



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

February Meeting

February 15, 2024, 7PM
Smitty's Pancake and Steakhouse

Upcoming Events

Scentwork Seminar – February 9-11 at Shelley Fire
Station

Scentwork Trial – March 2 & 3 at Airsoft Arena in Rigby

Patty Biggins Seminar – March 29 & 30 at Shelley Fire
Station (All Working Spots are Filled)

February 20 is National Love Your Pet Day!

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On Valentine's Day, humans give [chocolate](#), teddy bears, and roses to our loved ones to show appreciation and affection. But what about our [favorite canine companions](#)? Here are some tips on how you can show your four-legged Valentine some love.

Take a Long Walk

What better way to spend Valentine's Day with your dog than sharing some [quality bonding time](#)? Take your dog for a nice, long walk in the neighborhood where they can [sniff to their heart's content](#). Or bring them to a [dog park](#) or fenced-in, off-leash area to run around. If the weather's warm enough, you could even go [hiking with your dog](#). It's a great way for your pup to get some exercise and have fun.

Teach Your Dog New Tricks

Another way to bond with your dog and show some appreciation on Valentine's Day is by teaching them a [new trick](#). You can easily teach your dog tricks like [shake hands](#), crawl, [fetch](#), [roll over](#), and even [kiss](#). Training treats that your dog really loves are a great way to teach your dog tricks through [positive reward training](#). Dogs who learn enough tricks can ultimately earn their [AKC Trick Dog](#) title.

Have a "Date Night" In

You and your dog may want to opt for a relaxing evening at home. Sometimes it's nice to just cuddle up on the couch and watch a good movie. If it happens to be a [dog movie](#), even better. Giving your furry friend extra attention and cuddles is a surefire way to make them feel special on Valentine's Day.

Give Your Dog a Gift

Valentine's Day is prime for gift-giving, but what's a dog to do with flowers or jewelry? Instead, consider pup-appropriate presents like a new [toy](#), [bed](#), or [outfit](#). Your dog may not understand the reason for the gift, but they'll likely love it no matter what since it came from their favorite human. Plus, you can be reasonably sure your present won't get re-gifted.

Get Them Groomed

Some dogs may not like being groomed, but plenty of pups love it. A [professional dog grooming](#) session is a great way to splurge on or spoil your pup, but there are also [at-home grooming](#) options if your dog isn't into traveling to the groomer. At the very least, a good brushing and a quick bath are nice ways to keep your pet fresh this Valentine's Day.

Treat Your Dog Right

Anyone who's seen a ravenous pup devour their dinner can confirm that dogs love to eat. [Treats](#) are a great way to provide mental stimulation via training while showing your dog some love in the process. Sure, giving treats might be something you do every day anyway. If treats are what your dog loves, who are you to deny them some snacks (in moderation) on this day dedicated to love?

Give Sports a Shot

[Dog sports](#) are an ideal way to channel some of your dog's instincts and energy into a fun activity you both will love. Some sports (like [Obedience](#), [Agility](#), and [AKC Rally](#)) focus on teamwork and the dog-owner bond. Others, like [Fast CAT](#) and [Scent Work](#), seek to develop dogs' natural urges, like chasing and sniffing. Introducing your canine companion to the world of dog sports is a unique way to show your love.

Massage Your Dog

Yes, you read that right. [Massages are beneficial to dogs](#), just as they are for humans. If your dog is already an athlete, they'll appreciate the added attention to sore muscles.

However, massages are good for all canines, even those couch potatoes. Massages reduce stress and anxiety, increase circulation, decrease pain, and strengthen the bond between you and your dog, making it a perfect Valentine's Day activity.

Get Smart(er)

If "a tired dog is a happy dog," that applies to your dog's brain, too. Dogs are intelligent creatures that require mental stimulation to stave off [boredom](#) and [stress](#). There are plenty of creative ways to provide mental stimulation, but [puzzle toys](#) are a fun and easy option that both you and your dog will enjoy.

USRVDTTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date 1/18/24

The regular monthly board meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 7pm at Papa Kelsey's in Idaho Falls.

Previous Board Minutes Read/Dispensed: Motion to accept board minutes as they were printed in the December newsletter.

Motion by: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Board Members Present:

Lacey Moon Nicki Bowden Richard Brizzee MaKayla Summers John Baughman Suzanne Belger

Visitors/Members Present:

Phil Moon

Report of President: None

Report of Vice President: None

Report of Secretary: Working on updated membership list/ booklet for 2024. It will be complete by the January newsletter and will be emailed to each member and mailed to those without emails.

Report of Treasurer: YTD income: \$3,394.54 Total Equity: \$106,791.74 Balance Sheets are filed with secretary notes and available upon request.

Report of Committees:

Nicki - Scent work trial will be March 2&3. We're having it at an Airsoft arena in Rigby. It will be fun for interior. Buried and container will be a little difficult, but still should be good. The judge is set up and ready.

Suzanne – Feb 9, 10 & 11. Scent work seminar at the Shelley Fire Station.

Suzanne – Patty Biggins seminar end of March. All working spots are already filled. It will be at the Shelley Fire Station as well.

License on agility trailer has been renewed and all other plates and stickers have been renewed for all trailers. Insurance is up to date and the Secretary of State filing is complete.

Auditing committee met 1/11 and determined that Suzanne can keep being treasurer. Report is filed with Secretary notes.

Unfinished Business:

Suzanne made the changes to the standing rules that we'd discussed at September's board meeting. They will be brought forward in the February club meeting for a vote.

New Business:

Volunteer positions –All vital positions have been filled. Forms attached with secretary report and will be posted in the January newsletter.

Budget –Reviewed and adjusted according to current needs. It is attached with secretary reports and will be posted in the January newsletter.

Motion for Adjournment: Suzanne Belger

Seconded by: Richard Brizzee

Time Adjourned: 8:17

USRVDTC 2024 Volunteer Positions

Agility & Obedience Equipment Manager	Robert Bonagofski
Agility Training Director	Alicia Thompson
Agility Trial Chairperson	LaDawn Moad
AKC Delegate	Barbara Norton
AKC Delegate Liaison	Nicki Bowden
Canine Good Citizen Chairperson	Richard Brizzee
Financial Audit Committee	Richard Brizzee, Kelly Keele, Arynne Kunsaitis
Newsletter	Shelby Tornblom
Obedience Training Director	Heike Vitacolonna/Shelby Tornblom
Obedience Trial Chairperson	Desi Chase
Scent Work Training Director	Suzanne Belger
Scent Work Trial Chairperson	Nicki Bowden
Trailer	Phil Moon
Trophy Coordinator	Nicki Bowden
Webmaster	Brian Meyers

USRVDTTC Budget

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
President	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Vice President	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Secretary	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Treasurer	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Agility Trials	\$17,255	\$17,255	\$17,255	\$17,255	\$17,255	\$17,255
Agility Training	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
Agility Equipment	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,500
CGC	\$75	\$75	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Club	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$2,000
Delegate	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Historian	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0
Video/Book	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0
Newsletter	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Obedience/Rally Trial	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400	\$7,400
Obedience Training	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Obedience Equipment	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
Publicity	\$500	\$500	\$100	\$500	\$100	\$0
Tracking Test	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0
Tracking Training	\$800	\$800	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0
Trailer	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000
Seminar	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Scent Work Trial	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,500
Scent Work Training	\$500	\$500	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Storage	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,000