



Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

August 2026

An AKC Member Club

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Nancy Light

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Upcoming Club Events

No General Membership Meeting in August

8/7 WSOTC Rent-a-Ring at Country Classic Kennels

8/8-9 WSOTC Summer Obedience and Rally Trial at Country Classic Kennels

8/15-16 Anita Sipes-Cook Agility Seminar at Lisa Witte's house in La Conner

9/12-13 Connie Cleveland-Nolan & Kelsey Wehr Seminar at Country Classic Kennels

Club Committee Chairs

Agility 2026

Linda Shea

Audit/Budget

Sue Cox

Awards

Nancy Light

Donations 2025-26

Nancy Harney

Hearts & Flowers

Karen Snee

Insurance

Sue Cox

Membership

Cathy Soule

Newsletter

Elizabeth Soule

January Fun Match

Terrie Sato

Property & Inventory

Don Rennick

Obedience and Rally Trial

March 2026

Amanda Buse

August 2026

Melissa Knapp

Scent Work Trial 2026

Sarah Kahn

Tracking

Marta Brock

Website

Volunteer Needed!

Content Updates

Melissa Knapp

Volunteers make our club and sports possible! If you would like to help with an event or committee, reach out to the committee chair. Have an idea for something new? Contact a board member. You can find contact information for all club members in the roster in the Member's Only section of the website.

AKC Delegate

Jack Cadalso
332 NE 30th Street
Wilton Manors, FL 33334
(518) 281-1050
jcadalso@gmail.com

WSOTC Website Member's Only Access

Need help getting access to the Member's Only section of the WSOTC website? First, Create an Account by [following this link](#) and submitting the form.

Melissa receives a notification when you sign up and will send you an email with a link to create your username and password (this may take a couple of days). This sets up your username and password to access your account.

If you already have an account set up, follow these steps to sign in and access the member's only page:

1. Click on the user account icon in the top right of the screen, then click Sign In.
2. Enter your username and password and click sign in (if you forgot your password use the Reset Password option to get a reset email).
3. Click on the More drop down menu at the top right of the page and then click on the Member's Only page option.
4. You will now see the list of member's only files.

If you need help with creating your account, reach out to Melissa at melissa.s.knapp@gmail.com.

Club Updates

Donation Thank You Notes

From Old Dog Haven



Old Dog Haven is a small nonprofit group using a large network of people to provide loving and safe homes for abandoned senior dogs. Our goal is their last months or years are happy and they die safe and at peace, knowing they are loved. When we have room, and the means, we take these dogs into our homes. If possible, we adopt out those with a reasonable life-expectancy. We care for the rest as long as they have good quality of life.



P.O. Box 1409
Oak Harbor, WA 98277-1409

www.olddoghaven.org / office@olddoghaven.org / 206-280-7614 Message

Receipts for tax purposes are mailed in January

From Brigadoon Service Dogs

Thank you

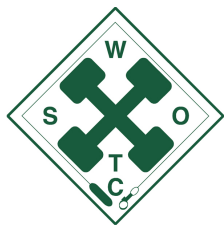


To the whole club,

Thank you so much for donating!
You're helping people living with disabilities partner with a life-changing service dog. Thanks for supporting hope, independence, and wellness.

Warmly,
Jessica

P.S. If you'd like to connect further or have any other ideas on how we could partner, please reach out.



**WSOTC Presents A Working Seminar
with
Connie Cleveland-Nolan & Kelsey Wehr
September 12 & 13, 2026
at
Country Classic Kennels
9332 99th Ave NE
Arlington, WA 98223**

We are delighted to welcome Connie Cleveland-Nolan back to the Northwest along with her associate Kelsey Wehr. Connie is an internationally recognized dog trainer who has been teaching and coaching dog obedience students for over 3 decades. Kelsey is known to all on the Obedience Road as she can be seen working with Connie. In 2019, Connie launched The Obedience Road, a complete online resource for obedience competitors. Utilizing written & video content, monthly webinars, community forums and personalized video review, Connie coaches obedience newcomers and experienced competitors alike. (For more information, please visit www.ObedienceRoad.com)

