



# Timber Ridge Newsletter

February 2024 Issue

## The Barking Bulletin

### NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30  
Stevens Point Public Library in the  
Prairie Room (downstairs) & via Zoom.  
Hospitality: Jocelyn

### Upcoming

### Events

2024 Spring Obedience Trial:  
(February 3-4)

2024 Spring Agility Trial:  
(April 27-28 at OKC)

2024 Scent Work Trial:  
(September 7-8)

2024 Fast CAT:  
(September 14-15)

2024 Fall Obedience Trial:  
(November 2-3)

2024 Fall Agility Trial  
(November 9-10 at OKC)

### Consider

### Volunteering

Volunteers are always needed for all our events. It is a great way to meet people and learn how these events run.

Plus, what could be more enjoyable than a day spent with dog people?

As events are posted here in the newsletter, please consider helping the club. None of these activities can continue without your help!



**Mark these dates  
on your calendar!**



## **2024 Timber Ridge Membership Meetings** (second Monday of the month)

- February 12, 2024** Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room  
@ 6:30 pm
- March 11, 2024** Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room  
@ 6:30 pm
- April 8, 2024** Annual Awards Meeting - location TBD  
@ 6:00 pm
- May 13, 2024** Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room  
@ 6:30 pm
- June 10, 2024** Iverson Park  
@ 6:30 pm
- July 8, 2024** Iverson Park  
@ 6:30 pm
- August 12, 2024** Summer Potluck - location TBD  
@ 6:00 pm
- September 9, 2024** Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room  
@ 6:30 pm
- October 14, 2024** Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room  
@ 6:30 pm
- November 11, 2024** Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room  
@ 6:30 pm
- December 9, 2024** Holiday Party - TBD  
@ 6:00 pm



**Thank you to outgoing President Dana Nelson  
for your service!**

**Elected for the 2024-25 term:**

**President:** Karyn Kopecko – 2 year term (2024-25)

**Secretary:** Chris Jarvis – 2 year term (2024-25)

**Board Member:** Jocelyn Reid – 2 year term (2024-25) Jocelyn will be fulfilling 2024 in the absence of Sherry Salzmann and 2025 in the absence of outgoing president, Dana Nelson.

**Board Member:** Rose Gottung – 2 year term (2024-25)

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



## From the President

Greetings everyone.

First, thank you for putting your trust in my ability to maintain the excellence and standards set by our outgoing President Dana Nelson and the board of directors. Dana, thank you for your service.

As excited as I was after the election, filled with ideas and looking forward to getting to know each member personally, I returned home to learn of my father, William (Bill) Kopecko's passing. Most of you will not recognize his name, some may. Bill achieved 2 OTCH Ch with our Golden's in the early to mid-1980's. We traveled showing 3-5 dogs in Obedience at a time (lots of juggling), too many UD's and CDX's to count along with three breed champions. His top competitor, Ch OTCH Gold Country's Timber Flash (bred by Patti Kolesar/Stoltz) was one of 23 Golden Retrievers to date to receive a dual championship. I would like to imagine he's catching up with all the amazing trainers and friends we've lost from the dog show world, along with all their four-legged companions. Oh, the stories they can tell.

In continuing that legacy through the club, I'm reminded, it all starts with that first beginning class. We all remember ours. For my father and I, enrolling in a community Beginning Obedience class (taught by Patti) in Rhinelander Wisconsin, that was it, we were hooked and off we went. What a great sport we've all chosen!

I'm blessed as I start this journey, the membership is strong, and the club is moving forward. I look forward to getting to know each of you and hearing your thoughts and ideas. What's worked in the past and how the club can meet your current and future training needs. In the interest of preserving this wonderful club, those of us who are veterans and those who are new to dog sports, let's support each other and welcome and encourage new members to get "hooked."

Let's set a goal of creating memories and supporting each other.

I look forward from hearing from you!

