

DOG EARED *Journal*



Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club is an AKC-licensed all-breed club and non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the interests of dog owners and breeders of purebred dogs.

In This Issue



President's Message

Meeting Highlights

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Brags and Wags

Tip Of The Tail

The Pack Report

HRKC In The Community

Guest Article



President's Message

My original message was titled "Help wanted!" But I have to modify it to "Thank you, and help still needed!"

We needed assistant trial chairs for Scent Work, the July Rally/Obedience and the July All Breed show. At our October meeting, Karen Parker stepped into the Assistant Chair position for the July R/O trial and Mariko Saum will join me as Assistant Chair for the All-Breed. **We still need an Assistant Trial Chair to work alongside Lorraine at the Scent Work trial!** (And, yes, you can still show and compete.)

We were also in need of a **Trophy/Awards Chair for the All Breed** show as Jan Garrison has stepped down after being at the helm for many years! This is such an important position and we need to get someone on board asap! Deadlines will be here before you know it.

We will be having the **annual elections for board positions** at the Christmas party December 7th. Our **Nominating Committee** is: Jo Chinn (Chair), Karen Parker, Kasia Sawicki, Dixie Sick (Alternate), and Elena Metz (Alternate). Interested? Let one of them know before November 14! These are great opportunities, and a way to get more involved with your Club!

Thanks to ALL our volunteers!
Joe Larson, HRKC President



Meeting Highlights



In July, Christine distributed the new business cards. More are available. Just ask. We spent considerable time on final arrangements for the All-Breed show, which was ultimately a huge success thanks to our incredible Club and its volunteers. We also discussed upcoming Pet Days, Fit Dog Test Evaluator Certification and the annual Club picnic.

We held our annual picnic in August, so there was no official meeting. We just enjoyed each other's company.

In September, Treasurer Joe Metz reported that we did well on the shows this year in spite of fewer entries. Anne Andritsch announced her "retirement" as Membership Chair effective January 1st (thank you Anne for so many years of volunteer service to our Club). And, we began work on next year's events, beginning with the May ScentWork trails.

[Detailed minutes are emailed to all HRKC members. Questions? Email info@hrkc.org.]



Fun at the Club Picnic!

Upcoming Events

2026 Show Schedule

- May 8-10: Scent Work Trial
- May 30-June: 1 A/R/O
- July 25-27: AKC All-Breed Shows and Rally and Obedience Trials
- August 8-10: Agility Trials

Check hrkc.org for details

Christmas Party!

December 7

Sequim Prairie Garden Club

387 E Washington St

Sequim, WA

2-5pm

Bring your favorite dish to share!

HRKC will provide water, drinks, plates, cutlery, napkins, etc.

Club Fun Walks

Saturdays at 11 AM | Location specifics emailed weekly

Newsletter Submission

Deadline

- Q1** | January 30, 2026
- Q2** | April 30, 2026
- Q3** | July 15, 2026
- Q4** | September 30, 2026

[Submit articles to info@hrkc.org]



Brags and Wags

In July, Elena said that Iris passed her Temperament Test in Puyallup. She explained the exercises the dog has to go through and be judged on the way they react. Interesting. Lorraine said that Bogie and Riot passed the AKC Temperament Test. Bogie acted like he was the most obedient dog ever and gave a stellar performance for Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog Novice. Riot passed his last Canine Good Citizen test earning his CGC Advanced. Bogie was Best of Breed at Puyallup for a Grand Champion Major. Susan said that Charlie went Winners Bitch/BOW two out of three days at Puyallup. And, our walkers reported on their amazing walking accomplishments!

In September, Karen Parker said that puppy Djinn got his Novice Trick Dog title. Kathy Beil said that Tiny got her Advanced Trick Dog title. Lorraine said that at went to the German Pinscher Club of America National Specialty where she went WB/BOW for her first 5 pt Major and was WB/BOW for her 2nd 5pt Major at the GPCA Regional Specialty. Saffron is going to the AKC Masters ScentWork championship. Lisa Shery said Nicco got Best Veteran at the Evergreen Show.

Elena and Joe Metz took Lavender and Iris to the Irish terrier National Specialty show this year. The specialty is the last in a series of five consecutive shows, starting with the Morris and Essex Kennel Club show in Somerset New Jersey and ending with the Montgomery County Kennel Club show in Macungie Pennsylvania.

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Kathy and Tiny



Djinn

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Lavender was entered in all five shows. Her mother Iris came along so the pair could compete in the brace competition at the National Specialty.

