

Saccarappa Yapper



In this issue:

- ◆ Next Meeting Announcement
- ◆ Minutes from the last General Meeting
- ◆ The “Naughty but Nice” list
- ◆ Brags
- ◆ 10 Things I have learned from AKC Sports
- ◆ **A New Concept in Dog Training**
- ◆ AKC Suggested Best Practices for Holding trials

The next meeting will be:

Wed, July. 22, 2020

At 7:00 PM at:

1-877-596-8938

Code: 518 867 8329

Refreshments:

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

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Saccarappa Obedience Club held on June 24, 2020, was called to order by President Sandy Cloutier at 7PM. The meeting was held by conference call again. The Secretary called the roll, and 21 members and no guests were present.

The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer reported. There were no bills and no discussion.

The Corresponding Secretary has been having ongoing discussions with AKC regarding the By-Law change. We need to vote by secret ballot, and need to find out if AKC will accept a survey monkey vote. Elissa will email the most recent AKC message and we can continue our discussions at the Board and monthly meetings.

(Continued on page 2)



**Renaissance Lunar Dreams “REM”
Newest Shaw family house member**

Committee reports:

Drema just got a Facebook post right before the meeting about the recent death of a local (POC) doberman competitor, Pam Scheild. Would we like to send a card? Yes.

Training committee report: Classes are starting up slowly. Claire has had two requests for Star Puppy class. Monday night classes include: Brenda teaching a Novice class; Cindy Lester is teaching handling, and Bob Cuzner is teaching scent class, both classes are outside. The veterinarian who rents part of Happy Tails building also leases the side yard and may be removing the fence for more parking. This may shrink the outside training space sometime in the future.

Thursday classes with Merrillynn are also going OK. Cleaning jobs are divided up and Merrillynn does well keeping everyone separated.

Old Business:

Claire contacted the person in charge of Cumberland Fair Grounds (Lyle Merrifield). The area is not used for that weekend as far as he knows, but their Board of Directors doesn't meet until August 14. He could only estimate the rental cost. As it is late to make a decision and there are many variables, Nicki made a motion that we cancel our trial for this year. A discussion about the recommended changes by AKC was held. Most trials have been cancelled for this fall. Nanci seconded the motion. Motion to cancel the trial passed.

Lois mentioned that the ribbons have been ordered and paid for, but not received. She will follow up and either cancel if appropriate, or use the ribbons next year.

New Business:

We will not try to have a picnic this year, but scheduled a meeting for 7/22/2020, using the same call-in number.

Barbara Belicose asked about the new trial information from AKC. They are accepting

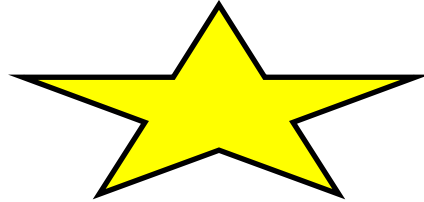
video entries for titling in BN and CD classes, as well as Rally novice. It is good incentive to continue to train.

Drema asked if members would like an update on attendance. The list will go out in the Yapper.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Drema Shaw, Recording Secretary



If your name is NOT on this naughty list, you have met the four meeting requirement for the Club.

Rebecca Aube--3

Pat Aube--3

Lauren Booth Sawyer--3

Melissa MacWilliams--0

Carol Dunham--2

Robin Crocker--1

Barbara Schwartz--1 (Moved to NM)

Cindy Strumph--3

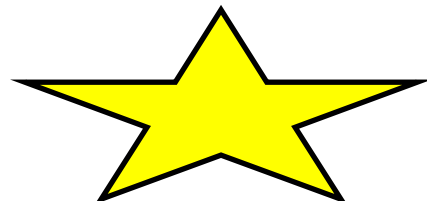
Martha Miller--3

MaryJo McCormack--3

Sharon Schwindt--3

Michael Constantine--3

It isn't always easy to catch everyone on the phone. If you think you've been to more meetings please let me know.