Karyn Kopecko



## AKC FIT DOG

FIT DOG is an AKC program to promote exercise for dogs and their humans. Your dog can earn FIT Dog titles (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) by completing different exercise activities. There are six different categories of fitness activities: AKC FIT DOG Course (taught by a certified instructor), Runs (community runs like Turkey Trot), Walks and Hikes (independent or group), Unique to You and Your Dog (swimming, parkour, etc.), AKC Title (agility, dock diving, FAST CAT, etc.), and AKC Parent Club Performance Titles (pack dog, sledding, etc.) More information about the titles can be found on the AKC website.

Additionally, the AKC has developed a program to create FIT DOG Clubs. AKC FIT DOG Clubs will either conduct at least 4 group fitness walks per year or conduct regularly scheduled canine fitness/conditioning classes. The group walks held by AKC FIT DOG Clubs may count towards a dog's FIT DOG title. Groups that are approved as AKC FIT DOG Clubs will receive a free banner with the AKC logo and the club's name. This is something TROCCW could pursue if desired. If we'd like to pursue it, we should try holding one or two group walks and seeing how we like it before applying to become a FIT DOG Club.

Asa Plonsky

Even senior dogs have fun working for Fit Dog titles. Duncan earned his Gold title when he was 13 years old.







## What is AKC Fetch?

Welcome to AKC Fetch! When dog owners are asked about activities they like to do with their dogs, the most common responses are to take their dog for a walk and to play ball (fetch) with the dog.

AKC Fetch titles were created as another activity in which owners could have fun with their dogs in the AKC Family Dog Program. Earning AKC Fetch titles provides opportunities for both physical and mental exercise. While some dogs are natural retrievers, AKC Fetch, especially at the advanced levels, will involve teaching new skills such as retrieving.

### **AKC Fetch is designed for all breeds.**

AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test. The four levels of titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever) assess the ability of the dog to retrieve. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to signals. There is also a memory component in Advanced and Retriever because a retrieving bumper or ball is dropped (or thrown) behind a blind where it cannot be seen.

For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges.

Dogs who are at least 6 months of age are eligible to take the AKC Fetch test as long as they are registered or enrolled with AKC and have an AKC, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners number.

### **Why Participate in AKC Fetch?**

AKC Fetch provides a form of exercise for dogs and their owners. Dogs learn new skills and many handlers will learn to teach a skill (i.e., retrieving) they have not previously taught.

**AKC Fetch titles are fun to earn and can be used as a required AKC title for earning the Gold level of AKC FIT DOG. For info on AKC FIT DOG, see: <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>**



## Strawberry love hearts

### Ingredients:

- 32g Greek yoghurt
- 3-4 large strawberries finely chopped



### Method:

1. Finely chop the strawberries
2. Add a few pieces of strawberry to each section of a love heart silicone mold, or add them to an ice cube tray
3. Pour the Greek yoghurt over the finely chopped strawberries and put in the freezer for 3-4 hours, or overnight
4. Once the mixture is frozen, pop them out
5. Once you have taken out your dog's allocated portion for that day, transfer the rest into a sandwich bag and place them back into the freezer for next time



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# Outdoor Winter Fun With Your Dog

## Skijoring

Skijoring, a popular Scandinavian sport, has caught on in the U.S. It translates to “ski-driving” and combines cross-country skiing with some of the same skills as dog mushing. It requires one or two dogs that weigh over 35 pounds and enjoy pulling, cross-country skis and poles, a pulling harness for your dog, skijoring belt, and a towline. Basically, you’re cross-country skiing with your dog leading the way.

Although you might think it’s a sport meant only for northern dog breeds like Siberian Huskies, almost any dog that loves running, weighs enough, and is tall enough to negotiate snow makes a great skijoring partner.

Skijoring is becoming so popular that there are even competitions, with regional and national championships. So whether you’re longing for some winter competition or just love the quiet and exhilaration of skiing a fresh trail through snow, skijoring is wonderful exercise and a great bonding opportunity for both of you.



