



The Telegram

**Piscataqua Obedience Club
March 2026**

**Next Meeting;
Sunday, March 15th
6:30pm 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

Piscataqua Obedience Club
General Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2026

Call to Order: 7:01 PM

Attendance

Lee Friess, Sarah Todd, Nay Smith, Merrillynn Hill, Monica Viel Weiss, Pam Hansen, Mary Dennett, Sarah Mackel

Zoom: Betsi Greene, Judy Coen, Krista Rodrigues, JoAnne Hayes, Jackie Barriere, Rochelle Jones

I. Brags / Member Updates

- Lee's Reign continues to be Rayne-like
- Nay's Bert – also up to his usual antics
- Krista's foster dog, Kelce, finally has a diagnosis for an ongoing leg issue (& the term "foster" is probably no longer necessary)

II. Treasurer's Report

- Accounts are current and earnings slips have been sent to instructors.
- No additional updates.

III. Correspondence

- One 'Thinking of You' card has been sent since the last meeting (Valentine's sent early/reported at the last meeting).
- Open to any suggestions for cards to send out
- Monica has been sending cards to Steve regularly, **will send another Thinking of You card shortly.**
 - Steve is doing well - ran into him at PT recently. He hopes to return to teaching in some capacity in April.
- Monica received dog stickers from a colleague at the hospital and has been including them in cards.

IV. Public Relations

- No major updates to the website or Facebook page.
- Pro Plan (website) bill for \$144 received & paid by Betsi (will request reimbursement)
- Five new requests were received from individuals wanting to participate in the Facebook page.
- Scott Mace currently retains admin privileges to the original POC Facebook page. On radar, as he is now teaching training classes at the Kittery Lions Club.
 - **Lee will continue exploring options to regain administrative control of the page.**

V. Classes

- Classes are currently doing well overall.
- Puppy and CGC classes will begin in a few weeks and both currently have four students enrolled.
- New Class (was offered in the past): combined 4 week class - polite leash walking, recall, stay.

- Obedience classes have been picking up: intro level has been running 6–11 students, mid levels 5–8, and higher levels 3–5.
- Requests have been received for obedience run-throughs (typically scheduled shortly before shows).
 - Require approximately 3–4 volunteers (judge, check-in/money, ring assistance).
- A sniff-through was discussed but space limitations make it difficult due to the openness of the facility.

VI. Old Business

- Conformation Seminar scheduled for March 7th. Seven enrolled participants and one auditor so far. Capacity is 12 with a goal of at least 10.
 - **Members encouraged to share seminar information on social media.**
- Filling the cleaning schedule still a challenge. There are approximately 15 active members who are able to clean; if each member cleaned once every three months the full year would be covered.
 - **Members who are able and haven't signed up yet asked to do so.**
 - Joanne noted that if a scheduled cleaning day is accidentally missed she can often help if contacted.
 - Sarah T. continues to manage cleaning supplies and should be notified if items are needed (before we're out).
- Merrillynn asked about getting updated pricing for agility jumps. Current estimate discussed around \$150 plus shipping.
 - Board members can approve expenses under \$500.
- New exterior sign - looks great! Color scheme similar to the previous sign - won't look dirty too easily or look too similar to Dirigo. No reflective coating - looks good/visible as-is.

VII. New Business

- Barn Hunt (BH) inquiry received from a woman interested in hosting an event (POC would need to co-sponsor). Was quoted appx. \$300 - other details need to be agreed upon but how do members feel, generally speaking, about hosting & quoted fee?
 - Would need to take place on a Sunday (parking) and would require members to assist across three volunteer shifts & not on a Nosework day (summer?).
 - Cleaning question - they take the hay with them
 - Final shift would be responsible for ensuring that the facility is cleaned appropriately before leaving.
 - Decision: **Good to move forward in discussing cleaning deposit & additional details w/BH person**, see where it goes.
- POC needs a vision! The club is currently stable, **members asked to consider what direction they would like the club to move in for the next meeting.**
 - Goal over the next four months is to collectively figure out where to go this summer -everyone is encouraged to think about potential programming, events, and the overall level of engagement desired for the club.
 - Early responses/feedback:

- Interest in increasing in-person social or club-style gatherings (reminiscent of the 'old days' of the club)
- If going to grow membership, growth needs to have a purpose (not just for the sake of numbers)
- Important for folks to evaluate their personal capacity to commit to desired goals/programming
- Event ideas: Doggy runway, dog Olympics, safety presentation (Rochelle clarified - as a volunteer, not thru PD. Since not dog-related, **must check with insurance**), Pet First Aid seminar (Merrillynn's friend available in April), installing mirrors at the facility

VIII. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn/seconded/passed at 8:11 PM.



