



TANANA VALLEY KENNEL CLUB WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020



From the President

2020... Wow. Who would ever have thought we'd face all we have this year? Cancellations, modifications, masks, distancing, etc.... Major challenges this year.

We were, of course, sorry to have to cancel the May show, but the good news is it looks like we will be able to hold the show in 2021! Judges are secured and the Borealis Building is reserved. We will probably not be open to the public, and the building will likely be kept wide open for air circulation. We are hopefully optimistic the show will be a go. Be watching for spring classes and get signed up. Good luck to all conformation, rally, and obedience folks!

Agility was also affected by the changes, but our awesome crew of volunteers made 5 trials happen anyway! Hats off to all of you who helped. I'm sure we will have no trouble holding trials in the coming year. So, keep training those contacts and jump sequences

Tracking was affected by the needs of the judges to observe testing regulations, but it was a great weekend of tracking and lots of titles were earned. Thanks to that committee's dedicated volunteers we held our first ever scent works workshop and recently received our brand-new licensing to hold scent work events! If I have my info right, that's our first new sport to be added to the club since agility many years ago. We can be looking forward to many new events in scent work. If you are interested in training opportunities, contact Peggy Beagle or watch the face book page and email for details.

Speaking of Facebook, we recently implemented some general guidelines for members of that group. Please check them out if you haven't. We are confident these new rules will keep the page fun, informative and dog related for anyone who wants to find out about dog stuff in the interior.

We have passed the budget for the rest of 2020-2021. A big thanks to all who participated in that process. It's not nearly as much fun as playing

with our dogs, so I really appreciate everyone who dug in and helped.

The Board met outdoors all summer so we could meet in person and did a great job keeping the club going. We met recently, along with committee chairs, to take stock of the clubs' strengths and potential weaknesses and a very good list of topics to tackle came out of that all-day, retreat style meeting. Going forward we plan to work thru the challenges of offering classes, both in location and securing instructors. We have been fortunate to be able to use Pawsitive's building, but it seems we may soon outpace the availability there. If anyone has any ideas, we are all ears. We hope to offer a workshop for training instructors, too. If you are interested, please contact Jimmie Ricks, 1st VP and classes coordinator.

Some of our other plans revolve around organizational standardization I won't bore you with the details here, but we feel like this

winter will be especially good timing to make sure all our tails are ready to wag when COVID-19 is under control.

Finally, since we can't have a Christmas party this year, the board voted to use the money budgeted for that event as a donation to the Fairbanks Rescue Mission to aid their efforts over the holiday season. I am proud of us for using some of our resources to meet our community needs. I hope everyone has a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Thanks for reading all this, and as always, if you have any questions or comments about anything the club is doing feel free to contact me or the appropriate board member/chairperson. We have a really strong club and I am so happy to be a part of such a fun and dynamic organization.

Be well! Leslie Lewis



BONFIRE!



Thank you to those that came and relaxed with us at the first TVKC Bonfire. It was a beautiful evening to enjoy the sunshine before winter fully settles in. The kids had a great time playing hide and seek and gourmet s'mores were enjoyed by all. This may need to become a tradition. "Jessica"



Class Update: As we all know 2020 started off with some troubling news. Our scheduled classes had just geared up and were barely started when all gatherings across the State of Alaska, and possibly the entire United States were shut down. No knowing what the future would hold we set about getting ready for the next opportunity we would have, hopefully come Fall. We were able to find ways to comply with COVID-19 rules and scheduled Conformation and Obedience!

Conformation has had its run and Obedience is ongoing. It was a real relief to offer members access to top notch conformation and obedience instructors to support our mission and pass on the knowledge available within our Club, even during such difficult times. There is great appreciation for the knowledge being shared by Club Members who offer their time to help others out. Spring planning is currently underway! Jim



The 2020 May Show took a very hard hit from COVID-19 mandates. In fact, it was with very short notice that this entire event was cancelled. Our Chair, Becky Gatteradam, shifted into gear and managed to work with every Judge on the premium. Fortunately, several of the judges immediately committed to judging for the next year. They were wonderfully cooperative in helping the club. Plans are fully underway with contacting the venue, continuing to line up judges, and being aware that we are not fully clear of COVID-19, yet. The interest in Shows is still high, and the Committee is working hard to be ready to spring into action as our deadlines approach, all while keeping in mind the vagaries of COVID-19 requirements, and recognizing that safety is first, and mandates will direct us. Stay tuned for updates!



2020 TVKC Agility brought us an unexpected pandemic to work around and avoid. Following CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), State of Alaska and AKC recommended guidelines we successfully held five weekends of trials.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of many individuals who worked overtime to ensure that we could provide a safe environment for all involved. We received permission from AKC to have volunteer substitutions for AKC judges that were unable to travel to Alaska.

