



Pioneer Tails

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

March 2026

**HAVE AN ADVENTURE THIS YEAR –
TRY SOMETHING NEW**



More information on Page 12



More information on Page 13

President's Message

During the cold and snowy winter, committees have been hard at work designing, developing, and organizing canine events and activities for our membership. We are up and running for the 2026 season and I encourage you to check out all the opportunities available on the website. We have many of the traditional offerings with a sprinkle of new.

- Training will return to the Fairgrounds in April and run thru the end of Oct, with a lot of great classes.
- The Extravaganza, which offers an opportunity for 5 titles in one day, has expanded Fetch to include Advanced Level. This year's Extravaganza will also include a Scent Work Fun Match. This is what is hoped to be the beginning of being a scent work club and an opportunity to offer trials.
- The ever-popular health clinic is back, offering health screening (CAER/ Cardiac/Microchip/and Thyroid).
- PVKC and Bay Colony Tibetan Terriers have teamed up to offer a Spring Scurry, in May, an organized hike under the guidelines of the FIT Dog program.
- August will bring the Summer Show, offering Conformation, Rally and Obedience. Lots of opportunities to compete, participate and of course, to **volunteer** to help make these program a success.

These events don't just happen, there is a team of dedicated, hard-working folks that put it all together. The success of these events is dependent upon members that are willing to step up and help, please make an effort to get involved. My sincerest appreciation to all the committee members for their efforts in developing some outstanding programs. Note to committees; now the real work begins! Looking forward to spring and lots of quality time spent with our dogs.

Kim

President:

Kim Reardon (413) 628-4784

Vice President:

Trish Libby 413-628-4784

Recording Secretary:

Monica Pulci 413-824-0511

Treasurer:

Darci Lee Brown (413) 498-5006

Board of Directors:

Kathy Berrena (413) 268-7858

Elizabeth Nichols (413) 337-6665

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PVKC Contacts

Membership Chair:

Kathy Berrena (413) 268-7858

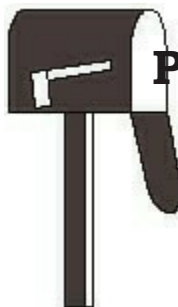
Breeder Referral:

Request information with a contact form via

www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com

Web Page: www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Pioneer-Valley-Kennel-Club-198067530208377/>



PioneerTails

PVKC's next publication of the newsletter will be in **June 2026**.

We will run our feature "Show and Member News." I'll send you an email in May to remind you, so you don't miss being published.

Articles, content, and photos **always** welcome. Submit them – to Judith Suarez, handart@sover.net – when you have them. I'll store them for the next newsletter.

Show & Member NEWS

From Joyce Lak: On January 1st at Tails-U-Win, Manchester, CT, *Ch. Salishan Monk-Kee Business at Bhaledart ATT, CGC, BCAT, FITB, TKN* earned his first USCSS (United States Canine Scent Sports) sniffing leg in Containers! *Monk* has also earned three Grand Champion points in the past few months. Monk is owned by **Joyce Lak/Susan Carr**.



Marnie Spadoni reported: We are delighted to announce that on December 29, 2025, four beautiful Chinese Crested Powderpuffs joined our family — three boys and one girl. This cherished litter was sired by our gorgeous Powderpuff *Marlei's Sky's the Limit* (aka *Noah*, who is soon to complete his AKC Championship) and our stunning Powderpuff girl, *AKC GCH CH Soluna White Moon* (aka *Anastasia*). All were delivered safely at home and are thriving, strong, and content. We are so grateful for a smooth delivery and are excited for the journey ahead as these sweet babies grow.



Kathy Georgian wrote to tell me how 2025 had gone for her. She said that *Liberty's Cheney on Briarhill (Liz)* had a great year. She started by being rescued by Sue Burrell after Kathy broke her leg. Sue started showing her and what year. Kathy also said that *Briarhill Rosalind Christy Ashfield (Roz)* completed her Farm Dog Certification (handled by Kathy) – and sooner or later Kathy will get that paperwork done.

Then I got the complete story from Ara Lynn, AKC Silver Breeder of Merit, Liberty's Glen of Imaal Terriers And here it is – the complete story for those of you who do not know the details.

