

# *Pioneer Tails*

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

January 2018



**Monday, January 22, 6:30 pm**

**Meeting & a Movie**

**Brown Motors 39 Beacon St, Greenfield MA**



**The weather outside is frightful.  
Come, be with friends !**



***PVKC MEMBERSHIP DUES – PAST DUE  
Pay Them NOW!***

Please complete, sign and mail the form (pages 7 & 8)

# President's Message

Welcome to 2018! 2018 brings with it many changes and new adventures.

We wish our club Secretary Sue Meachem, her husband Doug and Sue's Snood's a fond "see you later" as they pack up their home in Vermont and head to the middle of America to start a new chapter in their lives. Your President has moved home to the family farm and will be building her "dream" retirement home this coming year.

For AKC - new titles (how many of you have Achiever Dogs now?) and OH, those changes to the Obedience classes!

For our club members is 2018 the time to start a youngster on the road to its Championship, begin the joy of showing a new Special, work on the new Rally Championship, take up Nosework or Barnhunt, or maybe you are planning a litter of puppies?

What ever 2018 brings, I hope it is an amazing adventure!

Happy New Year!

Lori

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## PVKC Contacts

President:

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Membership Chair:

Marcia Evans (413) 221-7577

Vice President:

Linda Gagnon (978) 544-8933

Training Information:

Judith Suarez (802) 722-9848

Recording Secretary:

Sue Meachem (802) 257-7532

Breeder Referral:

Request information with a contact form via

Correspondence Secretary:

Sue Meachem (802) 257-7532

[www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com](http://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com)

Treasurer:

Darci Lee Brown (413) 498-5006

Web Page: [www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com](http://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com)

Board of Directors:

Catherine Lee (413) 534-6121

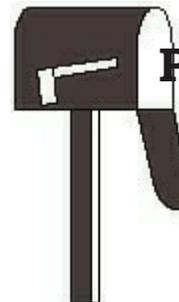
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**PioneerTails**

Deadlines  
Feb 23, 2018

**For advertising  
contact Judith**

AKC Delegate:

Peg Vohr (413) 498-2609

Newsletter Contacts:

Peg Vohr

(413) 498-2609

Judith Suarez

(802) 722-9848; [handart@sover.net](mailto:handart@sover.net)

## Show & Member NEWS – PEG VOHR



From **Dorianne Almann** – *Taika* qualified in her Excellent Distance and Buildings searches in Performance Scent Dogs' Winter Sniff trial at Waggin 'Tail Dog Training Center, Westford, MA on December 10, 2017. *Taika* is the only Rottweiler competing at this level.

**Editor's Note:** *When I got Emily's brag about Archer (below) I convinced her to treat it more like an article on tracking than just a brag. Thank you, Emily, I love it when folks take the time to write for the Newsletter.*



From **Emily McDermott**: What a great day December 3 was up in Danby, Vermont. My three year old English Cocker Spaniel *Archer* (*Whitfield's Danger Zone BN RN TD CGCA TKN*) passed his TD at Tracking Club of Vermont's special winter tracking test, and I am absolutely thrilled and so proud of him! Conditions were excellent that morning...cloudy, cold, but not too cold, wet fields, and no wind! Six of the nine dogs passed including *Archer's* one year old daughter Lindy. It is not often that a father and daughter are in the same tracking test and both pass! *Archer* did an outstanding job getting around his 450 yard, almost an hour old track in six minutes. He never left the track from the start flag to the finish, and he didn't stop until he got to the glove! Thank you, TCV, for holding this special winter tracking test.

And thank you Dorie Viguers and her "Trackers" for all your support and encouragement and for all the practice tracks you put in for *Archer* and me. *Archer* is *Archer TD* because of all your help. We couldn't have done it without you! You are a great group of folks, and I loved working with you this past tracking season. Looking forward to the 2018 season and TDX training!

Since tracking is my love, and since the January Newsletter is always a bit short on news, Judith Suarez suggested I take this opportunity to elaborate a bit more on what actually goes into having a tracking test, focusing on the TD test only. There are three additional tracking tests, TDU (Tracking Dog Urban), TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent), and VST (Variable Surface Tracking) all which have different challenges. More about those at another time.

PVKC members are very knowledgeable about what goes on at breed shows and at obedience, rally, and agility trials, but probably not as many of you are aware

of what happens at a tracking test. So here goes! I'll concentrate on the TCV TD test, but PVKC's tracking test each September works the same way except that our September test has both TD and TDX tracks. There are four of each type of track in the September test.

