



Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

February 2026

An AKC Member Club

Club Officers

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Melissa Knapp

Vice President

Nancy Light

Treasurer

Catherine Shaffer

Secretary

Rhonda Forman

Board Members

Terrie Sato

Neil Evans

Newsletter Editor

Elizabeth Soule

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Officers@wsotc.org

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Upcoming Club Events

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2/2 | Board Meeting at 7:30pm on Zoom |
| 2/18 | General Membership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom |
| 2/22 | Tracking Dog and Tracking Dog Excellent Test |
| 3/14 | WSOTC Awards Dinner, Spiros Restaurant in Shoreline, 4:30 - 6:30pm |
| 3/27 | Rent-a-Ring at Fun Fur Paws, 3:00-7:00pm |
| 3/28-29 | WSOTC Spring Obedience and Rally Trial at Fun Fur Paws |

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

First of all I want to thank everyone who helped at the recent fun match at Country Classic: Shea Hughes-Gorman, Penny Broomer, Terrie Sato, Rhonda Forman, Martha Jordan, Neil Evans, Holly Krohn, Darlene Brown, Sandy Burr, Nancy Light, Nancy Harney, Michelle Fuqua, Linda Shea, Jill Petersen, Ingrida Robinson, April Caron, Jayne Walker, and all other members who stepped in to help out. We heard many comments of appreciation from the more than fifty exhibitors!

Events like this one are highlighted in Article III of the WSOTC Articles of Incorporation:

...to promote the training of dogs; to disseminate knowledge regarding obedience, tracking, agility training and any other event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club. Further to support the training of judges, to hold obedience/rally matches and trials, tracking matches and tests, agility matches and trials and to conduct seminars for the training of dogs and their handlers as well as promote cooperation and good sportsmanship among its members in the training and exhibition of dogs.

In last month's Canine Post I made a case for each and every club member volunteering to help with the club events scheduled for 2026. To get more information I have listed the events, dates and contact person for each one.

February 21-22 Tracking tests (TD/TDX) at Wesen Organic Farm in Bow. Contact Sil Sanders at silsanders@live.com

March 27 Rent-a-ring practice at Fun Fur Paws in Mt. Vernon. Contact Terrie Sato at terriesato@gmail.com

March 27 Set-up for the obedience and rally trials at Fun Fur Paws in Mt. Vernon. Contact Amanda Buse K9trbl@comcast.net

Club Updates

President's Message continued

March 28 & 29 Obedience and rally trials at Fun Fur Paws in Mt. Vernon. Contact Amanda Buse at K9trbl@comcast.net

June 21 & 22 Scent work trials at Monroe Christian School in Monroe. Contact Sarah Kahn at pwtdtx3@gmail.com

July 10, 11, 12 Agility trials at Fun Fur Paws in Mt. Vernon. Contact Linda Shea LindaShea@walp.us.

August 7 Rent-a-ring at Country Classic Kennels in Arlington. Contact Melissa Knapp at melissa.s.knapp@gmail.com

August 8 & 9 Obedience and rally trials at Country Classic Kennels in Arlington. Contact Melissa Knapp at melissa.s.knapp@gmail.com

September Connie Cleveland obedience seminar. Contact Terrie Sato at terriesato@gmail.com

November 29 Tracking test (TDU) in Shoreline. Contact TBD.

Melissa

Welcome our new member!

Marcia Koenig was voted in as a full member at the January 2026 general membership meeting. She is from Kent, has a Shiba Inu and German Shepherd, and is interested in tracking and seminars.

Hearts and Flowers

Since December, cards were sent to Kathy Lang and Erika French.

Submit requests to send Hearts and Flowers cards to club members by emailing Karen Snee at lolamom95@hotmail.com.



Save the Date for the WSOTC Awards Dinner

Come celebrate the accomplishments of WSOTC members and their dogs in 2025! Join us for the WSOTC Awards Dinner on March 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 - this is after daylight savings time starts so you should be able to get home before dark! The dinner will be at Spiro's Pizza & Pasta on Aurora Avenue N in Shoreline. Attendees order off the menu and pay for their own meal. You can look at the menu here: <https://ilovespiros.com/>

Guests are welcome!

RSVP to Nancy Light at kylahgold@aol.com or call 425-354-3609 with the number in your party.



Have you sponsored a new club member? Now what do you do?

Sue Cox

If you have sponsored a new Club member in the past couple of years, are you helping them to become involved and active members? Your involvement and responsibility does not end with signing an application.

