

Minutes of the Durham Kennel Club General Meeting of the Membership
January 16 2024 (Approved)

President Thomas Wrath called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. There were 47 in attendance, 39 voting members, 6 associate members) and 2 guests. The attendance sheet is attached and considered part of these minutes.

Minutes of the November 20 2023 Membership Meeting were approved as published on a R Wisniewski/C Rives motion.

President Wrath welcomed everyone to the meeting. In his President's report, Mr. Wrath thanked volunteers for their hard work and support during past year helping to make the club successful. With continued support from members, Mr. Wrath is looking forward to all the club has planned for 2024. He encouraged all members to get involved.

The Corresponding Secretary has received letter from AKC regarding the AKC PAC and will be sending to the membership.

The Recording Secretary reminded everyone to please sign the attendance sheet.

Jack Sappenfield, AKC Delegate, reported details of the recent Delegates' December quarterly meeting. Report is attached.

The Club's cash position was presented, details are available upon request.

Carol Rives, Membership Chair, presented applications received from New Associate Members:

1. Kimberly Haenn (Hurdle Mills) Rottweiler
2. Kathy Lee (Pittsboro) Labrador Retriever
3. Ann Miller (Chapel Hill) All American
4. Emily Renz Hale (Cary) Poodle
5. Bryce Russo (Chapel Hill) German Shepherd Dog
6. Sandy Schiller (Raleigh) Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Greyhound

Associate Members for Full Membership:

1. Beth Klonowski (Hillsborough) Poodle
2. Christine Haarvig Tayler (Cary) Flat Coated Retriever)

and Reinstated Member

1. Zana Schepis (Rougemont) Weimaraner

Upon majority vote of members present and voting, the applications for full membership were approved. Welcome was extended to all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Linda Wozniak reported on the new Family Dog Program, AKC FETCH. DKC has been holding practices for the past several months and will hold a final one before the February 3 and 4 tests on Saturday, January 27th in Stella's field. The test is based on the AKC Retrieving Hunt Tests, but open to all breeds. Thanks to Chris Weisse and Jack Sappenfield for agreeing to judge the events. Information on the program can be found by searching the AKC website.

Carol Rives reported that the Club will be holding a TD tracking test on January 28th at Barb Grubb's Farm, just north of Hillsborough. Volunteers are needed for the event; please contact Ms. Rives if available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Spring Health Clinic will be held at the clubhouse the weekend of April 27 and 28 2024. Registration will be open on March 1, with a few days in advance for DKC members. Volunteers will be needed to man the event and signup will be available online. Please contact Judy Wagaman for additional infor-

NEW BUSINESS:

Lisa Roberts, Diane Divine, and Ann Carter discussed DKC's annual awards and the upcoming Awards Banquet which will be held on March 30th at the clubhouse. Everyone is welcome; please come and support our membership. All the annual awards are listed on the DKC website, some are competition based and some are award based (titles). For 2023 there are two new awards, Bred By Exhibitor Champion, a retroactive award for dogs earning their championship where all points were awarded from the Bred By Exhibitor classes, and a Scent Work Award for the member earning the most/highest level titles during the year. Members are encouraged to review all awards on the DKC website for requirements and appropriate forms. For applications for individual title plaques, please note whether member wants to receive the plaque or if not. In either event, recognition will be made at the Awards Banquet. Any questions should be directed to Lisa Roberts.

Maureen Lucas, Nomination Chair is currently forming her committee who will be working to put together slate of officers and directors for the class of 2026, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, two Board of Director positions and the AKC Delegate will be filled at the annual meeting in May.

- ◆ March 18th Nominating Committee will present their slate for the Class of 2026 to the Recording Secretary.
- ◆ March 18 through April 22, nominations from the floor may be sent to the Recording Secretary. Each floor nomination must be accompanied by a statement with the nominee's acceptance.
- ◆ April 22 Recording Secretary will publish to the membership a final listing of nominees.
- ◆ May 1 manual ballots will be sent to members without email addresses
- ◆ May 6 through May 17, electronic ballots will be sent to all voting members
- ◆ May 13 deadline for receipt of manual ballots
- ◆ May 20 election results will be reported as the first order of business at the Club's annual meeting.

Thanks were extended to Linda Wozniak, Emma Lambeth, David and Glenda Moser for their efforts in organizing the storage closet. Members are encouraged to maintain the organization.