ARYA
AND LAUREN SAWYER
RALLY NOVICE
&
TRICK DOG INTERMEDIATE

BRAGS

KARMA
AND LAUREN SAWYER
RALLY NOVICE



10 Things I've Learned From AKC Sports

By [Daphna Straus](#)

Apr 28, 2020 | 3 Minutes

The [cancellation of swaths of AKC events](#) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has left many of us wistful and impatient for their return. With no shows to enter and plenty of absence to make the heart grow fonder, I found myself pondering what I got out of them in the first place.

1. I learned how to drive.

Where I'm from—New York—a car is a luxury, but it's a necessity to get to dog events. Whether I was mastering the hills of San Francisco to get to the San Francisco Dog Training Club, cruising along Route 80 to [Top Dog Obedience School](#), learning the back roads to [Port Chester Obedience Training Club](#), or staving off white line fever on the way to a Specialty, [AKC events](#) made me into something of a road warrior. We really get our miles in for our dogs.

2. I learned how to be on time.

When it comes to AKC events, if you're on time, you're late. I learned how to build time into my departure plans to be sure I had ample time to warm up my dog and be ring ready without extra stress.

3. I learned persistence.

We lose more than we win in dogs. We have more NQs than Qs and placements. From every NQ in [Obedience](#) I gained a lesson for improvement. As they say, "there will always be another dog show." Always an opportunity to do better next time.

4. I learned patience.

Success in our events comes with a side of waiting around. Waiting for Best of Breed or Groups. Waiting for sits and downs. You've gotta be in it to win it, so stick around.

5. I learned how to be creative and resourceful.

Since I never had a yard for a practice ring, I set up jumps in Central Park. The long alley behind my building served well for down-and-backs. Flocks of pigeons stood in for Indian Runner Ducks.



6. I learned the downside of procrastinating.

Sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, entries will always close two weeks ahead. Waiting too long to enter adds the extra expense of online entry fees (now inevitable for those of us always out of stamps) and the risk of being shut out altogether. This is a rule that never changes, and yet, I still wait until nearly the last minute almost every time.

7. I learned how to get organized.

Have a full tank before setting out for a show, lest you miss your ring time or confuse your dog with the smell of fuel on his scent articles. Wash and dry those articles the night before a trial. Pick out your outfits and get your show gear packed up the night before, too. A frantic, last minute search for that lucky show lead could cancel out its good vibes. Load driving directions up ahead in case you lose your signal along the way. AKC events helped me pull myself together!

8. I learned the importance of setting goals and the joy that comes with achieving them.

While so much in life remains out of our control, our dog events give us wonderful opportunities to pursue challenging and fulfilling objectives while having fun along the way: a home-bred champion, an OTCH, a MACH, or [any number of titles](#) that reward instinct and breeding for purpose.

9. I learned the value of volunteering.

Being a ring steward, match secretary, parking attendant or any other seemingly thankless job is truly important. Without helpers to perform these tasks, the show can't go on. It is satisfying to play a role in something bigger than yourself.

10. I learned that we humans can get along with everyone and anyone—no matter our differences—because we are all working toward similar goals.

Our sports build camaraderie between rich and poor, young and old, men and women, gay and straight, rural and urban. We build deep and lasting connections with others by training and [showing our dogs](#). The dog show community sets a tremendous example to others by building strength through the diversity we celebrate in our [clubs](#), events and friendships.

Till we meet again, ringside!

The AKC is here to help dog owners adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Find answers to all your coronavirus concerns, plus at-home activity ideas, training tips, educational resources, and more at our [‘Coping With Coronavirus COVID-19’ hub](#).



A New Concept in Dog Training

By, Nicki Taylor of Wild Meadow Farm

We all have faced a number of challenges lately, with varying results, and training our dogs isn't immune from these challenges. Maybe this forced recess or course correction is a good time to sit back and reassess your training plans and methods. Take a look back to pre-virus days. How was your training going? What was your relationship like with your dog? Perhaps you were both having fun, but your dog was struggling in an area or two - maybe not quite as focused as you'd like, or perhaps, a little worried in a show environment. On the other hand, maybe your experience wasn't so fun anymore because zoomies had become a regular thing. Maybe anything that moved was a distraction, or your dog started lunging at other dogs. It would be rare for a dog owner/lover to have no struggles with their pets, but rarer still when training for precision dog sports, such as obedience.