## Kicksledding

If you and your dog are not quite ready for the Iditarod but love the idea of mushing, try kicksledding. Developed in Scandinavia as a way to navigate icy streets, kicksledding requires a sled, harness for your dog, and towline.

It’s not meant for deep snow and works best on flat, slick surfaces or packed snow. It also requires that your dog learn some kicksledding cues since they must respond to your voice commands. While not quite as complicated or taxing as mushing, be prepared for a pretty vigorous workout.

## Snowshoeing

For a gentler winter workout, try snowshoeing with your dog. All you need are snowshoes, belt, harness, and towline. Depending on how adventurous you’re feeling and how much exercise your dog can handle, a snowshoe outing can be as leisurely as gliding through familiar trails and parks or as rigorous as making your way through deep powder.



## Canicross

You don't need snow to enjoy winter activities with your dog. [Canicross](#) is cross-country running, but as a team, with your dog in the lead. Canicross requires minimal equipment. Your dog will need a well-fitting harness in which they have the freedom of movement to run. You'll need a waist belt and a bungee line.

As in kicksledding and mushing, the human is the driver, issuing voice commands, so your dog should know and respond to commands. Your choice of locale is virtually unlimited, from forest trails to local parks to the beach or the mountains. It's best to vary terrain between harder and softer ground since that will be easier on muscles for both of you. Although working breeds tend to be most popular for Canicross, any dog that likes to run and is in good shape can make a great Canicross teammate.

## Scavenger Hunts

Who says you have to venture away from home to have outdoor adventures with your dog? How about a scavenger hunt in your own backyard?

Make little snow mounds or dig out shallow holes in the snow to hide treats and toys. Then have your dog use their nose (and eyes) to find them. Not only will they get exercise, but they'll also have to use tracking and problem-solving skills to find the prizes.

## Indoor Winter Fun With Your Dog

Even on frigid, wet winter days, your dog will benefit from mental and physical activity. With a little ingenuity, you can both have some indoor fun. Whether it's playing hide-and-seek, learning new tricks, practicing Obedience training, setting up a DIY obstacle course, or treat puzzles for your dog, don't let being stuck indoors keep you both from having fun. Here are some indoor winter activities to get you started, as well as DIY cognitive toys.

Finally, and most importantly, before you embark on any adventures with your canine pal, assess whether it's appropriate for their age, size, abilities, and general health. If in doubt, check with your veterinarian. Once you're confident that you're both up for it, get out there and have some fun!



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# That's my dog!

Wags & Brags

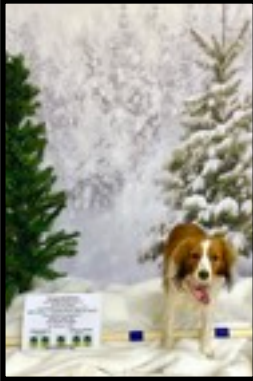
## CHIP-CHIP HOORAY!



**Chip** and I went to the Winnegamie Dog Show on January 13 & 14 in Oshkosh. **Chip** went BOB and BOB OH each day; Sunday he also took a Group 4. The real win for me was having my granddaughter Addy show **Chip** in PeeWee.

We hope to see **MANY** brags next month after members participate in the TROCCW Spring Obedience Trial!

# Reese Demonstrates Parkour Skills!



The Foundation Skills Titling Program is open to puppies as young as 12 weeks and to all adult dogs. The program is an optional adjunct to the All Dogs Parkour titling tracks and may be done at any time before, during, or after a dog has earned other ADP titles. The skills demonstrated in this program pertain to parkour but also serve as a foundation for other dog sports, boosting confidence and enhancing the relationship between dog and handler. The program is a structured and easy way to introduce a new dog (whether puppy or adult) to the fun of training. **Reese** earned titles in Foundation Skills Levels 1, 2, and 3 by doing 10 parkour exercises for each level.