"On January 25, 2025, I broke my leg," Kathy says. What she neglects to mention is that put her in the hospital for 3 months, and that 5 days later the physical therapist visiting Brad sent him, also, to the hospital as he was having trouble breathing from his lung cancer. So Trish [Libby] was called and arranged places for the dogs. Trish kept Aggie, so she could she could easily bring her back to keep Brad company when he got home from the hospital, and Ara took Roz, Rowdy and Liz. Sue Burrell graciously took on Rowdy and Liz as three extra dogs was a lot for Ara, who was just starting her greenhouse season.

Kathy eventually came home from the hospital, Rowdy and Roz eventually went back to Kathy, but Liz ended up staying with Sue Burrell for an entire year, entering the show circuit. Sue had chosen Liz as pick of the litter when she was about 3-4 days old. Sue told Ara (Liz's breeder) DON'T sell this one as pet. So Liz went to the person Ara trusted best.

Ara put some of Liz's points on her in the beginning, but once Sue started showing her, she wouldn't relinquish her. At thirteen months Liz had become a CH on August 18, 2024. That year she earned two five point majors as Select at Devon and Hatboro. Under Lydia Coleman Hutchinson she got another 5 point major as BOS at the American Kennel Club Royal Canin show in FL. Liz still hadn't celebrated her 18 month birthday!

In 2025, the year Kathy broke her leg, Liz earned some group placements. By September of 2025 she was a Grand Champion. She earned another 5 point major as Select at Morris & Essex (the breed club supported entry), and another as BOS at Hatboro. By December of 2025 she became a GCHB, ending up with a BOS again at the 2025 American Kennel Club Royal Canin show in FL again. She was handled by Sue Burrell. Sue just won't let go of that lead. She says Liz is a blast to show, she's funny, excellent



Members – Special Recognition

2025 Special Recognition

Each year the Board of Directors is challenged with the task of selecting a member they feel has gone above and beyond in service to the club as it's volunteer of the year and identifying an individual in the club that exemplifies AKC 's code of sportsmanship and civility. This is no easy task with a club filled with so many active members, giving of their time, talents and skills to ensure that PVKC can provide outstanding programs and opportunities for responsible dog enthusiast. PVKC is extremely grateful to all our volunteers for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the club.

Thank You and congratulations to our 2025 recipients.

2025 Volunteer of the Year

It is with great pleasure that I announce and recognize the PVKC Board of Directors selection for 2025 Volunteer of the Year.

This year's recipient is a person that will speak up not to criticize but to ask how can I help, what do you need. A club member for numerous years. She returned to serve on the Board 4 yrs ago and has taken on the role of membership chair, is on the training committee, serving as its registrar. Chairs the temperament testing offered at the Extravaganza and this year to add to her work load she assisted with the scent work class and the Fun night.

*The 2025 Volunteer of the Year is Awarded to
Kathy Berrena.*

Kathy has one of the most challenging roles on the training committee, she deals with all the class inquiries and tire kickers and replies to all in a very genuine manner. She is responsible for collecting and depositing

funds and has acquired the ability to generate paypal invoices. She is in constant contact with instructors regarding class details..... She attends the beginning class of each session to welcome folks to PVKC, collect funds if needed and ensure instructors are set and ready to go.

This year she took on the role of assistant to Carol Krygowski in an extremely popular scent work class. At the request of Carol, she traveled to a trial in Peru with a broken leg to observe and gather insight as to how a trial was conducted. Who does that, Kathy Berrena does. She is constantly promoting the virtues of PVKC and all its many offerings and encourages folks to enroll as members, our club has grown to over 100 members, thanks to Kathy.

It with our sincerest appreciation for all her hard work and dedication that we recognize Kathy as the 2025 Volunteer of the Year.



Members – Special Recognition

AKC SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

It is my pleasure to announce the Board of Directors selection for the 2025 AKC Sportsmanship Award. The Sportsmanship Award is given to an individual that reflects and embodies the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and civility.