Each dog is an individual with a brain molded by its DNA and all its experiences ever since its first ability to sense the world around it. Like their owners, dogs may carry a bit of baggage.

If you find yourself scratching your head or maybe even banging your head against the wall because of the struggles you are having, you may want to check out a relatively new, but growing, dog training program. The program is Concept Training, and you will find it at absoluteDogs.com.

absoluteDogs is the passionate creation of Dr Tom Mitchell and Lauren Langman. It's based in the UK where Tom is a practicing veterinarian, as well as a veterinary behaviorist. Lauren is a professional dog trainer and international agility competitor. Their passion for dogs and dog training brought them together in this organization designed to enlighten and teach dog owners everywhere how to build happy and comfortable relationships with their dogs, as well as help them understand how to reduce the stress and struggles their dogs may experience.



Lauren Langman, Esq. And Dr. Tom Mitchell of absoluteDogs

The training is based on studies and scientific evidence that dogs can learn and unlearn behaviors by reshaping their brains. This is accomplished by playing various, purposeful games which eliminates the need to subject a dog to repeated exposure to unpleasant or overstimulating situations in order to desensitize it to triggers that produce unwanted reactions and behaviors. At absoluteDogs, this is referred to as training for the situation, not in the situation.

Tom and Lauren help many "Naughty but Nice" dogs and their owners overcome serious struggles such as frenzied barking and biting at owners, inability to settle down, lunging at other dogs, barking and destructive behaviors when left alone. But this program is for all dogs and can help with issues such as fear of noises, barking too much at the door, pulling on lead, or build confidence and focus in the agility or obedience ring. It's all done by training fundamental concepts such as Flexibility, Calmness, Optimism or Focus by playing short, fun games that gradually rewire the dog's brain to choose more acceptable behavior options when finding themselves in certain situations. It's fun for you and your dog while it strengthens your relationship and improves the quality of both your lives together.

Next issue we will look further into the idea of concepts and the games that help reinforce them.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Obedience & Rally

Suggested Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants

The AKC supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their dog activities. The AKC urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club should be published in the premium, club website and posted on signage/flyers at their event.

General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with current guidelines. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, judges and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Have plenty of hand sanitizers placed for people to use.
6. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch).
7. If you utilize portable toilets, please ask for a hand washing station to be delivered as well.
8. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
9. Avoid touching dogs that are not your responsibility.
10. Avoid common use pens/pencils – bring your own.
11. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.) Clubs and facilities may consider not providing chairs.

12. Meals – No potlucks. Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. It is recommended that clubs supply boxed lunches for judges and volunteers. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunches/drinks.

13. Parking areas – Park with increased distance between vehicles if possible. This is especially critical if handlers are required to crate from their vehicles.

Event Planning

1. Limiting Entries

- Clubs may choose to limit trials based on the number of handlers allowed in the event space. For example, 50 people (handlers, volunteers, judges, event committee) and entries not to exceed 100 for the trial.
- If possible, schedule in shifts to reduce congregating.
- Outdoor events where people can spread out may be able to accommodate larger entries.

One Trial Over Two Days – In order to reduce the number of participants on site at one time, clubs may hold their trial over two days.

3. Two Trials in One Day – If more than one trial is offered per day, to minimize the gathering of people, clubs should consider holding concurrent events rather than consecutive events.

4. Scheduling

- Consider scheduling participants in specific time blocks within a class in order to reduce crowds. The Trial Secretary can assign a specific number of dogs/armbands to a time block and publish in the judging program. For example: Dogs 101-120: 9:00a.m.-10:00a.m.
- Consider establishing smaller walk through groups to allow for social distancing.
- Participants can provide cell phone numbers for the event secretary to call or text to determine if someone is absent. Likewise, the Trial Secretary could provide a cell phone number for participants to report they will be absent. This prevents waiting and may streamline the event.
- Clubs may state in the premium that when an exhibitor is done for the day, they should leave the building in order to minimize congregating.

