

Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

December 2025

An AKC Member Club

Club Officers

President Melissa Knapp

Vice President Nancy Light

Treasurer Catherine Shaffer

Secretary Rhonda Forman

Board Members Terrie Sato **Neil Evans**

Newsletter Editor Elizabeth Soule

Email Us Officers@wsotc.org

Canine Post is published ten times a year by the Washington State Obedience Training Club (WSOTC), an AKC member club. Subscription to the Canine Post is free for all WSOTC members. For more information about WSOTC and becoming a member, visit www.wsotc.org.

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Upcoming Club Events

Dec	No general membership meeting in December
1/1/26	Membership renewals are due!
1/3/26	WSOTC fun match at Country Classic Kennels 8:30-4:30 pm
1/5	Board Meeting at 7:30pm on Zoom
1/19	Annual Awards Applications Due
1/21	General Membership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
2/15	Tracking Dog and Tracking Dog Excellent Test

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 Looking for a volunteer!

Scent Work Trial 2026 Sarah Kahn

Tracking Marta Brock

Website Shea Hughes-Gorman 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

President's Message

It's time for the WSOTC end-of-the-year wrap up!

As usual it was a busy year! Fun match in January, tracking tests (TD/TDX) in February, obedience and rally trials in March, scent work trials in June, agility trials in July, obedience and rally trials in August AND a tracking test (TDU) in November. Whew!

I didn't get to all these events (no agility trials for me!) but enjoyed seeing our club members in the ring/field/ search areas competing as well as working to make these events a success for the dog sports community in the Northwest. As you know these events need club members to volunteer to make things happen! Even if you are competing on the day there are still ways to help, just find and ask the chairperson.

- Obedience and rally trials, matches, and ring practice events need people to come early and stay after setting up and taking down the rings. Stewards are needed to help the judges and to keep each ring running smoothly.
- Tracking tests can always use an extra hand or two as drivers or with putting in cross tracks and carrying flags.
- Scent work trials need stewards to help direct exhibitors to the search areas and timekeepers to help the judges.
- Agility needs help with setting up, stewarding, leash running and pole setting.

For most of these jobs no previous experience is necessary, and you get a free lunch!

SO... If you haven't been a part of putting on an event you should definitely do so in 2026. Choose an event that you have experience with or are eager to learn more about. Information about each event and whom to contact is posted in the Canine Post which is emailed to all members as well as being posted on the club website (wsotc.org) each month.

President's Message continued

Looking ahead to 2026...

All our usual events are already on the calendar. In addition, in September there will be a two-day workshop/seminar with internationally recognized dog trainer Connie Cleveland. We are also working on putting together a seminar for exhibitors with obedience and rally judges presenting and answering questions about the ins-and-outs of competition. Hopefully this will encourage some of us to think about becoming an AKC judge!

All the best,

Melíssa

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Thank you to all our wonderful WSOTC members for your participation with the club this year! WSOTC membership renewal for 2026 is now available online through Cheddar Up or through a paper form (see page 17). All membership renewals are due by January 1, 2026.

Remember that you are welcome to switch between associate and full membership. If you are renewing with a full membership, the attendance for meetings in 2025 is available on the website.

Annual Awards

WSOTC members actively participating with the club have an opportunity to earn a name plaque and title bars for AKC performance event titles you earn with your dog(s) during the calendar year! In addition, teams earning specific Obedience and Rally titles are eligible to be added to the club perpetual plaques, and obedience title earners in Novice, Open, and Utility can submit their scores for the Top Dog award.

To earn an Annual Award, club members must submit the Awards Application (<u>see page 19</u>) and meet the criteria listed below. Awards are celebrated annually at the February or March general membership meeting.