Known for her outgoing, welcoming attitude and labeled as the queen of hospitality this year's recipient is Marcia Evans. Marcia is a long-time member, who over her tenure in the club has served on the Board of Directors, was Membership Chair for years, has worked on the Extravaganza and agility trials, assisted with storage organization and after being the assistant under the tutelage of Judith Suarez for the summer show hospitality for many years is now the events hospitality chair.

Her role as hospitality chair suits her well. She has tremendous organizational skills, is extremely prepared, works well with volunteers and is just a happy, outgoing and welcoming individual.

Marcia embodies the AKC Sportsmanship and code of ethics criteria. She is an active and valued member of

the club. She is welcoming and accessible to newcomers, fosters a respectful environment, is inclusive, equitable, courteous and respectful to all.

It is with tremendous pleasure that we recognize the hard work, dedication and positive image that Marcia Evans brings to PVKC and award her the 2025 AKC Sportsmanship Award.



She's our winner

Last year AKC established the AKC President's Sportsmanship Award. The award would recognize only one individual that has gone above and beyond, consistently exhibiting the core values of the AKC code of sportsmanship and civility. The existence of competitive dog sport is largely due to the competitor's strong commitment to sportsmanship and a welcoming, respectful culture that embraces diversity in a community united by a love for dogs.

The Board of Directors had only one clear choice for Nominee, and that was Peg Vohr.

Although she was not selected as the winner, we all believe our nominee was (and is) the best. We wanted to share with you the application submitted so you could all learn a little more about the contributions Peg has made to our club, AKC and the canine community.

Special thanks to Ryan Blanker and Karen Shockro for allowing us to share their "Peg" stories.



2025 AKC President's Sportsmanship Award Application

For Peg Vohr

It is with great pride and pleasure that the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Valley Kennel Club (PVKC) nominate our member Margaret (Peg) Vohr for the President's Sportsmanship Award.

Margaret (Peg) Vohr is widely known for her love and enthusiasm for her Rough Collies. As a Collie breeder, Mariner Collies has produced outstanding Collies that have excelled in both conformation and performance. Peg has graced the conformation ring capturing many championships over the years as an owner handler. She displays great knowledge and interest in the breed standards and strived to present outstanding stock in the show ring. Peg also has a tremendous knowledge base of a variety of breeds and their standards; she is a true advocate of breeding programs that are reflective of producing and promoting quality within the breed.

She has also excelled in performance venues, witnessing and adapting to the evolution in the sport of obedience and the introduction of Rally and is a competitor in both venues. Her tremendous experience and success in rally have gained her status as not only a formidable competitor but mentor/teacher to those aspiring to excel in the sport. She has obtained numerous obedience and



rally titles over the years with many of her dogs and most recently Peg has had great success in the Rally Ring achieving a RACH title.

She has been an active and prominent member of PVKC since the early 70's, taking on leadership roles beginning in 1977, serving on the Board of Directors, as Club President, Club Show Chair, Agility chair alongside husband Jim from 2003 to 2013 and served as the club's AKC Delegate from 1994 retiring from that post in 2021. Peg continues to make valuable contributions to the club as an active and vital member; currently serving on the training committee, is co-coordinator and instructor of Rally Drop-in Class, serves as a steward at the club's summer show, assist with the club's Temperament Testing and provides a wealth of knowledge and an enthusiasm for all endeavors the club wishes to pursue.

Peg understands the importance of strong active clubs to the AKC structure and the viability of dog sports. Her dedication to dog sport is contagious and she is seamlessly able to foster a sense of commitment and enthusiasm amongst all those she encounters.

Peg is extraordinarily knowledgeable in all AKC venues and is an advocate for training, responsible dog ownership and encourages all dog teams to set goals and actively participate in AKC events, whether it be in conformation, performance or family dog programming.



Peg Vohr Continued

The truest expression of sportsmanship is to willingly share one's enthusiasm, talent and knowledge with others, especially newcomers to the sport of dogs. Serving as a mentor, capitalizing on the interest of the dog enthusiast and inspiring them to achieve goals, in whatever sport meets their interest. A longtime member of PVKC, Peg has made it her mission to encourage others to become involved in AKC Dog Sports. Peg is instrumental in nurturing members; providing mentorship not only allowing them to achieve their personal goals but encourages them to take active roles that benefit the club. There are so many members of PVKC that point to Peg as the catalyst for their dog sport endeavors, warm, welcoming, knowledgeable, first to congratulate teams on their success and point them to the next level.