The working seminar format will give participants multiple opportunities to work their dogs with feedback from both Connie and Kelsey. Two rings will be set up allowing for Novice participants and Advanced participants to work simultaneously. For example on Saturday the basic group will work on Novice and Open heeling with attention while the advanced group will work on Utility heeling and signals. You choose the best group for your dog. There will be three sessions on Saturday focusing on heeling, retrieving and jumping exercises. Two sessions on Sunday will focus on position changes and preparing to show. There will be discussions held between working sessions. You may bring up to two dogs and pick which sessions would be appropriate for each dog or a single dog would participate in all five sessions.

The seminar will begin at 9AM on Saturday September 12 and 8:30AM on Sunday. A continental breakfast and potluck lunch will be available both days. You may want to bring your own chair.

18 working spots are available. The cost for the weekend:

WSOTC members working spot: \$375

Nonmembers working spot: \$400

WSOTC member auditor: \$125

Nonmember auditor: \$175

Registrations for WSOTC members will begin on May 21st and WSOTC member only will be able to register through May 30th. Registration for all will open June 1, 2026.

For more information contact Terrie Sato at terriesato@gmail.com or call or text Terrie Sato @ 206-550-9335.



**WSOTC Presents A Working Agility Seminar
with Anita Sipes-Cook
August 15 & 16, 2026**

The WSOTC welcomes Anita Sipes-Cook to the Pacific Northwest for 4 half-day sessions, Saturday, August 15, and Sunday, August 16, 2026. The seminars will be held at Lisa Witte's home in La Conner.

Anita is a passionate and accomplished professional dog trainer, coach, and competitor. In the sport for over 25 years, Anita and her border collie, Veuve, were chosen to be members of the 2018 WAO USA Team and made the short list for the USA AKC World Team. Veuve made the USA 2020 AKC European Open and is a two-time UKI National Champion. Competing in venues across the US, Anita and her dogs have won and been on the podium in AKC, UKI, and USDAA competitions.

Here is a video of team Anita in action:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQuAY1b__6c

Anita has been coaching and training agility teams for over 15 years, teaching every level from Sport foundation to International handling and everything in between. Anita's main influences come from her many years competing in agility, teaching, and attending seminars, including many international seminars with top trainers from around the world. Anita's winning combination for success pairs building a strong, trusting

relationship with your dog with teaching a solid foundation, with a focus on consistent training and handling. She has a great eye, is very detail-oriented, and loves to help teams problem-solve to reach and exceed their goals.

7 working spots will be available in each 4-hour session. 10 additional spots for auditors will also be available. Each topic can be adjusted for teams of any skill level as needed.

Prices

WA now requires us to charge sales tax. Prices below include 8.8% tax.

Working Spots:

WSOTC Members

1 session \$190.40 | 2 sessions \$327.49 | 3 sessions \$491.23 | 4 sessions \$654.98

Non-Club Members

1 session \$217.60 | 2 sessions \$374.28 | 3 sessions \$561.41 | 4 sessions \$748.54

Audit Spots:

WSOTC Members

1 session \$54.40 | 2 sessions \$93.57 | 3 sessions \$140.36 | 4 sessions \$187.14

Non-Club Members

1 session \$65.28 | 2 sessions \$112.28 | 3 sessions \$168.42 | 4 sessions \$224.56

Registration

A special registration period for WSOTC members will open on June 2. Registration for any remaining spots will open June 7, 2026, to non-club members.

Online registration available at <https://wsotc-anita-sipes-2026.cheddarup.com> (processing fee of 3.65% + \$0.90 cents is added to online registrations at the payment screen).

Paper registrations are also available for download on <https://wsotc.org/>

When you mail your registration or submit online, notify Lisa at creativelisa123@gmail.com or text her at (206) 832-9868 to help her manage session capacity.

The sessions will be as follows:

Saturday 8 am-noon Novice/Intermediate Coursework. Join Anita to learn about course analysis, reading dog and handler lines, and perfecting your handling to advance your skills.

