



**Wenatchee
Kennel Club**
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THE PAWPRINT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wenatchee Kennel Club

The Wenatchee Kennel Club (WKC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its purpose is to further the advancement of all breeds of purebred dogs and provide education for their responsible breeding; conduct events under the rules of the American Kennel Club and to hold other events as approved by the Wenatchee Kennel Club; and provide education, training, and information regarding the responsible ownership, care and exhibiting of all dogs. Those interested in becoming members are invited to contact WKC at (509) 886-DOGS (3647).

**April
2020**

Upcoming Events

WKC Scent Work Trial: July 31 – Aug 2, WKC Training Center

WKC Agility Trial: October 9-11, Confluence State Park

WKC Dog Show: October 16-18, Chelan County Fairgrounds

Virtual Dog Training



In-person dog-training has the advantage of immediate instructor feedback, live distractions, and better training spaces/equipment than most of us have at home. But even the best in-person class is improved with at-home practice. If you find yourself with a little extra time these days, WKC instructors have been posting some training videos on the club's Facebook page. (Otter, at left, watches an instructional video by Jan Flatten and Aspen teaching 'hot zone.' Otter already knows 'hot zone' so instead of self-improvement, Otter may be thinking about how handy it would be if she could just send Iskie into an out-of-the-way corner with a single "woof.")

Our WKC Facebook page also has information on how club members can submit videos to earn an AKC Tricks title: many thanks to our awesome certified AKC Trick Evaluators Gail Roberts and Wanda Cottam! If you need help figuring out how to start with some of the novice tricks, the AKC trick dog web page has some videos. Happy training!

... and Virtual Trials

For those that have training fields and standard equipment, the North American Dog Agility Council has started allowing Q's via video courses. Here's some information from Linda Harbury:

We are having lots of fun doing NADAC video courses. NADAC has made video runs easy and posted plenty of course maps: <https://www.nadac.com/video-runs/>. NADAC puts out new video course maps about once a month, and this time they've included some smaller space, 60x80ft courses, for those who don't have full size agility fields. Your first run of the course is the one you are allowed to submit. No practice on the course before your first run. If you goof up your first run, you cannot re-run and then submit the course. You pay \$10 for any video you submit. I hope others have NEARLY as much fun as me and my dogs have been having.

- The monthly club meeting for April has been cancelled.
- Scent Work Trials have been rescheduled for July 31-August 2.

Your Support Is Making a Dream Come True



Praises to all who were able to donate a total of \$2705, the fees they paid for classes canceled by Covid-19. WKC supporters and members are amazing! Of course, with 2 events and all classes canceled, the income loss is approximately \$18,000. Please consider a donation.

Because many of us should receive \$1,200 from the federal government this month, it has been suggested that we consider donating any excess to WKC so we can continue to build outdoor training areas. Another encouragement is the 2020 tax provision that monetary donations to non-profits, such as WKC, are deductible up to \$300 per person whether you itemize or not.

Louise's Corner

This last week I received great news from AKC - we have been approved to hold a third dog show on the Friday before our Saturday and Sunday shows. This will be great for the club as it will make our show a lot more appealing to enter. This also means that we will need more members to step up to help. We will not have our Boy Scouts and parents to help on Friday. The Fun match will be Friday evening as usual but will probably start later. We will also have a Regional Collie Specialty added to our show this year. There will be lots of work for all of us.

We will still be having the work parties outdoors as we must have the outside done before the irrigation water is turned on and our temporary occupancy permit expires. Outside we can maintain safe space for the volunteers. Thank you to those who have come out to help.

The video training sessions are going well, and members and students are keeping their dogs active and engaged during this time. A big thank you to our trainers for your time and love for our club and training center.

I want to thank Willard and Eileen for all their hard work in canceling the last set of our classes. I know it was a lot of work doing refunds to the students. We appreciate your love for our club.

The hunt tests in May were cancelled, because with the Governor extending the ban until May 4th we could not hold the tests. This will be a financial loss for the club as we will lose our \$2700 deposit on the birds. We are currently trying to figure out a way to pick up half of our bird order (150 birds) which we have paid for and bring it back here. We do have people who want to buy them. We have a place to put them now. The birds are in Boise, Idaho. It will take a pickup truck and two days to make the round trip as it is 600 miles each way. Anyone interested please let me know.