With so many "Peg" stories, here are two examples of individuals she's taken under her wing and mentored. As a young boy, Ryan Blanker had a keen interest in the conformation ring. Peg many times provided transportation to shows and supplied ringside cheering. Peg taught Ryan how to steward, grooming techniques and breed standards. Peg was the catalyst behind Ryan obtaining his Junior Show Judges License. Years have not diminished the support and assistance Peg offers to Ryan as he continues his show career and pursues a judging career. Ryan praises Peg's wealth of knowledge and insight to his success. Today as a young man with a busy life, Ryan has a proven track record as an outstanding handler, is an active club member, conducting Handling Classes and assisting with club's events.

Karen Shockro became acquainted with Peg through equestrian activities that they both participated in. Knowing Karen had dogs, Peg encouraged her to try the sport of rally. Inviting Karen to her home for an introduction to Rally putting her through the paces of a rally course. Karen has pursued additional training and in a very short period of time, achieved Masters Level Titles on her two dogs. Like Peg, Karen has become an active member of PVKC. She and Peg are co-coordinators/instructors of Drop-in Rally classes. Karen also coordinates and assists with formal rally classes, is a member of the training committee, has taken on a role within the Fit Dog offerings, serves as a steward for the Club's Rally show and is a willing volunteer at a variety of club events.

Peg Vohr is willing to help others achieve their personal goals but she is also extremely aware that the successes of individuals is only as good as the strength of the local club. A vital club, offering a variety of events and activities, promoting responsible dog ownership and offering a sense of community to its membership is key to the continuation of Dog Sports. Peg Vohr is an outstanding candidate for the President's Sportsmanship Award, because she has made extraordinary contributions to not only so many individuals but to the Pioneer Valley Kennel Club and AKC Dog Sports.



Editor's Note: I am personally indebted to Peg for all of her support over the years. She taught me how to run a conformation ring with joy and exceptional attention to detail. Any Judge I have ever served has her to thank. And when I was Training Chair – Peg was there every week, multiple times a week. She helped me in ways to numerous to list. I would have never been able to cope with that job were it not for Peg.

News on Upcoming Spring Events

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Training Classes

PVKC Training will restart the first week in April. The very best way to find the classes you may want to attend is to go to our website and look at the Training Schedule where you will find a schedule. Clicking on the color button for the class, you will find dates and times for each class, as well as prerequisites and cost information. See (<https://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com/training-schedule-2026.html>)

You will see 3 offerings for your beginner/new dog – Family Dog: Getting Started and Family Dog: Level 2, each of which have multiple days and times for classes. You will also see Canine Good Citizen classes if you want to brush up your skills before testing for a CGC – either at the end of this class or at our Extravaganza.

Then you will see six offerings for more advanced class work. We are offering Tricks, AKC Scent Work (both introduction and advanced), Therapy Dog, Agility (Pre-Agility and Beginner Agility), AKC Fit Dog (Level 1 and Level 2), and Rally classes (Rally Basics and Intermediate/Advanced).

There are also Drop in Classes. Competitive Obedience, Conformation, and Rally all offer drop-in opportunities.

Last but not least, PVKC is offering a new Workshop on Canine Weight Pull. See all the information on this workshop on Page 9)

AKC Scent Work

PVKC has an active and enthusiastic Nosework Committee. Their goal is to put on an AKC Nosework Trial, maybe at the end of the year.

Working towards that goal, they are offering a Nosework Fun Match on April 25 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. If you would like to give this a try, check out the flyer on pages 10 and 11.

The Nosework Committee has also arranged several Nosework Classes. See the next page (page 6) for details.

If you have any interest or curiosity about nosework, please contact Mary. A new program like this will want many hands and heads – get in on the ground floor!