In a tracking test each dog has its own track, so in this recent Vermont test nine separate TD tracks were plotted. Yes, that is a lot of land!! It takes about five acres for each TD track and 10 acres for each TDX track. The tracks are plotted by the two judges and the tracklayers the day before the test. Corners are marked while the tracks are being plotted. After the tracks are

TRACKING DOG TEST TRACKING CLUB OF VT Event #201725670  
 Date: 12/3/17 Dog's Catalog # 2 Track # 1  
 TD TBX VST TDU Vegetation Non-vegetation Total Yards 450

Tracklayer/Start	G. LISAM	Articles	SOCK GLOVE
Tracklayer/End	BILL	Obstacles/Surfaces	GRASS
Ground Conditions	DRAW		
Weather Conditions	Cool, CLOUDY	Dog's Starting Time	9:11AM
Wind Speed	NO WIND	Dog's Finishing Time	9:17AM
Passed or Failed	PASSED	Score	AKC SR 405601

The Map

handler must stay at least 20 feet behind the dog, follow the dog, and watch for corner indications by the dog. "Trust your dog" is our motto! Tracking is so much fun and very exciting, and there is nothing quite like the thrill of finding that glove at the end!! (I should mention that there is no time limit on these tracks as long as the dog is working. Archer is a fast dog on his track and tends to stay right on the track. Other dogs work the track more slowly, and others tend to quarter a bit back and forth across the track. Dog and handler would only be whistled off the track by the judges and failed if the dog was totally off track or missed a corner or failed to find the end article or the handler was guiding the dog.)

TD tracks can be anywhere from 440 to 500 yards,



Nose Down with Emily 20 feet behind

must have three to five turns, are in open fields, and the scent on the track must be not less than 30 minutes or more than two hours old. This presents a timing challenge when it comes to putting in the tracks on test day. Think about it. Archer had track #1, and his track had aged just about an hour before he ran it. The



Pulling hard – Archer is definitely leading the way

remaining eight tracks were all run in order, and each track had to be put in at a different time—usually at 30 minute intervals—so that each track was the appropriate age, somewhere between 30 minutes and two hours. It takes a tremendous amount of planning by the judges and the Chief Tracklayer to coordinate all the track laying the morning of the test so that everything works

plotted the judges make their official track maps which they carry with them as they follow each dog on its specific track on test day. On the morning of the test the tracklayer for each track officially walks the track at the appointed time removing all the corner markers leaving only the start flag and the directional flag and the start article and final article. It is up to the dog, with its handler, to follow the track and find the article at the end.

If you look at the official judge's map of Archer's track with the solid lines indicating the actual plotted track and the dashed lines indicating Archer's actual path as he did the track, you can see, as I already pointed out, that he never left the track from start to finish. Also, among other things on the map, are circled numbers which are the actual lengths in yards of each leg of the track, the start flag and directional flag, field and weather conditions, what time the tracklayer put the track in, when the dog started and finished the track, and what the articles were. A cloth sock was the article at Archer's start flag, and a leather glove was the article at the end. There are no corner markers on the track. All one sees as dog and handler approach the start are the start flag and the directional flag 30 yards from the first leg and one very large imposing field. It is up to the dog to take the scent at the start and follow the track to the end. The



**Once Archer got to the glove he stopped and stretched out and relaxed! I picked up the glove and happily waved it so the judges could see it! A wonderful and happy moment!**

out! As the saying goes, “It takes a village to hold a tracking test!” Tracking Club of Vermont did a spectacular job holding this test, and I can’t thank my fellow TCV members enough for this perfect winter test. Actually I should say almost perfect! It would have been perfect if Dorie Viguers had been able to be there as the second judge and seen us pass! Unfortunately her foot problems required her to step down as judge, and fortunately she is well on the way to recovering now!

Although PVKC doesn’t have an official “Tracking Club of PVKC” we do have a large, loyal, helpful, supportive, competent and very active group of “Trackers” thanks to Dorie and her expertise and tireless energy. We meet in the fields near Dorie’s house midweek and on weekends starting sometime in March thru mid-November, and there will be a beginner clinic in May. Contact Dorie if you think you would like to learn more about tracking.

