



THE PAWPRINT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wenatchee Kennel Club

**Wenatchee
Kennel Club**
P. O. Box 805
Wenatchee, WA 98807
886-DOGS (3647)
wenatcheekennelclub.com

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).

**February
2023**

President: Louise Day
Vice-President: Marshall Brown
Treasurer: Willard Fields
Secretary: Erin Andersen

Directors: Chuck St. John,
John Njus, Carla Duncan, Maggy
Susman

Upcoming Events

Members Meeting
February 26 7pm
"Tricks" with Linda
Hessel
WKC Training Center

**Ephrata/Moses Lake
Agility Trial**
Grant County
Fairgrounds
March 3-5

WKC Tracking Test
Palisades
Sunday, March 19, 2023

WKC Hunt Test
May 5, 6, 7

WKC Scent Work Trial
May 19, 20, 21

Annual Awards Banquet



The Wenatchee Kennel Club held its annual awards banquet and election at the Masonic Lodge on Saturday, January 28. Over 250 awards were presented, including awards for titles in Conformation, Scent Work, Agility, Obedience, Rally, Barn Hunt, Tracking, Water Rescue, Hunt Test, Fast Cat, Coursing, and Tricks. Also lots of new very Good Canine Citizens in our club! Awards ranged from dogs earning their first Puppy Star, to seasoned competitors who earned Grand Champion, NATCH, MACH, and RATCH titles!

Pictured above, Dolores Remsen (94 years old) receives a plaque and bar for her dog Rusty (18 years old) who earned his Container Scent Work title.



Clockwise from top left: Pam Petit receives the Best of Breed award for continuous outstanding service to WKC; Louise and Norm Day receive awards from helper Jan Flatten as Tracy Lloyd MC's; Pam Jenkins and students Kelly Boreson and Kelly and Lew Wagman with Pam's member of the year award; Melissa Larson getting awards for her dog Ruby; the banquet hall; Betsy Metcalf receiving her awards from club president Louis Day.



Louise's Corner

I hope cupid was good to you and that you remembered your dogs (not with chocolate). We had elections of officers and a board of directors' position at the annual meeting. The following were elected: Louise Day President, Marshall Brown Vice President, Secretary Erin Andersen, Board Member Maggy Susman.

I had a recent phone call from Celeste Fink that really started me thinking about the future of our exhibitors and sport. Gone for the most part are the large kennels with kennel men that took care of the dogs and kennels. We are losing the foundation breeders of many of our breeds. Those who cite pedigrees off the top of their head. Not one generation but three and four generations. Dog shows were one day affairs, and you travelled from one site on Saturday after the show to the next club's site to show on Sunday. I remember after a day of losing sitting and watching the big winners coming in late trying to find a spot to set up. No reserve RV spots in those days. We did not have all the wonderful performance events - just obedience and hunting that I remember. I must be getting old after 53 years showing as I have been walking down memory lane a lot lately. I remember coming to the Wenatchee show when it was in Washington Park and the Apple bowl. It was small but so laid back and a great site.

We have all been saddened by the death of Lynda Pheasant this month. She was a wonderful member and mentor. She will be missed.

We as a club are blessed with many younger members who will carry on our love of dogs. Since this is the month of love give your dog a hug and thank a member who has mentored you or helped you.

Louise





**Lynda's
Final
Column
Feb 2023
THE
PAWPRINT**

“She was a remarkable woman.”

April 29, 1940 - February 9, 2023

One word is rarely sufficient to describe a person but many who have shared a chapter of life with Lynda T. Pheasant might offer vivacious, mentor, creative, inquisitive, tenacious, connector, storyteller, advocate, philanthropist, or memory-holder. Our family would additionally honor her with wife, mother, grandmother, supporter, and cheerleader. Lynda and her husband Jack recently celebrated 61 years of marriage.

A resident of East Wenatchee for the past 52 years, Lynda and Jack raised 3 children in the valley while advocating for the agriculture industry, encouraging life-long learning, and providing influential leadership within a breadth of community programs.

During the past 20 years, Lynda teamed with her two Australian shepherds to earn numerous titles in Agility, Rally, Scentwork, Tricks, and Barn Hunt. Lynda and Awesome Annie were the first team in NCW to achieve the MACH (Master Agility Champion) title. Most recently, Lynda leveraged her love of dogs with her experience in the tree fruit industry to develop an Ag Detection Dog program whereby orchardists/community members team with their dogs to detect Little Cherry Disease; the research component being grant funded by the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission (perhaps their first project awarded to an octogenarian!).

