The Telegram

Piscataqua Obedience Club
September 2026

Next Meeting;

Sunday, September 20th

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

General Meeting Minutes
Piscataqua Obedience Club
4 Coffin Ln, Berwick, ME
May 17, 2026

Meeting Start Time: *7:01 p.m.*

Attendance

Lee Friess, Monica Viel-Weiss, Betsi Greene, Nay Smith, Pam Hansen, JoAnne Hayes, Merrillynn Hill, Sarah Todd, Judy Cohen, Anya Wittenborg (prospective member), Jen Bourque (Zoom), Rochelle Jones (Zoom), Gabbi Bock-Koller (Zoom) (prospective member), Angus Bock-Koller (Zoom) (prospective member)

I. Brags

- Sarah's Ernie ran 23 mph, finished her BCAT and is now working toward her DCAT.
- Jen's Ripley ran over 24 mph and earned two more points toward her DCAT.
- Merrillynn's Dani returned to the ring for the first time in nearly two years after extensive post-injury recovery. She won Novice B with a perfect score & high in trial and is now a happy soul.
- JoAnne's Rosette competed in Nationals and had a wonderful time.
- Nay's Bert finished his RAE with two first places and a second place, including scores of 99 and 200, and took High Triple.
- Betsi's Joey took the fetch class… and Joey actually brought the ball back to her.
- Anya's Audrey is doing well in the Nose Work classes.
- Lee's Reign competed in CDSP and earned a 199 score and second place.
- Judy added Felicia to the family (welcome!). Felicia has already finished Manners class and will be starting CGC and Rally very soon. Felicia is a retired mill momma and is 5 years old.
- Gabbi's Notch was at the CDSP trial in Starter Novice and earned scores of 192 and 192.5. Notch also received an award for Weight Pull at a recent UKC event.

II. Minutes

- Motion to accept the minutes as-is, seconded, accepted.

III. Treasurer

- No formal Treasurer's Report but the club is doing well. Entries and deposits are all caught up.

IV. Public Relations

- The Facebook page has had more people asking to post.
- The website has been updated.
    - → newsletter is available on the website.

V. Correspondence

- Correspondence included 26 Easter items and 2 birthday items.
- Preparations are underway for June birthdays.

VI. Classes

- Pam's classes have moved to Wednesdays and there will no longer be Sunday classes.
- One class is being switched to an "Out and About" format. There is one opening in that class. It will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays beginning May 29.
- There are openings in Manners classes.
- CGC and puppy classes are expected to begin soon, likely in June.
- Puppy class discussed as a great gateway class to CGC and to taking dogs out and about.
- Looking into being able to offer CGC Urban.

VII. Old Business

- The cleaning schedule is covered through June 22, followed by Ratters event and then coverage will be needed for future weeks. Members were asked to take a look at the cleaning needs.
- Cleaning is required three times per year for those who are able to.
    - →After the summer, the club will probably need to return to having someone in charge of organizing the cleaning schedule. It has continued to fall to Lee to bring it up at meetings and ask people to volunteer. Will be looking for a volunteer to coordinate this.
- The new jumps have arrived and need to be assembled.
- Dave emailed Lee about the sign. He will work with Nay regarding getting a new bracket and post installed because the existing framework is not stable enough.
- Dave has also ordered a replacement door. He was quoted 6–8 weeks from the time of the email. The new door will use the same locking handle mechanism that's currently in place.
- Following a board discussion, members were reminded that classes take priority over majority of other occurrences.
    - →E.g. if someone has signed up for ring time and a class is still going on, the individual should be respectful and mindful about interrupting.
    - →For example, if multiple people are waiting, one person should go in and check with the instructor rather than having multiple people enter or interrupt the class.
- There are two upcoming events at POC. Barn Hunt is one of them (Maine Critter Gitters) and volunteers are needed to help cover the event. New volunteers would be paired with someone experienced.
    - → Several individuals' availability to volunteer discussed. Solid start on coverage. Lee will take a list of volunteers and connect everyone so they can coordinate. Lee does not yet have further information about the event hours.
    - → 2–3 hour shifts suggested.