Annual awards rules:

1. Any or all titles must be received while a member of WSOTC.

Annual Awards continued

- 2. Dogs must be owned or co-owned and handled by the WSOTC member.
- 3. For individual plaque awards, the member must have acquired 4 points by attending membership meetings, assisting at trials/events, service to the club, the year the titles were earned. No points are required for inclusion on the Perpetual plaques or for Top Dog award.
- 4. One plaque per dog will be awarded with the first AKC title earned in Agility, Obedience, Rally, Scentwork, or Tracking. Title plates only will be awarded for subsequent titles
- 5. Completed plaque applications must be submitted to the Club Award Chair by **January 19, 2026.**
- 6. Dogs earning titles for UD, UDX, OTCH, MX, MXJ MXP, MJP, MACH, PACH, ADCH, CT, TDX, VST, RAE RACH will be inscribed on the WSOTC Perpetual Plaques with no charges.
- 7. Plaques (\$20.00) and plates (\$8.00) will be available at cost for members not meeting the point requirements, or for non-AKC titles, or for AKC titles not listed above (field, conformation, herding, etc.).

Note: The number of titles that can fit on one plate will be at the discretion of the engraver.

If you earned a title this year, make sure to submit the Awards Application to Nancy Light by January 19 so you can receive your award!

WSOTC Fun Match - January 3, 2026

Registration for the fun match is now full! After the early registration period for club members, the rest of the online spots filled within 48 hours of opening it up to general registration. We hold a few spots offline so that mailed paper registrations are not disadvantaged by online registrations, and those spots have filled as well.

Thank you to everyone who offered to help, it looks like we are set for volunteers. We are currently working on the schedule and will send it out a few days before the match. While we did our best to accommodate time preferences, it wasn't entirely possible.

WSOTC Spring Obedience and Rally Trials

March 28-29 at Fun Fur Paws

Volunteer as a Steward

If you are able to help with stewarding for obedience or rally, please reach out to Linda Shea lindashea@walp.us or Melissa Knapp melissa.s.knapp@gmail.com.

Junior Handler Awards

We have some junior handler rosettes and gifts planned for the Highest Scoring Junior from Obedience and Rally any class on both days! It would be fun to see some more donated items for any Junior entered, not just the High Scoring winners for Obedience and Rally. Anyone who is interested in donating some fun items for our Junior winners or exhibitors should contact Amanda Buse and Jane Pitts.

Looking for Trophy Sponsors

Jane Pitts

I am the trophy and awards chairperson for the WSOTC Obedience and Rally Spring Trials, March 28-29, 2026. To make the event even more special we offer tangible prizes or cash in addition to rosettes for special awards. Please consider contributing for one or more of these awards. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the catalog for each donation.

We need sponsors for the following awards on Saturday and Sunday. The Saturday prize is the listed item, while the Sunday prize is of an equal value in cash.

OBEDIENCE (Saturday prize item / value of Saturday prize and Sunday cash prize)

Highest Score in Regular Classes - Cooling mat / \$80

Highest Combined Score from Open B and Utility - Dog blanket / \$50

Highest Score in Preferred Classes - Dog blanket / \$30

Highest Combined Score in Preferred Open and Utility - Dog blanket / \$50

Novice A First Place - Canvas club logo bag / \$20

Novice A 2nd-4th - Drying mitts / \$15

Highest Scoring Junior - Headlamp beanie / \$20

WSOTC Spring Obedience and Rally Trials

March 28-19 at Fun Fur Paws

Looking for Trophy Sponsors (continued)

RALLY

Highest Combined Triple Qualifier - Cooling mat / \$80 Highest Combined Score Exc B and Adv B - Dog blanket / \$50 Novice A First Place - Canvas club logo bag / \$20 Novice A Second Place - Drying mitts / \$15 Highest Scoring Junior - Headlamp beanie / \$20

Multiple sponsors for one award is another way to pool resources and contribute. If you or your breed club would like to support a trophy or entries not listed here, please let me know.

Even though the trial is several months away there are many moving parts to be coordinated. Donating early will help it all come together more smoothly.