2026 – Save these dates!

UDSNNE Happy Ratter Trials



March 15



June 28



October 25



December 6

YORK COUNTY KENNEL CLUB OF MAINE, INC

AKC SANCTIONED MATCH
WITH CGC & ATT TESTING

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

TRAIN THE DAWG

8 Continental Dr

Exeter, NH

8am to 3pm

Judges/Evaluators

Isabella Eaton, Clinton, MA: Herding, Sporting, Toys, Jr. Showmanship, Best Adult in Match
Grace Kowalski, Barnstead, NH: Terriers, Hounds, Working, Non-sporting, Best Puppy in Match

Robyn Januszewski & Isabella Eaton: CGC Testing in Morning

Robyn Januszewski & Grace Kowalski: ATT Testing in Afternoon

Pre-entry: \$10 per entry

Day-of entry: \$15 per entry

Jr Showmanship: \$5

ATT Test: \$25 Pre-test

CGC, Trick Dog Novice, and Trick Dog Intermediate for the same dog:

1 test \$25 2 tests \$40 3 tests \$60

Breed classes offered:

Puppies 4-6, 6-9, 9-12

Adults 12-18, Novice, Am Bred, Open, Misc Classes

Juniors:

Junior (8 years to under 12)

Intermediate (12 years to under 15)

Senior (15 year to under 18)



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:

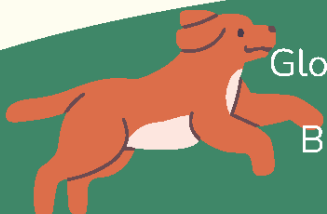
Allison Jaskiewicz – Obedience Saturday & Sunday

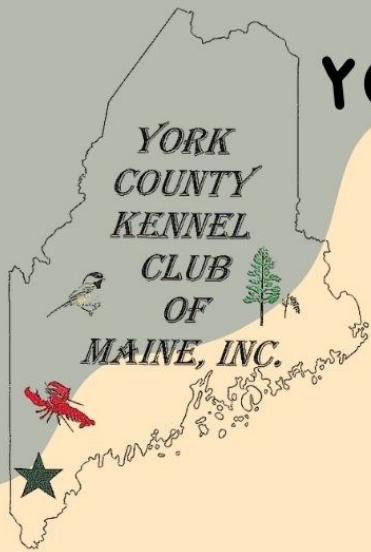
Robin Botelho – Rally Saturday & Sunday

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





YORK COUNTY KENNEL CLUB OF MAINE, INC

2026 Events

MARCH 21

AKC SANCTIONED MATCH WITH CGC AND ATT TESTING

TRAIN THE DAWG, EXETER, NEW
HAMPSHIRE

JUDGES: ISABELLA EATON: HERDING,
SPORTING, TOYS, JR. SHOWMANSHIP,
BEST ADULT IN MATCH

GRACE KOWALSKI: TERRIERS, HOUNDS,
WORKING, NON-SPORTING, BEST PUPPY IN
MATCH

MAY 16-17

FAST CAT EVENT

AMERICAN K9 COUNTRY, AMHERST, NEW
HAMPSHIRE

MAY 16-17

CANINE CARNIVALE – AKC ALL- BREED CONFORMATION SHOW

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS,
CUMBERLAND, MAINE

JUNE 6-7

OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS

HAPPY TAILS, PORTLAND, MAINE

JUDGES: ALISON JASKOWITZ, OBEDIENCE
ROBIN BOTELHO, RALLY

JULY 25

MEET THE BREEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY, KENNEBUNK,
MAINE

SEPTEMBER 19-20

FAST CAT EVENT

AMERICAN K9 COUNTRY, AMHERST, NEW
HAMPSHIRE

OCTOBER 24-25

OBEDIENCE & RALLY TRIALS

HAPPY TAILS, PORTLAND, MAINE

JUDGES: DR. KAREN WESTERFIELD TUCKER –
OBEDIENCE

ELIZABETH CLEAVES -- RALLY



UPDATES & MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

FACEBOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/YCKCOFME](https://www.facebook.com/YCKCOFME)

WEBSITE [HTTPS://YCKCMAINE.ORG/](https://YCKCMAINE.ORG/)



***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