Even if you and the member you sponsored chose Associate Membership, you both likely joined to take an active role in Club functions. That would include meetings and the various events the Club sponsors. As a sponsor, you have a responsibility to help the new member become familiar with WSOTC. That could include helping them become familiar and comfortable attending and participating in Zoom meetings, familiarizing them with the various committees and their function, and urging and helping them to volunteer to serve on a committee, or do some task at one of our several yearly events. Most of these tasks do not require much, if any, training. With guidance, it's a case of learning on the job.....and a willingness to serve THEIR club! For those who would be willing to try ring stewarding at our obedience and rally trials, both the Obedience Regulations and Rally Regulations booklets have sections on ring stewarding. At our trials, a new steward would work/train with 1-2 experienced stewards. And the judges are generally very patient and clear when giving instructions to their much-appreciated stewards. Ideally, the WSOTC member would offer to work alongside the new member they sponsored.

Club Updates

Sponsoring new members (continued)

For the various Club committees, becoming familiar with the Bylaws and Standing Rules will help with understanding the "rules" by which the Club functions and the purpose and duties of each committee. Both of these documents can be found on WSOTC's website <https://www.wsotc.org>. A password is needed if you want to access the member's only section to view the club roster and financial reports. Help with setting up your password is available from Shea Gorman sheagorman@icloud.com or Melissa Knapp melissa.s.knapp@gmail.com.

It's wonderful to see so many individuals wanting to become a part of our great club that has existed since 1946, but we have a responsibility to give them the help, guidance, confidence and support to become active and contributing members to insure the future of WSOTC.

Indoor crating for the Spring Obedience and Rally Trials at Fun Fur Paws

Indoor crating is allowed ONLY in the stalls for a fee. There will be space at the south end of the building on the concrete for stewards and other workers ONLY (no fee). Early stall reservations are open for current club members until January 31. As usual you may share your stall but the person making the reservation needs to be a club member.

Starting February 1, reservations will be open to all exhibitors.

Please direct requests and questions to Melissa Burton: melissa@funfarpaws.com or text her at 360-840-6362. WSOTC does not handle stall reservations.

Stewards needed for Spring Trials March 28-29

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.

First-time stewards welcome, we will train you! Part days are also possible for club members who are competing. Stewards may help with keeping track of which dogs are next in the ring, specific exercises in the ring depending on the class, organizing score sheets for the judge, timing in rally, and more!

Club Updates

Looking for Spring Trial Trophy Sponsors

The WSOTC Obedience and Rally Spring Trials, March 28-29, 2026 is only a couple of months away. Please consider contributing for one or more of these awards. On Saturday we offer tangible prizes, Sunday is cash. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the catalog for each donation.

We need sponsors for the following awards on Saturday and Sunday:

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

Highest Score in Regular Classes - Cooling mat / \$80 **Don Rennick (Sat and Sun)**

Highest Combined Score from Open B and Utility - Travel bed / \$50 **Sharon Colvin (Sat and Sun)**

Highest Score in Preferred Classes - Calming blanket / \$30 **Anonymous (Sat)**
Sunday donor needed

Highest Combined Score in Preferred Open and Utility - Mud Mat / \$30
Anonymous (Sat) Sunday donor needed

Novice A First Place - Canvas club logo bag / \$20 **Anonymous (Sat and Sun)**

Novice A 2nd-4th - Drying mitts / \$15 **Donor needed Sat and Sun**

Highest Scoring Junior - Headlamp beanie / \$20 **Sue Cox *In Memory of John Cox* (Sat and Sun)**

RALLY

Highest Combined Triple Qualifier - Cooling mat / \$80 **Donors needed Sat and Sun**

Highest Combined Score Exc B and Adv B - Travel bed and stuff sack / \$50
Donors needed Sat and Sun

Novice A First Place - Canvas club logo bag / \$20 **Elizabeth Soule (Sat and Sun)**

Novice A Second Place - Drying mitts / \$15 **Elizabeth Soule (Sat and Sun)**

Highest Scoring Junior - Headlamp beanie / \$20 **Elizabeth Soule (Sat and Sun)**

Club Updates

Looking for Trophy Sponsors (continued)

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.

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

WSOTC January 2026 Match Report

Terrie Sato

The January 3rd Match at Country Classic Kennels was well attended in spite of the colds and flu making the rounds and causing a shift in plans for several dog handler teams. An advantage to this match is that it brings training very close to showing for both dogs and handlers. There are two busy rings side by side providing the distraction often seen at obedience trials. Handlers have the opportunity using both food and toys to teach their dogs to keep focus in a busy environment. Judges and stewards add to the feel of being at a dog show.