Some people say life is the dash between dates. For Lynda, life was the connections and relationships she cultivated with family, friends, and community over a lifetime. Family includes her husband, Jack Pheasant; children Dr. Susan Pheasant, Jean & Brian Stearns, and Col. David & Kristin Pheasant; and granddaughters Audrey Stearns & Samantha Stearns. Lynda was preceded in death by her parents, Allen & Audrey Taylor, and her brother Keith.

Lynda celebrated life every day. In lieu of flowers or a service, please consider donating to one of Lynda's favorite activities: The Wenatchee Kennel Club (WKC) designated to building the north wing classroom extension of the Training Center (mailing address: WKC, PO Box805, Wenatchee, WA 98807) or the Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) (mailing address: WAGS, 127 S. Mission St., Wenatchee, WA 98801).

History of Obedience

AKC Obedience Trials owe their existence to a pioneer in the sport of purebred dogs, Mrs. Helen Whitehouse Walker. Helen was a breeder of Standard Poodles and the dogs of her Carillon Kennels were quickly gaining recognition as dogs with outstanding quality and character. Like many Poodle breeders, Helen had to fight the stereotype that Poodles were nothing more than just a fancy haircut. To combat this image and to convince others that Poodles were as smart as any other breed, she devised a series of exercises to showcase their intelligence.

She borrowed the idea from England's sponsorship of the Associated Sheep, Police, Army Dog Society. This English Society had developed competitive tests, which were open to all breeds of dogs. Mrs. Walker approached dog clubs and private kennel owners with her idea of holding competitive tests in conjunction with dog shows in the area. With months of hard work and perseverance in October of 1933, the first Obedience Trial (then called "test") was held on her father's estate in Mt. Kisco, NY. There were eight dogs entered in this first obedience test, two Labrador Retrievers, three Poodles, two English Springer Spaniels, and one German Shepherd Dog. The winner of this event was a Labrador Retriever owned by William F. Hutchison of Far Hills, NJ.

The enthusiasm for this new event spread quickly and Mrs. Walker scrambled to organize a second test to be held in conjunction with the North Westchester Kennel Club show in June of 1934. She sent a letter to the American Kennel Gazette (AKC's official publication)

Test classes could become popular-not only to prove the value of developing a dog's brain, but also in interesting the average visiting public at a show. The judging of dogs in the breed classes is a mystery to many, but a series of tests displaying the dog's brain is something they can actually see.

At that time there was only one obedience class. The exercises included heeling on-leash and off-leash, sitting for two minutes and lying down for five minutes while the owner went out of sight, a drop on recall (the dog is called to the handler and is commanded to lie down when it is half way to the handler and then is signaled to come and sit in front of the handler) retrieving a 2 lb. dumbbell (regardless of breed size) and retrieving another slightly lighter dumbbell over a 42" jump (regardless of breed size).

Mrs. Walker emphasized the importance of dog owners to develop a deeper relationship with their dogs. She encouraged amateurs to participate in obedience tests and stressed accuracy and precision in performance while the dog demonstrated enjoyment and willingness to work. She submitted the first set of guidelines and procedures for obedience tests to the American Kennel Club for consideration on December 7th, 1935. On March 10th, 1936 The American Kennel Club approved the first set of regulations titled *Regulations and Standards for Obedience Test Field Trials*.

Obedience tests were then divided into the three classes we know today, Novice, Open and Utility. The exercises have not been altered that much over time; however any dog that earned a Utility title had to also pass a tracking test to achieve the UD title.

~ Taken as an excerpt from **The Story of Dog Obedience** by Blanche Saunders, Howell Books (1974).

The regulations have expanded to facilitate the sport of obedience to grow and flourish, but the core values that Helen Whitehouse Walker strove to instill in obedience competitors are still with us today. Almost all dogs entered in an obedience trial have been trained and are handled by their owner. Obedience dogs are true family companions that share their lives with the people who showcase their skills in a competitive arena. AKC obedience is open to anyone who is interested in developing a meaningful relationship with their dog based on communication and fun!



WKC Dogs Get Very Tricky!