Norm and I have had a rough month when our 10-month-old puppy Tessa was diagnosed with the Blastomycosis fungus and went blind in one eye. She picked this up last September at our National English Setter Specialty. After many tests they finally found the fungus. It is only in the river valleys in the Midwest, so vets did not even think or know much about it here. Lesson learned and I am passing it on. If you are going to a Specialty or event in another part of the country, ask them what the health issues in that area are. Good news is when I took her up to eye specialist in Spokane this week the retina has reattached, and she can see. They were shocked and as excited I was to have a recovery on Tessa. She will need to be treated for the fungus for several years, but it does not look like she will lose her eye.

I want to again express my appreciation to all of you for your work and service to the Wenatchee Kennel Club. Whether your contribution is large or small you are appreciated. It takes many hands to make this club the best. And we have the best in you, the members.

Louise

FREESTYLE IS NOT ALL ABOUT DANCING WITH YOUR DOG

by Wanda Cottam

Disclaimer: While AKC does not recognize RFE titles at this time, my parent breed club (and many others) recognize them for versatility points!

Freestyle is not ALL about the music and/or choreographed routines, although that is certainly one aspect of it should you desire to pursue that avenue! There is also an awesome organization called Rally Freestyle Elements. Similarly to how AKC offers both traditional obedience and rally obedience with all levels of competition available in each, **Rally Free Elements (RFE)** offers opportunities to earn titles in traditional **Musical Freestyle (MF)** and **Rally Freestyle (Rally-FrEe)**. **Rally-FrEe** is much like AKC Rally in that there are signs that state a specific freestyle essential skill. **Rally-FrEe** requires no dancing, no costumes, and music is optional. **RFE** was founded by Julie Flannery and is based right here in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, to be exact). You can visit the website at www.rallyfree.com to get all the information. Please check out their website and reach out to me if you have any questions. Julie is very dedicated to the sport of freestyle and a simply lovely person who is willing to help anyone who wishes to Rock It Like a Freestyler!

Rally Free Elements offers two **Rally-FrEe** titling categories:

SKILLS TEST – Handler chooses 15 signs from their level (some restrictions apply)

Levels: Novice and Intermediate/Advanced

COURSES – This is where the signs are chosen by a judge and set up in a specific course you must follow (like AKC Rally, but with freestyle moves). This level of competition obviously requires much more training and practice than you will get in one 7-week course, but I hope there is enough interest out there that we can offer titling events at WKC in the future! Levels: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Championship with Encore classes offered at each of those levels so you can continue competing once you've earned the title in that class.

Have I tickled your curiosity? Look for the **Freestyle Building Blocks Class** when WKC opens its doors again!!! That class will focus on getting ready to compete in Freestyle Rally. In the meantime, if you have a smart phone, go to your app store and search rallyfree (all one word, no caps). That app includes all the Rally-FrEe signs (as well as flashcards) with their descriptions and YouTube videos showing correct performance!

MUSICAL FREESTYLE – Love the music and want to DANCE or put together a SKIT set to music? Good for you! Dancing with your dog is nothing more than taking those foundational skills to a whole new level, adding costumes and props, then putting it all to music! BUT - You still need those foundational building blocks BECAUSE without a proper foundation, your routine is going to fall apart under the pressure of performing! So, join the Freestyle Building Blocks Class when WKC opens its doors again and get those foundation skills!

Rally Free Elements also offers two Musical Freestyle titling categories:

Freestyle (*anything safe and sane allowed*). Check out the website for details.

In-Sync (*a much more technical performance required*). Check out the website for details.

Until then,

Rock It Like A Freestyler

with Happy Heeling as you A.I.M. (**A**ccurate **I**ntentional **M**ovement) & T.A.P. (**T**ransitions & **P**ositions)



WKC Building Report



New irrigation line routed around the perimeter of the property.

Although classes have been canceled and the Training Center effectively closed in March and April, work has progressed on the outdoor projects needed to fulfill our Temporary Occupancy Permit which expires April 30. If you are out for a drive, take a look at the progress.

The landscape beds at the ends of the parking lot are mostly complete. The fencing for the west, south and east sides are in process, and the 4-inch irrigation line has been reinstalled in time for the irrigation water to be turned on for our neighbors. The landscaping along the south side is in progress.



East side fence panels donated by Men's Softball. West side chain link salvaged.

The list reads fairly simply, but was accomplished by lots of volunteer time spread out over several weeks. Most of the dirt we received last fall was moved to the planting beds, along the south end of the building, but mainly along McGee Street to level the area for the landscaping, fencing and irrigation line. It looks much different along McGee Street now. Most of that work was possible because Jack & Lynda Pheasant donated their tractor and loader for our use ... if you see them, thank them for that priceless donation! And we had more than a dozen loads of good, rock-free topsoil delivered.