Members reported that the lights outside the front door and the utility light in the parking lot are not working properly. The utility light is on a motion detector and as it is fairly far from the front door doesn't always come on until an individual gets closer. The solar lights on the sign also need to be looked at. Mr. Wrath will look into the exterior light situation and report back on any upgrades, etc.

The excessive amount of rain over the past months has caused the drive up to the field to become washed out and bumpy. Grading of the roadway is being scheduled, but members are asked to be aware of the ruts and take care.

Due to the continued Canine Influenza outbreak members are asked to bring their own water bowls. Classes have resumed with a large number of dogs in and out of the building; please enter through the center front doors and exit through the side doors.

An anonymous/unsigned letter has been received by the President and some members of the Board. Mr. Wrath asked that if a member has an issue or problem, to contact him or any member of the Board directly as no follow up or action is taken if a letter is not signed.

Brag.

There being no additional business to come before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm on a C Rives/D McCune motion.

Attest:



Linda Wozniak
Recording Secretary

PLEASE SIGN IN — ONE NAME EACH LINE

INDIVIDUALS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE DURHAM KENNEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING *January 15 2024*

	VOTING MEMBER		VOTING MEMBER		VOTING MEMBER		ASSOCIATE MEMBER
1	Linda Wozniak	26	Susan Sheets	51		1	Nikki DeLuca
2	Thomas Wrath	27	Kathryn Daily	52		2	Christine H Taylor
3	Pam Schwentner	28	Paula Buchma	53		3	Don Baker
4	Lisa Roberts	29	Maureen Lucas	54		4	Karen Foust
5	Dorene McCune	30	Becky Harrison	55		5	Kathy Lee
6	Sola McCune	31	Susan Cigone	56		6	Beth Kronowski
7	Pam Brown	32	Yvette Rivera	67		7	
8	EMMA LAMBETH	33	Len Spaul	58		8	
9	Colleen Hobbs	34	Amy Gardner Dean	59		9	
10	Nelson Hobbs	35	Rose Mary Pizz	60		10	
11	Jess Traylor	36	Abby Lang	61		11	
12	Mart haAnn Traylor	37	Shirley Pines	62		12	
13	Jack Sappentfield	38	Sharon Pitt	63		13	
14	Dale Wisniewski	39	Joyce McHenry	64		14	
15	Bob Wisniewski	40		65		15	
16	marcia Stebbins	41		66		16	
17	Rose Powell	42		67		17	
18	Molly Zoogosa	43		68		18	
19	Kathryn Kabat	44		69		19	
20	Ann Carter	45		70		20	
21	Diane Divine	46		71		G	GUESTS
22	Christine Griffith	47		72		G	Emden Lane
22	Carol Rives	48		73		G	Susy Bensch
24	Chris Weissel	49		74		G	
25	Mehle Wixto	50		75		G	

AKC Delegate Meeting Orlando, Florida December 13 – 14, 2023

I attended the quarterly Delegate Meeting in Orlando, Florida on December 13th and 14th.

General Delegate Meeting Friday Morning.

- Read eleven (11) proposed amendments
- Voted on six (6) amendments. One particular amendment to allow parent clubs the option to offer a 3-pt major for Reserve Winners at its National Specialty. (Chapter 16, Section 1, Rules Applying to Dog Shows).

AKC statistical information for the 9 months ending 9/23:

- Litter Registrations totaled 226,939 which was <8.7 over 2022
- Registrations totaled 480,128 which was <14.7 over 2022

Entries totaled 2,782,470 – 2023 should be a banner year for the AKC.

Total Events through 9/23 total 19,981 which is a 7% increase over the same period last year.

Revenue totaled \$76.3 million

Events Registrations was \$53 million

Assets - \$253 million

I attended two Committee Meetings during the two days.

Canine Health

- There was a continued discussion of the Purebred Preservation Bank. (PPB)
- AKC has given a permanent commitment to the PPB with encouragement of continued donations to the preservation bank.
- Canine Health is sponsoring a veterinary residence program for Sports Medicine and Canine Rehabilitation.
- There was a discussion regarding dogs exhibiting or has a contagious health concern, where the show committee can remove the dog from the premises.

Companion Events Committee

Staff Reports from Doug Ljungren and Diane Schultz.

A sub-committee was formed to present ways to help clubs mentoring new exhibitors in obedience. I have attached a copy of this information to this report.

