Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

November 2026

An AKC Member Club

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Vice President
Nancy Light

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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.

The views expressed in the Canine Post reflect those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of WSOTC, its board of directors or officers. Minutes are published as written by the secretary or other board member. Articles in the Canine Post may be reprinted provided credit is given to both the author and the Canine Post.

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Upcoming Club Events

11/2	Board Meeting from 7-8:30pm Zoom
11/18	General Membership Meeting 7-8:30pm Zoom
11/29	Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) 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

It's Time to Renew!

Thank you to all our wonderful WSOTC members for your participation with the club this year! WSOTC membership renewal for 2027 is now available online through Cheddar Up or through a paper form (see page 13). All membership renewals are due by January 1, 2027.

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 2026 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 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.

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.

Annual Awards (continued)

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, 2027.**

6. Dogs earning titles for UD, UDX, OTCH, MX, MXJ MXP, MJP, MACH, PACH, ADCH, CT, TDX, VST, SWM, SWD, 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!

Chief Ring Steward(s) Needed for WSOTC Spring Trial

We are looking for a volunteer or pair of volunteers to serve as the Chief Ring Steward(s) for the Spring Obedience and Rally Trials at Fun Fur Paws in Mount Vernon. The dates for the 2027 Spring Trials are April 3 and 4, which is not Easter weekend. If more than two people want to share this responsibility, that is also fine.

The Chief Ring Steward is responsible for helping fill the roster of volunteer ring stewards for the trial, for communicating scheduling with the stewards, and handling coordination and oversight during the trial.

If you are interested in volunteering for this role, reach out to Amanda Buse at k9trbl@comcast.net.

WSOTC Spring Obedience and Rally Trials

April 3-4 at Fun Fur Paws

Looking for Trophy Sponsors

Jane Pitts

I am the trophy and awards chairperson for the WSOTC Obedience and Rally Spring Trials, April 3-4, 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

SATURDAY

Obedience

High in Trial: Embroidered Director's Chair $80
High Combined Utility & Open B: Ryobi Clip on Fan & Hand Warmers $50
Preferred High in Trial: Ryobi Clip on Fan $30
Preferred High Combined: Ryobi Clip on Fan $30
High Scoring Junior in Obedience: Travel Dog Bed $30
Novice A 1st: Hand Warmers $20
Novice A 2nd – 4th: TBD $15 (for each placement or $40 for all 3)

Rally

Triple Q: Embroidered Director's Chair $80
High Combined Exc B & Adv B: Ryobi Clip on Fan & Hand Warmers $50
High Scoring Junior in Rally: Travel Bag $30
Novice A 1st: Hand Warmers $20
Novice A 2nd – 4th: TBD $15 (for each placement or $40 for all 3)

SUNDAY

Obedience

High in Trial: $80 cash award
High Combined Utility & Open B: $50 cash award
Preferred High in Trial: $30 cash award

WSOTC Spring Obedience and Rally Trials

April 3-4 at Fun Fur Paws

Looking for Trophy Sponsors (continued)

Preferred High Combined Utility & Open: $30 award
High Scoring Junior in Obedience: Hand Warmers $30
Novice A 1st: Hand Warmers $20
Novice A 2nd - 4th: TBD $15 (for each placement or $40 for all 3)

Rally
Triple Q: $80
High Combined Exc B & Adv B: $50
High Scoring Junior in Rally: Hand Warmers $30
Novice A 1st: Hand Warmers $20
Novice A 2nd - 4th: TBD $15 (for each placement or $40 for all 3)

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

Connie Cleveland-Nolan Seminar Report

Terrie Sato, event chair



In September, WSOTC hosted Connie Cleveland and Kelsey Wehr for a well received obedience seminar. Connie and Kelsey worked with twenty dog/handler teams, sixteen of them were club members. There were twenty one auditors.

Connie and Kelsey quickly divided the working teams into two groups consisting of young dogs and dogs working at advanced levels. The room was divided into two rings and each dog/handler team was worked individually while those not working were free to observe whatever group they were interested in at the moment.

Connie talked about the importance of marking the right behavior by using a reward marker. The emphasis was that if you mark a behavior with a special word, you must pay the dog with a reward. Emphasis was also placed on using the reward marker before reaching for the reward. This proved harder than one would think. Each team had a chance to practice with command discrimination signals according to their abilities. Heeling and retrieving were also covered on Saturday with Connie and Kelsey trading rings so that all dog/handler teams got to work with both. Sunday included jumping/go outs and getting ring ready. This allowed handlers to work specifically on the exercises of their choice. Scent articles, gloves and go outs were popular choices in the advanced ring while many of the younger dogs practiced a novice run. Each dog/handler team got individual attention on the floor five times over the weekend. Those observing got to see a lot of problem solving suggestions, ask questions and hear many tips.