The match could not happen without dedicated volunteers, most from the WSOTC membership. Many thanks to those who dedicated their time to make the match a success. Shea Hughes-Gorman did a lion's share of judging all day. He was wonderful with beginner exhibitors, walking them through the ring procedures as well as helpful and friendly to the experienced handler/dog teams.

Dedicated all-day workers included Nancy Harney, Rhonda Forman, Holly Krohn and for much of the day, Nancy Light. Club members working their many various shifts included Penny Broomer, Martha Jordan, Neil Evans, Sandy Burr, Michelle Fuqua, Linda Shea, Jill Petersen, Ingrida Robinson, April Caron, Jayne Walker, Tara Curtis and Melissa Knapp. Special thanks to Kristi Crabtree who contacted me early on volunteering to help. My apologies if I left someone out but if there was a need I know that those who were there stepped up to fill in as steward or judge.

Club Updates

WSOTC January 2026 Match Report (continued)

There were 89 run throughs for the day. With a limit of two runs, 60 runs were for handlers with a single dog. Only 4 people asked for a single run for their dog. The rest of the runs were for those with two dogs opting for one run each. As has been common for this match, Utility and Open were the most popular classes. However this year also had a larger number of Beginner Novice dogs than seen in the past. A healthy sign for the sport!

This match makes for a busy day but it is a wonderful training opportunity and is intended to cater to the needs of all level of obedience competition. An added bonus...the chance to visit with fellow club members and share smiles cheering each other on. Thank you to all who attended and special thanks to all who helped!



Holly Krohn and Ingrida Robinson both volunteered while waiting for their chance to run their dogs.



Kathy Teufel and Douglas ready for Novice!



Next dog! The busy Utility ring.



Rhonda Forman running Nancy Light and Riser through Novice.

Board Meeting Minutes - January 5, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato and Neil Evans.
2. The minutes from the 12/1/25 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** Melissa thanked Terrie and Rhonda as well as all of the volunteers at the fun match which took place on 1/3 at Country Classic Kennels. She also noted how well it was organized and attended.
4. **Report of the Secretary:** No report.
5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine presented the semi-annual financial report and an updated monthly report, both of which will be posted on the "members only" section of the website. Reminder emails will be sent out to those who have not renewed their membership yet.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Membership – No report.
 - b. Hearts and Flowers – Cards have been sent to Kathy Lang and Erika French.
 - c. Tracking - TD/TDX (2/22/26, Bow) – Entries close on 2/12. There will be 4 TD's and 2 TDX's
 - d. Spring 2026 Obedience and Rally trial (3/28-29, Fun Fur Paws) – Melissa Knapp and Linda Shea will be co-chief ring stewards. Nancy Light will follow up with Melissa Burton at Fun Fur Paws to get the signed contract. Amanda reported (via Melissa) that the premium will be available this week and that entries close on 3/11. Depending on the number of entries, Amanda will determine if an additional judge is needed. Nancy Light is responsible for RV parking reservations. Melissa Knapp will follow up with Melissa Burton about stall reservations. It was recommended that club members have priority to rent stalls for crating. There will be a rent-a-ring on Friday from 3:00 – 7:00. The budget for the rent-a-ring is still to be determined.
 - e. Summer Obedience and Rally trial (8/8-9/2026, Country Classic Kennels) – Judges have been confirmed. Baray will be the superintendent/secretary and April Caron will be the on-site secretary.
 - f. Agility (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – No report.
 - g. Match – (1/3/2026, Country Classic Kennels, Arlington) – Terrie reported the match was very successful. She thanked all volunteers and especially

Board Meeting Minutes - January 5, 2026

Shea Hughes-Gorman for judging all day. Terrie suggested we change to on-line sign up for participants and volunteers to judge and steward for future events. The financial report will be presented at the next meeting.

- h. Website – Melissa has been updating the website. She will work with Shea on archiving older reports to make space for the newest ones.
- i. Awards – Award applications are due by 1/19. Rhonda will ask Elizabeth to send out a reminder to club members. Nancy reported that she has received very few applications. Nominees for the club Personal Achievement Award should be sent to Melissa Knapp.
- j. Donation Committee – Nancy Harney will report at the next General Membership meeting.
- k. Judges Seminar – Melissa and Terrie will coordinate, along with Sue Cox and Debbie Addicoat and update the Board at a future meeting.