- Rochelle set up a Facebook page and Instagram account for the club under the name Piscataqua Obedience Club Berwick. (Scott M. still has control of the original Facebook page after removing all other admins. The new page was created to allow the club to manage its own communications.)
    - →Rochelle will add other admins to the new accounts.
    - →The new page is intended to function primarily as a professional business page for ads and club communications (what we want folks to know). Not intended to be used as hub for interaction or discussion.
- There was clarification that one of the membership requirements is either participating in a group clean or working an event. The purpose is to give members an opportunity to work with other members - not just to learn how to clean.
- The heat is off in the bathroom for the season. Members asked to leave the bathroom door cracked open during spring and summer for air circulation

VIII. New Business

- There will be no June meeting - there is currently no need and no business requiring a meeting.
- It was confirmed that Elizabeth and Ashley have both been removed from the membership list, as they have both moved a considerable distance away.

IX. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded, accepted. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

REMINDER:

Donations are being solicited for some upcoming raffle baskets

One for the October 10th (Autumn Themed) CDSP Trial.

One for the October 25th (Halloween Themed) Happy Ratter trial.

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 donated in the past.

To sign up for your turn to clean and vacuum, go to the Team Up Link:

https://teamup.com/ksjj53a7kqyszsy6zx

Time to BRAG!

Beacon goes High in Trial at both UDSNNE Rally trials ! At 11 years old she still loves to work

A note from former member Sonya Markham:

We lost Daisy in March to lymphoma. But now we have a new family member, Benjamin! 7 month old JRT. He starts POC classes Friday. Manners with Merrilyn! He's a fun loving, loves everyone and everything little package! See you around POC!

Naomi & Wayne's handsome boy Bert was invited to a wedding!

Well, little miss Ernie had a spectacular weekend at the United Dog Sports of Northern New England trials this past weekend! As usual, I was the show secretary, so she got to go off with other people to have fun as I toiled away.

Weight Pull: two max pulls (1,3878 lbs, 21x body weight) which earned her Highest Percentage Pulled, Division A on Sunday

Precision Coursing: 4 qualifying Dash runs & 4 qualifying Steeplechase runs

Rally-Obedience: 3 Level 2 runs with Qs in all to earn her URO2 title! Scores of 100, 97 & 97 and second place each time.

Companion Dog Sports Program

The venue your dog would choose . . .

What is more fun than training your dog? Testing their skills –- and yours – in a friendly, safe environment.

What makes CDSP Competition Obedience different?

The program sanctions obedience trials where handlers and their dogs can earn titles in the Starter Novice, Novice, Open, Utility, and Versatility classes. Teams can earn titles and championships by collecting qualifying scores, not by winning placements.

CDSP was created using a combination of traditional competition obedience exercises and guidelines as well as feedback from exhibitors, trainers and judges across the country. The result is a registry that celebrates a natural style of competition obedience in a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere.

Why CDSP Competition Obedience?

CDSP is a natural style of competition obedience that provides a relaxed and fun experience for both handler and dog.

- Handlers are allowed and encouraged to praise their dog during most of the exercises. In addition, handler can deliver a small treat at the end of each exercise.
- Safety is important! There are never two dogs in the ring at the same time, eliminating concerns about the behavior level of other competitors' dogs.
- CDSP is accessible to more dogs and handlers. There is only one stay exercise, in the Novice class, which is done individually.
- Fun is built in! Several new and exciting exercises have been added to the Utility class, including a bonus exercise, which can add up to 20 points to a team's score.
- CDSP is accessible! All dogs, age 6 months or older—whether purebred, mixed breed and even dogs with disabilities—are eligible and encouraged to compete in CDSP Obedience Trials.
- CDSP supports traditional competition obedience. Training for traditional competition obedience? CDSP can help you establish a solid obedience foundation and build confidence for teams just starting out or moving up to more difficult levels.
- Veteran dogs can keep working! Veteran dogs enjoy staying in the game as much as any other competitor. CDSP allows veteran dogs to jump heights that are 2" lower than their normal jump height, keeping the sport safe for dogs of every age.

