



The Telegram

Piscataqua Obedience Club
January 2026

Next Meeting;
Sunday, January 18th
6:45pm Board Meeting
7:00pm General Membership
In person at the POC Building
(4 Coffin Lane, Berwick, ME)

Or via Zoom at:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84133209791?
pwd=Skla6aEr1DQWgdObKdnZzFRae1Xl0T.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84133209791?pwd=Skla6aEr1DQWgdObKdnZzFRae1Xl0T.1)**

Or by Phone:

1-305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 841 3320 9791 Passcode: 412845

Piscataqua Obedience Club
General Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2026

Attendance:

Judy Coen, Betsi Greene, Sarah Todd, Lee Friess, Pam Hansen, Nay Smith, Monica Viel-Weiss, Merrillynn Hill, JoAnne Hayes, Jen Borque, Mary Dennett, Jackie Barriere

Notes:

- Meeting held 100% via Zoom due to weather conditions
- April Cowans and Elizabeth Carroll have relocated or are in the process of relocating.

I. Brags

- Sarah's Ernie earned 40 points and placed first in her class at a weight pull event on the Cape where she was in beast mode - pulling 3,072 pounds!
- Nay and Bert have been doing a lot of therapy visits together.
- Krista's Jinx earned her Champion title in Happy Ratters.

II. Correspondence Secretary Report

- A total of **106** pieces of correspondence were sent over recent holidays.

III. Treasurer's Report

- A visual overview was shared and reviewed covering 2025's finances
- A question was raised regarding a **\$20 food donation**; **Krista will follow up with Pam.**
- **Holiday Hounds:** It was noted that several participants paid but did not receive photos. **Krista will follow up with Pam.** It was clarified that only a small number of issues had been reported at the time and neither the photographer nor organizers were aware of additional concerns.

IV. Classes

- One class remains under-enrolled. Lee is reaching out to potential participants. **Members were encouraged to share class information on Facebook**, particularly for the **Tricks** class.
- Advertising via the roadside sign was noted as potentially helpful for class promotion.
- **Equipment Update:** Merrillynn confirmed the new jump is on its way.

V. Public Relations

- Continued discussion regarding Facebook structure (**Group vs Page**):
 - Groups allow members to post.
 - Pages allow posting only by page administrators.
- Betsi reported continued growth in requests to join and engage.

VI. Policies & Procedures Committee

- The Board reviewed the committee's presentation outlining the purpose and process of the P&P review.
 - Purpose: broad brush/high level review, survey developed for items that designated as important to provide the full membership the opportunity to provide feedback on.
- Survey results reflected some items with strong consensus and others with mixed responses.
- Next steps remain under discussion, particularly how decisions are finalized for items without clear consensus.
 - Judy noted the importance of Board review of any revised language prior to adoption, given potential downstream impacts. **The incoming Board will continue this review.**

VII. Old Business

- **Facility Cleaning:** Three open dates were filled.
- **Membership Roster:** Continued discussion about posting contact information and Telegram access on the members-only website page.
 - **Krista will follow up on an updated roster**
- **Events:**
 - Members reported enjoying the bingo event.
 - Four people have registered so far for the upcoming seminar.
 - ☑ Registration will include a brief form and waiver.
- **Liability Discussion:** Clarification was made that classes held on club grounds fall under club liability, while shows do not - which seminars fall under the category of.
- **First Aid / Safety Programming:** Options discussed included canine first aid or a Stop the Bleed-style program. **Merrilynn will inquire with an ER veterinarian contact regarding the former.**
- **Friday Events:** Prior discussion about hosting small Friday evening events (e.g., Rally or Obedience) was revisited. No volunteers stepped forward at this time - remains in the parking lot.
- **Signage:**
 - The Board intends to proceed with the sign option previously priced.
 - Lighting issues were noted; **Betsi will check in with Dave** when discussing the sign.
 - **Rochelle** shared three color samples; members were comfortable allowing her **to select from those options** once approval to proceed is received from Dave.

