



# UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

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### Regular Meeting

November 20, 2025

7PM at Smitty's

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### Christmas Party Update!

December 13, 2025

At The Bees Knees

Small Banquet Room in the Fairbridge  
Hotel

Please see more info below.

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#### President

Nicki Bowden  
Nedwob88@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Richard Brizze  
richbriz@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Suzanne Belger  
desertmtnmalinois@gmail.com

#### Secretary

Lacey Moon  
Philandlaceymoon@hotmail.com

#### Board Members

Christina Krieger (3 Years)  
christinaekrieger@gmail.com

John Baughman (2 Years)  
jmbaughman170@gmail.com

Mira Johnson (1 Year)  
Goby182@gmail.com

#### Newsletter Editor

Shelby Tornblom  
shelbyrmoad@gmail.com

[www.USRVDTTC.org](http://www.USRVDTTC.org)

# Christmas Party

December 13, 2025

At The Bees Knees  
Small Banquet Room in the Fairbridge Hotel  
850 Lindsay Blvd in Idaho Falls, ID

\$25 per person – Pay on the website or give to Suzanne

6PM Icebreaker (Full Bar Available for Purchase)  
6:30PM Appetizers  
7PM Dinner  
8PM Awards and Contests

Dinner Choices:  
Flank Steak  
Chicken Chardonnay  
Sweet Chili Salmon  
Pink Floyd Fettucine with Veggies (Vegetarian)

All Served with a salad and dessert apple cobbler with honey cream

Please RSVP to Richard [richbriz@gmail.com](mailto:richbriz@gmail.com) with dinner choice.

We will have a White Elephant Gift Exchange, Christmas Cookie Contest,  
and Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Please bring cookies and dress up if you want to participate in the contests!

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## Club Member of the Year Nominations

- I would like to nominate Michael Cook for Club Member of the Year. He works incredibly hard for our club behind the scenes. He makes sure we have all the necessary equipment to run our Agility Trials. He makes sure everything is in working order and fixes many items, saving the club money. In my opinion, he is our hardest working club member at all of our Agility Trials. He is the first one to arrive and the last to leave, always making sure the courses are built quickly and properly and the dirt is in excellent running condition. We would have a difficult time running a trial without him.
- I would like to nominate Bryce Hammond as club member of the year. Bryce stepped into the role of Agility Trial Chair for our agility trials this past year. He was a great chair for our April trial. As a first-time chair (he didn't run a dog) he ran a highly successful trial with minimal help during the planning process. The trial ran as if he had been doing it for years. He met all deadlines and always was one step ahead. Bryce is an asset to the club and the club could use more members like him.
- "Club Member of the Year" should be someone that helps the club succeed in its activities whether or not they participate in all those activities. Nicki Bowden epitomizes "Club Member of the Year. She has attended all but one board/general meeting this year. She has attended every trial that we have sponsored this past year. She has assisted with several of our classes. She graciously allowed the club to hold scent work classes in her shop. There was no cost to the club, and it benefitted several club members. She is one of two club members that is a CGC evaluator. She has been the main evaluator for all 4 of our CGC evaluations this past year. She showed up early to set up and stayed late to clean up at these evaluations. She personally pays her evaluator fees that are required by AKC. She has chaired both of our scent work trials this past year. This required being the first one at the trials and the last one to leave. At our last scent work trial she fulfilled all of the chair duties as well as pulling the trailer to the trial site and parking it and returning it to the storage area. She provided transportation for the judge and was instrumentally in making sure that the judge had the necessary equipment and help. Nicki pulled the obedience trailer to the trial site. She also spent the entire obedience/rally trial camping on site to provide site security for all of our equipment. She stepped in and helped where necessary. She has pulled the agility practice trailer to the winter practices several times. Attended almost all of the practices supporting the club. Nicki is "Club Member of the Year."

- I am nominating Tiffany S. as club member of the year for her excellent work as chair for the Obedience trial along with the volunteer work she has done for classes, trials and supportive role as representing the club to newcomers.
- I am nominating Shelby T. for 2025's member of the year for her constant positivity at club events and keeping stewards at agility trials volunteering happily. Her newsletters are always so helpful, and she brings so much positivity to events along with a wealth of information!
- I would like to nominate Christina Krieger for club member of the year. Christina has spent her life dedicated to dogs and responsible dog ownership. She is dedicated to the club putting in most of her hours behind the scenes, because she is not one to draw attention to herself. She did a wonderful job this winter teaching a Basic Obedience class with great success. She maintained good attendance to the end and all of her student pups, who took the CGC, passed. She serves as a member of the board offering fresh ideas and is willing to put the time in to execute them. She shows up willing to set-up, steward, and take-down at any trial her work schedule allows even when Mozzie is not entered. She served on the Obedience Trial committee which required her attendance during all trial hours over three long days and stayed busy keeping the trial running during those hours filling any need that arose.
- I would like to nominate Shelby Tornblom for club member of the year. Shelby always brings a smile wherever she goes and her enthusiasm is contagious. Her approachability and willingness to welcome and help club members is a valuable asset to those who come to train and compete. She keeps that smile through our agility trials as chief steward, which requires a lot of moving parts and has made the process fun with her innovative incentive system. She also does a great job making sure our newsletter gets out every month, so we all know where we need to be and when.
- I would like to nominate Tiffany S. for club member of the year. As a newer member of the club, she has jumped into a big role as Obedience Trial Chair, and she has done an amazing job. I have seen the hard work she has put in along with a lot of time and energy. She really cares, and it shows with everything she has helped with for the club.

