

# Saccarappa Yapper



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## The next meeting will be:

Wed, Apr. 22, 2020

At 7:00 PM at:

TBD

Pending COVID 19

Refreshments:

**Bring Your Own- It's a teleconference meeting!!**

The regular monthly meeting of Saccarappa Obedience Club on 3/25/2020, was held by conference call due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Sandy Cloutier. The president called the roll. Twenty- three members and one guest were present.

The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer reported a loss of income due to class refunds for the portions of classes not held. There were no bills presented. The report was accepted.

The Corresponding Secretary reported that the updated membership list will go to the AKC.

There were no committee reports because of the difficulty in a conference call.

Unfinished business: None reported.

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**Congratulations to Elissa and Dart for earning their AKC Rally Novice title with a perfect score!**

(continued from page 1)

## New business:

AKC rules state that a club meets a minimum of 6 times per year, but many schedule monthly meetings. The Board recommends changing the language of our bylaws. A long discussion ensued including the need (or not) of an emergency amendment to meet six times per year. This motion was tabled for now. The discussion continued about how bylaws are changed, including notifications and a vote. A motion passed in favor of changing the bylaws.

Brenda reported that she received a message from Rebeccah Aube stating that, per order of the governor, all non-essential businesses will be closed until at least 4/8/2020. At that point Frank will re-evaluate the situation. At the time of our meeting, American K-9 Country was still open (but subsequently closed). Nanci Hayes added that all of her judging assignments have been cancelled until the Fourth of July.

The June 6 SOC scent trial has been cancelled.

SOC returned partial checks to students for classes they did not attend and paid the teachers for their time. We will start clean when we can reopen.

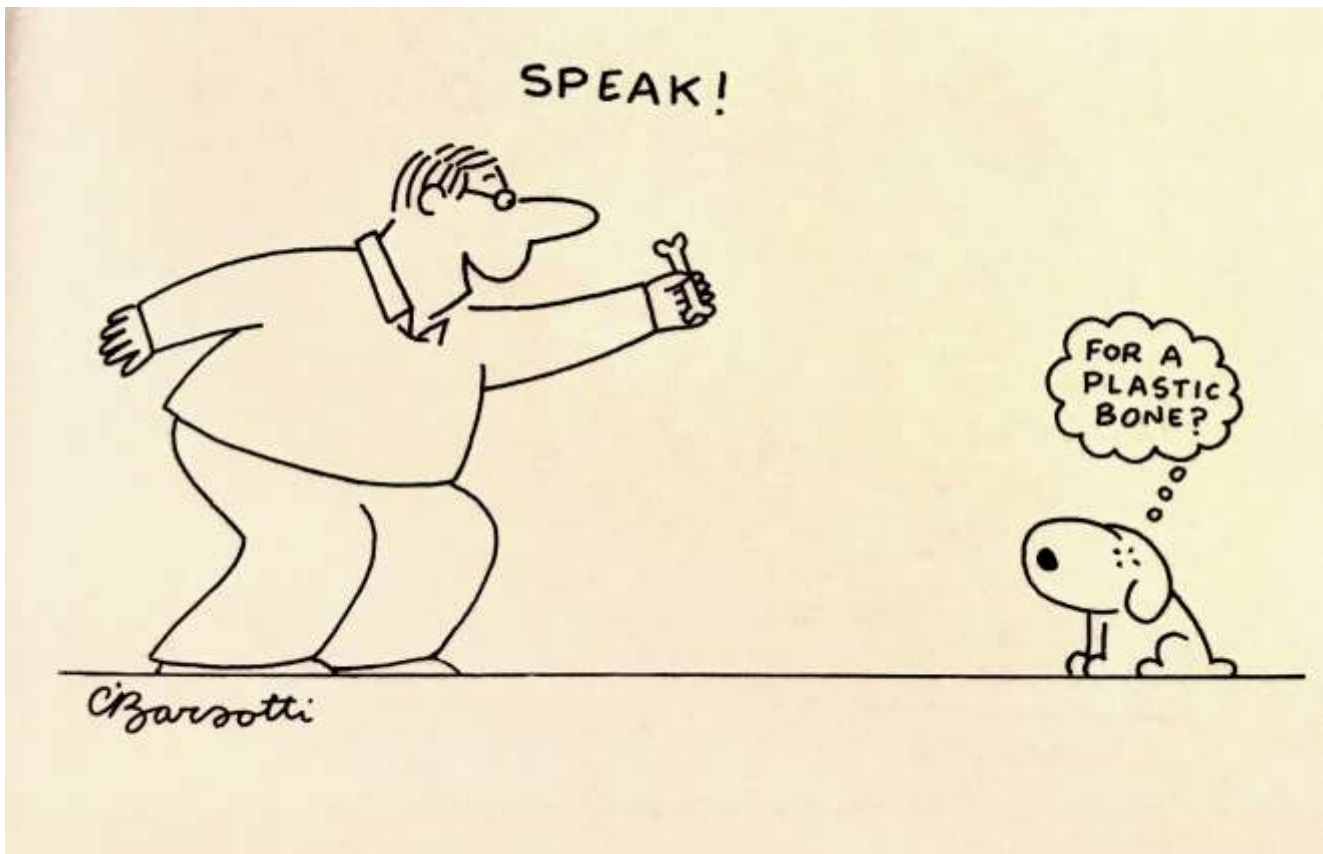
Other new business: none.

