

Pioneer Tails

Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc
P.O. Box 407, Greenfield, MA 01302

February 2021

President's Message

Happy Late Winter – Early Spring. We are now midway between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox. Soon the sap in the maple trees will begin to rise and we will be able to look forward to lengthening days and less snow. I want to take a few minutes to catch everyone up on what has been going on with PVKC.

Unfortunately, most of our events were canceled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. We did have a very small socially distanced Club Picnic – so nice to sit under the trees in Northfield (6 feet apart of course) and have lunch and catch up on what we all have been doing, not doing and just talk dogs for a few hours.

We were able to hold our Tracking Test this fall as that is a socially distanced event even under normal circumstances. Thank you to Emily and Dorie for pulling that off.

We also held a modified Health Clinic this fall. Sheila and her staff at the clinic did an awesome job pulling that off.

We started holding classes again during the late Summer and continued through December 2020. So many people have gotten dogs and puppies to help them get through the pandemic, that our classes are a much-needed service. The Training Program is, unfortunately, currently on hold. But we hope to begin classes later into the spring. Judith has done an amazing job organizing and keeping this on track.

We are hoping to and looking forward to getting back to normal in 2021. We are planning to have all our usual events – Summer Show, Tracking, Agility and our Health Clinic. Sadly, Farm Dog has not been scheduled. Current restriction make it difficult to hold that event.

The board is working with AKC to revise our bylaws to bring our operating rules into the electronic age so that we can operate in a more efficient manner. The Board has continued to hold meeting via Zoom and plans to continue this practice for the foreseeable future.

The officers and board have all agreed to continue in their current positions except for our Secretary, Cindy Bussey. We would like to thank her for her service to the club. If anyone is interested in joining the board as our Secretary, please let me know. Peg Vohr has graciously agreed to continue as our AKC Delegate.

I wish everyone safety and health as we enter Spring of 2021. And, I wish everyone a more normal year,

Lori



Open Board Position Secretary

In Search Of – new *PVKC Secretary*

- Current duties include attending Board and General Meetings, taking and maintaining meeting minutes, and sharing the minutes with others as necessary.
- All meetings are being held as Zoom meetings – so you don't even need to leave your house.
- Contact Lori Carver
seabreezedogs13@gmail.com

We would love to have you join us.

PVKC Contacts

President:

Lori Carver (802) 338-2857

Vice President:

Linda Gagnon (978) 544-8933

Recording Secretary:

Position Open

Correspondence Secretary:

Position Open

Treasurer:

Darci Lee Brown (413) 498-5006

Board of Directors:

Marcia Evans (413) 221-7577

Jackie Smith (603) 352-7698

Trish Libby 413-628-4784

Nanette Prideau (413) 477-1182

Sheila Blanker (413) 498-5704

Jason Mazzone (413) 628-0178

AKC Delegate:

Peg Vohr (413) 498-2609

Training Chair:

Judith Suarez (802) 722-9848

Membership Chair:

Marcia Evans (413) 221-7577

Training Information:

Judith Suarez (802) 722-9848

Breeder Referral:

Request information with a contact form via

www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com

Web Page: www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com



PioneerTails

**For advertising
contact Judith**

Newsletter Contacts:

Peg Vohr

(413) 498-2609; pegvohr@earthlink.net

Judith Suarez

(802) 722-9848; handart@sover.net

Membership Applications – 2020

As we all know, the COVID pandemic has caused a lot of normal activities to become nearly impossible. And our processing of potential New Members for PVKC was totally disrupted.

Technically, new members are “**Read**” at one General Meeting and then voted in at the next General Meeting. Having no General Meetings has definitely made that process impossible.

While we re-write PVKC By-Laws to accommodate this changing world of everyday business, the PVKC Board voted to facilitate membership for our two 2020 applicants who are caught up in the shifting requirements.