Although Lavender and Iris did not earn any points, they got some recognition at the National Specialty. Iris was awarded Best Bred by Exhibitor from Champions and Lavender was Best Bred by Exhibitor from Classes. Iris earned an Award of Merit in the Best of Breed ring, and the pair put on a spectacular show in the Brace competition. Iris was very happy to come out of retirement to strut her stuff and Lavender earned two Reserve Winners ribbons along the way.





❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ *Brags and Wags*

Saffron & I at the Inaugural AKC Scentwork Master National Championship! Wilmington, OH – A 3-Day Adventure in Speed & Precision

Saffron and I had an unforgettable time at the inaugural AKC Scentwork Master National Championship in Wilmington, OH. We competed over three days, tackling 16 different searches that tested both speed and accuracy.

The competition was fierce, with 168 teams of seasoned AKC Scentwork Masters—many of them having earned their Detective titles.

We made it into the Finals, where we had two challenging searches:

- Exterior/Buried Search: 2.5 minutes to search, and by the time it was our turn, the hides had been set hours before, making it a tough search. Unfortunately, we had two false alerts, which cost us valuable points.
- Interior/Container Search: Saffron really shone in this one! She nailed it, and I was so proud of her work.

In the end, we placed 75th out of 100, but more importantly, we got to be part of an amazing group of competitors. The talent and teamwork were inspiring, and it was so wonderful to meet new friends and their incredible Scentwork dogs. One of the best parts of performance sports is the camaraderie we share. It's not just about winning—it's about celebrating each

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other's successes and laughing at all the hilarious moments of "dog search fails" along the way!

Optional Master Handler Discrimination Search: They offered two optional Master Handler Discrimination (HD) searches. We don't typically practice HD, so I wasn't sure what to expect. But Saffron surprised me once again! She found my hides like a pro. She did miss one hide in the first search, and in the second interior, she wasn't thrilled with the flooring and decided to head outside to check there. But once on the exterior, she quickly found the hide. Go, Super Saffron!

Why You Should Try Scentwork

This event was one of the most fun we've ever attended. I can't stress enough how accessible Scentwork is to everyone. Regardless of age, ability, or background, anyone and their dog can get involved. There were dogs at this National Championship from all walks of life—including a blind dog, a tripod, and even a dog with a paralyzed rear. Handlers in wheelchairs and scooters also competed! If that doesn't inspire you to give Scentwork a try, I don't know what will!

Happy Sniffing!





Tip of the Tail



Join us on Zoom!

Sometimes you just can't make it to the meeting in person.

We get it.

That's why we have our own Zoom room! Have you ever used it? Not sure how? This is for you.

1. Open a browser window
2. Go to hrkc.org/Zoom
3. Turn on your camera so we can see you!
4. Make sure your microphone is on mute except for Roll Call or if you want to ask questions.
5. Put your name in the Chat for Roll Call so we don't miss you. Be sure to tell us your name, breed, and if you're a current member.
6. You can also raise your hand if you want to ask a question...we'll try to pay attention!

If you cannot get into the Zoom room for some reason, email info@hrkc.org and we'll try to troubleshoot the problem.



Winter Meetings

Starting in **November**, we will hold our meetings at Working Spot on the **3rd Sunday of the month at 2pm** so we can avoid traveling in the dark. In April, we will go back to our regular meeting date and time on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm.



Charity and Volunteer of the Year

It's the time of year for **Volunteer of the Year** and **Charitable Contribution** nominations. Send your nominations to info@hrkc.org by November 7th. We'll donate to 4 organizations this year. We'll vote in November and let you know who we'll donate to, but the Volunteer of the Year will remain a secret until the December Christmas Party.



❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ *The Pack Report* ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

Scent Work Leader of the Pack

The dates have been set and our application has been submitted to the Clallam County Fairgrounds for the 2026 Scent Work trials. The dates are May 8-10 with set-up on May 7th.

Our Scent Work trials are popular—but they don't happen without dedicated leadership behind the scenes. Lorraine has graciously agreed to Chair the 2026 Scent Work trial and Karen Parker has agreed to help coordinate volunteers. We are **still** looking for a Co-Chair so if you're interested, please contact Lorraine!

Why step up? Taking on the role of Trial Chair is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the club's success. We appreciate our Trial Chairs and ALL our volunteers. It's especially important to have Co-Chairs too!

Speaking of Volunteers...Our Club Needs You!

While our events are fun and rewarding, they don't run themselves—it takes a **committed pack of volunteers to make them happen**. We're already working on our 2026 events and we need you—our members—to get involved.

No experience? No problem. Many volunteer jobs require no prior knowledge, and for those that do, we'll pair you with someone who's been around the ring a time or two. Whether it's helping set up, timing, stewarding, or just offering an extra set of hands—we have a role for you.

Interested? Send us an email at info@hrkc.org.