Whether you're coming back to competition obedience or want to try it for the first time, CDSP can give you a challenging but fun experience in a relaxed atmosphere. It is, I believe, the venue your dog would choose.

http://www.companiondogsportsprogram.com

Piscataqua Obedience Club
CDSP Sanctioned Trials
Saturday, October 10, 2026
2 Trials
All Trials: Utility C/B/A, Versatility C/B/A, Open C/B/A, Starter Novice C/B/A, Novice C/B/A

This is a titling event under Companion Dog Sports Program rules and regulations.
Open to all dogs of any breed and any ability – including mixed breeds.
Go to www.companiondogsportsprogram.com for more information.

Hosts and Location

Piscataqua Obedience Club
Trials will be held at:
POC Training Building
4 Coffin Lane
Berwick, ME 03901
Contact/Trial Secretary: Sarah Todd
Email: allieoops201@gmail.com
Phone: 207-451-3682

Entries Open: Monday, August 10, 2026 (by postmark date) Entries accepted by postal mail or online entries. No telephone or fax entries will be accepted.	**Entries Close: Friday, October 2, 2026 at 11:59pm** Day of show entries will not be accepted.
Enter online at: https://form.jotform.com/262058007841050	

Limited to 30 entries per trial
All Classes: *$28.00 per run*
Doors open at 8:30AM / Judging begins at 9:00AM
This is an indoor trial on rubber matting / Indoor crating is not available

Trial Schedule

Trials will start at 9:00am with Starter Novice and go up in levels from there.

Saturday – October 10, 2026				
Trials will run Concurrently **Trial 1 of each level will be followed by Trial 2 of the same level**				
Trial 1		→	Trial 2	
Starter Novice C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer	→	Starter Novice C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer
Novice C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer	→	Novice C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer
Open C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer	→	Open C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer
Utility C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer	→	Utility C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer
Versatility C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer	→	Versatility C/B/A	Charlene Swainamer

Trial Committee

Please direct all inquiries concerning the trials to the Trial Secretary.

Trial Secretary Sarah Todd 17 Rice Ave, Kittery, ME 03904 Allieoops201@gmail.com 207-451-3682	**CDSP Representative** Charlene Swainamer allpawsup@hotmail.com
Trial Chairperson Judy Coen jacoen31@gmail.com	

Facility, Check-In, Crating, and Food

Doors open at 8:30AM each day. Please do not arrive prior to this time. Judging will begin at 9:00AM each day. Initial confirmation will be sent after receipt of mailed or online entry with payment. Final confirmation and running order per trial will be sent by email after the closing date.

There is no indoor crating, but it will be easy to work out of your car. Be sure to bring your water for yourself and your dog. Please be courteous to other exhibitors. Do not take extra space or block crates or cars.

Entries limited to 30 runs per trial. Any changes to entries, including cancellations, will be accepted until the closing date, October 2. Changes must be sent to the Trial Secretary by e-mail or in writing. Any changes requested after October 2, up to and including the day of trial, may be subject to a $5.00 processing fee, payable day of trial. Cancellations received after October 2 may not be eligible for a refund of fees.

If known prior to the trials, level/class move ups must be submitted to the Trial Secretary. Level move ups will be allowed between trials. Move ups from the A or B class to the C class are *mandatory*. Move-ups at the trials must be submitted to the Trial Secretary using the Move Up Form provided at the trials.

There are plenty of convenience stores/fast food restaurants close to the trials.

Awards

Placement ribbons will be awarded to the top four (4) high scoring teams in all classes. Qualifying ribbons will be awarded to each team in all classes that achieve a qualifying score. A rosette will be awarded to High in Trial and High Combined in Trial for each trial.