Submitted by Sarah Krueger

**Reese** earned her All Dogs Parkour Level 1 title by demonstrating 12 exercises (6 may be repeated using different objects). She loves to stay active and Parkour gives her that opportunity!



Braggs  
are due  
February 29th  
for the  
March  
Newsletter!

**TIMBER RIDGE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN, INC.**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

January 8, 2024 – 6:30 pm - Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room and via Zoom

**Meeting was called to order at:** 6:30 pm by President Dana Nelson

**Members in Attendance:** Laurie Bandy, Wendy Carlson, Phyllis Christensen, Rose Gottung, Ann Hanson, Chris Jarvis, Karyn Kopecko, Serena Menge, Dana Nelson, Jocelyn Reid, Kathy Schuh. Via Zoom: Jona Decker, March Frisch, Linda Johnson, Jessica Kachur, Sarah Krueger, Donna Leavitt, Suse, Reinke Riddle, Sara Zoeller. Guest: Sue Taylor

**Minutes of last meeting/motion to dispense:** Kathy Schuh, seconded by Laurie Bandy. Motion carried.

**Board Report:** Dana Nelson, no Board business to report.

**Secretary's Report:** Chris Jarvis, nothing to report

**Treasurer's Report (subject to audit):** Provided by Ann Hanson. Checking account \$4020.25, Savings \$22,792.20, CDs \$8632.72

**Committee Reports**

1. **Website** – Jona Decker – see Unfinished Business for update.
2. **Awards Committee** – Serena Menge and Amy Sjomeling – Costs remain unchanged for 2024 from 2023. The Board has approved the expense. Members must have attended two meetings and served at least one event to participate. The order form will be distributed soon and must be returned before February 1, 2024. Send application and documentation to: Amy Sjomeling, 107 2nd Street, Nekoosa, WI 54457. You may send scanned copies by email to: asvlabs@gmail.com

**Event Reports**

1. **Feb 3-4, 2024 - Spring Obedience Trial**
  - a. Chairs: Cindy Bohnert and Kathy Schuh
  - b. Chief Ring Steward: Mary Fritsch
    - i. VOLUNTEERS needed to steward. Contact Mary Frisch via email ([Mary.sprucehaven.frisch@gmail.com](mailto:Mary.sprucehaven.frisch@gmail.com)) or the TROCCW Facebook page. Provide your name, which day(s), what classes you are showing in, and preference for Rally or Obedience.
  - c. Judges: Anna Lorenz and Chuck Kline
  - d. Hospitality: [sign up sheet is here](#)
    - i. Saturday: Chris Jarvis (Italian beefs), Asa Plonsky (pasta salad) Phyllis Christensen (side dish), Jessica Kachur (dessert), Rose Guttung (dessert)
    - ii. Sunday: Jocelyn Reid (Sloppy Joes), VOLUNTEER needed (side dish), VOLUNTEER needed (side dish), Jessica Kachur (dessert), Rose Gottung (dessert)
2. **Apr 27-28, 2024 Spring Agility Trial**
  - a. Chairs: Jane Zank
  - b. Trial Secretary: Lorah Marquardt
  - c. Judges: Mark Rudd
  - d. Venue: Oshkosh Kennel Club
3. **Aug 30-Sep 1, 2024 Labor Day Agility Trial**
  - a. Chairs: Karyn Kopecko and Jennifer Kressin
  - b. Judges: TBD
  - c. Venue: Oshkosh Kennel Club
4. **Sep 7-8, 2024 Scent Work Trial**
  - a. Chairs: Sherry Salzman-Scott and Joyce MacKay