Please send donations in a check made out to WSOTC and mail to:

Jane Pitts 3028 W Blaine St Seattle, WA 98199

Thank you for supporting the club and the trials!

Jane Pitts Trophy and Awards Chairperson WSOTC Spring Trials 2026

Board Meeting Minutes - November 5, 2025

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman and Neil Evans
- 2. The minutes from the 10/8/25 meeting were approved.
- 3. **Report of the President:** No report.
- 4. **Report of the Secretary:** Rhonda reported that AKC has communicated that they have received the application and judges panel for the spring obedience and rally trials.
- 5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine presented an updated report which will be posted on the "members only" section of the website. Membership renewals are coming in.

6. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Membership No report.
- b. Hearts and Flowers No report.
- c. Tracking
 - TDU (11/30/25, Shoreline) Melissa presented the budget. The Board voted and approved presenting the budget to the general membership for approval at the next meeting (11/19)
 - -TD/TDX (2/22/26, Bow) Melissa presented the Budget. The Standing Rules allow for up to a \$600 loss for this event, however, the budget calls for a \$1,095 loss. Melissa believes this is an extraordinary circumstance because the committee has invited Sue Thorp, who is a provisional judge, so there are expenses related to having an additional judge, which would benefit the club in the long term. For now, the Board approved a \$600 loss. Melissa will get additional information from Sil prior to presenting the budget to the general membership at its next meeting.
- d. Summer 2025 Obedience and Rally trial (8/9-10 at Country Classic Kennels) The financial report will be emailed to the Board.
- e. Spring 2026 Obedience and Rally trial (3/28-29, Fun Fur Paws) The budget was reviewed and voted on by the Board and will be presented at the next General Membership meeting.
- f. Summer 2026 Obedience and Rally trial (8/8-9, Country Classic Kennels) Melissa will chair and form a committee of club members that can

Board Meeting Minutes - November 5, 2025

potentially chair an obedience event in the future. She will develop a budget to present to the Board.

- g. Agility (2026) Nancy Light will confirm with R2 Agility (event secretary) that the deposit has been sent to Fun Fur Paws. Nancy and Linda Shea will develop a budget to present to the Board.
- h. Match (1/3/26, Country Classic Kennels, Arlington) The entry form will be posted on the club website. Entries will open for club members only from 11/19-26. On 11/27, registration will be open to all until the Match is full or until 12/31.
- i. Website Shea Gorman Hughes is available to make updates and respond to questions/issues regarding the website.
- j. Awards: Nancy Light updated the awards application which will be posted on the website. Elizabeth will need to arrange for payments on Cheddar Up.
- k. Donation Committee Melissa will send Nancy Harney recommendations she receives for potential organizations to be considered. Melissa will ask Nancy H. to give an update at the next General Membership meeting.

7. Unfinished Business:

- Melissa has sent Rhonda the scent work trial wording to add to the Standing Rules.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