5. Event Set-up

- For indoor trials, open the exterior doors for better air flow if possible. Where possible, encourage one-way traffic flow with marked entrance and exits.
- Have a separate table for questions located at least six feet away from the Trial Secretary table.

6. Crating

• Consider crating outside weather permitting. If the club is planning to have participants crate from their vehicles, the club may need to supply indoor crating if requested due to a participant's health needs.

• Crating should be at least six feet apart, except for "family" groups of exhibitors and dogs. If space is limited, clubs may want to request participants to not arrive earlier than 30 minutes prior to their start time. Clubs may choose a specific time for the next group of participants to move in or note they must wait until the previous group has left in order to reduce congregating.



Event Practices

1. Social Distancing Requirements – A minimum of six foot distances around the ring(s), crating, volunteer, and Judges' and Trial Secretary areas should be established. Recommend marking spacing to identify safe distancing requirements.

- Judge's Table – Judges may have the table at one end of the ring and the gate openings at the other end. The judge and the stewards should maintain required distancing.
- Timer – Set up an area where only the person timing is allowed. The timer should handle the stopwatches with gloves.
- Check-in – A separate table should be set up to allow exhibitors, one at a time, to check themselves in on the board with their own pen and pick up their armbands. This eliminates the interaction between trial workers and participants.

2. Ring Procedure Modifications

- Judges, stewards and exhibitors should maintain the mandated required distancing throughout the event.
- Suggest a chair (or two, one for the in-ring exhibitor and one for the next exhibitor) be placed inside the ring for all classes. The exhibitor will be responsible for placing the leash on the chair when entering the ring and prior to starting the course.
- Once the course is complete, the exhibitor will be responsible for getting the leash. A steward may disinfect the chair between exhibitors. A second chair, for the next exhibitor, will allow for more efficient ring management.
- Ribbons/Awards may be placed on a pick-up table versus handed out. The judge may announce the awards and exhibitors may pick up the awards that were laid out on a table for the class.
- Judges, exhibitors and stewards may wear masks inside the ring.
- Judges should sanitize their ruler after measuring any dogs.

Stewards should wear gloves or sanitize their hands between handling paperwork.

Obedience Specific

- Rather than use stewards for the Figure 8 exercise, the club may use upright posts, tall pylons, or chairs as posts. The same object should be used for both posts and all exhibitors.
- Judges may wear gloves or use hand sanitizer between examination exercises. If a judge chooses to use gloves, a new pair of gloves will be used for each dog.
- Examinations – Ensure social distancing requirements are met during examination exercises. For the Utility Moving Stand for Examination, the judge should approach the dog at a slight angle to ensure distancing requirements from handler to judge are maintained.
- Novice Group Exercise – The distance requirement should be modified to 8 feet between dogs and rows to ensure social distancing guidelines are met.
- Directed Retrieve Exercise - Consider providing a grabber for the Steward to pick up the gloves. Wipe down grabber between exhibitors.
- Scent Discrimination Exercise – The steward responsible for placing the articles may wear gloves or use hand sanitizer. Tongs, when used, should be wiped down between dogs.

Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended/Modified

1. Event Application Late Fees – Event application late fees are waived through the end of October. This provide clubs more flexibility in planning or rescheduling their events.
2. For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply Event Application fees to the club's next event of the same type.
3. Judges - The judge's assignment limitations of 30 days within 100 miles is waived until December 30.
4. Closing Date - Clubs are allowed, at their option, to have a closing date seven days prior to the event through December 30, 2020. This will provide clubs and exhibitors greater flexibility to decide what to do.
5. Obedience Figure 8 Exercise – Upright posts, tall pylons or chairs may be used in place of people in the figure 8 exercise through December 30, 2020.

Obedience Novice Group Exercise – The distance between dogs is modified to 8 feet (currently 6 feet) through December 30, 2020.

Participants are expected to follow state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check the AKC Rally (www.akc.org/sports/rally/) or the AKC Obedience (www.akc.org/sports/obedience/) websites for the most up-to-date version.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dogs



"The special, sir. Shall I spread it out or will you knock it over yourself?"