All-Breed Leader of the Pack

by Joe Larson, Trial Chair

Joe Larson called a Show Committee Meeting to discuss the 2025 HRKC All Breed on July 30, 2025. Steve wanted to talk about the logistics of putting the shows together because no one has the whole picture. The Club has wanted to create Standard Operating Procedure manuals for events to help us coordinate and allow volunteers to step in and know what to do if necessary. We decided now was the time.

Steve put together a template that was broad but could be modified depending on what part of the event or function it addressed. It included a picture of the grounds, diagrams, and equipment/volunteer needs. In addition, we need to know which trailer items go into, and we need an inventory list for each trailer. We talked about where to put the trailers that would be closer together but convenient. And, we agreed to schedule a work party after the agility trials to organize the trailers (Spring 2026).

We discussed some parking issues that need to be resolved (including ADA and parking signs), number of Sanicans, the Eye Clinic, coffee and food vendors, setup/tear down, event schedule, and volunteer communication/coordination during the event. The Club sent a letter to the City of Sequim to thank them for the use of the Carrie Blake Park facilities for all our events. We appreciate being able to use these facilities.

Thank you to everyone—volunteers, participants, and supporters—who contribute to the success of our events each year. We couldn't do it without you!



* * * * * *HRKC in the Community* * * * * *

Pet Days

HRKC took part in the annual Pet Lovers' Day September 13 at Carrie Blake Park in Sequim. This was my first experience at Pet Day and I found it to be fun, memorable and very well attended.

Many, if not most, attendees came with happy pets that were well behaved, eager to socialize and imbibe snacks that were offered. I enjoyed seeing all the dogs and people, mostly strangers and some familiar. The vibe was festive, curious and upbeat. Our club may have gained some new members as a result of our participation.

Joe Larson brought our club fencing and set up an official performance ring where several demonstrations were held. He also brought a table and folding chairs for our booth. Thank you, Joe, for your continued contributions to club events.

Karen Parker and 5 others demonstrated Rally to a rapt audience of intrigued "fair" goers. She spoke via a PA system about the elements of Rally and what is entailed to prepare both handler and dog to compete. It was interesting to hear her commentary as dogs ran the course, giving observers a good understanding of what was happening.

She then opened the ring to anyone interested in trying out the course and had several takers. Well done Karen and crew!

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Pet Emergency Group did a commendable job organizing the event; it was their first time at the helm and they produced a well-run, enthusiastic celebration of people and pets.

HRKC was an important part of that success; hats off, everybody!

Kathy Beil



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HRKC in the Community



Fun Walks

Hi that's me Giovanna, (but you can call me " Gio ").

That's the Pacific Ocean in the background, and yes I was born with those ears. They help me listen for rabbits and squirrels when Mom takes me on hikes and we do our HRKC Fun Walks, (more about Fun Walks later). I have a keen sense of smell and of course those ears allow me to hear those rabbits, small wild game and little critters that my breed hunts in Sicily.

I still haven't come across any rabbits here but my Mom got me a life size white rabbit which hides under a bush in my yard, (She says it's a statue but I still sniff it to make sure it isn't a real rabbit). That could be my only rabbit sighting. But I do seek and find lots of squirrels, snakes and toads on our hikes.

In case you are wondering, I'm a Cirneco Dell' Etna, pronounced "cheer-Neck-oh". The plural, two or more of us, is Cirnechi "cheer-NECK-key". The Dell' Etna part of my breed name is taken from the active volcano " Mt Etna" in Sicily where my breed hails from. Originally during the time before Christ, my ancestors were from a region in North Africa.

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Thousands of years ago the Phoenicians brought my ancestors from North Africa to the island of Sicily. My Mom, "Luna" is from Sicily, some say I look like her. We Cirnechi are intelligent and can be very independent thinkers. I weigh about 19#.

I pretty much like most people and most dogs. I don't like the bang-bang that I sometimes hear at Robin Hill Park. As I mentioned I like hiking, one Summer we chased waterfalls all over Olympic National Forest trails but still no rabbit sightings. Close to home we walk along the Olympic Discovery Trail and do forest hikes at Miller Peninsula Park, Robin Hill and Dungeness Rec Area and we find beaches for beach walks.

There are so many places to walk and hike in our county that I don't have time to list them all here. Sometimes we head to Jefferson county to hike in trails there and also the park trails along Hood Canal. You'd think I would've found a rabbit with all the time I have spent looking throughout the Olympic Peninsula!

If you see me on one of our club Fun Walks this Fall and winter I will probably be wearing sweaters, Unlike most dogs there's not much fur on this desert dog to keep me warm so Mom has me wearing sweaters when the season changes.