General Membership Meeting: 11/19/25 at 7:00

Board Meeting: 12/1/25 at 7:30

General Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2025

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Neil Evans, Terrie Sato, Sandy Burr, Sue Cox, Sarah Kahn, Elizabeth Soule, Lee Ann McNeil, Jill Petersen, Pat Edwards, Nancy Harney, Tain Rose, Holly Krohn, Jessica Webb, Debbie Bohn, Lisa Stedman, Shea Hughes-Gorman, Ingrida Robinson, Penny Broomer, Joyce Brombaugh, April Caron, Cathy Soule, Lisa Witte, Linda Hall, Laura Day, Tara Wheat, Leila Irvine, Pat Lindquist, Jayne Walker, Christine Swinehart, Karen Snee, Erika French; Guest: Marcia Koenig
- 2. The minutes from the 9/17/25 meeting were approved.
- **3. Report of the President:** Melissa noted that we are embarking on a new, exciting cycle of club events in the upcoming year.
- **4. Report of the Secretary:** Rhonda reported that AKC has communicated that the spring Obedience and Rally trial applications and judges panels have been approved.
- **5. Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine presented an updated report which will be posted on the members only section of the website.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Membership There was one first reading for Marcia Koenig. Membership renewals are due by 1/1/26.
- b. Newsletter and Website If there is anything for the website, it can be sent to Elizabeth who will pass it on to Shea. The next newsletter will be a combined December and January issue and will go out in mid-December. Elizabeth asked if any member would like to be spotlighted, they should let her know. She has a series of questions that the person would respond to. Melissa Knapp was spotlighted in the October Canine Post.
- c. Hearts and Flowers A card was sent to Karen Snee.
- d. Annual Awards Nancy reported that the updated awards form is available on the website.
- e. Donation Nancy Harney confirmed that they have \$2,500 to work with this year. She asked that any suggestions for organizations to be considered should be emailed to her. The committee chair is Nancy Harney and committee members are Neil Evans, Betty Winthers and Sarah Kahn.

General Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2025

7. **Events:**

a. Matches and Rent-a Rings:

- Match (1/3/26, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie Sato presented the budget which was voted on and approved. The entries will open tonight and be available to members-only through 11/27. On the 28th entries will open to the general public until they close on 12/31. The entry form and information will be posted on the website. Shea will judge all day. Volunteers will also be needed to judge and steward. - Rent-a Ring – (3/27/26, Fun Fur Paws) -details will be forthcoming.

b. Tracking:

-TDU (11/30/25, Shoreline) – Melissa Knapp is chair, Lynn Brimmer is secretary. Entries close on 11/20)
TD/TDX (February 2026, Bow) – Entries open on January 1. There will be 4 TD and 4 TDX tracks. Melissa and Sarah presented the budget which included a \$1,095 loss. The club Standing Rules allow for a \$600 loss. It was explained that the additional loss was due to bringing in a provisional judge from Oregon and the related expenses. This will help our club as well as other clubs in the PNW in the long term. The budget was voted on and approved along with the exception to the Standing Rules.

- c. Scent Work (6/20-21/2026, tentatively to be held at the Monroe Christian School) No report.
- d. Spring Obedience and Rally trials (3/28-29, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) Melissa presented the budget which was voted on and approved.
 Summer Obedience and Rally trials (8/8-9/2026, Country Classic Kennels) Melissa will chair and recruit a committee to assist her with the goal of training club members to chair these events in the future.
- e. Agility (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) Nancy Light reported that the contract and deposit has been sent. Sue Cox will follow up on obtaining the liability insurance.

f. Seminars:

- Connie Cleveland (September 12-13, 2026, Country Classic Kennels, Arlington) No report.
- Obedience and Rally Judging for Exhibitors Sue and Melissa would like to pursue this in the future. Melissa asked if anyone is interested in helping with this event to contact anyone on the board.

General Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2025

8. Unfinished Business:

- a. Melissa has received the financial report from the summer 2025 obedience and rally trial and will have it posted on the website.
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

Board Meeting: 12/1/25 at 7:30

Board Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2025

- The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato and Neil Evans.
- 2. The minutes from the 11/5/25 meeting were approved.
- 3. Report of the President: Melissa announced that future Board meetings will commence at 7:30 instead of 7:00 to accommodate member's schedules.
- **Report of the Secretary:** No report. 4.
- 5. Report of the Treasurer: Catherine presented an updated report which will be posted on the "members only" section of the website. Membership renewals continue to come in.
- 6. **Committee Reports:**
 - Membership No report. a.
 - Hearts and Flowers No report. h.
- 7. **Events:**
 - Tracking a.
 - TDU (11/30/25, Shoreline) Melissa reported that the test went well. There was only 1 entry. The test location was at Shorecrest H.S. in

Board Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2025

Shoreline. Sil Sanders and Sarah Kahn were the judges. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Melissa ended up muti-tasking, assuming the roles as secretary, chair and chief track layer.
- TD/TDX (2/22/26, Bow) – Entries close on 2/12. There will be 4 TD's and 2 TDX's.