Level title (SN-C, CD-C, CDX-C, UD-C, UDX-C, VT-C), Individual Level Championship title (ASN-C, CD-CCH, CDX-CCH, UD-CCH, VT-CCH), and Obedience Championship title (OTCH-C) rosettes will be awarded. **Please note that title rosettes will be reserved for exhibitors who indicate Anticipated Title(s) on their entry.** Titles earned at the trial but not indicated on the exhibitor entry will be provided as soon as possible after the trial.

Notice to Competitors

Competitors, through submission of entry, acknowledge that they are knowledgeable of CDSP rules and regulations (see www.companiondogsportsprogram.com), including but not limited to the following rules regarding entry:

- This trial is open to a dog at least six months of age, including purebred and non-purebred, except bitches in season or dogs with disabilities, injuries, or illnesses which may cause the dog pain or great discomfort, or dogs exhibiting signs of aggression that threaten the safety of other dogs or humans.
- Dogs must be shown by a member of the owner's immediate family: mother, father, spouse, life partner, sibling, child, grandparent, or grandchild.
- All dogs shall be shown in a flat buckle or snap collar, or properly fitted Martingale (limited slip) collar. No choke collar, prong collars, shock collars, harnesses, Martingale leads, or head collars are allowed.
- All dogs must be registered with CDSP on the day of competition. See www.companiondogsportsprogram.com to complete the registration form and submit it to the CDSP office.
- Safety shall always be of foremost consideration in actions and conduct by handlers at all times. Handlers, through entry at this event, accept full responsibility for themselves and the actions of their dogs.
- The organizing committee may refuse any entry for any reason.
- THERE SHALL BE NO REFUND for entries withdrawn after the closing date or in the event a dog and/or handler are dismissed from competition, regardless of reason for such dismissal. A dog or handler who suffers an injury and/or illness or bitches that come into season after the closing date may be eligible for a 50% refund of their total entry fee. Written request for refund must be made to the Trial Secretary BEFORE the end of each event. Please provide documentation from your veterinarian/physician. There will be no refunds if the trial has to be cancelled for any reason.
- Returned checks do not constitute a valid entry. There will be a $35.00 service charge for returned checks. Payment of entry fees and service charges shall be made in cash or money order within 30 days of postmark of notice of returned check where notification is received after event date. Any unpaid fees or shortfalls must be paid prior to the start of the event or entry is cancelled without recourse by owner/handler.
- No entry fees will be refunded if the trial cannot open or be completed by reason of riots, civil disturbances, fire, Act of God, public emergency, act of a public enemy, strike, or any other cause beyond the control of the organizers.
- All competitors through entry at this event grant to Companion Dog Sports Program, their representatives, agents, and assigns, all rights and permissions to use or appropriate my and the dog's name, biography, likeness, photograph, voice, performing persona, or other indicia or identity for broadcast, telecast, cablecast, transmission, or distribution in any format or media now known or hereafter to become known and waive any and all rights relative thereto.
- All competitors through entry at this event grant to Companion Dog Sports Program, their representatives, agents, and assigns, hereby release CDSP, the hosting club, their representatives, agents, and assigns from any claim or cause of action for invasion of the rights of privacy, right of personality, or any similar right.
- Competitors shall have the right to videotape portions of this event for their personal use only. No portion of this event may be videotaped for commercial or other purposes.
- Dogs must remain under control and on leash at all times while on trial site grounds. Please pick up after your dog and yourself.

CDSP Class Descriptions

For a complete description of the CDSP rules, regulations, performance guidelines, explanation of exercises, etc. go to www.companiondogsportsprogram.com. To learn more and chat with other CDSP exhibitors, you can join the CDSPObedience Yahoo! Group by sending a message to CDSPObedience-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

A, B, and C Classes

Starter Novice A: Shall be for dogs who have not earned any other obedience title in any registry and do not have a qualifying score (Q) in Novice in any obedience registry.

Starter Novice B: Shall be for dogs who have earned a Beginner Novice (BN) obedience title or equivalent in any registry and do not have a qualifying score (Q) in Novice in any obedience registry.