Event Status by Sport 9/23

- Agility – 1,013,009 9,408 .9%
- Scent Work – 201,403 31,127 18.3%
- Rally - 119,009 12,754 12%
- Obedience – 92,414 2,727 3%
- Earthdog – 5,110 613 13.6%
- AKC Temperment – 4,335 358 9%

The 2024 Agility Nationals will be in Perry, GA March 14 - 17

2024 Rally National Championship, July 18 & 19, National Obedience Championship, July 20 & 21, Wilmington, Ohio.

Displaceable High Jumps. Read to the Board in November, decision to be made in January

Preparing New Exhibitors for Obedience/Rally Trials

Sub-Committee, Companion Events Delegate's Standing Committee

Introduction – The Sub-Committee for Preparing New Exhibitors for the Obedience/Rally Ring has put together ideas to help clubs in aiding new exhibitors to be successful in these sports. Their success results in continuing participation. A continuous flow of new people into the sport is imperative for the long-term health of these sports. Preparing new exhibitors is the responsibility of the individual clubs. The AKC may provide direction, however, ultimately, the responsibility falls to clubs in instructing new people.

The following are ideas and actions the committee gathered which have merit based on experience:

Clubs should consider establishing a "new exhibitor committee" under the supervision of the clubs' officers and board. The right chairperson is critical. The purpose of the committee would be to meet, encourage, and help new exhibitors. One source of prospective new exhibitors could be those who attended the club's puppy and beginner classes. Also, this new exhibitor committee could include the club's Junior Coordinator who would have a special responsibility for junior handlers.

Clubs should consider periodically offering a seminar to familiarize new exhibitors with the Obedience/Rally Regulations. Every new exhibitor should have a copy of the AKC Regulation booklet which may be purchased from the AKC or downloaded from the AKC website. The Regulation booklet can be purchased by clubs in bulk from the AKC at reduced cost. The new exhibitor should know and understand the regulations for the class which they are entered, as well as performance and judging standards and procedures (chapter two), and the AKC Code of Sportsmanship. This will give the new exhibitor confidence. In addition, clubs should provide all new exhibitors with a copy of John Cox's "You're Next In The Ring" article (*attached and available at this link: <https://saintbernardarchive.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Preparing-To-Show-1.pdf>*

The seminar might include the following topics:

- What class to enter. In Obedience the Beginner Novice Class is an excellent starting point.
- How Obedience and Rally differ in judging criteria and how they are similar.
- How to read a Premium List, complete and entry form, and read a judging schedule.
- Classes that are transitions between Novice, Open and Utility (Graduate Novice and Graduate Open) and what exhibitors should know to compete successfully.
- What qualifies a performance? What mistakes make a "Not Qualified" performance?
- Understanding what the judge is looking for
- The importance of a positive attitude for both dog and handler.
- How to correctly enter and leave the ring; leads and lead handling; and, hand/arm position in all exercises. What the will judge say and what the handler should do in all exercises including the Novice group sits/downs.

Clubs should consider a "Meet and Greet" for new exhibitors at trials, prior to the start of the Novice/Beginner Novice Obedience classes or Rally Novice classes. This welcome session should acknowledge and discuss how to cope with stress in both the exhibitor and dog. A mentor could be available to answer questions and be at ring side during the classes. The value of a good first experience cannot be overstated. This "Meet and Greet" could be included in the trials' Premium List and Judging Program so new exhibitors can make plans to attend.

A "warm up" (practice) ring at Obedience and Rally trials is allowed under AKC regulations. Certain requirements as stated in the Obedience and Rally Regulations must be met. These requirements ensure that a warm-up ring runs in an orderly manner.

~~Clubs might consider reduced entry fees for Beginner Novice (obedience) and Novice A (obedience and Rally) classes, similar to the approach for Junior Handlers in conformation. This would require changes to the Obedience and Rally Regulations.~~

Instructors are so important to our sports. It is imperative that they stay up to date and open minded on new training methods. They must be innovative in dealing with training problems and a wide variety of handlers. They also must be current with changes in the Regulations. Attending seminars and on-line videos are a source for information and clubs should consider how best to provide opportunities for instructors to complete professional development activities.

For Judges, their briefings should be both informative and light-handed. Putting the new exhibitor at ease should be the judge's goal.