- b. Spring 2026 Obedience and Rally trial (3/28-29, Fun Fur Paws) The judges will be Ronnie Bizer, Marjorie Geiger and Debbie Addicoat. A chief ring steward needs to be identified. The contract has been sent to Melissa Burton at Fun Fur Paws. There will be a rent-a-ring on Friday. The budget for the Friday rent-a-ring will be presented at the January Board Meeting.
- c. Summer 2026 Obedience and Rally trial (8/8-9, Country Classic Kennels) No report.
- d. Agility (7/10-12, 2026) Nancy reported that judges will be Jenny Burrows and Stephanie Sibal. The judges are flying together from Boise. They will rent a car at Sea-Tac, and are staying on the grounds. The trial secretary, R2 Agility, will submit the application to AKC.
- e. Match (1/3/26, Country Classic Kennels, Arlington) Terrie reported that there are 9 spaces available and entries close on 12/31. Elizabeth has closed the on-line sign-up, so entries from now until closing will need to be sent to Terrie.
- f. Website Suggestions were made to make "Events" more accessible by moving the link to the top of the home page and to make the Canine Post more prominent.
- g. Awards Award applications are due by 1/19.
- h. Donation Committee No report.

8. New Business:

- There will be no General Membership meeting in December.
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom): Board Meeting: 1/5/26 at 7:30

General Membership Meeting: 1/21/26 at 7:00



LeeAnn McNeil + Ebby

Ebby finished her Rally Advanced title at the Whidbey Island Kennel Club shows!



Jayne Walker + Ryker

Sevaul's True Colors of Aaron, aka "Ryker" earned his Beginner Novice Title at WIKC November Trial under Judge Debbie Addicoat. Proud of my Barn Dog who has worked hard to understand working in the Obedience Ring.

2026 Goal: CD!!!!



Jane Pitts + Moxie

Moxie earned his Rally Advanced title at Whidbey Island Kennel Club on November 16, 2025. He is now Laughing Coup de Foudre BN CD RA.



Nancy Harney + Archie

HR Skookum Creek's Tough Hombre Archie MH CDX RN RI earned his first leg in Rally Advanced at the WIKC trial on November 15. Archie placed 4th in the Advanced B class with a score of 98. (Photo from when he earned his Rally Intermediate title in April).

Member Name:			
Please CHECK the type of membership you choose for 2026:		Check appro	priate box
Full Membership: May vote and hold elected office. Must attend at least t l membership meetings per year and volunteer or provide one service to the page 2 if you select Full Membership.	•	\$25.00	
Associate Membership: Non-voting member. This option is for individuals affiliation but not able to regularly attend meetings. Associate members are volunteer and participate at club events.	9	\$25.00	
If you have been granted Life Membership , do you plan to participate nex	t year as a	\$12.50	
Full Member			
Make checks payable to WSOTC and mail to:			
Catherine Shaffer, 17522 6 th Ave NW, Shoreline, WA 98177			
Roster/Mailing List Information Updates			
\Box Check here if there are no changes to your information from last year.			
Mailing Address:	City:		
Zip: Phone: Cell H	ome		
Email:	Add to	Club Email	List: □
Breeds Currently Owned:			
Please check activities you are interested in contributing to next year:			
Agility Trials Awards Hospitality at Trials Junior Handlers Obedience Trials Publicity Social Media Public Education Rally Trials Seminars Club Social Events Fun Matches Tr Scent Work Stewarding Website Host a Training Group	Programs Pr acking Tests Office	er or Board	ıipment Member
The Canine Post newsletter and other official club notices will be sent by e-maddress). This authorization releases the Club from any liability should the no	•		mail
circumstances beyond the Club's control. I agree:			
SIGNATURE:	Du	ues \$	
Please return this form with your dues payment by 1/1/2026. IMPORTANT: If you are renewing as a FULL member, please	Friends of Obedier and Rally Donati (Spring Trial priz	ion \$	
complete page 2.	Total Enclos		

January 29, 2025

March 19, 2025

Thank you!