* * * * * *HRKC in the Community* * * * * *

Fun Walks, con't.

Clothes are not my favorite thing but they keep me warm. When I'm not outdoors exploring with my humans, I'm like most dogs, I seek out the couch for naps awaiting my next adventure.

Okay nuf about me. I'm supposed to talk about our weekly HRKC Fun Walks. If you ask me or any of my dog pals that join us on our weekly Club walks, they would tell you us doggies have a fun time exploring the trails and paved paths with our humans.

Our walks start at 1 to 2 miles then sometimes after the initial 1 to 2 mile walk, for those who want to go more distance we will add some more miles to the walk.

I help my Mom, (Cathy) choose where in Clallam county the Fun Walks will be each week. We usually meet at a parking area late on Saturday mornings. Last Spring we watched young eagles grow up and leave the nest at Dungeness Rec Area (camera time for humans). This time of year when we cross over streams our humans stop to watch for salmon heading up stream.

I hope the HRKC doggies can inspire their humans to join us no matter the time of year. We walk weekly so check it out one of these Saturdays. We live in a beautiful area with so many great places to explore. It's a fun time for all and good exercise for the humans.

So far since we started the HRKC Fun Walks back in March 2025 we haven't been rained on. But now we

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are heading into winter so rain may happen. Maybe bring along a rain jacket or sweater just in case.

If you go on our Club Fun Walks or you walk often with your dog/s you can earn an AKC Fit Dog car magnet. Find more here about getting your free AKC Fit Dog car magnet [AKC Fit Dog Magnet Order Form](#).

You can also earn AKC Fit Dog titles, Bronze, Silver and Gold. If you do other dog sport activities you may already have points earned to go toward the AKC Fit Dog titles. Some dog sport activities listed on the AKC Fit Dog webpages are, AKC Agility, Dock diving, Disc Dog, AKC FAST CAT, AKC Lure coursing, AKC Herding, NAFA Flyball, AKC Fetch, AKC Field Trial or Hunting Test , AKC Rally/Obedience, AKC Tracking. Our HRKC

Walks are listed as one of the activities that help you earn points toward AKC Fit Dog titles. Here is the link to more info about the AKC Fit Dog titles you can earn [AKC FIT DOG Titles – American Kennel Club](#) .

I hope I have inspired you to get out and join us for our Saturday club Fun Walks.

Arrivederci,
Giovanna





For the Love of Dog – Get a Massage

Last in a 2-part series by Sophie's Touch Therapeutic Animal Massage | Debby Zuber, SAMP

Dogs hide their aches and pains really well. In a show dog this can mean less than optimal performance. Signs of illness or injury can show up in numerous ways. Massage therapists can locate and identify problem areas before they become serious. You can help by being observant. Is your dog moving differently? Is he or she reluctant to jump up or down or participate in your usual activities?

Signs of an issue can be any of the following:

- a. Performance
 - i. Poor movement, lack of concentration, unable to stand square
- b. Character
 - i. Changes in personality, unwillingness or reluctance to perform or be touched
 - ii. Appearance; dull coat, twitching, lethargy
- c. Gait
 - i. Crabbing, pacing, lameness, lack of reach or drive
- d. Posture
 - i. Roached or swayed back, unbalanced, poor tail carriage

Regular massage helps with earlier detection of problems, stimulates synovial fluids so joint stay lubricated, improves symmetry of movement, and improves circulation which increases nutrition through the bloodstream and removes waste product.

Can I massage my own dog? The short answer is yes, definitely. Remember touch with healing intent is always good. Your dog must be a willing partner in the process, which develops a deeper connection with your pet. Look for signs that your dog is 'done'

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and accept their signals if they walk away. Always be very slow, light, and sensitive with your touch. Dog bodies are much more delicate than their human counterparts.

Massage therapists are trained in anatomy, kinesiology, specific techniques, and safety, so I wouldn't recommend starting without some training. I recommend a great book by my mentor, Megan Ayrault: *The Dog Lover's Guide to Massage*.

What does it mean to be a massage therapist in Washington? You can't just hang out a shingle. The requirements include; 300 hours of study (reading, lecture and hands-on), passing a national exam administered by NBCAAM, passing a WA State Licensing exam, maintaining records, and completing continuing education.

Massage is not a substitute for veterinary care. Massage therapists cannot diagnose. Always talk to you vet about whether your pet is a candidate for massage therapy.

References:

1. *National Board of Certification for Animal Acupressure and Massage* www.nbcaam.org
2. *Northwest School of Animal Massage* www.nwsam.com
3. *Washington State Department of Health* doh.wa.gov
4. *Megan Ayrault: www.allaboutanimalmassage.com*
The Dog Lover's Guide to Animal Massage