Clubs should consider offering structured practice time ("run-throughs", "pay to play practice," "show and go"), that is, times where dogs are tested as if they were at an Obedience or Rally Trial. Someone with experience acts as a judge, clipboard in hand, duplicating the judge's orders in an Obedience trial or walking around the ring as if at a Rally trial. This "acting judge" can also point out handler errors should they occur. These sessions might also include time to complete entry forms for upcoming events.

Clubs should consider offering "Novice only" obedience trials (which are considered "Special Event" trials). In some areas of the country, these trials typically have greater entry numbers in the Beginner Novice and Novice classes than in a standard trial with all classes offered. Of course, judges for such events should be thoughtfully chosen. A reduced entry fee might also be considered. Clubs offering these events could promote the event locally and even regionally to increase participation.

Saving Withdrawals from Your "200" Account.

You're Next in the Ring! Is Your Game Plan in Order?

by John Cox
dog-talk@comcast.net

Upon arriving at the trial:

- 1) Make sure you have all the needed required equipment for the class(es) entered.
- 2) Check-in early if at all possible. If you have a conflict this should be discussed with the Judge/Steward *before the class is scheduled to start*. This courtesy will help the Judge in determining Group sizes, if applicable, and absentees. Keep attuned to the "white board, if available" for dogs moved out of catalog order as this information will allow your warm-up timing to be more on target.
- 3) Before your turn, watch the heeling pattern and where *each* exercise will take place. In being prepared one can keep their dog better focused while moving from one exercise to the next.
- 4) Know the correct height of the dog's withers if there are jumps in the class entered, and double-check to make sure the Stewards have the jumps set correctly *before* entering the ring.
- 5) If you are entered in **Beginner Novice, Novice A or Preferred Novice**, plan to be ringside for the walkthrough at start time of the class. Have accommodations for the dog during the walkthrough.

When it is time to enter the ring keep in mind the following:

- 1) A team is being judged from the time they step *into* the ring until the time they *leave* the ring.
- 2) Make sure the leash is attached going into the ring and leaving the ring. **Chapter 2, Section 16**
- 3) Keep the dog under control *at all times* while in the ring. **Chapter 2, Sections 22 & 23**
- 4) No titles may be displayed on your clothing and clothing must not be in poor taste or contain profanity. Also, should not display any information that would be in conflict with a sponsor of the trial. **Chapter 1, Section 10**
- 5) Leashes must be made of fabric or leather and long enough to provide adequate slack during the Heel on Leash exercise. A six foot leash needed in Beginner Novice and the Regular Novice Group exercise. Nothing may be "hanging" from the collar. **Chapter 2, Sections 16 & 17**
- 6) Handling Between Exercises, **Chapter 2, Section 23:**
 - a. **Beginner Novice, Preferred-Novice or Novice A & B**, guided gently by the collar between exercises. NO other physical guidance is permitted and, if used, *must* receive minor or substantial penalties, depending on the circumstances.
 - b. **Graduate Novice, Graduate Open, Preferred-Open, Open, Preferred-Utility, Utility or Versatility** classes, there will be a substantial penalty for any dog that is physically guided at any time or is not readily controllable. Minor penalties will be imposed for a dog that does not respond promptly to its handler's commands or signals before or between exercises in these classes. Items a. & b. also pertain to the Group exercise such as physical positioning the dog for the Sit or Down.
- 7) Before starting each exercise the judge is required to ask, "Are you ready?" Keep in mind this is JUST a question, NOT the start of the exercise. The judging of an exercise will not begin until the judge has given the first order. **Chapter 2, Section 4**
- 8) Praise and petting are allowed between and after exercises, but points will be deducted from the total score for a dog that is not under reasonable control while being praised. **Chapter 2, Section 22**
- 9) After the last class dog and before the awards: If you have been informed you Qed, warm up your dog as you never know if there may be a runoff! Be prepared and ready if called back into the ring!
- 10) Classes at or after 12:00 noon will be listed "to follow" and must be judged in the order and ring listed. No "to follow" class may start before 12:00 noon. **Chapter 1, Section 26**

A minor deduction is ½ point up to 2½ points. A substantial deduction is 3 or more points.

GOOD LUCK.....YOU and your dog can do this and you will ALWAYS be taking the BEST dog home with you!!!
For more information on Judging, examining the exercises and saving other withdrawals from your "200" account,

check out the... ***Dog-Talk articles:*** www.saintbernardarchive.com

The AKC Blog: <https://akcbedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/>