## Member Accomplishments

Touche' earned a master FAST leg, a Rally Choice leg and a Rally Master leg at the Boise shows.

Please welcome the newest member of the Guidinger Family!  
Charlie



Mozzie earned his CGC, ACTJ1, and took 1<sup>st</sup> in his first qualifying novice standard run!



Louie title in FAST and JWW!



# Curbing the Issue of Dog Marking

## By AKC Staff

Marking is not the same as a dog relieving itself - it is leaving small amounts of urine on items (trees, bushes, couch) to leave a "calling card" and to say "this is mine." It seems natural for dogs but is very annoying to humans. This often starts happening in adolescence as dogs mature. Female dogs can urine mark, although it is seen as a problem most commonly in male dogs. Urine marking is different than having accidents in the house. Typically, when a dog is marking it is a small amount of urine in several places. These places may be random, or they could be in a favorite spot. Dogs can mark for many reasons; the two most common are to show ownership on what they consider their territory and anxiety.

Below are some steps you can take to help get a stop a dog from marking.

### **Health Check**

First, it is recommended that you bring your dog to your veterinarian to make sure there is nothing medically wrong. Urinary tract infections and other medical conditions can mimic urine marking.

### **Getting Altered**

If your dog is not spayed or neutered and you are not planning on breeding or showing in conformation, this is something to consider. Altering or "fixing" pet dogs that are marking helps to eliminate the issue in 50 to 60 percent of dogs.

### **New Stuff**

Dogs like to place their territorial stamp on new items, especially if they come from a place where there might have been another dog. Try to remember to place new items off the floor and out of reach of your dog.

### **Outside Visitors**

You may want to investigate the outside of your home. Sometimes there may be other dogs in the area that come near your house and cause your dog to feel the need to mark in the home.

### **Close Supervision**

To prevent your dog from marking in the house, make sure that they are not left unsupervised. If you are unable to watch your dog, then they should be crate trained and safely placed into their dog crate so they cannot mark. If you do catch them in the act of marking, you should make a loud noise to startle them and then take them outside and reward the correct behavior. If you do not catch your dog in the act and find the accident later, then it is extremely important that you do not punish your dog. Your dog can't connect what he marked an hour ago to your punishment, so it does not deter the marking and can make your dog afraid and confused.

### **Block Access**

You can also take measures to help deter or block your dog from the area where they are drawn to marking. Try using baby gates or pet gates to block certain rooms, or double-sided tape to keep them from certain parts of the room.

### **Deep Clean Up**

If your dog does mark in the house, make sure you are using an appropriate cleaner to take the scent out. Even though you might not be able to smell it, they will be able to, and this will continue to draw them to that area. We recommend an enzymatic pet stain remover to completely remove the stain and smell.

### **Belly Bands**

For both male and female dogs, you can find either belly bands (for males) or dog diapers (for females). Remember that this is not a fix for the situation but more of a band-aid. If you choose to use one of these items to help with training, make sure you check them frequently for wetness.

## **USRVDTC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date October 16, 2025

The regular monthly club meeting of the Upper Snake River Valley Dog Training Club was called to order by President, Nicki Bowden, at 7:01 p.m., on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Smitty's Restaurant in Idaho Falls, ID.

### **Board Members Present:**

Nicki Bowden Suzanne Belger Lacey Moon Christina Krieger Mira Johnson Richard Brizzee

### **Members Present:**

Cheryl Loomis Duane Loomis Alicia Thompson Tiffany Stolworthy Elise Stolworthy Phil Moon Bryce Hammond Candace Christensen Lindy Thompson Jennifer Evans Robert Bonagofski Shelly Bradford Eric Ward Sierra Ward Nicole Crossley-Nead David P'pool Kelly P'pool

### **Introduction of Guests**

Stephanie Dillon Lonnie Lewis Mariah Lockhart Anna Wetsel Megan Wenstrom

**Minutes of Previous Regular Meeting Read/Dispensed:** Printed in September newsletter. Motion by Jennifer Evans to accept minutes as printed in September newsletter. Seconded by Richard Brizzee.

### **Report of the President:**

Thanks to everyone who came to the scent work trial. We had some really great runs. Also, thanks everyone for helping at every trial – we couldn't do it without everyone! John Baughman is in a rehab facility working to get back to healthy. He and his family thank everyone for checking in on him.

### **Report of the Vice President:**

Christmas Party- at Bee's Knees December 6<sup>th</sup>. It will probably be \$25 per person like in years past. More information will come.