Saturday's lunch break included a pot luck with an abundance of goodies provided by the participants. Sunday the club provided pizza and left overs from Saturday's feast. The seminar generated lots of discussion about training and many shared ideas. It was a lot of fun!

Connie is always available to help online through her Obedience Road program.

Connie Cleveland-Nolan Seminar Report

Terrie Sato, event chair













Board Meeting Minutes - October 5, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:31by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato, Nancy Harney

2. The minutes from the 9/7/26 meeting were approved.

3. **Report of the President:** No report.

4. **Report of the Secretary:** Rhonda reported that AKC has implemented the agility program for handlers to transfer their MACH points and Double Qs toward their PACH. Elizabeth will include this information in the next Canine Post.

5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine presented an updated monthly report which will be posted in the members only section on the website.

6. **Committee Reports:**
   a. Budget/Audit – The Board voted and approved the committee's report which will be presented at the October General Membership meeting.
   b. Summer Obedience and Rally trial (8/8-9/2026, Country Classic Kennels) – Melissa will report on the financials at the October General Membership meeting.
   c. Membership – The membership renewal form will need to be updated with the approved changes to the Friends of Obedience section.
   d. Website – the landing page of the website needs to be updated.
   e. Awards – Nancy Light will work on updating the awards form and confirm who will be assisting her.

7. **Events:**
   a. Seminars:
   - Connie Cleveland (9/12-13, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie presented the financials for the seminar. She reported that the feedback received was extremely positive. Participants liked the 2-ring format. Members who had to cancel, appreciated receiving a full refund.
   b. TDU (11/28-29/2026 – Entries open 10/19. The test will take place in parks located in Mount Vernon and Burlington. The budget will be presented to the General Membership at an upcoming meeting.
   c. TD/TDX (2/21/27, Bow) – Marta Brock is chairing; Lynn Brimmer is working to identify judges.

8. **Unfinished Business:**
   -There was continued discussion about how to manage an exception for new members unable to attend a meeting in extenuating circumstances. Rhonda will follow up with membership chair, Cathy Soule.
   - Work is continuing to update the club's standing rules.
   - There was a discussion about the survey that will be sent out to the membership on the desire to hold a seminar for potential obedience and/or rally judges.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

General Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato, Pat Edwards, Holly Krohn, Penny Broomer, Lee Anne McNeil, Joyce Brombaugh, Elizabeth Soule, Cathy Soule, Kathy Mead, Sue Cox, Karen Snee, Lisa Stedman, Sandy Burr, Jo Chinn, Laurie Southard, Tara Curtis, Neil Evans, Laura Day; Guests: Steve Vajdik, Marcia Walters

2. The minutes from the 9/16/26 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 monthly report which will be posted in the members only section of the website.

6. **Committee Reports:**

a. Membership – There was one first reading for Steve Vajdik and there were three second readings for Sherri Moran, Shelly Glise and Marsha Walters. Katy Perez unable to attend evening meetings due to her work schedule issue was tabled.
Elizabeth is working on updating the membership renewal form.
b. Newsletter – The October edition of the newsletter was just recently posted. The deadline for the next Canine Post is 11/1. Elizabeth asked members to submit their celebrations.
c. Website – Melissa has updated the landing page. Elizabeth will send her an updated membership roster to post in the members only section.
d. Hearts and Flowers – Pat Edwards will be stepping in as chair.
e. Donation Committee – The Board will identify potential members for this committee.
f. Awards – Nancy Light is working on updating the awards form which will be due from members on 1/19. Karen Snee is working with Scott's on the award engraving.

7. **Events:**

a. Scent Work – (6/20-21/2026) – The final report will be posted on the website.
c. Agility (7/10-12, 2026) – The final report will be posted on the website.
d. - Summer Obedience and Rally trials (August 8-9) – The final report will be presented at the next general membership meeting.
e. TDU Test (11/28-29, 2026) – The test will take place in parks located in Mount Vernon and Burlington. The budget was voted on and approved. Volunteers are needed and should contact Melissa Knapp who is chairing the event.
f. TD/TDX (2/21/27, Bow) – Lynn Brimmer is working on getting judges.
g. January Obedience Match – Terrie will check with Julie at Country Classic Kennels to see if January 23 is available to hold the match.
h. Seminars: Elizabeth reported on the survey she sent out regarding interest in offering a seminar for 1) becoming an obedience judge – 9 responses; 2) becoming a rally judge - 8 responses; 3) teaching what a person needs to know about stewarding in obedience and rally – 29 responses
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

Board Meeting: 11/2/26 at 7:30
General Membership Meeting: 11/18/26 at 7:00

Celebrations!