- b. Committee Members: Karon Lee, Janet Smith, Mary Damien, Rose Gottung, Jocelyn Reid, Lisa Huber
  - c. Judges: Caroline Kobe-Oldham, Robin S. Taylor, Amy Wukotich
  - d. Venue: Rosholt Lions Camp
5. **Sep 14-15, 2024 Fast CAT** – June 14, 2024 application deadline
- a. Chairs: TBD
  - b. Venue: TBD
6. **Nov 2-3, 2024 Fall Obedience Trial**
- a. Chairs: Jennifer Kressin
  - b. Judges: TBD
  - c. Hospitality: TBD
  - d. Raffle Baskets: Jennifer is thinking of doing a raffle for the November show. Keep your eyes open for good raffle basket ideas between now and then.
7. **Nov 9-10, 2024 Fall Agility Trial**
- a. Chairs: Karyn Kopecko
  - b. Judges: Rhonda Bermke
  - c. Venue: Oshkosh Kennel Club

### **Elections**

1. Thank you to outgoing President Dana Nelson for her service
2. Elected for the 2024-25 term:
  - a. President: Karyn Kopecko – 2 year term (2024-25)
  - b. Secretary: Chris Jarvis – 2 year term (2024-25)
  - c. Board Member: Jocelyn Reid – 2 year term (2024-25) Jocelyn will be fulfilling 2024 in the absence of Sherry Salzmann and 2025 in the absence of outgoing president, Dana Nelson.
  - d. Board Member: Rose Gottung – 2 year term (2024-25)
3. New Member(s): Sue Taylor attended her second meeting and was voted in as a new TROCCW member. Welcome, Sue!

### **Unfinished Business**

1. Chair(s) needed for Sep 14-15, 2024 Fast CAT
  - a. AKC Applications received less than 3 months prior to the start of the event date (which would be June 14, 2024) may be subject to a \$50 late penalty.
2. TROCCW becoming an AKC FIT DOG club
  - a. Update from Asa Plonsky: It would be better to apply after holding at least one group walk. Asa would be willing to be a co-chair if one other member would volunteer to be the other co-chair. Her proposal is that one or two group walks be scheduled to decide if it's something the club wants to pursue before applying to the AKC. There was a question about if virtual events qualified. Since club members are spread out, it may be necessary to have “regional” events. A suggestion was made that Asa provide information about the program for the club newsletter.
3. Sunshine Committee - The Sunshine Committee would ensure that the TROCCW communicates in a sensitive and thoughtful way to any member who may need encouragement.
  - a. Laurie Bandy, Jocelyn Reid, and Chris Jarvis expressed interest. Ideas included mailing a card, making phone calls, or using an e-card as a way for all members to participate. Club members would be responsible for reaching out to committee members to alert them of members in need.



## **New Business**

1. 2024 Camp Bandy Rental
  - a. Phyllis Christensen moved to have the club continue to rent Camp Bandy for member-only training sessions for the remainder of 2024, twice monthly on Sundays for 3 hours. Serena Menge seconded. Motion carried.
2. Increasing search engine hits for the TROCCW web page
  - a. Jona Decker provided the update. Full search engine reviews are time-consuming to complete. In most searches TROCCW is on the first page of search results. “Timber Ridge” is a common regional phrase, so it does cause more irrelevant search results. The website address (trdogtraining.com) doesn’t have “Timber Ridge” as part of the URL. “Dog training” will not cause a hit, but TROCCW isn’t involved in training anyway. Keeping content updated on the website would help, regular blog posts, for example.
3. Agility and Obedience Run-throughs
  - a. Karen Kopecko will schedule these again starting in April. Agility gets the most traffic, followed by Obedience. Karen will use attendees at the February Obedience trial to gauge interest. There was discussion about including a Rally RT. It’s difficult to manage course set up when dogs/handlers are at different levels and there is only one ring.
4. Brags are due by the end of January for the February newsletter. Send to sarahinpaca@charter.net