Saturday 2-6 pm Advanced Skill Building & Short Sequences (All levels). In this skills seminar, we will build and elevate your team's skills in backside slices, backside wraps, threadle slices, threadle wraps, and more.

Sunday 8 am-noon Masters Coursework. This session will concentrate on pushing your handling skills on more challenging courses. We will focus on course analysis and making handling choices that set the best lines for your team.

Sunday 2-6 pm Layering and Building Distance Skills. This session will challenge your dog to focus forward and build independence for lateral distance.

Lodging in La Conner that accepts dogs:

The Heron Inn, Fidalgo Country Inn, The La Conner Inn, and Hotel Planter.

Lodging in Burlington (about 20 mins away):

The Candlewood Suites, Comfort Suites, Motel 6, La Quinta Inn, & the Hampton Inn.

There are also a variety of VRBO/Airbnb units available.

A good resource for finding available pet-friendly lodging is **[bringfido.com](https://www.bringfido.com)**.

Lisa's home is located at 14485 Channel Drive, La Conner, WA 98257.

General Meeting June 17, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Melissa Knapp.
Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Neil Evans, Terrie Sato, Betty Winthers, Sandy Burr, Pat Edwards, Holly Krohn, Laurie Southard, Penny Broomer, Jill Petersen, Debbie Bohn, Lee Ann McNeil, Joyce Brombaugh, Elizabeth Soule, Nancy Harney, Kathy Mead, Sarah Kahn, Bob Robinson, Pat Lindquist
2. The minutes from the 5/20/26 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** No report.
4. **Report of the Secretary:** No report.
5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine presented an updated report which will be posted in the members only section of the website. She read thank you notes from two of the organizations who received donations from the club.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Membership – No report.
 - b. Newsletter – The Canine Post will be published this week. Melissa will create a link on the website for access to older newsletters.
 - c. Website - Melissa has talked with Shea Gorman Hughes about new members getting access to the members only section on the website.
 - d. Hearts and Flowers – No report.
 - e. Donation – At the May 20th meeting, Nancy Harney reported that one of the organizations that the committee recommended, Jubilee Women's Center to receive a donation contacted her to let her know they do not accept pets at the shelter. It was voted on and approved that the committee would choose another organization. Nancy reported that they chose to make the replacement donation to the Pierce County YWCA.
 - f. Awards:
 - Melissa announced that the recipient for this year's AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award is Nancy Harney.
7. **Events:**
 - a. Matches and Rent-a Rings:
 - Rent-a Ring – There will be a rent-a-ring on Friday (8/7) before the summer obedience trial at Country Classic Kennels in Arlington. Sign up will be available on CheddarUp on the website. There will be 15-minute slots, \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.
 - b. Scent Work – (6/20-21/2026, Monroe Christian School) – contact Sara Kahn to volunteer to help at the trial. The trial is full.
 - c. Agility (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – No report

General Meeting June 17, 2026

- d. - Summer Obedience and Rally trials (August 8-9, Country Classic Kennels) - Melissa will pick up the paperwork from Baray for April Caron, who will be the on-site secretary. Entries opened on June 15. Melissa asked if anyone who is working towards being a rally judge is interested in stewarding at the rally table.
- e. Seminars:
 - Connie Cleveland (9/12-13, 2026, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie Sato reported that all working spots are full and there is a waiting list. As of now, there are 18 auditors. There will be a potluck on Saturday and a continental breakfast. There will be pizza for lunch on Sunday. Start time on Saturday is 9:00 and Sunday at 8:30.
 - Anita Sipes-Cook Agility Seminar (8/15-16, 2026, Lisa Witte's home, La Conner) – Catherine reported that there are still slots available. Elizabeth will post this on FaceBook.
- 8. **Election of Officers and Board Members:** The membership voted and approved the slate of nominees.
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