Amanda Buse + Banksy

Banksy earned his third leg for his Rally Advanced title with a placement on October 31st, 2026 at the Chuckanut Trial under Judge Debbie Addicoat. C'mon isn't a Pug dressed in their Halloween Rally cone just the cutest?

Celebrations!



Laurie Southard + Ziggy + Tulip

At the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association Nationals October 10-17 in Albany, OR

Tulip placed 3rd and 4th in two of her Advanced Scent Work classes; 2nd in her Performance Bitch conformation class; and qualified for her first leg in her Rally Master class, all of which earned her a Versatility Award.

Ziggy Marley Qualified in all four of his Novice Scent Work classes (with a 2nd and a 4th) and was High in Trial for Novice Scent Work. He placed 3rd in Performance Dog, and 1st in Rally Choice, also earning his Versatility Award.

Celebrations!





Catherine Shaffer + Diza

Diza earned her CDX at the Chuckanut trial on October 31!

A couple of weeks ago she got 9 blue ribbons and two titles at a weekend NADAC trial.

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.

2027 Membership Renewal

Payment Due by January 1, 2027

Member Name: _____

Please CHECK the type of membership you choose for 2027:		Check appropriate box
Full Membership: May vote and hold elected office. Must attend at least **three** general membership meetings per year and volunteer or provide **one** service to the club. *Please complete page 2 if you select Full Membership.*	$25.00	☐
Associate Membership: Non-voting member. This option is for individuals wishing Club affiliation but not able to regularly attend meetings. Associate members are encouraged to volunteer and participate at club events.	$25.00	☐
If you have been granted **Life Membership**, do you plan to participate next year as a Full Member ☐ or Associate Member ☐	$12.50	

Make checks payable to WSOTC and mail to:

Catherine Shaffer, 17522 6th Ave NW, Shoreline, WA 98177

Roster/Mailing List Information Updates

☐ Check here if there are no changes to your information from last year.

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: Cell _____ Home _____

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 ☐ Membership ☐ Newsletter
☐ Obedience Trials ☐ Publicity ☐ Social Media ☐ Public Education ☐ Programs ☐ Property/Equipment
☐ Rally Trials ☐ Seminars ☐ Club Social Events ☐ Fun Matches ☐ Tracking Tests ☐ Officer or Board Member
☐ Scent Work ☐ Stewarding ☐ Website ☐ Host a Training Group ☐ Other: _____

The Canine Post newsletter and other official club notices will be sent by e-mail (except for members with no email address). This authorization releases the Club from any liability should the notification not be received due to circumstances beyond the Club's control. **I agree:** ☐

SIGNATURE: _____

Please return this form with your dues payment by 1/1/2027.

IMPORTANT: If you are renewing as a FULL member, please complete page 2.

Dues	$
Friends of Obedience/Rally Donation (prizes for all WSOTC trials, you may add a note specifying a trial)	$
Total Enclosed	$

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.

2027 Membership Renewal

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

Which meetings did you attend in 2026? (Your meeting attendance can be found in the members only section of the website and in the meeting minutes).

- January 21, 2026 ☐
- February 18, 2026 ☐
- March 18, 2026 ☐
- April 15, 2026 ☐
- May 20, 2026 ☐
- June 17, 2026 ☐
- July 15, 2026 ☐
- September 16, 2026 ☐
- October 21, 2026 ☐
- November 18, 2026 ☐

List 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.

Thank you!

WSOTC AWARD RULES AND APPLICATION 2026

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

Plaques will be awarded annually at the March awards dinner to members who have received American Kennel Club (AKC) title(s) on their dog(s) during the preceding calendar year. The following rules apply:

1. Any or all titles must be received while a member of WSOTC.
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 plaque applications must be submitted to the Club Award Chair by **January 19, 2027**
6. Dogs earning titles for UD, UDX, OTCH, MX, MXJ MXP, MJP, MACH, PACH, ADCH, CT, TDX, VST, RAE RACH SWM and SWD 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 plaque or bars and just want to be listed in the awards catalog: ☐

Obedience Titles earned in 2026

Rally Titles earned in 2026

Agility Titles earned in 2026

Tracking or Versatility Titles earned in 2026

Scent Work Titles earned in 2026

Other AKC or non-AKC titles (UKC, CKC, etc.) earned in 2026

WSOTC AWARD RULES AND APPLICATION 2026

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?
					☐
					☐
					☐

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 21, 2026 ☐
February 18, 2026 ☐
March 19, 2026 ☐
November 18, 2026 ☐
April 16, 2026 ☐
May 20, 2026 ☐
June 17, 2026 ☐
July 15, 2026 ☐
Sept 16, 2026 ☐
October 21, 2026 ☐

Amount enclosed or paid online for extra plaques or title plates (see guidelines above) $ ☐

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, 2027