Below is information on our two applicants. If you have comments on either applicant that the Board should take into account before accepting them as members – Please contact Marcia Evans (lexisgracewss@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

We will hold open the possibility for comments for 30 days. If by March 20, 2021, we have no reason not to do so – the PVKC Board will vote to accept them as new members.

When we finish drafting a new section of the By-Laws to accommodate rules for membership processing, we will let you know. I am sure changing the rules before submitting them to AKC for approval will be a whole process unto itself. I would like to say that we on the Board are having fun reviewing and rewriting everything – but really, not so much.

If you would like to help with new regulations do not hesitate to contact Lori Carver (seabreezedogs13@gmail.com). We would welcome any and all help you might offer.

New Applicant for PVKC Membership

Shafiya Finger

West Brattleboro, VT

School Psychologist

Golden Retriever

interests are: conformation, obedience, rally, agility, tracking and therapy dog
not currently a breeder

Sarah Meikle

Diggity Dogs Service Dogs

Greenfield, MA

Lab & Goldens

Interests are: conformation, obedience, rally, agility, therapy dog etc.
currently a breeder

PVKC 2020 Tracking Test

Hi Everybody!! I am so happy to report that PVKC had a wonderful combined TD/TDX test in the beautiful fields around Bernardston, MA September 20, 2020. This was our 11th consecutive combined TD/TDX test!! Dorie Viguers was one of the judges, and PVKC member Tom DeJohn, who is usually our chief track layer, stepped in at the last minute as the second judge when our original second judge was unable to make it. Dorie's driveway and yard, with appropriate COVID19 adjustments were headquarters for the test, and yes, there was even a porta potty! The test tracks were in the beautiful fields in the Bernardston area, and the weather was absolutely perfect!! We offered 4 TDs and 4 TDXs for which I received 13 TD and 12 TDX entries. The lucky 4 who were drawn for each test were so happy and thankful to finally be in a tracking test this fall.

To maintain proper social distancing we essentially had two separate tests. The 4 TD entrants arrived at 7:30 a.m., the first track was run at 8, and the last track finished at 9:30. All 4 passed, and they collected their awards and went home. The 4 TDX entrants arrived at 10 a.m. The first track was run at 10:22, and this was the only TDX pass. The remaining TDX entrants each ran their tracks one at a time with the last one finishing at 11:55. Having to do the test this way meant there was not the usual post-test celebration and socialization and wonderful luncheon, but we did what we had to do, and it was a wonderful day!! Everyone had a great time, and it was one of just a few New England tracking tests this fall!

As I said all 4 TDs passed and 1 TDX passed so it was an absolutely fantastic day!!! The **new TDs** are: Pembroke Welsh Corgi Marshfield's Dark Celtic Warrior of Ledgeland TD RN TKN owned by Denise Lacroix, Spencer, MA; Bernese Mountain Dog Backcountry You're My Thrill TD owned by Beth Atkinson, Jennifer Julian, and Wendy Bennett, Bolton, MA; Dutch Shepherd Decker TD owned by Rio Demers, Barre, VT; and Labrador Retriever Rhumblin's Shoot For The Stars owned by our own PVKC Member Mary Horne, West Halifax, VT. The **new TDX** is two year old English Cocker Spaniel Danby Pond Whitfield Mazel Tov TDX NAP ACT2 owned by Mie Kingsley, Glenn Williams, and Karen Whitfield and handled by Mie Kingsley Danby, VT.

The 4 new TDs and 1 new TDX were spectacular and handled their tracks like pros!! What a perfect and wonderful day it was for them!! Huge congratulations to all of you!! There is nothing quite like the thrill of

passing a tracking test! As Dorie so perfectly stated in her email to the tracking group, *"I have never before had the privilege of being able to follow such an outstanding group of TD dogs and handlers! They all did picture perfect TD tracks where the dogs never gave their handlers a chance to get off track! They were all (including the short legged Corgi) very fast, finishing their tracks in between 4 and 7 minutes! Unfortunately the TDX trackers ran into greater difficulties. The first TDX tracker did pass with an excellent performance, but the next three ran into difficulties and were unable to pass."* The TDX test is very challenging, and they will pass for sure in future tests.

