



Washington State Obedience Training Club

The Canine Post

September 2025

An AKC Member Club

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Nancy Light

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President's Message

Melissa Knapp, WSOTC President

The WSOTC August obedience and rally trials are in the books! We had a terrific entry both days. Chairperson Debby Warden and our Hospitality Chair/On-site trial secretary April Caron handled a myriad of details to keep the trials running smoothly before and during the event. Don Rennick helped manage the club equipment while Jane Pitts and Catherine Shaffer brought ribbons and trophies. Chief Ring Steward Shea Hughes-Gorman recruited a team of the best ring stewards that enabled our judges Margaret Chandler and Mary Jane Shervais to do their work quickly and efficiently. Thanks go out to all the club members who showed up to work and to compete with their dogs – over 40% of the total membership!

The Friday “rent-a-ring” fundraiser was a success! It gave participants the opportunity to practice in the rings they would

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Club Committee Chairs

Agility

Linda Shea

Audit/Budget

Sue Cox

Awards

Nancy Light

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

Amanda Buse

August

Debby Warden

Scent Work Trial

Sarah Kahn

Laurie Weaver Seminar

Terrie Sato

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

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Upcoming Events

9/3 Board Meeting from 7-8:30pm
Zoom

9/17 General Membership Meeting 7-8:30pm
Zoom

The **Laurie Weaver seminar** that was planned for October has been canceled.

The **WSOTC club picnic** that was planned for the end of September was canceled due to roadwork on I-90 to Mercer Island that weekend. There were no other good dates available before the weather gets too cold.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

be showing in over the weekend. Three cheers to those who helped to plan, set up and assist with setting up jumps and doing run-throughs.

Every year around this time the Audit/Budget Committee meets to go over the club's accounting and finances from the past fiscal year as well as to prepare the following year's budget. Sue Cox headed up the committee meeting sharing duties with members Karen Snee and Jody Woodruff. Also in attendance were club treasurer Catherine Shaffer and yours truly. I appreciated their efforts and was glad to be able to see how this part of club management operates. Thank you, Sue for hosting and for the delicious lunch!

Fall may be just around the corner but my spaniels and I certainly have been enjoying the warm and sunny days this past month. Hopefully the nice weather will last until October! (I'm not ready to break out the wet dog/muddy feet towels just yet.)



Audit Committee Report

Sue Cox, Audit Committee Chair

The Audit Committee (Jody Woodruff, Karen Snee, Sue Cox) met on August 30th at Sue's home to review the 2024-25 treasurer's records and reports. All members of the committee were present along with Catherine Shaffer, Treasurer, and Melissa Knapp, President (an automatic member of every committee).

We sincerely thank Catherine Shaffer for the time and effort she put into her job as Treasurer for her first year, and for keeping all the financial records, paying bills, making deposits in a timely manner, and filing reports with the IRS and State by their due dates. And also for being present at Club events to handle payments to judges, reimbursements to Club members, and collecting monies.

There are some areas the committee would like to see addressed in the future:

- Issuing receipts for monies submitted, most especially cash
- Using the Club's Check Request Form and making certain it is fully completed, including the committee chair's signature authorizing the expenditure, or an email giving their approval of the expenditure
- Making certain receipts for reimbursement by Club members is supported by receipts attached to the check request
- Paper copies of many financial reports were not available but could be seen on Catherine's laptop; we would prefer paper copies be available to the Audit Committee
- Budgets were not always submitted to the Board and Membership in a timely manner. Melissa and Catherine will follow through on securing future event budgets a few months in advance of the event.
- The Scent Work Trial financial report was not yet available for our review

Our finances are in good hands!

New Award at WSOTC Summer Trial

Melissa Knapp



At the WSOTC obedience and rally trials in August a new trophy was offered. "Highest Scoring Team with a Handler 70 Years or Older" (also known as the "Old Geezer" award) was won by Sharon Olsen (just a mere dozen years past the lower limit) with her dog "Jazzy" - Toreth-Indium All That Jazz RA NAP NJP BCAT ACT2 ACT2J CGC TKN. Sharon and Jazzy scored 99 in Rally Excellent B winning 3rd place out of 18 entries to finish her RE title!