### **Report of the Secretary:**

None

### **Report of the Treasurer:**

YTD balance of \$100,055.23 and YTD net profit of \$-8,828.97. It seems scary that we have a net loss but we really do need to stay around this \$100k if we're going to maintain a non-profit status.

Reports filed with minutes and available via email if interested in viewing.

### **Report of Committees:**

**Scent--** October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> -at the Elks Lodge. Trial went well. Net profit/loss - \$2057.90 we will get \$500 back from our deposit. Are we willing to lose more money each year if we put on a March trial again? Each trial is about a \$2000 loss. A lengthy discussion was had about the pros and cons of a March trial. A March trial was requested and Nicki will turn in the application for March 7-8, 2026.

**Agility Trial** -October trial next weekend at Wind River Arena in Ririe. Setup will be Thursday night at 6:45 and trial will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Take down will be about 3pm on Sunday. Bryce says we're pretty much lined up for everything but we can always use help.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Nicki Bowden, Eric Ward, Tiffany Stolworthy met and asked the current board members if they'd like to continue to serve on the board. All agreed. Nicki opened up nominations from the floor. No new nominations were voiced. Voting will be during our next club meeting.

### **Trophy Committee:**

Nicki Bowden -the email will go out that gives out all the details for a plaque and/or a hanger. Please turn in all the information for your titles by November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you're trialing during Thanksgiving, it's ok to send it after that due date. She'll also include information on Member of the Year in that email so people can nominate club members for this honor.

### **Classes --**

Suzanne proposes that we offer a Fit Class as a prerequisite for agility. This helps the dog and the trainer figure out balance, coordination and strength. A few classes require some equipment. Suzanne recommends we buy 3 or 4 climb tables and only have about 8 people in the class. She will look into the prices and get back to us at the next meeting.

For the next round of classes we'd like to offer: **Basic obedience, Fit, Rally and STAR puppy**. These will start Mid-January and go to Mid-March. We'll do these classes in the 4H building in Idaho Falls.

**Scent Work** - Right now we are having scent work classes for club members on Tuesday nights. If we have enough interest for people wanting to start, we can start another class in January as well.

**Agility practices during the winter:** Starting in January and doing every other Sunday until the trial at the new barn. Email Nicki if you're interested and we can get times, dates and cost for members to do this practice.

### **Seminar**

Suzanne--Hally McMullin scent work seminar January 10-11,2026. This will be a more advanced class (not beginner). Information and registration will be posted on our website. We are also looking into combining some Agility seminars with the club in Jackson Hole (3 in Jackson, 2 in Idaho Falls). Suzanne will gather more information. We may do an obedience seminar with Patty in the next year.

### **Unfinished Business:**

### **New Business:**

- Nicki Bowden-
  - AKC is increasing fees for trials per run. Board recommended that we increase the run prices by \$1 per run in all trials. First run \$22 and subsequent runs will be \$14. We will need to change our standing rules to state this change.
  - Another recommendation of change to our standing rules is to change one of the requirements of membership. Currently it states:

**SECTION 3. CLUB POLICIES.**

**3.0 MEMBERSHIP.** Regular, Family, and Junior membership shall be for persons desiring to take part in Club business and/or activities. Regular and Family members whose dues are paid shall have full voting privileges. Candidates applying for membership shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (a) in good standing with the American Kennel Club.
- (b) subscribes to the objectives of the Club as defined in the Club Constitution, Article I, Section 2.
- (c) has completed the Club's basic obedience, agility, or tracking training course, or the equivalent elsewhere; or has successfully trained a dog in obedience, agility, or tracking as evidenced by at least one qualifying (passing) score in an AKC Obedience Trial, Agility Trial, or Tracking Test. (This requirement applies to one designated voter only in the case of a family membership.)

Nicki is proposing we change "section c" to include any of the classes we offer, not just obedience, agility and tracking. Jennifer Evans made a motion that we change the standing rules accordingly. Tiffany Stolworthy seconded. These changes will be emailed out by Nicki so everyone can read and understand them and we'll vote as a club next meeting.

- Eric Ward
  - Rigby 4H building will be available to practice scent work. It is \$10 per hour. If there is any interest in doing this, it will be Wednesdays nights, we'll put a registration online in the next few weeks. Eric makes a motion that we rent the 4H building during the winter. Seconded by Jennifer Evans.

**Membership Applications Read/Approved:**

Read in:

Stephanie Dillon - Lab -

Megan Wenstrom - Red Heeler Mix- Goose

Anna Wetsel - Standard Poodle - Sevro German Shorthaired Pointer -Nova Scotia

Mariah Lockhart - Standard Aussie - Buck, Scout

Junior Member -Lyly Whitmeyer - German Shepherd Dog --Pepper

Sarah Kroupa - Standard Poodle - Simon, Moxie

Lonnie Lewis - Standard Poodle - Gauge, Dandy

We will be voting on these members at the next meeting.

**Motion for Adjournment:** Christina Kreiger

**Seconded by:** Sierra Ward

Closed at 8:06pm