**Next Meeting:** February 12, 2024 – 6:30 pm - Stevens Point Public Library - Prairie Room and via Zoom

**Hospitality:** Jocelyn Reid

**Adjournment at:** 7:16 pm

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Chris Jarvis



# Officers & Contacts

	<u>Term</u>
<b>President:</b> Karyn Kopecko <a href="mailto:k.kopecko@gmail.com">k.kopecko@gmail.com</a>	2025-2026
<b>Vice President:</b> Laurie Bandy <a href="mailto:laurie@campbandy.com">laurie@campbandy.com</a>	2024-2025
<b>Treasurer:</b> Ann Hanson <a href="mailto:alhanson1@gmail.com">alhanson1@gmail.com</a>	2024-2025
<b>Secretary:</b> Chris Jarvis <a href="mailto:ckjarvis@charter.net">ckjarvis@charter.net</a>	2025-2026
<b>Board Members:</b>	
Rose Gottung <a href="mailto:rosesbeagles10@gmail.com">rosesbeagles10@gmail.com</a>	2024-2026
Kathy Schuh <a href="mailto:kschuh@charter.net">kschuh@charter.net</a>	2024-2025
Jocelyn Reid <a href="mailto:jocelynreid23@gmail.com">jocelynreid23@gmail.com</a>	2024-2026
Dana Nelson <a href="mailto:nelson.dana22@gmail.com">nelson.dana22@gmail.com</a>	2024-2025
<b>Newsletter:</b> Sarah Krueger <a href="mailto:sarahinpaca@charter.net">sarahinpaca@charter.net</a>	
<b>Club Website:</b> <a href="http://www.trdogtraining.com">http://www.trdogtraining.com</a>	

## Camp Bandy Members Only Training Times



### Sunday, February 18

11 - 12:30 | Obedience, Rally & Individual Skills

12:30 – 2 | FULL COURSE Agility

### Sunday, February 25

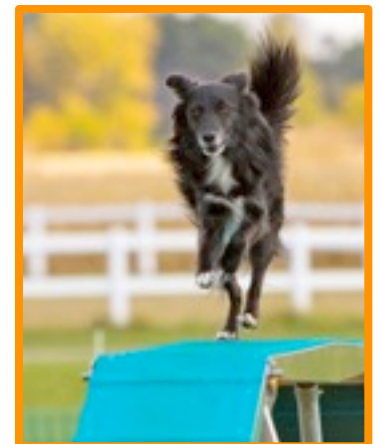
11 - 12:30 | FULL COURSE Agility

12:30 – 2 | Obedience, Rally & Individual Skills

\*Members set up rings and courses\*

### **GUIDELINES**

1. Please gate off the section you are working on during separate skills.
2. Please ask if the person is done using the equipment before you start working your dog.
3. Please have gating across the front while running full course agility.
4. Please have dogs on leash while entering and exiting the building.



## **A REMINDER FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT!**

**Because we have recently added many new members (YAY!!), here are a couple of reminders about training time:**

1. Members set up the rings and courses. If you aren't able to help or arrive later, please don't jump in and start using things that others have spent the time setting up before they have had a chance to use the ring/course. We have Camp Bandy for this time frame only. Many hands make work light.
2. Crate your dog(s) unless you are working them in the ring/course or in a spot in the arena. Be mindful of other people and dogs.
3. Agility time is for a full course. Agility time is set aside so people can run full courses. If there are a lot of people, work together to change jump heights, etc. Gate off the area by the door.
4. Obedience rings should be used to work your dog either on a 'run thru' or a set of exercises for a reasonable amount of time. Everyone should have time in the ring. If you wish to work on an individual skill for agility, great. It means one piece of equipment (so no multiple pieces of agility equipment during obedience time).
5. Communicate with each other. If someone is taking too much time, tell them. If you need to leave in 20 minutes - ASK if you can go next. If someone sets up a course or a ring say thanks. If you need help with something, ASK. This is a great group who is more than willing to help out.
6. If you put food on the walls to mark the go-out (or for any other reason) please clean up the spot, remove the food, etc.
7. If you are there alone or just a few people, work it out, if you don't need a ring, great. You don't have to set it up. You can be there for the full 3 hours or only 15 minutes.
8. Training time is meant to be used by any/all members. Keep in mind people use these times in different ways. Whatever way you use the time...enjoy training your dog!

**Many great friendships have been made during this time!**