The fence posts were installed in late March, so the irrigation line could be installed earlier in April. The fence will be completed, pending the east Wenatchee Planning Commission approving a recommendation from the city building department to change the set-back requirements for a 6' fence. The current building code requires a 10' set-back for a 6' fence. The City is recommending that be changed to a 5' set-back for a 6' fence. The Planning Commission was scheduled to meet March 24, but that was canceled because of the virus. We don't know when that is being rescheduled.

The irrigation line was reinstalled over a couple of days in late March (all the days run together now!) with several volunteers making that happen. The final connections were made in time for the irrigation water to be turned on.

The two planting beds at the ends of the parking lot are almost complete, pending some additional plants for the amended design by Doug & Jan Merriman. They are amending the plan for the south side of the property now that the filling and grading is mostly finished. The amended plans need approval from the building inspector before the trees and other plants come to live at WKC.



landscaping.



East side

West side landscaping.

During the next couple of weeks, we still need to do some final top soil grading and rock removal along the south side of the property, inside the fence, then plant a number of trees and plants to complete the required landscaping. We won't be organizing an "all hands on deck" type of project, but rather will try to keep the number of volunteers somewhat limited so we aren't violating social distancing.

And after that...we'll likely design and install the drip irrigation system for all the planting beds and the small grass areas in front of the building. THEN we're back to the design and drawing board for brainstorming and planning the layout and use of the rest of the property. The work being completed now is the result of the planning, prioritizing and design work necessary for completion of the building. Now we need to spend the same effort on deciding how we plan to use the outside areas of the property.

Once we can safely meet together, we'll have some formal and informal sessions to set priorities, budgets and timelines for developing the outdoor training areas. We'll share more of this process later. In the meantime, feel free to stop by, walk around and dream about how we might best use our property. Some things to consider in your musings should be such things as location and type of fencing across the front, location/designation of potty areas, leisure areas (picnic tables, etc.), designated areas for specific outdoor sports, fencing or ? for the specific training fields, types of additional landscaping (i.e. grass, plants, trees, bushes), vehicle access, storage, walkways/traffic patterns to outdoor areas, etc.

We have come an extraordinarily long way in the past 18 months! We still have a way to go to complete our dream project. Keep up the great work!

If you have questions, comments or want to be sure to be included in any of our upcoming work projects, please contact Chuck St. John and/or John Njus.



WKC Members' News and Brags



Diane Gallatin: Miska (pictured at left) just earned her Novice Trick Title.

Gail Roberts:

My dogs and I have been busy playing and learning tricks. Brags follow:

- * **Pakuk** earned his Intermediate Trick Dog title.
- * **Whitney** earned her Novice Trick Dog title.
- * **Lassen** earned her Novice Trick Dog title.

All are Siberian Huskies.

Lynda Pheasant: BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Family traditions have been "skyped" this year—including birthday celebrations in March, April and May. **Jett** and Lynda P. anticipate celebrating their "8 and 80" this spring. Please join a virtual party for "The Eights"—donate to the **WKC LANDSCAPE FUND** in any amount containing an eight—\$8, \$18, \$88 dollars, or more. Make our candles count for the Wenatchee Kennel Club. Happy Birthday to all!



Linda Harbury: I have been one of the lucky ones during this shutdown. I'm retired so my income is stable and my three dogs are always up for entertaining fun. Our brags this month are all about **Darby Do:**

He's earned his Trick Intermediate Title thanks to Wanda and Gail's volunteering to serve as Evaluators via video.

Much to my delight, NADAC allows video run submittals for Q's, Points and Titles! We've been working on

absolute beginner courses, and both I and Darby have learned a lot about how to work together.

Regular Intro Q (earned his title)
Weavers Intro Q (earned his title)
and TWO Intro Touch And Go Q's
We've been having lots of fun with daily training and hope to come out of our lockdown raring to go! Looking forward to seeing you all soon.



Jan Flatten: The Flatten Aussies all passed their Trick Dog tests this past month, thanks to the generosity of our WKC evaluators Gail Roberts and Wanda Cottam! **Cody** (almost 13), **Brandi** (10) and **Aspen** (almost 2) earned Novice Trick dog titles, and **Ginger** (10), Aspen and Brandi earned Intermediate Trick dog titles (all pending AKC approval). It's been so much fun having things to work toward during this down time. You CAN teach old dogs new tricks! Aspen also earned two Qs in NADAC toward her Intro to Novice title. Looking forward to getting back into classes but I'm really grateful to NADAC for offering videoed agility runs!





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Mailing Label

CALENDAR

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- **Current class schedules and more info at www.wenatcheekennelclub.com.**

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