Contact Mary Neill, Board liaison to Nosework Committee
mneill2redk9@gmail.com



AKC Scent Work

Introduction to AKC Scent Work 6-week course

Novice level for handler/dog team who have never trained in scent work. Goal of the course is to gain the skills required to successfully compete in AKC scent work trial at novice level. Course will require handler to purchase training materials for class and home training. Handler must provide a tracking style harness for their dog, any brand acceptable provided the dog has full range of motion and pulling ability along with a 6-to-10-foot leash. Bring super high value treats, enough for 60 minutes of training.

Teams can opt to continue from session 1 into session 2 to build on skills. New teams are welcome to start in session 2. **Instructor Carol Krygowski**

\$140 Members; \$150 Non-Members

(Additional onetime fee of \$40 for training materials) – Class limit 6 teams

Session 1 – April 6, 20, 27, & May 4, 11, 18 (no class 4/13)

Session 2 – June 22, 29 & July 6, 13, 20, 27

MONDAY 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Advanced Scent Work

For Experienced Scent Work Exhibitors

Limited to 6 teams, class is for handlers / dog teams who have experience with the Birch odor. This course will introduce the Anise odor and provide practice for each handler / dog team to search for both odors within a single search. The goal of this course is to explore various methods of training dogs to recognize both Birch odor and Anise odor in a trial setting. Handling materials (1 time fee to be individually discussed with the instructor prior to or during the 1st class, \$0-\$40 depending on student's needs). A small notebook, tracking style harness allowing full range of motion, & 6'-10' leash or long line are required for 1st class. Bring high value treats, enough for 60 minutes of training. **Instructor Carol Krygowski**

\$140 Members; \$150 Non-Members

Class limit 6 teams

Session 1 – April 6, 20, 27, & May 4, 11, 18 (no class 4/13)

Session 2 – June 22, 29 & July 6, 13, 20, 27

MONDAY 5pm to 6pm



April Extravaganza – April 25, 2026

Farm Dog Certification,
AKC Temperament Testing,
Fetch Testing (Novice, Intermediate & Advanced)
CGC & CGC-A testing, & Trick Dog Testing

Join us for a super fun day at the Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 25th

Pre-Registration for Farm Dog, AKC Temperament, and Fetch all close on April 15th – That means the Secretary must receive your application and payment by that date for a guaranteed entry at the pre-registration price.

“Day of” Entries will be available for Farm Dog, Temperament, and Fetch at a slightly higher cost – ***IF there is space unfilled at Pre-registration***

GO TO our Website for all the information on the tests and the Prep Class !!!

<https://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com/april-extravaganza---2026.html>

CGC, CGC-A, and Trick Dog Testing are “Day Of” offerings. No need to pre-register. Anyone is welcome to stop by and test for any of these offerings on April 25th



**Apr 13 Prep class
for FDC, ATT
and Fetch Tests**

**Be sure to make a
reservation for this class**



Health Clinic

April 26, 2026

All Information available at

<https://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com/health-clinic---2026.html>

Registration Closes – April 15th

Jointly Sponsored by Pioneer Valley Kennel Club and
Bay Colony Tibetan Terrier Club

SPRING SCURRY

A Fun Walk for You & Your Dog!

Sunday, May 24, 2026

11 AM - 2 PM

Tree House Brewery
Deerfield, Massachusetts



What Is the Spring Scurry?

A Fun, Non-Competitive Walk to Earn Rewards!

\$10 Walk Registration Fee Includes Pizza Lunch

- ✓ Fit Dog Points
- ✓ Paperwork Available for AKC Spring Scurry Medallion
- ✓ Fun & Exercise for You and Your Dog!
- ✓ Meet Fellow Dog Lovers!
- ✓ AKC Recognized Participation!

To RSVP or for more info contact:

Trish Libby • ashfield1231@yahoo.com

🐾 All Well-Behaved Dogs & Handlers Welcome! 🐾



Pioneer Valley Kennel Club

CANINE WEIGHT PULL WORKSHOP

June 8, 2026 • 5 – 7pm

Franklin County Fairgrounds • Halberg Hall
89 Wisdom Way, Greenfield, MA

BUILD YOUR DOG'S MIND AND BODY!