VIII. New Business

- **Awards:**
 - The club has not held awards since COVID.

- Monica shared that awards were historically a meaningful way to celebrate member achievements together.
- Cost considerations were acknowledged.
- Members agreed to temporarily **remove the Awards page from the website** while future plans are evaluated.
 - **Website:** Betsi noted that the Weebly subscription is up for renewal soon.

IX. Board Vote

- With no contested positions, the Secretary cast a single vote for the Board as presented.
- One at-large Board position remains open.

X. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.
- Meeting adjourned at **8:06 PM**.

A brief acknowledgement was made thanking Betsi for recent Facebook posting efforts.



Time to BRAG!



Bert continues his therapy visits. He had his head in Mary's lap before her caregiver said his name.

On January 17 at the APBTCoNE's rail pull, Ernie pulled 3,072 lbs (45 x her body weight) earning 40 points toward her Grand Champion.



Reminder:

Donations are accepted on an ongoing basis to fill a basket to be raffled off at the Happy Ratter trials (and possibly other events).

Donations can be left in the box on top of the crate in the corner of the training room by the lockers.

Thank you to everyone who has already brought in items!

The next raffle is planned for March 15th



Cleaning Schedule:

February 15: Monica

February 22: Lee F

March 1: JoAnne

March 8: JoAnne

March 15: Happy Ratters

March 22: Nay (& Bert)

March 29: _____

April 5: _____

April 12: _____

April 19: Jen B



To sign up for your turn to vacuum, go to theTeamUp Link:

<https://teamup.com/ksij53a7kqyszy6zx>

Piscataqua Obedience Club Presents:
Sue Burrell's
Breed Handling Seminar (AKC & UKC)

Saturday, March 7th, 2026
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM The Basics of Handling

- *Leash choice for your dog and breed*
- *Ring Patterns*
- *Free and Hand Stacks*
- *How to give the judge what they want at that time*

1:00 – 2:00 PM - Questions and Lunch

2:00- 5:00 PM - What is the judge looking for?

- *Dog Structure*
- *Gait*
- *Type*

How to show off your dog's positives - and hide the negatives

Cost:

Working spot: \$250/team – dogs may be switched during the day. 12 team limit = lots of floor time

Auditing spot: \$125

Snow Date Is March 8th.

Location: Piscataqua Obedience Club, 4 Coffin Lane, Berwick, Maine

Lunch: Bring your own or there is a Subway, pizza place, and sandwich shop 4 miles away.

Sue Burrell has been professionally handling dogs for forty years. She has shown or worked with dogs on/from five continents. In addition to showing dogs, she specializes in training service dogs and dogs with aggression issues, helping them to become happy family members. Sue and her team have won multiple Best in Shows, Best in Specialty shows, and more than 15 different types of championships. To date, they have almost 100 students who have won Best in Shows.

Sue has a bachelor's degree in pre-veterinarian medicine and worked as vet tech for several years. She enjoys applying techniques including obedience, massage, strength training and conditioning to develop individual programs to help each dog reach their true potential.



For More Information:

piscataquaobedience@proton.me

Or call 603-205-4717





UNITED DOG SPORTS OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

3 UKC Sanctioned Weight Pulls over 2 Day ON SNOW

Saturday & Sunday, February 21 & 22, 2026
6 Gaia Lane, Gorham, ME 04038

Judges: Danielle Cyr & Natalka Tuczkewycz
2 Pulls on Saturday, 1 Pull on Sunday
Pre-Entry Fee: \$25.00/pull or \$65/all 3 pulls.
Pre-entry closes: 2/19/2026

Limit of 40 dogs per pull! Pre-entry highly recommended!

Day of Pull Entry: \$35.00 if available (Taken from 8:00—8:45am)

To Pre-Enter On-Line: <https://form.jotform.com/243059197573062>

or fill out an official UKC Performance Entry Form and mail it to the

event secretary (Sarah Todd, address below) Checks payable to: UDSNNE

Official UKC entry forms can be found at: <https://www.ukcdogs.com/docs/showforms/performance-entry-form.pdf>



This is an outdoor event, come prepared for the weather.