PVKC’s next tracking test will be September 23, 2018, and the judges will be Dorie and Stephanie Crawford. Thanks to our very active and experienced group of trackers, Dorie’s dedication to the sport, and PVKC member Tom DeJohn, the world’s best Chief Track Layer, we typically have smooth running and fun tests. Tom’s goal is to have people want to test at our tests, and I think he has certainly met that goal! Circle September 26 and come up and watch the excitement!

Happy New Year everybody, and have fun with your dogs whatever you do!

Emily McDermott and Archer TD!!!!

## December 12, 2017 – AKC Update

Dog lovers and AKC Clubs have demonstrated an AMAZING outpouring of support since Labor Day in response to the critical need to assist pets during times of a disaster, donating \$582,981.87 since Hurricane Harvey! THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Since Labor Day, AKC Reunite provided over \$310,000 in direct aid in response to the following disasters, plus many AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailers were also deployed to assist people and their pets:

- Hurricane Harvey- Houston, Port Arthur, Gulf Coast of Texas: August 25 - September 3
  - Tri-City Animal Shelter & Adoption Center from the Dallas area, was deployed to Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, and then moved on to assist more displaced animals in the Port Arthur, TX flooding aftermath.
    - The City of Fort Worth Animal Care and Control deployed to the Fort Worth Wilkerson Facility Emergency Shelter to help the Hurricane Harvey evacuees care for their pets.
    - Wilson County Animal Response Team traveled (from Tennessee!) to Rockport, TX with their AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer through a direct request by the Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Hurricane Irma- Florida and Puerto Rico: September 6 - September 12
  - The Polk County Sheriff's Office trailer contents were used at two public shelters that were pet-friendly. 619 animals were helped between the two shelters.

- Hurricane Maria - Puerto Rico: September 20, 2017 – no trailers, but donations to veterinarians helping on the island
- California Wildfires - Napa Valley, Sonoma County, Mendocino, Redwood Valley, Santa Cruz: October 8 - 30
  - The SoCal Animal Response Team deployed to assist both dogs and cats during this evacuation.
- Thomas Fire - Ventura County, California: December 5 - (on-going)
  - Ventura County Animal Services deployed their two trailers to the Ventura County Fairgrounds to assist in the California wildfire evacuations offering shelter to 120 displaced pets.
- Lilac Fire - San Diego County, California: December 7 - 10
  - Deployed at Palomar College evacuation shelter accepting people and pets. San Diego Humane Society did not have adequate pet supplies for the number of people seeking shelter.

Since the AKC Pet Disaster Relief launch four years ago: 64 trailers donations

7 additional trailers soon to be donated  
deployments responding to Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Flooding, Apartment Fire

You can see the national distribution of trailer donations at <https://www.akcreunite.org/map> . There is also a link summarizing each deployment.

Thanks to you and all your Clubs ...You made this happen – Happy New Year to all

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## The American Kennel Club Announces Achiever Dog Certificate Pilot Program

The American Kennel Club is excited to announce the launch of its new Achiever Dog certificate program. The AKC Achiever Dog certificate program is designed to recognize those exhibitors and dogs who participate in multiple sports. A dog will receive an AKC Achiever Dog certificate when they have been awarded a placement or earned a qualifying score in three different sports. Dogs can start earning AKC Achiever Dog certificates December 1, 2017. “Many exhibitors are interested in participating in different sports,” said Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board Member. “The AKC Achiever Dog program is designed to encourage owners to try a variety of sports, finding those they enjoy and realizing success. Both are winners!”

AKC is launching the Achiever Dog as a pilot program. At the end of one year, all owners who have received a certificate will be surveyed to determine the success of the program. Opportunities for improvement will be identified and could lead to a more refined program which recognizes these versatile dogs. The survey finding will help to shape the future of the AKC Achiever Dog certificate program. For more information on this program, visit <http://www.akc.org/events/achiever-dog/> or email [achieverdog@akc.org](mailto:achieverdog@akc.org).

*Editor's Note: “A dog must earn at least 1 of the 3 sport achievements on or after December 1, 2017. Previously earned titles or participation can be used as 2 of the three required achievements.” That means **Emily McDermott's Archer**, who completed his TD after Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, is also now an achiever dog !! Who else? ?*



## 2018 PVKC Membership Renewal Form

Our new membership year starts **January 1, 2018** and in order to appear on The membership list and to vote at meetings your dues must be paid by **December 31, 2017**. A **\$7.50 late charge has been added to this form**. Please complete form and send with your check made payable to **PVKC** to:

Marcia Evans  
P.O. Box 208  
Deerfield, MA 01342

**Please Print Clearly!! And please complete both sides of this renewal form.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Breed(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** If you have been an Associate member for one year or more, you may choose to become a PVKC Regular Member. Regular Members are expected to attend two general club meetings a year.