- ✓ Learn the Equipment, Basics & Benefits
- ✓ Great for New Folks and Beginners
- ✓ Ask Questions in a Safe and Welcoming Environment
- ✓ **Bring:** Treats & Slip Lead/Collar
- ✓ Containment for Your Dog
- ✓ Weight Pull Harness (if You Have One)

Working Spot (Handler/Dog Team) \$40 • Auditing Spot (No Dog) \$15

REGISTER SOON! SPACES ARE LIMITED

To Register, Contact Kathy Berrena
Complete PVKC Training Form & Mail To:
Kathy Berrena
20 Corner Road, Williamsburg, MA 01096

Presented by Natalka Tuczewycz, CCAS from Canine Spotlight Fitness and Training.



Pioneer Valley Kennel Club **SCENT WORK** **FUN MATCH**

When: **April 25, 2026**

Where: **Franklin County Fairgrounds**

89 Wisdom Way Greenfield, MA

Match Secretary: Mary Neill

Address: 215 East Street, Easthampton, MA 01027; Email: mneill2redk9@gmail.com

Judges

Container – Andrea MacRitchie

Interior – Charlotte Underwood-Miller

Exterior – Jim Helems

Class Entries for:

Novice –

Container, Interior, Exterior

Advanced –

Containers, Interior, Exterior

Entry Limits – 40 entries per Judge

Entry Fee – \$10 per Class

Entries Close – April 18, 2026
(or when limit is reached)



To Enter –

Complete and Return Premium (next page)

PIONEER VALLEY KENNEL CLUB – AKC Scent Work Fun Match
Franklin County Fairgrounds, 89 Wisdom Way, Greenfield MA
Saturday, April 25, 2026

Entry Fees - Pre-registration: \$10 per class.

Entries close at the mailing address on April 18, 2026 at 5 PM (or, by class, when Judges' limit is reached)

Mail Entries with Fees to Mary Neill; 215 East Street, Easthampton, MA 01027. Make all checks and money orders payable to **PVKC**. Entry forms must be signed. Entries must be paid in full in US funds only.

Use One Entry for EACH Dog Entered

Please Print Neatly

Please Print Neatly

Dog's Name _____ Breed _____

Owner/Handler _____
Email _____
Phone _____

THIS ENTRY IS FOR: Container *Novice* ___ *Advanced* ___
Interior *Novice* ___ *Advanced* ___
Exterior *Novice* ___ *Advanced* ___

I enclose \$_____ for entry fees.

I assume sole responsibility for my participation in this event.

Owner signature _____

Entries without signatures will NOT be processed

Please Print Neatly

Please Print Neatly



2026 Key Dates

PVKC Meetings for 2026

Board Meetings – Wednesdays

Jan / Mar / May / Aug / Nov – all dates TBD

General Meetings

February – TBD

April 15th Fairgrounds; 6pm

July 15th Fairgrounds; 6pm

Sept 23rd Fairgrounds; 6pm

Oct – TBD Election

Dec – TBD Holiday

●PVKC Events for 2026

- **April 6th & 7th – PVKC Training** starts at Franklin County Fairgrounds **Contact Kathy Berrena at berrenak@msn.com**
- **April 25th – PVKC Extravaganza** at Franklin County Fairgrounds; 3 AKC Trials (Farm Dog, Temperament, & Fetch) Testing for Canine Good Citizen, Community Canine, & Trick Dog **Contact Kim Reardon at xrd3311@yahoo.com**
- **April 25th – Scent Work Fun MATCH** **Contact Mary Neill mneill2redk9@gmail.com**
- **April 26th – PVKC Health Clinic** at North County Vet Clinic **Contact Lori Carver at Seabreezedogs13@gmail.com**
- **May 24th – Spring Scurry Walk** **Contact Trish Libby at ashfield1231@yahoo.com**
- **June 8th – Canine Weight Pull** **Contact Kathy Berrena at berrenak@msn.com**
- **Aug 1st & Aug 2nd – PVKC All Breed Shows / Rally & Obedience Trials**
Contact Linda Gagnon wetacres@gmail.com
- **Oct 27th – Training concludes**
- **Sept/Oct – Possible Scent Work Trial** **Contacts – Carol Krygowski at kvk518@icloud.com and Mary Neill at mneill2redk9@gmail.com**