After postponement of our April and June trials, we held our 4th of July trial at the fairgrounds with Michaela Krohn and Chris Terzi volunteer judging under very sunny skies. The June trial was moved to August 1-3 with AKC judge Mike Teh stepping in to travel to Alaska on short notice. This trial was held for the first time at the Ester Community Park which had grounds that were a real treat to run on. Our postponed April trial was held at the fairgrounds August 21-23 with AKC judge Geoff Nieder. The September trial was moved from indoors at Camp LiWa to outdoors at the fairgrounds with volunteer judges Shonda Oderkirk, Chris Terzi and Rob Peterson. Although the mornings were cool and frosty, each day ended up being sunny without rain or snow! Our last trial of the year was held indoors at Camp LiWa with volunteer judges Michaela Krohn and Shonda Oderkirk.

In addition to self-judging, many other familiar aspects from years past were altered so that social distancing could be maintained. Some changes allowed for

smoother running of the trials and will likely be kept for future events. One such feature was the addition of the “Agility Gate” app. Participants downloaded the app onto their phones, checked their dog(s) in and then followed the app from their tents or vehicles so they would know when their turn was close. This app allowed for smooth check in without congestion at the gate.

Safety at these trials for all was of utmost importance. Cooperation with mask wearing and sanitization was greatly appreciated. With a tremendous amount of thought and planning, TVKC agility set the bar high in order to ensure the safety for all involved. We are grateful for the consultation and guidance from AKC’s Director of Agility Carrie DeYoung. Carrie was very supportive as we planned to make our agility season safe and successful. In addition, special thanks to the following for the extra time and effort this past season; trial chairs Linda Schertz, Nicki Stewart and Michaela Krohn; trial secretaries Terri Morefield and Kimberlee Beckmen, and volunteer judges Michaela Krohn, Chris Terzi, Shonda Oderkirk and Rob Peterson.

Thanks to the cooperation of everyone, the Fairbanks agility trials in 2020 were declared a success! TVKC has an amazing team - from volunteer coordinators to course builders to setup/takedown and trial volunteers.

To all our volunteers - we are extremely thankful for every single person who stepped in to work for TVKC agility. The trials would not have been possible if we did not have your help. Although every volunteer name is not listed, we appreciate the time each and every one of you gave to make sure all aspects of the trials ran smoothly. We could not have done it without you!

THANK YOU to everyone!!! Chris Terzi



The TVKC Tracking Committee, in August, 2020, held its 41st TDX and TD Tests in the Chena Flood Control Plain, plus it's 19th VST and 4th TDU. Testing was located in various Fairbanks urban locations. Judges were Mr. Jeffery Shaver and Mrs. Francis Keays. Here is a summary of the tests presented, along with the challenges and results.

TD = Tracking Dog. Six dog teams were tested for TD (approx. 500 yards in simple vegetation). Three passed from Fairbanks, and two passed from Anchorage.

TDX = Tracking Dog Excellent. Five dog teams were tested for TDX (approx. 1,000 yards in changing vegetation with cross tracks). Two passed from Fairbanks, and one passed from Palmer.

TDU = Tracking Dog Urban. Two dog teams were tested for TDU (approx. 500 yards in various urban surfaces, such as grass and pavement). None passed. There were two alternates entered, but none were tested.

VST = Variable Surface Tracking. Six dog teams were tested for VST (approx. 1,000 yards in various urban surfaces, such as grass and pavement). None passed. There were three alternates entered, but only one was tested.

Tracking Test Committee worked very hard to make these tests happen as scheduled, and were often challenged and as the 2020 test year was different and difficult in several ways from previous years (mainly due to COVID) ::

Peggy Beagle, Chair
Janet Brown
Kimberlee Beckmen

Leslie Lewis
Becky Gatterdam
Test Secretary: Jane Knight

Here are some of the many challenges which required tough choices and determination:

- ● Two judges that had signed contracts backed out due to COVID.
- ● It was generally decided that the judges would stay in a hotel as opposed to someone's home. A similar choice was made for ground transportation (rental car, not a loaner).
- ● The Army Corps. of Engineers refused to give the committee a key to vehicle gates, which greatly inconvenienced the judges, tracklayers, exhibitors, helpers, and observers.
- ● The University of Alaska refused to allow us on the campus (at the last minute), which inconvenienced everyone.
- ● The venue situation really put a damper on any gallery of spectators and interested parties.
- ● Financially, the testing cost more than what was budgeted

On brighter notes, we had a two-day Scent Work seminar-workshop by Deb Gillis, in Dianne Marshall's wonderful big building, prior to the tracking tests. Ten dog teams participated, had a lot of fun, and learned various skills. With doors and windows wide open, masks worn by everyone and social distancing observed it was a very safe environment. This seminar-workshop broke even financially.

We also had a one-day Tracking seminar-workshop by Jeffery Shaver. This was very informative for both new and seasoned handlers with their dogs. Working in the great outdoors, practicing safe measures, allowed this to also be very safe as well. This seminar-workshop broke even financially.

Overall, the August activities were well attended and enjoyable.
Peggy Beagle