A tracking test could never be held without the support and help of the large group of trackers in Dorie's very active tracking group. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to hold a tracking test!" Thank you so much to the two judges Dorie Viguers and Tom DeJohn. You were absolutely superb! Being a tracking judge is a true labor of love, and there will never be enough thank yous for all you judges do.

And huge thank yous to our 4 wonderful TD tracklayers Mary Ellen Hluska, Tracy Frazee, Donna Proudfoot, and Carol Bolduc; 4 wonderful TDX tracklayers Bill Craig, Kenyon Fairey, Lori Eliot and Dori Almann; and 2 wonderful TDX cross track layers Debbie Rodovich and Sue Kachinski. Thank you so much to Missy Bellerose who did a superb job handling hospitality and keeping everything in accordance with COVID19 protocol. And thank you to the official driver Deborah Abeles whose very important job was to transport the judges from track to track saving them miles of walking. We would never be able to have these tests without everyone being willing to step up to the plate and work! The tracking community is wonderful. Such camaraderie !! And congratulations again to the four new TDs and the new TDX! You were all absolutely fantastic on your tracks! And special thank yous to Dorie Viguers for all you do for tracking . It is a great sport and you have turned many of us into tracking addicts! The tracking community is truly a group of wonderful and supportive people. Thank you for another great tracking season Dorie!

Happy Tracking everyone!!

Emily McDermott, Test Chair/Secretary

The following was sent by Dorie to our trackers right after the tracking test, and with permission from Dorie, I am including it with this report. It truly captures the wonderful spirit of our tracking group!

“ Hi Trackers, What a great day we had for our tracking test today and what a fantastic day it was. First the best news-Mary Horne with her black Lab Ruby did a fantastic job and passed her TD test!!!! Now I need and want to thank all of those involved with making the test possible and so smooth running. First my heartfelt thanks go to Tom DeJohn. He did step in to fill in when our second judge was unable to judge our test. He is extremely knowledgeable both about our fields (and how to fit tracks into them) and about tracking and tracking dogs and how to read them. It was a pleasure to work with him as a co-judge. Then there is Emily, without whom we couldn't have the test. As test secretary and chairman she handles all of the paperwork and email in dealing with the AKC, and the entrants as well as getting track layers and innumerable other tasks. Of course we could not have the test

without tracklayers - Mary Ellen H, Tracy F, Donna P, Carol B, Bill C, Kenyon F, Lori E, and Dori A and cross track layers Debbie R and Sue K. You all did a great job and are truly appreciated by our trackers as well as the rest of the tracking group. **Our club is the envy of many others for having so many of you, both willing and able to lay tracks for us.** Then Missy, who has been doing our hospitality for several years was frustrated by the COVID requirements, but came through taking care of what could be done. Mainly this was providing lunches for the workers on Saturday, but she also was here Sunday helping out. And thank you to Deborah Abeles. She was the judges' driver on Sunday and saved us many steps as well as giving us a little extra time to get our paperwork done so that we were able to give the trackers their maps very shortly after each track. It is always so wonderful to look up at the end of a track and see her waiting there to drive us to the next track rather than having to hoof it back to the beginning of the track !”