We will plan on another conference call for next month, and Sandy will email directions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Drema Shaw Recording Secretary.



# BOARD MEETING

The monthly board meeting of Saccarappa Obedience Club was held on 3/20/2020 by conference call due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by President Sandy Cloutier. Seven members were present on the call.

The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as reported.

Deb wants to print brochures for the club and wonders if she needs permission to charge for it. She will submit a receipt to be reimbursed. Mary renewed 2 CD's for 6 months to see what will happen with interest rates. Three more are due on 4/13/2020. Our current interest rates are in effect until 4/2/2020, but then will change. Sandy suggests that Mary calls and makes an appointment to talk about it with the bank.

Corresponding Secretary had nothing to report.

Committee reports-- we need to wait and see what is coming for the future. We will wait for the full membership meeting to discuss.

We have a new membership application from Tina's husband. The upcoming conference call will count as a meeting.

The Barron Center is closed until at least the end of April...possibly.

Happy Tails is closing and will charge us only for when we were there.

## **New Business:**

Elissa questions the role of the corresponding secretary. AKC lists several duties which we have split into other committees. We will plan to continue as we have been, as written in our By-laws.

By-laws changes--We need to evaluate what we have written and why. Most clubs have a monthly schedule, but list a number of meetings per year to allow for some flexibility. Sandy will need help to work on these. We may do an emergency amendment to cover us for now (monthly meeting requirement), but then will need to change the by-laws. After that, we will not need to worry about it, and the change would help us to cover our picnic and parties. We discussed the change and will recommend to the membership that they agree. Carol made a motion to write an emergency By-law amendment to hold "at least 6 meetings per year." The Board voted to approve the change.

Jeremy sent a message to Sandy that Rebecca had just posted that the "Training center is closed indefinitely at this time." We can not start training anyway until they re-open.

Sandy reminded the board to submit a bill for any telephone bill charging for the conference call.

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Drema Shaw

*Where have you been? Send those  
brags to shawtwin25@hotmail.com*

*Pictures welcome!*

*Where will you be? Let us know  
where we can cheer you on!*

Upcoming AKC April Events for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts

**May 1** Teamwork Agility Club of Central Massachusetts  
Westborough, MA  
*Obedience*

**May 2-3** American Bullmastiff Association  
Franklin, MA  
*Obedience, Rally*

**May 3** **Dog Tracking Club of Maine**  
**Augusta, ME**  
***Tracking***

**May 8-9** Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer  
Valley  
Westfield MA  
*Obedience, Rally*

**May 17** Tracking Club of Massachusetts  
Gardiner MA  
*Tracking*

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO BREEZE who recently earned her Therapy Dog Novice Title.  
Way to go Breeze and Debbie Mazjanis**



