



Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

March 2026

An AKC Member Club

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Vice President

Nancy Light

Treasurer

Catherine Shaffer

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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

- 3/2 Board Meeting at 7:30pm on Zoom
- 3/14 WSOTC Awards Dinner, Spiro's Restaurant in Shoreline, 4:30 - 6:30pm
- 3/18 General Membership Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- 3/27 Rent-a-Ring at Fun Fur Paws, 4:00-7:00pm
- 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
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Wilton Manors, FL 33334
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Welcome to our new members!

The following members were voted in at the February 2026 general membership meeting:

Laurie Southard was voted in as a full member. She is from Auburn, has English Springer Spaniels, and is interested in agility, rally, and tracking.

Debbie Jones was voted in as an associate member. She is from Monroe, has an Australian Shepherd and Am Staff, and is interested in agility, obedience, rally, and tracking.

Bob Robinson was voted in as a full member. He is from University Place, has a Brittany, and is interested in obedience and scent work.

Happy Membership Anniversary!

Celebrating milestone anniversaries for the following WSOTC members in 2026!

Pat Lindquist - 5 years

Stella Rowlett - 5 years

Amanda Buse - 10 years

Holly Krohn - 10 years

Sarah Kahn - 35 years

Marta Brock - 40 years

WSOTC Rent-a-Ring March 27

There will be a Rent-A-Ring at Fun Fur Paws on Friday, March 27 from 4pm-7pm. This is a great chance to practice before the trial! One ring will allow food, the other is toys only. \$20 per run for members, \$25 per run for non-members. Register for your time slot online here: <https://rent-a-ring-3-4-26.cheddarup.com>

Club Updates

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.



Volunteers still 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!

We are also still looking for a couple of people to help monitor the warm-up ring both days. In order to open the warm up ring we must have a volunteer stationed at it at all times.

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

General Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2026

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, Sue Cox, Sarah Kahn, Elizabeth Soule, Jill Petersen, Nancy Harney, Holly Krohn, Penny Broomer, Joyce Brombaugh, Lisa Stedman, Cathy Soule, Lisa Witte, Laura Day, Pat Lindquist, Jayne Walker, Erika French, Betty Winthers, Debbie Bohn; Guests: Marcia Koenig, Debbie Jones, Laurie Southard, Robert Robinson
2. The minutes from the 11/19/25 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 along with the semi-annual financial report, both of which will be posted on the members only section of the website.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Membership – There was one second reading for Marcia Koenig and three first readings for Laurie Southard, Debbie Jones and Robert Robinson. Marcia was voted in as a member. Melissa will check the website to make sure that the new membership application is readily available. Reminder emails have been sent to about 12 people who have not yet renewed their memberships.
 - b. Newsletter and Website – The deadline for the next Canine Post is Jan 25.
 - c. Hearts and Flowers – Cards were sent to Karen Snee, Kathy Lang and Erika French.
 - d. Annual Awards – Nancy Light will coordinate with Karen Snee, Betty Winthers and Jill Petersen to get the awards to Scott's for engraving. Nancy will contact Spiro's in Shoreline to reserve space for the awards lunch, to be held on March 14.
 - e. Donation – The committee, Nancy Harney (chair) and committee members, Neil Evans, Betty Winthers and Sarah Kahn proposed to donate only to local organizations this year. Recommendations for recipient organizations will be presented to the Board at their February 2 meeting and then presented to the General Membership at the meeting on February 18.
7. **Events:**
 - a. Matches and Rent-a Rings:
 - Match (1/3/26, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie Sato reported that the match was very successful. She thanked all the volunteers and

General Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2026

especially Shea Hughes-Gorman for judging all day. The match generated a net gain of \$675. Terrie suggested that we change to an on-line sign up for participants as well as stewards and judges for future events.

- Rent-a Ring – (3/27/26, Fun Fur Paws) -details will be forthcoming.
- Rent-a Ring – (8/7/26, Country Classic Kennels)

b. Tracking:

- TDU (11/30/25, Shoreline) – Sarah Kahn reported that there was only one exhibitor, and they did not pass. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Melissa Knapp took on many of the responsibilities for running the event.

TD/TDX (2/22/2026, Bow) – Entries close February 12. There will be 4 TD's and 4 TDX's. Marta Brock is chairing the event. Volunteers are still needed.