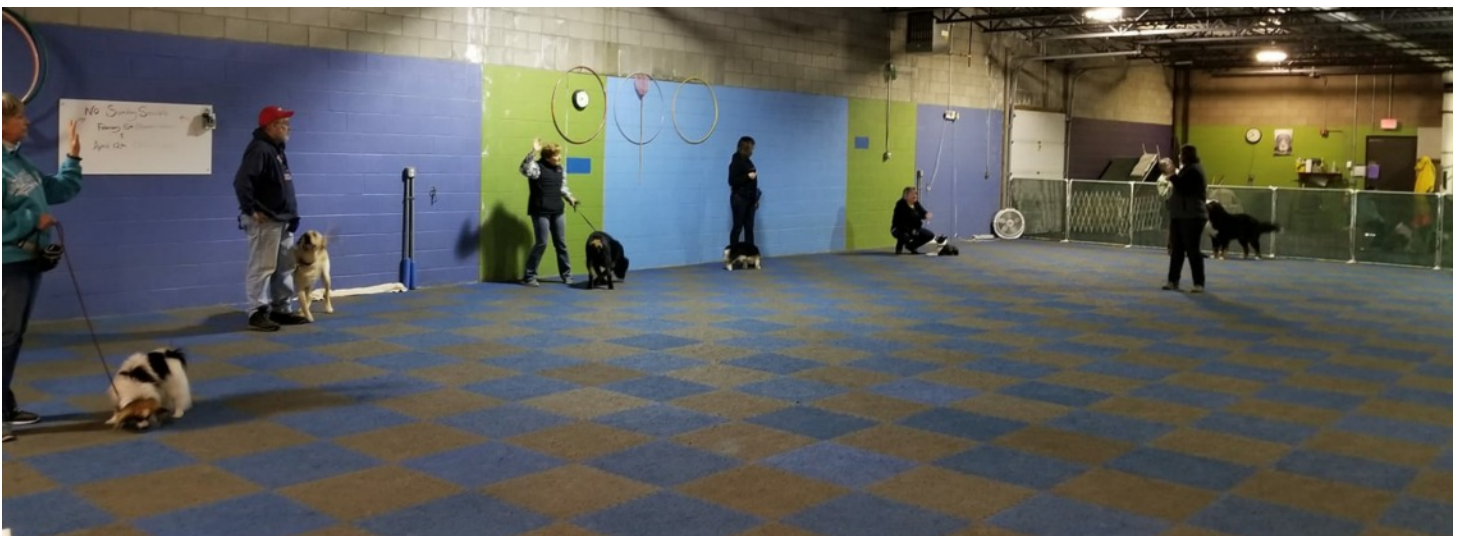
“So to all of you, I, as a representative of the club and tracking group, a rousing **THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**”

Dorie

One of our last PVKC Novice Obedience classes (late February 2020)

Can Not Wait until we can hold these classes again.

Stay Safe and Stay Well !! I promise we will start again as soon as we can.





AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Thursday, February 11, 2021

With the COVID-19 pandemic altering the Massachusetts legislature's process last year, "Nero's Law", which would allow emergency care and transportation for a police dog injured in the line of duty, unfortunately did not make it onto the Governor's desk before the end of the session.

The bill is named for "Nero", the K9 partner of fallen Yarmouth Police Sergeant Sean Gannon who was shot and killed in the line of duty in April 2018. Nero was also shot, but current state law prevented EMTs from treating or transporting him. The American Kennel Club's Government Relations Department (AKC GR) is pleased to acknowledge and thank Representative Steven Xiarhos for re-filing the bill for consideration during the 2021-2022 session.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Massachusetts residents are encouraged to contact their member of the Massachusetts Senate and House and ask them to sign on as a co-sponsor to **HD 326**.

Find your lawmakers' contact information by searching with your address [here](#). Please tell your lawmakers the following:

- * An estimated 200 police K-9s work in the state of Massachusetts.
- * Police K-9s are specially trained and certified to serve multiple purposes from search and rescue to explosive detection.
- * Supporting **HD 326** would ensure emergency treatment and transportation when these exceptional dogs are injured in the line of duty.

For more information on this or other legislative issues in Massachusetts, contact AKC GR at 919-816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org; or the **Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners** at info@massfeddogs.org.

PVKC Training

PVKC Training is current Unavailable

Please check our website for possible future classes

Or Contact: Judith (802) 722-9848 or handart@sover.net

PVKC Tracking

The 2021 PVKC Tracking season has not started yet – there seems to be a whole lot of snow out there.

For more information:

Contact Dorie Viguers; dorieviguers@yahoo.com ; 413-325-8252

