM, 6 legs towards her RAE, 5 legs and 44 Masters points towards her RACH. *Submitted by Teresa and hearty congratulations!*

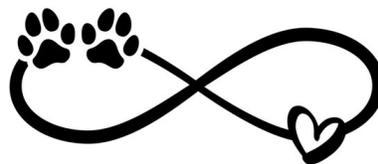


Bragging Rights!

Tucker had fun doing scent work at the Irish Water Spaniel trial August 22nd at Fun Fur Paws. He got his 2nd legs in Novice Exterior and Novice Buried, and his first Q in Advanced Containers. *Submitted by Marilyn and I saw him do it!* 😊



Brie finished her FAST Novice title on Saturday. Seems kind of small I know, but between her age and mine, it's pretty darn good. She is retired now. I wanted her to go out with a smile. *Submitted by Susen and way to go Brie! Brie is a little shy so we don't have a picture of this amazing girl.*



The Korner



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

AKC® Code of Sportsmanship and Civility

Preface: The tradition of competitive purebred dog events predates 1884—the year the American Kennel Club (AKC®) was founded. Those involved in these sports share core values, including a strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces the diverse community united by a love of dogs.

These values are evident across all aspects of the sport: conformation, performance, companion, and family dog activities. Many believe that the enduring principles of sportsmanship and civility are key reasons the sport has thrived for over 140 years.

Recognizing that periodically reaffirming our shared values strengthens our community, the revised code will be shared widely to highlight the foundational values and principles that define the sport.

- Sportspeople always place the welfare of their dog above all else.
- Sportspeople prioritize the long-term health and preservation of their breed, making decisions that reflect a deep commitment to responsible breeding and ownership.
- Sportspeople respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportspeople conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport, the American Kennel Club, and themselves.
- Sportspeople appreciate, encourage and support all who associate with and participate in the sports by fostering an environment where respect, equity, inclusion, and courtesy are foundational.
- Sportspeople understand, uphold and abide by all AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies.
- Sportspeople contribute to a positive atmosphere at events by avoiding negative gossip, disparagement, or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Sportspeople extend their values of civility, fairness, and respect to all digital and social media platforms.
- Sportspeople actively support the education and mentorship of newcomers, helping them learn the rules, values, and traditions of the sport in a respectful way.
- Sportspeople recognize that they are role models in the sport, and strive to lead by example through humility, kindness, and ethical conduct.
- Sportspeople treat fellow exhibitors, judges, officials, volunteers, spectators, and AKC staff with dignity and respect, regardless of experience, background, or differences in opinion.
- Sportspeople are committed to fair play, honesty, courtesy, and competition, approaching both winning and losing with grace.
- Sportspeople understand that strong competition and civility can—and should—coexist. They appreciate the quality of their competitors, and the effort put forth by others.
- Sportspeople uphold their responsibilities to the sport of purebred dogs and refuse to let personal gain or self-interest influence their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsperson judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsperson judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsperson exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsperson exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- Sportspeople are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportspeople decline to exploit any positions of authority or recognition for personal advantage.
- Sportspeople appreciate those that have gone before them and realize they are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the sport for future generations.



Everything We Do,
We Do for Dogs.

NOTE: AKC's updated Code of Conduct is now called the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility. Thank you, Mike, for this contribution.