Starter Novice C: Shall be for dogs who have earned a CDSP Starter Novice title (SN-C) in either the A or B class and do not have a qualifying score (Q) in Novice in any obedience registry.

Novice A: Shall be for dogs who have not earned any other obedience title in any registry.

Novice B: Shall be for dogs who have earned an obedience title in any registry.

Novice C: Shall be for dogs who have earned a CDSP Novice title (CD-) in either the A or B class.

Open A: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Novice obedience title (CD-C).

Open B: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Novice obedience title (CD-C) and/or any other Open obedience titles in any registry.

Open C: Shall be for dogs who have earned a CDSP Open title (CDX-C) in either the A or B class.

Utility A: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Open obedience title (CDX-C).

Utility B: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Utility obedience title (UD-C) and who wish to earn a CDSP Utility Dog Excellent title (UDX-C) and a CDSP Obedience Trial Championship title (OTCH-C).

Utility C: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Utility obedience title (UD-C) and who wish to earn the CDSP Utility Championship obedience title (UD-CCH).

Versatility A: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Novice obedience title (CD-C).

Versatility B: Shall be for dogs who have earned the CDSP Novice obedience title (CD-C) and any other Open or Utility qualifying leg or obedience title in any registry.

Versatility C: Shall be for dogs who have earned a CDSP Versatility title (VT-C) in either the A or B class.

Jump Heights

Dogs are not required to be measured the day of the trial or prior to judging. However, judges have the option to measure any dog prior to his/her performance if the dog appears to be entered in a group lower than might be indicated by his/her registered shoulder height. Jump heights may also be modified based on physical challenges that a particular dog may face.

Veteran dogs (seven years and older) may jump 2" lower than regular jump height indicated on above chart.

Note: If modifying your dog's jump height, select the modified height on your entry and check the box to indicate modified height. You must also submit an Exercise Modification Form to be signed by the trial judge and attached to your score sheet. An Exercise Modification Form must be completed for each trial.

Height at withers	High/Bar Jumps (inches)
5.5" and under	4
8.0" and under	6
11.0" and under	8
13.5" and under	10
16.0" and under	12
19.0" and under	14
21.5" and under	16
24.0" and under	18
27.0" and under	20
Over 27"	22

The Exercise Modification Form can be completed online then printed from the following link:

http://www.companiondogsportsprogram.com/index_htm_files/CDSPExerciseModFormV1_2.pdf.

Official Companion Dog Sports Program Entry Form

Piscataqua Obedience Club ● Saturday, October 10, 2026

Entries Open: 8/10/2026 by postmark/online ● Entries Close: 10/2/2026

Enter online at: https://form.jotform.com/262058007841050

Entries will be accepted via regular mail (complete form below w/ Agreement).

Send completed form below with check made payable to **P.O.C.** to:

Piscataqua Obedience Club
c/o Sarah Todd
17 Rice Avenue
Kittery, ME 03904

Dog Information Entry forms are per team; please submit a **full 2-page entry for each team to be entered**.

Call Name:	Registered Name:	Breed:
CDSP Reg. #:	Circle Jump Height*: (Check this box if circled height is modified height: ☐) **4" 6" 8" 10" 12" 14" 16" 18" 20" 22"**	
Dogs must have a CDSP registration number. Entries will not be accepted or considered valid without a registration number. To register, go to www.companiondogsportsprogram.com. **If modification for jump height is being submitted, please circle the MODIFIED jump height on entry form and bring completed Exercise Modification Form to trials for submission to the Trial Secretary.*		

Owner/Handler Information

Owner's Name:	Handler's Name: (if different from Owner; must be an immediate family member)
Address:	City: State: Zip:
Phone Day: Evening:	E-Mail:

Regular mail entries are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. E-mail confirmations will be sent out shortly after your entry has been received. Please include a valid e-mail address with mailed entry.