Board Meeting: 7/6/26 at 7:30

General Membership Meeting: 7/15/26 at 7:00

Board Meeting July 6, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato, Nancy Harney
2. The minutes from the 6/1/26 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** Melissa welcomed Nancy Harney to her first meeting as a Board member.
4. **Report of the Secretary:** Rhonda reported that AKC has not received the application or judges panel for the November tracking test.
5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine presented an updated monthly report and the end of year report. Both reports will be posted in the members only section on the website.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Rent-a-Ring (8/7/26, County Classic Kennels) – Terrie reported that slots are filling up, but there are still some time slots available. Melissa will ask Elizabeth to put up a post on Facebook that there is still availability to enter.
 - b. Summer Obedience and Rally trial (8/8-9/2026, Country Classic Kennels) – Entries close on 7/22. Jodi Woodruff has volunteered to be chief ring steward. Melissa will contact Sue Cox about the event insurance.
 - c. Agility Trial (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – Nancy Light reported that entries are down by about 25 percent from the previous year.
 - d. Scent Work Trial (6/20-21, Monroe Christian School) – Melissa reported that the trial was well attended and well organized. She also let us know that the club will need to look for another location next year. The financial report is forthcoming.
 - e. Seminars
 - Connie Cleveland (9/12-13, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie reported that there are still some audit spots available.
 - Anita Sipes-Cook (8/15-16, Lisa Witte's home, La Conner) – Catherine reported that there are still working and audit spots available.
7. **Unfinished Business:**
 - The Board voted and approved to amend the membership renewal form to allow members to designate how their Friends of Obedience contributions should be directed with a list of options to choose from. Catherine will contact Elizabeth to work on the draft membership renewal form.
 - Catherine will draft a proposal amending the Standing Rules to remove the language about the spring trial loss restriction.
7. **New Business:**
 - Rhonda will contact several suggested club members to serve on the Audit/Budget Committee.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):
General Membership Meeting: 7/15/26 at 7:00

2026 AKC Rally National Champion



RNC OTCH RACH2 Clever K9's She's My Kind of Rain UDX4 OM6 BN RM5 RAE4 OA OAJ XF, Border Collie known as Rain. Owned and handled by Ann Marie Scripko of Sumterville, Florida.

2026 AKC Obedience National Champion



NOC OTCH3 Surefire Up To Speed UDX2 OM4 MH, Golden Retriever known as Swift, owned and handled by Mara Wacker of Hastings, MN.

Revision to Rally Regulations

Effective June 10, 2026

Rally Regulations Chapter 2

Section 15. Collars. All dogs in the rally ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the judge. No dog may enter the ring, either for judging or for awards, with unacceptable equipment. No special training collars, such as electronic collars or prong collars will be permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

Reminder – Event Service Fee Adjustment – Effective January 1, 2027

As previously announced, the event service fee will increase by one dollar per entry for all sport types that currently incur a fee, effective January 1, 2027. Competitions that have not been subject to a fee, such as Junior Showmanship, Sweepstakes, and Obedience Non-Regular classes, will remain fee-free.

Celebrations!



Neil Evans + Jovi

Today in Puyallup Jovi earned her 3rd Beginner Novice leg and new title!

Thank you PVDF and judge Donald Rennick!

Celebrations!



Catherine Shaffer + Diza

Diza got her RACH, plus her Open Fast and Open Standard agility titles. We loved seeing the Newbys and a substantial Washington delegation at the Rally National Championships, where Diza qualified in every run, winning a 95 and 98 in her last two.

Celebrations!



Jayne Walker + Ryker + Rigby

We are celebrating Ryker for earning RATCHX20 at Fraser Valley Barn Hunt during the July 4th Weekend! That's 200 qualifying runs at Master Level!

Rigby earned her RAT0X (Open Excellent) Title in May. Moving on to Senior!

Celebrations!



Amanda Buse + Banksy

Banksy earned his Rally Intermediate title at Tacoma Kennel Club on Saturday July 18, 2026.

He also is a certified farm animal “nose booper,” having earned his Farm Dog Certified title at the same trial. He loved his second evaluation because he made a new friend with a young sheep and they had fun booping their equally weird noses with one another. 🤪