7. **Unfinished Business:**

The Standing Rules update will be completed, and changes sent to club membership.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

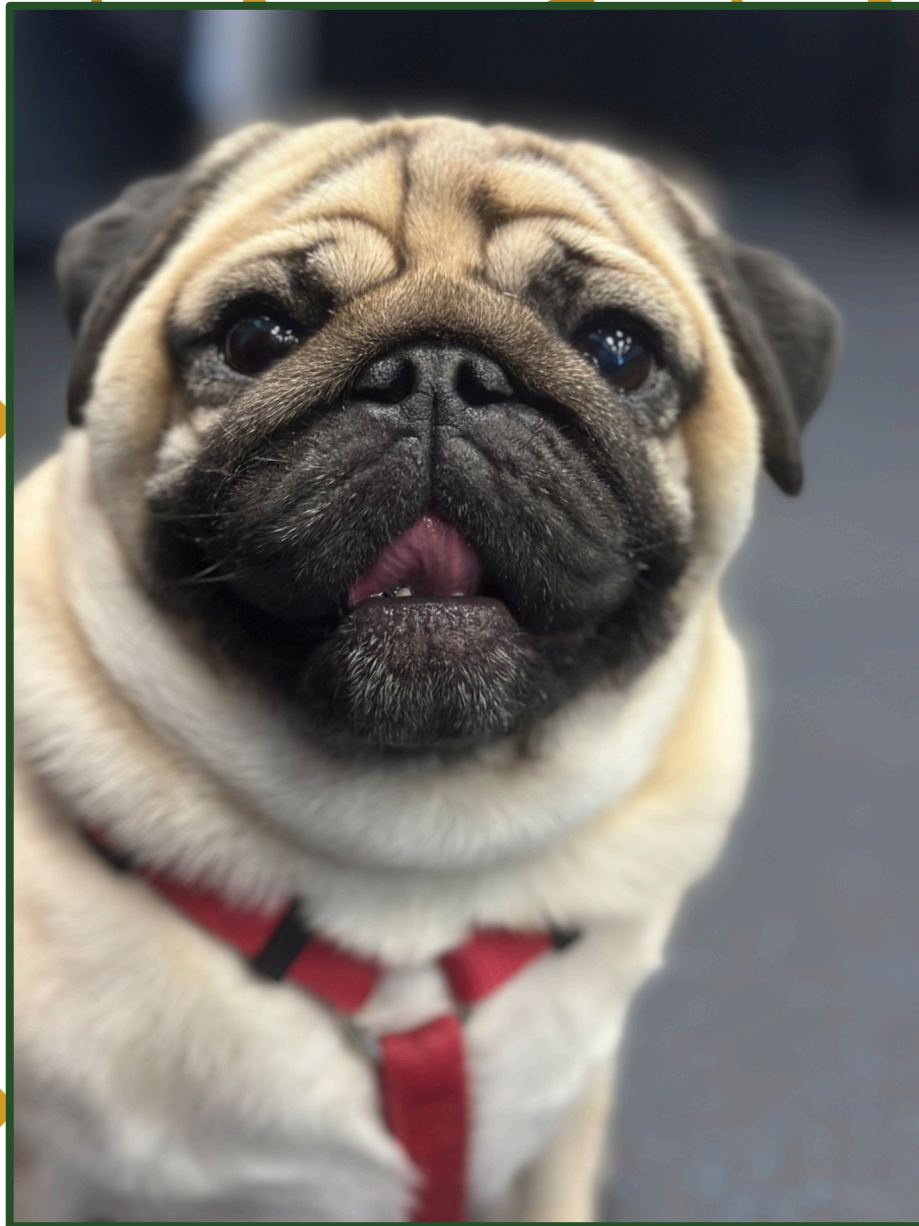
Next Meetings (on Zoom):

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

Board Meeting: 2/2/26 at 7:30

General Membership Meeting: 2/18/26 at 7:00

Celebrations!



Amanda Buse + Banksy

Banksy earned his first title, CGC, in December. We are now training for Rally.

Celebrations!



LeeAnn McNeil + Ebby

Ebby finished her Rally Excellent A Title on Saturday January 24!

Celebrations!



Laura Day + Mika

At Rose City Kennel Club in Portland. Mika, GCH CH Pemhill Uh Oh Spaghetto, RA, CGC earned her Excellent B title. Day two achieving a 98 in Excellent B and a perfect 100 score in Advanced B with 2nd place.