



Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

October 2026

An AKC Member Club

Club Officers

President

Melissa Knapp

Vice President

Nancy Light

Treasurer

Catherine Shaffer

Secretary

Rhonda Forman

Board Members

Terrie Sato

Nancy Harney

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.

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.

<https://www.wsotc.org>

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Stock images from [freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com)
and [pixabay.com](https://www.pixabay.com)

In This Edition

[Spring Trial Chief Ring Stewards Needed ... 2](#)

[TDU Tracking Test ... 2](#)

[Board Meeting Minutes 9/7 ... 3](#)

[General Meeting Minutes 9/16 ... 5](#)

[AKC Updates ... 7](#)

[Celebrations ... 10](#)



Upcoming Club Events

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 10/5 | Board Meeting, 7:30pm on Zoom |
| 10/21 | General Meeting, 7:30pm on Zoom |
| 11/29 | TDU Tracking Test in Mount Vernon/
Burlington, WA. Entries open 10/19 and
close on 11/19 |
| 4/3 - 4/4 | Save the date - 2027 WSOTC Spring
Obedience and Rally Trials |

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

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.

TDU Tracking Test 11/29

WSOTC is hosting an All-breed Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) Test at the Wesen Organic Farm in Bow, WA on Sunday, November 29. The judges are Jan Wesen and Sarah Kahn.

Entries are limited to 3. All TDU entries must have a TD or TDU title. Entries open on 10/19, and a drawing will be held on Thursday, November 19 to determine which entries will participate. The entry form is available on the WSOTC website: <https://wsotc.org/club-documents-%26-forms>.

Board Meeting September 7, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Terrie Sato. Nancy Harney. Absent: Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman
2. The minutes from the 7/6/26 meeting were approved
3. **Report of the President:** The August obedience and rally trials are now in the books with results posted to BaRay Events website and to AKC. Thanks again to all who helped make the weekend a success! You made my job as Trial Chair and thanks go out to all the exhibitors as well. Melissa also thanked all the individuals who helped at the trials, and these folks are all in her report in the September Canine Post
4. **Report of the Secretary:** No report
5. **Report of the Treasurer:** Catherine had emailed the Treasurer's report to the Board. It included checkbook balances, disbursements from July 2 to September 3, deposits from those dates, and balances from all accounts. Specific numbers are in the members only section of the website but it was noted that the Club is in strong financial shape
6. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Audit Committee (Don Rennick, Jody Woodruff, Sue Cox (Chair) along with Melissa Knapp and Catherine Shaffer met on August 6, 2026 at Sue Cox's home to review the 20-25-2026 financial records, reports, and documents. The committee expressed appreciation for her huge contribution to WSOTC, maintaining an accurate and current record of our finances with prompt bill payment and deposits along with filing reports with the State of Washington and the IRS. Very few concerns, but noted in a few cases, that the committee chairs were not signing the check request or emailing authorization. Details of the report will be on the members only section of the website.
 - b. The 2026-2027 budget was submitted by Catherine and discussed by the Board showing a small financial gain for the year (though as always, it is very difficult to project what the entries and income or loss will be for any of our events. Discussion included how much to include for donations, but this along with the appointment of the donations committee was tabled until the October Board meeting. We can recruit donations committee members at the September general meeting. Nancy Harney will write a description of the committee's work to share with potential committee members.
 - c. Donations Committee: See above
 - d. July 10-12 agility trials. Nancy Light presented the financial report from those trials, which showed a net loss. Entries were considerably lower than expected. We may have lost some entries due to a national competition on the same dates. Our Secretary, R2 agility will be talking to chair Linda Shea about some ways to cut costs, and seeing if we can get more local judges to save on expenses. But the trials went smoothly and exhibitors liked the judges. We will likely continue to have two judges as one judge trials are hard on the one judge and make the day very long for judges and exhibitors.
 - e. Scent work Trials: Fortunately for our overall Club finances, the scent work trials are very popular and brought in a good net gain overall. That may be less the case next year as we are losing the venue we had and the one for 2027 will likely cost considerably more.