Circle A, B, or C for each class entered.			
Saturday – October 10, 2026			
Trials will run Concurrently **Trial 1 of each level will be followed by Trial 2 of the same level**			
Trial 1		**Trial 2**	
Starter Novice	A B C	Starter Novice	A B C
Novice	A B C	Novice	A B C
Open	A B C	Open	A B C
Utility	A B C	Utility	A B C
Versatility	A B C	Versatility	A B C

Volunteers Are Needed!

Volunteers (Gate/Stewards) are needed for the trials. Lunch will be provided to all workers.
If you would like to volunteer, **check this box** and you will be contacted if your help is needed. ☐

Entry Fees

Total Number of Classes Entered:_____ $28.00 per class; Make checks payable to **"P.O.C."**	**$**

I anticipate earning the following title(s):	
(Circle title/Add # if necessary)	
SN-C	**ASN-C #_____**
CD-C	**CD-CCH #_____**
CDX-C	**CDX-CCH #_____**
UD-C	**UD-CCH #_____**
VT-C	**VT-CCH # _____**
UDX-C	**OTCH-C**
Please note that title rosettes will be reserved for exhibitors who indicate anticipated title(s) on their entry. Titles earned at the trial but not indicated on the exhibitor entry will be provided as soon as possible after the trial.	

GENERAL AGREEMENT

I (we) agree that Piscataqua Obedience Club has the right to refuse this entry for any cause, which the organizing committee alone shall deem to be sufficient. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, of the holding of the event, and of the opportunity to have the dog participate and/or to be judged, I (we) agree to hold the organizing committee, the hosting club(s), Companion Dog Sports Program, including their members, officers, directors, agents and employees, sponsors of the event, and owners of the premises upon which the event is held and their employees, harmless from any claim for loss or injury that may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of this dog while in or upon the event premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I (we) personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim. I (we) further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss of this dog by disappearance, theft, death or otherwise, and from any claim for damage or injury to the dog, whether such loss, disappearance, appearance, theft, damage, or injury be caused or alleged to be caused by the negligence of the parties aforementioned, or by the negligence of any other person, or any other cause or causes. I (we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify and save the aforementioned parties harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon any of the aforementioned parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death resulting at any time there from, sustained by any person or persons, including myself (ourselves), or on account of damage to property arising out of or in consequence of my (our) participation in this event, howsoever such injuries, death, or damage to property may be caused, and whether or not the same may have been caused or may have been alleged to have been caused by negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees or agents or any other persons.

I (we) further acknowledge that I (we) have read, understand, and will abide by the Official Rules and Regulations of Companion Dog Sports Program and the provisions for entry as set forth in the Trial Schedule of which this entry form is a part. I (we) acknowledge and represent that the information supplied by me (us) herein is correct to the best of my (our) knowledge; if any portion of this information is found to be invalid or insufficient to establish the validity of my (our) entry, such finding shall render my (our) entry invalid in its entirety, for which there shall be no refund of fees paid. Further, I (we) represent that I am (we are) the owner(s) of the dog listed hereon, or that I (we) am (are) a family member of the dog's owner as stated and allowed in the CDSP rules, and that I (we) shall hold the hosting club(s) and CDSP, including their officers, directors, employees and agents and their sponsors, harmless from any liability or claim made by dog's owner.

Further, I (we) hereby grant to Companion Dog Sports Program, Piscataqua Obedience Club, their representatives, agents, and assigns, all rights and permissions to use or appropriate my and the dog's name, biography, likeness, photograph, voice, performing persona, or other indicia or identity for broadcast, telecast, cablecast, transmission, or distribution in any format or media now known or hereafter to become known. I (we) hereby release CDSP, the hosting club(s), their representatives, agents, and assigns from any claim or cause of action for invasion of the rights of privacy, right of personality, or any similar right.

Signature: **Date:**

Parent or Legal Guardian signature for junior or minor entries:

Signature: **Date:**

This signed and dated Agreement must accompany your entry form. Entries must also be received with correct fees by the closing date at the address provided. Entries will not be accepted by overnight mail.