**May 17** German Shepherd Dog Club of Southern New Hampshire  
Northfield NH  
*Scent Work*

**May 30-31** Norwegian Elkhound Minutemen Association  
Amherst, NH  
*Agility*

**Check AKC.ORG for updates on these events as the information may change**

**\*\*SOUTHERN MAINE COASTAL CLASSIC MAY 15-18 has been cancelled.**



# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

*Please share this alert with Legislative Liaisons, Club Members, and Responsible Dog Owners in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.*

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/alert-changes-legislative-calendars-new-england/>

*Monday, March 16, 2020*

In response to the latest coronavirus news, AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) has learned that Legislative Leaders in New England have taken various steps to mitigate the outbreak. Please refer to the summary for each state below and know that we will keep you informed of changes as they develop.

Connecticut: After initially re-scheduling public hearings from last week on bills impacting dogs, the General Assembly has now closed the capitol to suspend legislative activities through March 30th. The understanding is that bills heard prior to the shutdown remain active to be voted upon, but those not heard are inactive. Only one bill included in AKC GR's [prior alert](#), [HB 5368](#) had a hearing and has been voted favorably by committee.

[HB 5368](#) would establish a taskforce composed of political appointees to study the use of breed of dog as an underwriting factor for homeowner's insurance policies. AKC believes that insurance companies should determine coverage of a dog-owning household based on the dog's deeds, not the dog's breed. If a dog is a well-behaved member of the household and the community, there is no reason to deny or cancel coverage. As written, this bill provides no assurances that the taskforce's composition would be fairly balanced in representing the perspectives of dog owners, in addition to insurers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: All dog owners in Connecticut are encouraged to email their state representative and senator requesting they oppose HB 5368. To identify your legislators and how to contact them, go to <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>. Let them know you are opposed to HB 5368 allowing insurance industry members to make homeowners policy recommendations without the input of responsible dog owners.

Maine: The Maine Legislature announced on Friday that the 2020 session would end on Tuesday, March 17. Members of the budget committee were expected to work over the weekend to finalize a spending proposal, including provisions for a response to the coronavirus, by the Tuesday deadline. Other measures endorsed by legislative panels could be considered by the Legislature when it meets on what is likely to be a marathon day on Tuesday. Unfinished matters are said to be carried over until the Legislature reconvenes.

Massachusetts: The General Court in Massachusetts has postponed until further notice committee hearings and public events scheduled in the statehouse. The 2020 legislative calendar does not officially require adjournment until July 31, 2020.

New Hampshire: In New Hampshire, the General Court has suspended all legislative activities for at least one week, March 16-20, 2020. The State House will be closed to legislative members, legislative staff, and visitors, but remain open for governmental operations until further notice.

Rhode Island: There will be no General Assembly sessions during the week of March 16-20, 2020. All legislative offices will also be closed.

Vermont: The Vermont Legislature has adjourned until Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The State House will be closed during the adjournment. All staff except essential security and IT personnel will work remotely.

AKC GR will provide additional information as developments warrant. For more information, contact AKC GR at [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

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# Dogs!

## A Science Tail

Temporary Exhibit

Now on exhibit through May 25!

(Exhibit is temporarily & currently closed due to COVID 19 Response)

Sniff out the science behind our puppy love at the Museum of Science! Let curiosity be your guide and discover life from a dog's point of view in *Dogs! A Science Tail*, a richly interactive exhibition for humans. Experience the extraordinary way a dog sees, hears, and smells the world through fun and unique hands-on activities and uncover the science of our enduring bond.

From lovable companions to loyal protectors, dogs have evolved over thousands of years from ancient wolves into the cuddly canines that live and work alongside us today. They can rescue us from peril, provide help to people in need, or offer a furry shoulder to lean on. Dig deeper into these incredible animals and how they communicate with each other — and with us!



Explore how science is helping us better understand our tail wagging companions and what makes our relationship one of the most successful interspecies partnerships of all time. Train a virtual dog to heed your commands and unearth replica fossils of wolves and dogs to reveal their surprising similarities. You'll also enjoy walking an invisible dog through a neighborhood maze, playing a special game of "pup culture" Jeopardy, and exploring the various careers that involve these intelligent animals. Be sure to record your own story of a special dog and proudly share your puppy pictures in the exhibition photo gallery.