Board Meeting Minutes - August 4, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President Melissa Knapp.
Attendees: Melissa Knapp, Nancy Light, Catherine Shaffer, Rhonda Forman, Neil Evans and Terrie Sato
2. The minutes from the 7/7/25 meeting were approved.
3. **Report of the President:** The report from the president will appear in the next Canine Post newsletter.
4. **Report of the Secretary:** No report.
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 – No report.
 - b. Hearts and Flowers – Cards have been sent to Betty Winthers, Sharon Colvin, Kathy Lang and Don Rennick.
 - c. Audit/Budget Committee – No report.
 - d. Tracking
 - November 2025 TDU – The event application has been submitted to the AKC.
 - February 2026 TD/TDX – No report.
 - e. Summer 2025 Obedience and Rally trial (8/9-10 at Country Classic Kennels). Melissa reported that everything is on track. Club member April Caron will be representing Baray on site. Melissa and Debbie will pick up the paperwork from Baray and will pick up additional ring gates from storage on Thursday. The Friday rent-a-ring is about 70 percent full. Elizabeth will send out reminders to those who signed up.
 - f. Spring 2026 Obedience and Rally trial – No report.
 - g. Scent Work (6/21-22/25, Monroe Christian School) – The final financial report is pending.
 - h. Agility (7/11-13/25, Fun Fur Paws) – The financial report was presented and will be posted on the "members only" section of the website.

Board Meeting Minutes - August 4, 2025

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- i. Social Events and Programs:
Summer picnic: This will be held on Sunday, September 28 from 1:00 – 4:00 at Aubrey Davis Park on Mercer Island. We will publicize the event and hope for a good turnout. Neil will ask Elizabeth to send out a poll to see how many members will attend.
- j. Seminars:
 - Laurie Weaver (10/11-12/25, Gold Star in Auburn) – This event has been canceled.
 - Connie Cleveland (9/12-13, 2026) – No report.
- k. Website – Melissa asked board members to let her know if anything needs to be posted or updated on the website. She reported that the roster format needs to be made easier to enable easier updates.
- l. Awards: Sarah Kahn received her medallion from AKC for the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.

Unfinished Business:

- The Standing Rules under the “Finances” section will be updated to remove language that requires a board member to participate on the Audit/Budget committee. Also, several sections under “Awards” need updating. Rhonda will send out draft language to the Board for review.

New Business:

- Melissa proposed and the Board approved canceling the 8/20 General Membership meeting. Nancy will ask Elizabeth to send out a message to the membership and Melissa will update the website.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14

Submitted by Rhonda Forman, Secretary

Next Meetings (on Zoom):

Board Meeting: 9/3/25 at 7:00

General Membership Meeting: 9/17/25 at 7:00

Celebrations!



Joyce Brombaugh + Link

Link and I got our PACH2 at the Havanese National Specialty in August!

Celebrations!



Shea Hughes-Gorman + Skye

Skye and I achieved our Obedience Master Title and Utility Dog Excellent Title at the Olympic Kennel Club show!

Celebrations!



Laura Day + Mika

So Blessed & Proud of Mika - GCH CH Uh Oh Spaghetto RN, CGC and owner Laura Day.

At the Cascade Pembroke Welsh Corgi club Specialty this August.

Mika achieves BOS for a 5pt major and award of Merit. Which completes her Grand Championship under breeder judge Carrie Chase.

At the same show, she also completes her Rally Novice title with a 1st and 2nd place under judge Debbie Addicoat.

Thank you judges for a fabulous show!! Mika is now on to her performance career.

Celebrations!



Patricia Edwards + Murphy

Murphy competed in his first ever Beginner Novice class. Saturday he did not qualify but Sunday he got the blue ribbon! We are over the moon. We could not have done it without Kristi Crabtree and all the members of Murphy's training class. You know who you are. Thank you!

Celebrations!



Nancy Harney + Archie

Skookum Creek's Tough Ombre Archie CD RI MH earned his Open title at the WSOTC obedience trial on August 9. Archie finished in first place in Open A. On his way to his CDX, Archie went 3 for 3 with two first place finishes and one third place ribbon.

Celebrations!



Pat Lindquist + Justi

Justi and I finally bit the bullet and entered Novice at the Olympic Kennel Club trials. He was a spectacular partner and we ended the weekend with a new CD. He showed 3 times in Novice B earning 3 1st places, 2 HIT, and a perfect 200 score. I am continually amazed by this awesome boy.