WSOTC Membership

If you are renewing as a FULL member, please answer the following questions:

Which meetings did you attend in 2025? (Your meeting attendance can be found in the members only section of the website and in the meeting minutes).

February 19, 2025

April 16, 2025

May 21, 2025	June 18, 2025			
July 16, 2025	September 17, 2025			
November 19, 2025				
ist any trials, matches, or events you volunteered at and your role:				
List any other services or roles you have held to	support the club this year (i.e. newsletter, awards,			
board, committee chair, etc.)				

Washington State Obedience Training Club Inc. thanks you for your commitment to our club, for your contribution to our continued success in dog training, and ongoing relationships with dog-related awareness and public education.

2026 Renewal

WSOTC AWARD RULES AND APPLICATION 2025

Agility - Obedience - Rally - Tracking - Versatility - Scent Work

Plaques will be awarded annually at the February/March membership meeting to members who have received American Kennel Club (AKC) title(s) on their dog(s) <u>during the preceding calendar year</u>. The following rules apply:

1. Any or all titles must be received while a member of WSOTC.

Other AKC or non-AKC titles (UKC, CKC, etc.) earned in 2025

- 2. Dogs must be owned or co-owned and handled by the WSOTC member.
- 3. For individual plaque awards, the member must have acquired 4 points by attending membership meetings, assisting at trials/events, service to the club, the year the titles were earned. No points are required for inclusion on the Perpetual plaques or for Top Dog award.
- 4. One plaque per dog will be awarded with the first AKC title earned in Agility, Obedience, Rally, Scent work, or Tracking. Title plates only will be awarded for subsequent titles
- 5. Completed plague applications must be submitted to the Club Award Chair by January 19, 2026.
- 6. Dogs earning titles for UD, UDX, OTCH, MX, MXJ MXP, MJP, MACH, PACH, ADCH, CT, TDX, VST, RAE RACH will be inscribed on the WSOTC Perpetual Plaques with no charges
- 7. Plaques (\$20.00) and plates (\$8.00) will be available at cost for members not meeting the point requirements, or for non-AKC titles, or for AKC titles not listed above (field, conformation, herding, etc.). *Note: The number of titles that can fit on one plate will be at the discretion of the engraver.*

APPLICATION FOR AWARDS (one	form per dog)	
Owner of dog (registered owner):		
Registered name of dog (do not list	titles):	
Call Name:	Breed:	AKC#
Do you need a plaque: Yes	No	
Check here if you DO NOT want a p	plaque or bars and just want to be listed in t	he awards catalog:
Obedience Titles earned in 2025		
Rally Titles earned in 2025		
Agility Titles earned in 2025		
Tracking or Versatility Titles earned	in 2025	
Scent Work Titles earned in 2025		

WSOTC AWARD RULES AND APPLICATION 2025

Agility – Obedience – Rally – Tracking – Versatility – Scent Work

Top Dog Award

List three highest obedience scores in Novice, Open, or Utility

Class	Date	Club	Score	Placement	HIT?

Please list how you have earned your four membership points: Meetings attended, events or trials that you attended and/or volunteer at, and also service to the club (newsletter, committees, etc.):

Meeting attendance:

January 29, 2025 April 16, 2025 July 16, 2025

February 19, 2025 May 21, 2025 September 17, 2025 March 19, 2025 June 18, 2025 November 19, 2025

Amount enclosed or paid online for extra plaques or title plates (see guidelines on page 1) \$_____

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Nancy Light | kylahgold@aol.com

PO Box 575, Duvall, WA 98019

Please make checks payable to WSOTC or pay online at https://wsotc-awards.cheddarup.com

Deadline: January 19, 2026