Eight dog and handler teams successfully completed the WKC Tricks class this session. Teachers were Linda Hessel with assistant Karen Haase. Teams worked on 10-25 different tricks both with and without props.

Linda reports: All teams are super enthusiastic and entertaining and we cheered a lot as each dog solved new behavior "puzzles." The dogs were happy practicing in class—it's low stress— and really engaged while performing a variety of new, silly behaviors (ie, stunts/tricks!).

Thanks also to Gail Roberts and Louise Day who are AKC Trick evaluators for the club.



WKC Tracking Trial

The Wenatchee Kennel Club Tracking Trial will be held Sunday, March 19. The premium is posted on the web site and entries close on Thursday, March 9.



Membership Information

Brian Bourgeois, Membership Chair

Please welcome the following new members who were voted in at the last meeting:

Lewis and Kelly Wagman - Bernedoodle

The following application was approved by the BOD for a membership vote on Feb 26th:

Kelly Boreson - English Springer Spaniel and Golden Retriever

Are you on the naughty list for not renewing your WKC dues?

Head to our Membership Dues section of our website for a quick and easy way to pay!

<https://www.wenatcheekennelclub.com/march-online-products/performance-dogs-spotlight>



WKC Members News

Jan and Robert Davis-Morgan have moved out of the area (but can be reached at skilots07@hotmail.com) and are thus letting their membership lapse, but sent the following message:

"WKC was one of the best experiences. Made friends, and had fun with my dogs. Fond memories"

Jan Flatten: I never thought it would be possible, but Aspen earned her Excellent Jumps with Weaves title last month. Aspen has always been a low drive dog, who is very environmentally sensitive, and after her first couple trials I wasn't sure she could compete in a high stress environment. Then cancer struck and we stopped trialing for a year which included



chemo. Last fall I decided to give it another chance, and she earned her Open titles at the WKC trial in the fall. Two more trials since then she has now earned her Excellent JWW title! I'm so proud of her! Although we know her time with us is more limiting than must dogs since all we can hope for is a long remission, she is living a full life. She showed a lot of environmental sensitivity at Fun Fur Paws (barking dogs), but hopefully she will feel more comfortable at Moses Lake.

Sara Elzey, Pam Jenkins, and Tara Barrett: WKC has three teams participating in AKC's Winter Agility League, and all three moved up a little in the rankings for Round 2 (Jan. 30-Feb. 12). Q Seekers (Seniors) placed 14 out of 40 teams nationally and 2nd in the Northwest region. Darby was our highest individual placement - 3rd out of 38 dogs in the 16" preferred class. Rugged Runners (Sophomores) was at 10 out of 19 teams nationally and 1st in the Northwest region. Austin was our highest individual placement - 7th out of 24 dogs in the 16" preferred class. Cascadian Coursers (Freshman) placed 5th out of 22 teams nationally and 1st in the Northwest region. Luna was our highest individual placement - 2nd out of 10 dogs in the 20" preferred class. And the most exciting Agility League news: Aspen, Jan and Brad Flatten's beloved Aussie, was featured in the League Spotlight on February 5th. You can find the very sweet story about how she was adopted and how agility has helped her on the "AKC Agility League" Facebook page.



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Mailing Label

CALENDAR

- **February Members Meeting** Feb. 26 at the Training Center
- **Ephrata – Moses Lake Agility Trial** March 3,4,5
- **WKC Tracking Test Sunday** March 19th at the Palisades
- **WKC Hunt Test** May 5,6,7
- **WKC Scent Work Trial** May 19,20,21
- **Current class schedules** and more info at www.wenatcheekennelclub.com.



DISCLAIMER: *The PawPrint* may include articles submitted by others that may or may not reflect the views or position of the Wenatchee Kennel Club's Board of Directors or membership as a whole. These articles are intended to stimulate discussion and further research by our readers to better understand the breadth and complexity of information about our dogs. We encourage input from our readers and members to help us all become well-informed. If you have questions or comments about the newsletter or content, feel free to contact the newsletter editor or one of the WKC officers or board members. **The PawPrint** is sent to WKC members, prospective members, and Wenatchee-area veterinarians. We also exchange newsletters with other dog clubs. Contact Tara Barrett, the newsletter editor for more information at TaraAndOtter@gmail.com. **Advertising:** *The PawPrint* does not accept advertising.