Regular Member (voting) - \$22.50    Associate Member (non-voting) - \$ 22.50    Junior Member - \$11.50

**Check one:** All newsletters will be delivered electronically in 2017. If you have special circumstances please check here: I must receive my PVKC Newsletter (*Pioneer Tails*)  via USPS

**Please check the dog activities you are involved in or would like to learn:**

\_\_\_\_ Conformation   \_\_\_\_ Obedience   \_\_\_\_ Rally   \_\_\_\_ Agility   \_\_\_\_ Tracking   \_\_\_\_ Therapy Dog   \_\_\_\_ Flyball   \_\_\_\_ Herding

\_\_\_\_ Earthdog   \_\_\_\_ Service Dog   \_\_\_\_ Couch Potato   \_\_\_\_ Search&Rescue   \_\_\_\_ Field Trials   \_\_\_\_ Hunt Test   \_\_\_\_ Carting

\_\_\_\_ Lure Coursing   \_\_\_\_ Nosework   Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** \_\_\_\_ Currently a Breeder   \_\_\_\_ Not Currently a Breeder

**PVKC is an active Club with many annual events. To support our continued level of events and activities, PVKC members are expected to help each year. In which of the following would you like to volunteer for 2017 (check a minimum of two items from the list of events and volunteer opportunities):**

*Continues on other side*



# PVKC Calendar of Events 2018

Newsletter Deadline – February 23, 2018

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## *January*

No Board of Directors Meeting  
General Meeting, Jan 22

## *February*

Board of Directors, Feb 5

## *March*

No Board of Directors Meeting  
General Meeting – Monday, March 19

## *April*

Board of Directors, Apr 2  
PVKC All-Breed Show – April 21; Springfield  
PVKC Health Clinic, April 29

## *May*

No Board of Directors Meeting  
Awards Banquet; May 21

## *June*

Board of Directors, June 4

## *July*

No Board of Directors Meeting  
PVKC Picnic; July 22

## *August*

PVKC All-Breed Show – August 4,  
Greenfield MA  
Board of Directors, Aug 13

## *September*

No Board of Directors Meeting  
PVKC Agility Trials, Sept 15-16  
PVKC Rally Trial, Sept 16  
General Meeting, Sept 17  
PVKC Tracking Test, Sept 23

## *October*

Board of Directors, Oct 1  
Annual Election & General Meeting Banquet  
– Monday, October 15

## *November*

No Board of Directors Meeting

## *December*

Board of Directors, Dec 3  
PVKC Holiday Party, Dec 10

### *Planned – No current Date Information*

Tracking Clinic (Spring)

Farm Dog Test (Spring)

Canine Good Citizen Test (Fall)

Trick Dog Title Test (Fall)

# PVKC Training Schedule

## PUPPY Kindergarten Classes:

New Classes Begin -  
Saturday, Jan 13, 2018  
Brattleboro, VT

For information, please contact  
Judith (802) 722-9848 or [handart@sover.net](mailto:handart@sover.net)

Please check our website for exact scheduling of  
2018 classes. Update should be available in late  
December.

[www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com](http://www.pioneervalleykennelclub.com)



**Come!**

## Vermont PVKC Classes:

Obedience, Rally, &  
Breed Handling

Wednesday nights – Brattleboro, VT  
*New Classes for 2018 - Jan 17*

Wed Drop-in Classes running weekly  
*Jan thru December*  
2018 – starting Jan 17

Saturday Drop-in Novice Obedience  
*Jan thru December*  
2018 – starting Jan 13

For information, please contact:

Judith Suarez at (802) 722-9848  
[handart@sover.net](mailto:handart@sover.net)

## PVKC Tracking:

*2018 Season starting in April*

Check our website for dates

Or Contact:

Dorie Viguers; [dviguers@nmhschool.org](mailto:dviguers@nmhschool.org) ; 413-648-9437

*Winter*

***Remember to check the PVKC Facebook Page for cancellations  
before coming to a Drop-in Class***

***It's a Public Page – anyone can access it!!***

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