Board Meeting September 7, 2026

- f. August 8-9th Obedience and Rally Trials. The event showed a small deficit and the Board discussed this. They noted that given the overall health of our finances, trial chairs should know that showing a loss is acceptable, especially if some expenses are incurred that make it less burdensome on Club members. For example, allowing judges to rent cars, or use Uber is OK, rather than needing to rely on members to pick up judges at the airport. Also, having judges stay at a hotel near the airport may be more practical than having members take them for a very early flight and then have them use the hotel transportation. Financial report will be on the members only page.
- g. Rent a Ring (prior to August trials): These went well overall, but there were some difficulties due to the heavy traffic. It was thought that they pretty much broke even though difficult to say for sure since we were able to get the rings set up for the trials the next day.
- h. Anita Sipes seminar. Chair Lisa Witte sent the financial report showing a small net gain. A microphone system was purchased and likely is still at Lisa's place (in La Conner where the seminar was held).
- i. Connie Cleveland seminar September 12-13. The 20 working spots are full and we probably have 10-11 audit spots filled. Some details not yet clear about how Connie and Kelsey will divide up the rings, though it was emphasized that we will have to require observers to not talk so that everyone can hear Connie and Kelsey. Most exhibitors wanted to work on heeling and Command Discrimination was also desired. The Board discussed with chair Terrie details for food and the potluck, dinner for Connie and Kelsey for Saturday night. Likely a restaurant in Duvall with Terrie and Nancy rather than a dinner for all participants as they will be staying with Terrie and Nancy for the weekend. Logistics for getting them from the airport are unclear as Connie is coming in Thursday and Kelsey on Friday and Terrie needs to talk with Connie about her plans.
- j. TDU budget for November 20, 2026. Budget was presented with a small loss, but losses of even more are generally expected at tracking events. The budget was approved and will be on the Members only page.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. The Board discussed the proposed Rally seminar, which Debbie Addicoat has volunteered to present including her "Tips and Tricks" which give people information on how not to lose points. Since she is pulling back from judging, we really need to recruit more Rally judges. Sharon has agreed to the use of her building. Date not yet set.
- b. Catherine had proposed a change to the Standing Rules regarding allowable losses at the obedience/rally trials, but this was tabled as Catherine was not in attendance.

8. New Business

- a. The Board discussed the substantial monies that the Club has and what should be done with it, but we decided to table it to a meeting when Rhonda and Catherine could both be there.
- b. Nancy Light gave information on a new agility facility in Carnation (Temerity Dog Agility Training Center) that possibly could be used for matches or even a trial (not till 2028 for a trial). It is 70 feet by 155 feet and is turf, similar to that at Run Wild Dog Sports. Nancy is still getting information on costs from owner Tegan Moore, who does have some obedience background.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm

General Meeting September 16, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by President Melissa Knapp. Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Terrie Sato, Pat Edwards, Holly Krohn, Penny Broomer, Lee Anne McNeil, Joyce Brombaugh, Elizabeth Soule, Kathy Mead, Sarah Kahn, Sue Cox, Ronnie Sue Leith, Lisa Stedman, Jayne Walker, Sandy Burr, Jo Chinn, Laurie Southard, Tara Curtis; Guest: Sherri Moran
2. The minutes from the 7/15/26 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** Melissa reported on the success of the August obedience and rally trials. She thanked all the volunteers (listed in her Canine Post message).
4. **Report of the Secretary:** Rhonda reported that she has updated the club officers with AKC.
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 were three first readings for Sherri Moran, Teagan Moore and Marcia Walters. Katie Perez (first reading at the 7/15 meeting) works nights, so she cannot attend a meeting. There is a proposal to amend the bylaws about excusing meeting attendance in extenuating situations for new members. This should be discussed at the next Board meeting.
 - b. Newsletter – The deadline for the newsletter is October 4.
 - c. Website – No report.
 - d. Hearts and Flowers – No report.
7. **Events:**
 - a. Scent Work – (6/20-21/2026) – The final report will be posted on the website.
 - b. Agility (7/10-12, 2026) – The final report will be posted on the website.
 - c. Summer Obedience and Rally trials (August 8-9) – Melissa thanked all of the volunteers in her President's report. The final report will be posted on the website.
 - d. TDU Test (11/28-29, 2026) – The test will take place in parks located in Mount Vernon and Burlington. Volunteers are needed and should contact Melissa Knapp who is chairing the event.
 - e. Seminars:
 - Connie Cleveland (9/12-13, 2026, Country Classic Kennels) – Terrie reported that the seminar went very well. It was voted on and approved to refund three club members that could not attend. Terrie will write up a report for the newsletter and present the financial report at the next Board meeting.
 - Anita Sipes-Cook Agility Seminar (8/15-16, 2026, Lisa Witte's home, La Conner) – Catherine reported that the seminar was well received. The final report will be posted on the website.

General Meeting September 16, 2026

8. **Unfinished Business:**

Melissa will ask Elizabeth to send out a survey to the membership to assess the level of interest in holding a seminar for either a) becoming an AKC obedience judge; b) becoming an AKC rally judge; c) teaching requirements for stewarding at an obedience or rally event.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

Board Meeting: 10/5/26 at 7:30

General Membership Meeting: 10/21/26 at 7:00

MACH to PACH – The Wait Is Over!