- Sil Sanders is holding a track laying seminar on February 7.

c. Scent Work – (6/20-21/2026, (Monroe) – Sarah Kahn is the event chair and Melissa Knapp is the secretary. Sarah and Melissa are working on a budget. There will be many volunteers needed.

d. - Spring Obedience and Rally trials (3/28-29, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – Entries close March 11 (Baray). Melissa Knapp and Linda Shea are co-chief stewards. Amanda is seeking additional trophy donations.

e. Agility (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – Nancy Light reported that she has sent the Fun Fur Paw contract to Melissa Burton. The trial secretary, R2 Agility, is submitting the event application.

f. - Summer Obedience and Rally trials (August 8-9, Country Classic Kennels) - Donna Meade and Linda Hause have been selected to judge the event. Melissa Knapp is chair.

g. Seminars:

- Connie Cleveland (September 12-13, 2026, Country Classic Kennels)
– Terrie Sato will work on a budget to present at an upcoming meeting.

- Obedience and Rally Judging for Exhibitors – There is interest in holding this seminar, however, a date and location have not been determined. It would likely be a 2-day event, with 1 day for obedience and 1 day for rally.

8. Unfinished Business:

- Melissa has received three nominees for the Club Achievement Award. Nominations close on 1/31.

General Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2026

9. **Announcements:** There will be a Show n' Go at Sharon Colvin's on March 15.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

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

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

Board Meeting Minutes - February 2, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato and Neil Evans
2. The minutes from the 1/5/26 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** Melissa previewed her message that will be appear in the upcoming Canine Post.
4. **Report of the Secretary:** Rhonda reported that AKC will recognize Canadian Kennel Club Titles. Rhonda will send any new or revised AKC policies that may be of interest to club members, to the Board and to Elizabeth for the Canine Post.
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 – Renewals are trickling in.
 - b. Hearts and Flowers – No report.
 - c. Tracking - TD/TDX (2/22/26, Bow) – Entries close on 2/12. There will be 4 TD's and 2 TDX's. Melissa presented the budget for the Board to review.
 - d. Spring 2026 Obedience and Rally trial (3/28-29, Fun Fur Paws) – Melissa Knapp confirmed with Melissa Burton that there will be space available for workers to crate their dogs inside the building. Melissa and Linda are lining up ring stewards. The rent-a-ring on Friday will have a self-serve online sign up. The slots will be 15 minutes, and cost will be \$20 for club members and \$25 for non-members.
 - e. Summer Obedience and Rally trial (8/8-9/2026, Country Classic Kennels) – No report.
 - f. Agility (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – No report.
 - g. Newsletter – No report.
 - h. Website – Melissa has been updating the website.
 - i. Awards:
 - Awards Dinner: Nancy reported that she is receiving RSVPs for the awards dinner which will be held on March 14 at Spiros in Shoreline.

Board Meeting Minutes - February 2, 2026

- Personal Achievement Award: Board members will email their vote from the nominees presented at the meeting for the Personal Achievement Award to Melissa.

- New Perpetual Honor plaque for scent work: The plaque would have the year, dog's name, qualifying title and owner's name. Nancy advised the Board that this plaque would take the cost of the awards over the amount in the Club Annual Budget. The Board agreed that the club would pay for the plaque. Karen Snee is getting pricing from Scott's.

j. Donation Committee – No report.

k. Judges Seminar – Melissa and Terrie will coordinate, along with Sue Cox and Debbie Addicoat and update the Board at a future meeting.

l. Nominating Committee – Rhonda will contact potential club members to confirm their willingness to serve on the committee.

7. **Unfinished Business:**

-Rhonda will send out the Standing Rules document to each Board member for review and updating.

-Melissa will sent out the meeting agenda and materials the day prior to meetings.

