



# 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=Skla6aEr1DQWgdObKdnZzFRae1Xi0T.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84133209791?pwd=Skla6aEr1DQWgdObKdnZzFRae1Xi0T.1)**

**Or by Phone:**

**1-305-224-1968**

**Meeting ID: 841 3320 9791 Passcode: 412845**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**2026**

Piscataqua Obedience Club  
General Meeting  
November 16, 2025  
4 Coffin Ln, Berwick, ME

**Present:** Judy Coen, Sarah Todd, Nay Smith, Merrillynn Hill, Monica Viel-Weiss, Rochelle Jones, Elizabeth Carroll, Jackie Barriere, Pam Hansen, Betsi Greene, Sarah Mackel, April Cowans, Lee Friess, Naomi Smith, Krista Rodrigues (*notetaker*), JoAnne Hayes (*no Zoom attendance - technical issues with connection*)

**Brag**

- Krista's Ponyo earned her CGC last month and Arya redid her CGC-A and joined a group dog walk for work - never giving away that she used to be a reactive little gargoyle.
- Lee's Reign got let outside the other evening - there was a skunk in the fenced yard and a lot of excitement - the brag: no one got sprayed!
- April - the lament: she has a 12 week old mouthy standard poodle. The brag: he's getting better!
- Betsi's Joey earned his NW1
- Elizabeth's Finn is now a brand ambassador for Bay Dog harnesses. They saw her social media posts and reached out (reach out to her for a discount!) Finn als got his NW1!
- Rochelle's Mason - did excellent when they were asked to make the opening remarks at a veteran event... at a dog park... with other dogs, gunfire, etc. going on.
- Merrillynn's Brinkley - just turned 6 months - entered pre-teen phase (hooray!)
- Nay's Bert did well at their last Rally trial.
- Sarah's Ernie - earned a 97 and 99 on her first two Rally legs at the Framingham Kennel Club they went to with Lee.

**Reports:**

- I. Board
  - No meeting/nothing to report
- II. Minutes
  - Note/Clarification: When we previously discussed board nominations, it was stated they had to be a member for a year when they were nominated. Per the bylaws, they have to be an active member for at least a year as of November 1st.
  - Motion to accept/seconded/passed
- III. Corresponding Secretary
  - 27 cards sent out for Thanksgiving
  - 2 Get Well cards
  - 2 birthday cards
  - Monica has 6 unknown birthdays - would love to record those who are comfortable sharing
  - If you haven't received a Halloween or Thanksgiving card, please let Monica know so she can add you to the roster.

#### IV. Classes

- Most are mid-stride, some started last week, all in all, looking good
- After the current round, January classes will start the first week of January, others will wait a little. Prior experience - challenging to 'wrangle' folks immediately post-holidays. Second week of January tends to work best.
- Rally - Steve's going to be out awhile. Merrilynn is willing to teach a day class for Rally. The student group is pretty consistent (also snowbirds)... TBD. Naomi will continue to offer rally intro class.

#### V. PR

- Website kept updated
- Betsi been doing FB posts as well
  - Lot more activity, requests to post than in the past
- Jackie helps Lee distribute/share posts, eg to local FB pages (Wells, S. Berwick, Berwick, etc.)
- Note: when searching POC on IG, it brings you elsewhere.
  - Note: The FB account has to be a page - not a group - in order to link IG to FB

#### VI. New Members

- No new applications
- Plan is to ramp up recruiting in 2026

#### VII. P&P Committee

- The committee got through the P&P manual and have a revision ready. They turned issues into questions to pose to the membership to decide.
  - Ready to send out the revised copy and the questions - will be sent thru Google group.
    - Will include a deadline for feedback to ensure we keep moving forward with the process. Questions are welcome!

### Old Business

#### I. Clarification from Judy on a couple issues of confusion:

- Re: Board/General meetings, in recent history, the board would meet for an hour before the general meeting and the first 10 minutes of that time was reserved for closed door items. After that, the general membership is welcome.
- Special meetings: for when something really important and really private came up, e.g. a disciplinary issue with a member. They are *not* routine/are very rare.
- Re: Dues. The difference between our fiscal year and our official year: the official year is tied to Board changes and begins at the January meeting (3rd Sunday). That day floats a tad every year. The fiscal year is January 1st (simplifies reports, IRS stuff, etc.) The fiscal year, January 1st, is when dues are due.

#### II. Holiday Hounds

- Fun was had, people were very helpful!
- Thank you's due to Amy (photographer) and Merrilynn (AKC Evaluator) for donating their time/services

#### III. Outreach

- Status check. Not a lot of action currently.
- Wins: Sarah used the logo for the ribbons & Telegram
- Judy - sees outreach, communications, and events as related - would like to have a small group to get together to talk about/examine each event - what went well, what didn't etc. If people are interested, Elizabeth accepted request to be the point person.
- Observation - there's no directory and the Google Group conversations don't have consistent response rates.
  - We have a membership roster with contact info - Judy proposed putting it on the membership page of the POC website and block anyone who doesn't want their info available (e.g. for security reasons)
    - The roster has each member's name, year joined, email, address, phone, alt phone, birth date and if one is a lifetime member. *Please let us know if you don't want your info shared.*

#### IV. Nomination Committee

- Lee nominated for President, which removes her from Registrar. April has agreed to become the Registrar. Lee will train her and Merrillynn will assist with class-related questions. Sarah T has volunteered to be a resource as well. Others are welcome to assist too.
- The Board can give a waiver to the one year rule (Board decision) - this action would make April the Registrar and floating Board position
  - Motion that we suspend the two month difference/appoint seconded and accepted
- No other nominations
  - When there is no competition for positions, the Secretary will cast a single vote
- Reminder: social meeting only for December with UDS - pot luck, please bring something. Sarah will be doing trivia again. Will be at POC, 12/14 at 12:00.