Published by the AKC Agility Department Oct 1, 2026

The MACH to PACH program is complete and ready to go! We know many of you have been patiently waiting for this, and we're excited to finally make it available. You can now begin transferring your MACH points and Double Qs toward your PACH!

Click the link below to get started and transfer your points and Double Qs.

[MACH to PACH Transfer](#)

Thank you for your patience while we worked to get this ready – now it's time to start moving those MACH points toward PACH!

Modification to Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Sections 8 & 8D.

AKC Event Operations, Sept 28, 2026

At the September meeting, the Delegate body approved amendments to Chapter 11, Sections 8 and 8D of the AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows. The amendments clarify the rules and address housekeeping matters. Highlights include:

- * Section 8 now clarifies that breed-specific disqualifications affect only a dog's eligibility to compete in conformation events.
- * Related provisions were reorganized for consistency, and references to ear cropping and tail docking were added where appropriate for clarity.

Fee Required When Filing a Complaint at an AKC Event

AKC Event Operations, Sept 28, 2026

At the September meeting, the Delegate body approved an amendment to Article XIV, Section 1 of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club. The amendment requires anyone filing a complaint at an AKC event to submit a fee to the event-giving club. The fee will be refunded if the matter goes to a hearing; if not, the club will retain it. The AKC Board of Directors will determine the fee amount, so both the fee and effective date remain pending.

Attention All Obedience & Rally Participants

Published by the AKC Companion Events Department on Oct 7, 2026

Civility Isn't a Suggestion: Restoring Respect in the Obedience and Rally Rings

Disagreeing with a judge's score is nothing new in our sport; it has existed for as long as obedience trials have been held. What's changed isn't the disagreement itself, but how it plays out. With alarming frequency, these disputes occur publicly and loudly, with the apparent goal of making a judge back down rather than receiving an honest explanation.

The scenario is becoming familiar to anyone who spends time ringside. What starts as a reasonable question as to why that deduction was taken or what the judge saw turns into a flat refusal to accept the answer given. The exchange escalates, draws in stewards, other exhibitors, and spectators, and often becomes a public spectacle. Whether the judge holds their ground or the exhibitor walks off loudly declaring the judge doesn't know what they're doing, the score has stopped being the point. The point has become getting the last word.

That puts judges in a difficult spot. They can't walk back a score mid-conversation, and defending a decision at length starts to look like litigating the score in front of an audience, which tends to make things worse. What's left is a one-sided, exhausting exchange that wears the judge down in front of everyone ringside. It's a bad look for the sport, and a particularly discouraging one for anyone new who's trying to decide whether this activity is for them.

The disagreement doesn't necessarily end when the trial ends for the day, either. It often continues in dog-sport Facebook groups, replayed for an audience far larger than the original ringside. Sometimes it comes with a video clip, a screenshot, or a post tagging the judge outright. Comment threads tend to reward whoever tells the most aggrieved version of the story, and people who weren't even there weigh in as if they had been. Judges are expected to stay above that kind of exchange rather than engage with it directly, which leaves them with even less room to respond online than they have in the ring. A single disagreement at a trial can follow a judge indefinitely, with nothing on the other side to correct the record.

The AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility should be taken seriously. It isn't a loose set of suggestions; it spells out what's expected of everyone who steps into a ring. All participants are asked to treat exhibitors, judges, officials, and volunteers with dignity and courtesy, regardless of how they feel about a given decision. The Code is clear that strong competition and civility must coexist, not

one at the expense of the other. It extends those same expectations online as well: courtesy doesn't stop applying just because people are off the show grounds and back on their phones.

None of this is solved by adding another regulation, since it was never really a regulation problem. Peer accountability still does more work than people realize. A quiet word from someone a person respects lands harder than any policy ever will. Trial Chairpersons have a role in stepping in early. For conduct serious enough to warrant it, individuals can still make a formal complaint to an Event Committee. That process is reserved for real misconduct rather than everyday ringside friction. Most of what shows up ringside doesn't need a hearing. It needs someone willing to say something in the moment, long before it gets that far. Respect, in and out of the ring, isn't optional. Respect is why people keep showing up for the sport.

Celebrations!



Kathy Teufel + Ellie Rose

Miss Ellie Rose (Cripple Creek Adventure's Out There @ Frontier) earned her Scent Work Novice title at the Irish Water Spaniel Trial!

Celebrations!



LeeAnn McNeil + Ebby

Ebby now has 8 REA legs on her first REA!