Don't miss this chance to discover how dogs have nuzzled their way into human society and into our hearts to become our loyal sidekicks and life-saving heroes. You'll never look at dogs the same way again!

There's a companion app for the *Dogs! A Science Tail* exhibition!

The app includes all exhibit content in English and Spanish.

Accessing the content in audio format requires the use of the VoiceOver accessibility feature found on Apple products.

This app does not provide navigational assistance.

[Find more information about accessibility at the Museum of Science.](#)

[The app can be downloaded for free through the App Store.](#)

*This exhibit was created and developed by the California Science Center with support from Annenberg Foundation and Wallis Annenberg PetSpace. PetSmart Charities is sponsoring the national tour.*

# Stewards Corner

## Stewarding at Scent Work Trials

**Define Steward:** An individual who assists in the orderly conduction of the trial . Some stewards will work in the search area and act as assistants to the judge, and others will work in the staging area and be responsible for ushering teams to the start line when it is their turn to search . Stewards and Hide Steward . The club shall arrange for one or more stewards to organize and call in the exhibitors and assist the judges.

Judging Schedule: Dogs within a class shall be run in the judging program order except *that the steward* has the discretion to allow a dog to be judged out of sequence at the request of the handler *if, in the opinion of the steward*, a valid conflict exists

**Section 29.** The Stewards. The stewards are in charge of bringing each team to the start line (gate steward(s), carrying out orders from the judge (such as repositioning items in the search area) and any other duties as required by the club or the judge . The club may appoint as many stewards as they need to complete the required tasks.



**Section 30.** Setting of Hides. For each class in the Odor Search division, *the judge* is responsible for ensuring that the scent is placed in the appropriate hide location(s) that they have chosen. The judge may set the hides themselves or may direct a qualified individual (as determined by the judge) to do so with their supervision . The individual setting hides should wear latex, nitrile, or vinyl gloves when doing so, and must not touch any other items until the gloves are removed . For classes in the Handler Discrimination division, the judge must designate another individual to set the hides for them (the Hide Steward)

**Section 31.** Official Timer. Each class must have an official timer who will monitor the official time for the class and communicate to the judge the final run time to the hundredth of a second . The official timer will give a 30-second warning to every competitor in the Novice, Advanced, and Excellent level classes (no 30-second warning will be given in Master level classes or the Detective Class) . However, if the warning is late or is not given due to circumstance or oversight, no re-run is due . The search time shall be determined as follows:

- For novice classes: The official time shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line, or when any part of the handler's body crosses the start line, whichever is first . The official time shall stop when the handler calls "Alert ."
- For classes with multiple hides in a single search area: The official time shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line, or when any part of the handler's body crosses the start line, whichever is first . The official time shall stop when the handler calls "Finish ."
- For classes with multiple search areas: The official time for the first search area shall start when the dog's nose crosses the start line for that search area, or when any part of the handler's body crosses the start line, whichever is first . The official time shall stop when the handler calls "Finish ." The official time for the first search area will then be recorded on the score sheet while the team is led to the next search area . The timer will then be reset, and the timing will follow the same procedure for each additional search area . The official time for each search area will be recorded independently and then combined for a total time.

SOC has two gate stewards. One at the top of the ramp, and the second at the bottom. The first makes sure that the next team is ready to enter the ring timely, to efficiently move along the trial. The second is to make sure the team on deck is ready, and to fine the next team, in the event that one is needed. Additionally, SOC has a Score Runner, someone you will periodically collect score sheets from the judge to allow the secretary to timely record and post results.

# Proposed Bylaw Changes

Persuant to Article VII of our Constitution and Bylaws, attached are the proposed amended bylaws. The **red writing** below is the new proposed language. Bolded, in parentheses, and with strike through is the old language.

## ARTICLE II

### Meetings and Voting

#### SECTION 1: CLUB MEETINGS

~~(A regular meeting of the Club shall be held each month)~~ **The club membership shall meet a minimum of six (6) times per year** in the greater Westbrook, Maine area, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be given by the Secretary, at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, by mail, or email as outlined in Article XI of these Bylaws. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.