SCHEDULE:

Weigh In:

8:00am-8:45am

Handler's Meeting:

8:45am

First Pull Start:

9:00am

Saturday 2nd Pull:

To follow first pull

Questions / Paypal: UDSEntries@gmail.com

Event Chair: Chris Baby, siowl@hotmail.com

Event Secretary:

Sarah Todd

17 Rice Avenue,

Kittery, ME 03904

207-451-3682 cell

allieoops201@gmail.com

**SPECTATORS
WELCOME**

Directions to 6 Gaia Lane:

From Maine Route 95, take exit 42. At the lights after the toll booth turn left onto Payne Road. In 1.5 miles turn left onto Gorham Road/Me-114N. After 3 miles, turn left onto ME-114N/ME-22W. In a mile turn right onto ME-114N and after another mile you will come to a traffic circle. Take the 1st exit off the circle and stay on ME-114N. After a mile turn left at the traffic light onto Weeks Road. (There are speed bumps on Weeks Road). After 1.1 miles Weeks Road becomes Gaia Lane.

COMPANION DOG SPORTS PROGRAM

CDSP OBEDIENCE WORKSHOP

February 22, 11:00 - 1:30
Happy Tails, 119 Bishop Street,
Portland, Maine

Come join us and bring your friends to learn more about this fun, low stress, motivational and confidence-building canine obedience sport.

Presenter is Barb Burri, CDSP Judge and Representative, Rally Judge for UKC and WCRL, and show secretary for AKC, CDSP, WCRL, USCSS, PSD, Fastcat, and Fetch. Barb teaches Star Puppy, CGC, and Obed/Rally Foundations at Tova Training in Raymond, New Hampshire. She is also a CGC and ATT evaluator.

\$25 for auditors: unlimited number
\$40 for working teams: limited to 10
Payment due with registration.

To register contact

Elissa Gifford -giffordelissa@gmail.com

or

Robyn Beeler, robynbeeler@maine.rr.com.



CDSP

is a positive
and inclusive
environment for all
dogs & people!
No Experience Needed!

SAVE THE DATES

YORK COUNTY KENNEL CLUB OF MAINE

INC

Proudly Presents

AKC OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

JUNE 6 & 7, 2026

Indoors!

Happy Tails

119 Bishop St

Portland, Maine 04103

<https://happytailsportland.com/>

Judges:

Allison Jaskiewicz – Obedience Saturday & Sunday

Robin Botelho – Rally Saturday & Sunday

Entries open April 22 and close noon May 20, 2026. Check out AKC's Event Search for
[more details.](#)

Gloria Pasquini, Trial Chair: bonniebay@roadrunner.com

Barb Burri, Trial Secretary: barb@paws4dogtrial.com



2026 – Save these dates!

UDSNNE Happy Ratter Trials



March 15



June 28



October 25



December 6

***Tova Training –
Just For Fun
Dog Sports***



*Agility - Happy Ratters - Nosework –
Obedience/Puppy Manners – Rally - Treibball/Dog Ball*

2026 Event Dates 12/27/25 updated

November 29th Benefit Christmas Pictures!!

December 27th Ratterversary

January 11th, February 21, March 15th Judy Pollard Clinics

USCSS Scent Trials:

January 24, March 21, April 25, May 16, June 20, July 18, September 19, October 24, November 21

Performance Scent Dog Trials:

January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4 BBQ (look for more details), August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5

Happy Ratter Trials and practice:

Setup: *each Friday before a Saturday trial, come help and then practice, 4:30pm*

January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12

CDSP Obedience Trials:

August 15, November 28, December 19

WCRL Rally:

January 31, April 18, July 25, August 22, December 26

Jean MacKenzie tovatraining@gmail.com (603) 724-8745

Join Tova Training on Facebook