8. **New Business:** Amanda Buse sent Melissa an email about allowing event chairs to post on the club's Facebook page without admin approval. The Board agreed that would be permissible. Melissa will follow up with Elizabeth to get this implemented.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

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

Board Meeting: 3/2/26 at 7:30

General Membership Meeting: 3/18/26 at 7:00

General Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Rhonda Forman, Neil Evans, Terrie Sato, Sue Cox, Elizabeth Soule, Jill Petersen, Holly Krohn, Penny Broomer, Joyce Brombaugh, Lisa Stedman, Cathy Soule, Jayne Walker, Erika French, Betty Winthers, Debbie Bohn, Amanda Buse, Tain Rose, Ingrida Robinson, Sandy Burr, Lee Ann McNeil, Marta Brock; Guests: Janet Elliot, Laurie Southard, Robert Robinson
2. The minutes from the 1/21/26 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** Melissa said she hopes everyone is reading the Canine Post. She repeated part of her message in the latest newsletter about every member volunteering at an event. She included in her newsletter message all events and corresponding dates.
4. **Report of the Secretary:** No report.
5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Melissa presented an updated report for Catherine, who was absent. The report will be posted on the members only section of the website.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. Membership – There was one first reading for Janet Elliot and three second readings for Laurie Southard, Debbie Jones and Robert Robinson which were voted on and approved. Melissa will check the website to make sure that the new membership application is readily available. Cathy Soule reported on the few individuals who have not yet renewed their memberships.
 - b. Newsletter and Website – The deadline for the next Canine Post is March 1. Elizabeth will be updating the roster format to make it more user friendly on the website.
 - c. Hearts and Flowers – No report.
 - d. Annual Awards – Nancy Light reported that 13 people have signed up to attend the awards dinner which will be held on March 14, beginning at 4:30 at Spiro's restaurant in Shoreline. Sue Cox reminded people that guests are welcome. There is an additional \$500 needed for the new Scent Work plaque. It was voted on and approved to make the plaque purchase not to exceed \$600. Jill Petersen has delivered the awards to the engraver and she will pick them up and bring them to the awards dinner.
 - e. Donation – Nancy Harney, committee chair could not be at the meeting but sent a report. The committee is recommending 5 local organizations, but the

General Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2026

number may be reduced. They will present their final recommendations at the March General Membership meeting.

7. **Events:**

- a. **Matches and Rent-a Rings:**
 - Rent-a Ring - Friday, March 27, Fun Fur Paws – Terrie, Melissa and Elizabeth are working on the participant sign up. We discussed charging \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members for 15-minute spots. There will be 2 rings available from 4:00 – 7:00.
- b. **Tracking:**
 - TD/TDX (2/22/2026, Bow) – There will be 4 TD's and 4 TDX's. Marta Brock reported that everything is ready to go.
- c. **Scent Work – (6/20-21/2026, Monroe – No report.**
- d. **Spring Obedience and Rally trials (3/28-29, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – Entries close March 11 (Baray). Melissa Knapp and Linda Shea are co-chief stewards and they are still looking for recruits. Amanda said that the catalog is ready to be published, so if there anything that needs to be added to let her know right away. Questions regarding RV parking should be directed to Nancy Light.**
- e. **Agility (7/10-12, 2026, Fun Fur Paws) – Nancy and Rhonda reported that the club received notification that there was a conflict with one of our judges. Nancy contacted the trial secretary, R-2 Agility and they resolved the issue.**
- f. **Summer Obedience and Rally trials (August 8-9, Country Classic Kennels) – No report.**
- g. **Seminars:**
 - Connie Cleveland (September 12-13, 2026, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie Sato is working on a budget. We discussed the best number of working spots and decided on 18. We also talked about the amount to charge and that this year entries will be taxed in compliance with a new state law. Club members will pay less than non-members and will have priority to register.
 - Obedience and Rally Judging for Exhibitors – Sue Cox will have more information after her judges group meets in a couple of weeks. Melissa said Debbie Addicoat is interested in participating for the rally segment. There was discussion about a location and the possibility of coordinating with another club.

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8. **New Business:**

- Rhonda reported that she has confirmed the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Sue Cox as chair, members are Jayne Walker, Penny Broomer and Holly Krohn. Alternates are Pat Lindquist and Sharon Colvin.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

Board Meeting: 3/2/26 at 7:30

General Membership Meeting: 3/18/26 at 7:00

AKC Updates

February 2026 Update to Clubs

Agility Regulations – ISC Classes - Addition of Optional Equipment

The AKC Board of Directors at its February 2026 meeting voted to approve the use of the Frameless Tire as an optional piece of equipment at International Sweepstakes class standalone or similar FCI events only. The allowance is effective March 1, 2026.

[AKC Event Operations Blog](#)



Elizabeth Soule + Eli

Enjoying a relaxing walk in the park.

Dedicated to everyone working on training goals outside of competition. Celebrate every small success with your dog, one day you will look back and realize you have come a long way!