#### New Business

- I. Roadside sign: impossible to see in the dark and it's not in great shape. Should we explore a new sign? Repair the existing one?
  - **Must get landlord permission to enlarge it - if that's the goal.**
  - Rochelle shared a sample from her work, an 18"x24" made in a day for \$48 from a business in Epping. It is aluminum with a reflective and protective layer for weather
  - Dirigo is working with a company to change their sign and reached out to us to see if we'd like to work with them too
  - Artwork: not interested in changing the artwork.
  - *However* POC dogs isn't helpful to people driving by who aren't already involved
  - Brightness and size identified as the most prominent issues
  - **Establish a committee?**
  - **Step 1: ask Dave if we can go bigger**
    - Rochelle will take the lead on being the point person between Dave and the club
- II. Event ideas (Elizabeth):
  - A. Virtual 5K Turkey Trot - low stakes meet-ups, free this year - see notes - grow it out next year, e.g. medals/trophies etc.
    - Facebook Page vs Group for POC was discussed - different capabilities for sharing Stories, tags, etc.

- Group brainstorm:
  - Can create a certificate of completion/achievement - would count towards AKC Fit Dog
  - First year - free, can email them their certificate of completion or similar. It's on the honor system. Next year - participants have to apply, pay a fee, etc.
  - Could copy AKC's spring event held in/around April
- B. Holiday bingo (e..g this year is to have fun and suss it out - could charge for next year/going forward)
  - Ideas: bingo squares are activities to do with your dog(s). Could play it up on facebook. E.g. for the Bake Treats square, post a recipe on Facebook
    - Can also tie into classes, like the cookie stretch. Ask people to do the activity, take & share pictures.
    - Could also be something to give to students the way that Pam gave out an advent calendar of sniff games to her students.
    - Naomi - could also do 1 square per day on FB (or every other, etc.) - encourage people to share a photo of completing the activity.
    - Judy - could we get these to SOC and UDS?
- C. Lee shared that Sue Burrell, who did a conformation seminar for us a couple of years ago, is willing to do it again - in March. Last time, made \$1000 for the club.
  1. Acknowledges an instructor(s) will have to sacrifice their weekend class.
- D. Lee - we would like to get some smaller events on Fridays. Years ago we used to do Rally or Obedience. Would aim for Merrillynn's off week within class schedule. Thinking a few hours on Friday afternoon/evening but doesn't have to be Rally/OB. Ideally a few times a year.
  - April - there are a couple doctors at the vet hospital she works at who she thinks may be interested in teaching a pet first aid class as another type of event.
    - To avoid confusion over first aid - Pam is making a pet first aid *kit*

III. Merrillynn - Max200 contacted her about the jump we ordered awhile ago (new AKC reg). Our jump should be ready to ship in a few weeks but they also offered an alternative: a kit that takes the jump we currently have and converts it to meet the new regulation.. The kit is appx. \$380/400 vs. \$500 for the new jump. If we opt for the kit, Wayne can do the conversion. The kit can be shipped immediately.

- A. Nay proposed that if we go with the kit, use the money saved for a new bar jump.
  1. Motion seconded & accepted

#### IV. Other

- Pam noted that, today, the bathroom heat was off. Just a reminder - agreed to keep bathroom heat in.
- Cutover to Proton (email) - all the places email address exists (e.g. POC website) have been identified for updating. The switch will take place before we start talking January classes (sometime in December). Lee will set up a Gmail auto reply sharing the new email address.
- Sarah is going to make magnets for the upcoming Happy Ratters trial

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:29PM

# Time to BRAG!

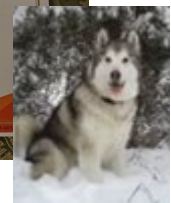


This handsome goober has been doing lots of therapy visits. Good boy Bert!



Reign ( CH Deep Harbor N Justa's I Am The Storm CD JH MX MXJ XF CGCA) earned her first double Q in agility !

Ernie and I went to the Rattaversary Happy Ratter trial at Tova Training on December 28th. Four games were offered, Silent Hunt, Road Rage, Ultimate Distance and a new game Playhouse Rats. Ernie got a perfect score in every game!



An overdue honor. My beautiful Oonah was posthumously awarded the UKC title of Super Dog. "The UKC Super Dog Program was created to celebrate dogs that exceed commonality and excel in a diverse range of sports, truly embracing the Dogs That Do More spirit."



**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  
(which also happens to be Sarah's birthday)

**Cleaning Schedule:**

January 18: Nay & Bert

January 25: Jen B

February 1: Naomi & Grendel

February 8: JoAnne

February 15: Monica

February 22: \_\_\_\_\_

March 1: JoAnne

March 8: \_\_\_\_\_

March 15: Happy Ratters



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

<https://teamup.com/ksjj53a7kqyszy6zx>



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

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto: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](mailto:UDSEntries@gmail.com)

**Event Chair:** Chris Baby, [siowl@hotmail.com](mailto:siowl@hotmail.com)

**Event Secretary:**

Sarah Todd

17 Rice Avenue,

Kittery, ME 03904

207-451-3682 cell

[allieoops201@gmail.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:bonniebay@roadrunner.com)

Barb Burri, Trial Secretary: [barb@paws4dogtrial.com](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup> Benefit Christmas Pictures!!*

*December 27<sup>th</sup> Ratterversary*

*January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 21, March 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tovatraining@gmail.com) (603) 724-8745*

***Join Tova Training on Facebook***