



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2026

Board Meeting

January 15, 2026

7PM

Papa Kelsey's

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Thank you to everyone that brought dog food to the Christmas Party. I really appreciated it, and so did the shelter. They must have told me thank you a hundred times. There was probably only 100 pounds. But they were still really appreciative.

Once again THANK YOU!!!!!!

-Lois

**Thank you, Richard, for another
wonderful Christmas Party!**

2025 Club Member Awards

Club Member	Dog Name
Candace Christensen	Sif Fenrisdotter CGC SCN SIN SEN SBN SWN SCA SIA SEA SBA SWA SEE
Eric & Sierra Ward	Louie Mudd Ward CGC TKN
Nicki Bowden	Concho's Wound Up SEN CGC
Kelly Keele	BISS GCH CH Chateau Blanc's Veni Vidi Vici
Emily Jossi	Trail Creek N Zoolo's The Trifecta @ Broken Arrow CD RN RA NAJ NA HSADs CGC TKN
Suzanne Belger	Concho's Desert Mountain Moonshine SEN CGC STR
Jennifer Evans	Bluff View's Wickham of Kerrybrook SHR
Shelby Tornblom	Suerte Salvaje Itzpapalotl NF OAJ
Cheryl Loomis	Hope MJP2 MXP2 PCDX SCE SBE
Cheryl Loomis	Belle OF SCE SEE SBE SWE RA
Alicia Thompson	Dayzie OFP
Robert Bonagofski	Buddy OAP
Robert Bonagofski	Harley MXPB
Shelly Bradford	Sherlock DCAT SBN SWN SEA SIA TKN FDC FITS
Shelly Bradford	Tilly BCAT SCN
Nicki Bowden	Epic RI OF
Lena Jossi	Cicada NAP NJP
Holly Jossi	Atlas GCH OAJ OF
Emily Jossi	Spade NF
Lois Olson	Solo RA

Suzanne Belger

Isa

RAE OA XF

Suzanne Belger

Gaia

XF

Jennifer Evans

Bo

RN

Holly Jossi

2025 Achievement of Excellence

Tiffany Stolworthy

2025 Club Member of the Year

Suzanne Belger

2025 Instructor of the Year

Congratulations to all club members and all we've
accomplished this year!

A Message From Your Dog as You Step Into a New Year

Hi. It's me.

Your teammate.

Your adventure buddy.

The one who reads your breath, your footsteps, your energy... even before you know what you're about to do.

I've been thinking about this past year.

About the moments when we were flying – when your laughter carried me faster and your confidence helped me believe in myself.

And I've also felt those moments when things got hard. When you were tired. When your body didn't quite do what your brain wanted. When frustration crept in, or doubt whispered a little too loudly.

But here's something I need you to hear:

I have never needed you to be perfect.

I've only ever needed you to show up with me.

When the new year comes, humans talk a lot about resolutions and "fixing" things.

But I don't see you as broken. I see you as brave.

I see someone who keeps stepping onto the field.

Someone who keeps trying.

Someone who cares enough to want better – not just for performance, but for us. For me.

And I want more life with you.

More courses where you still have power and breath at the end.

More turns where your body reacts confidently instead of hesitating.

More runs where you feel proud of how strong you moved, not frustrated by what your body held you back from.

When you take care of yourself, I feel it.

When you're proud of yourself, I feel it.

When you train your body, I get more clarity, more support, more leadership.

When you build strength and stamina, I get a teammate who moves with purpose and leadership... and that makes me feel safe, and fast, and free.

Every small step you take doesn't just change your fitness...

It changes our connection.

Our trust.

Our ability to play this game we love for longer.

So as you think about next year, I don't want you to ask:

"How do I become perfect?"

Ask this instead:

"How can I keep showing up for us?"

Because I promise you:

I'm ready to run.

Ready to learn.

Ready to try.

Ready to give you everything I have...

I don't measure you by your mistakes.

I measure you by your heart.

And I already think you're incredible.

Let's build something beautiful this year —

Not with pressure.

Not with shame.

But with intention, courage, care, and consistency.

I'm right beside you.

Always have been.

Always will be.

Let's go write our next chapter this year.





PEOPLE DON'T JOIN CLUBS - THEY JOIN PEOPLE

By: Andy Vance, For American Dog Fancier

A few years after our family got heavily involved in conformation shows, we realized that we needed to join our local specialty and all-breed clubs... and more importantly, we needed to volunteer and contribute to what my mentor calls, "The Good of the Order."

No members, no clubs. No clubs, no shows.

Seems pretty simple. And yet I have many friends in the community who will not join a club, because they've either had or witnessed an unpleasant interaction with a club member, or felt that a club wasn't welcoming or supportive. I get it, I've been there.

As our local all-breed club was preparing for our fall show, the group of stalwarts who attend every monthly meeting had a frank discussion about the frustratingly small pool of volunteers signed up to work the show. Members discussed a variety of ways we might get our fellow members to step up and help lighten the load, and it was clear that we've asked a few people to give of themselves well beyond the call of duty.



During the discussion I shared one piece of advice from the world of association management that might help us as club members better understand how we can “grow the sport” and keep our clubs afloat. People don’t join clubs, they join people.

A few short weeks after I got my first job as a radio broadcaster, I attended the National Association of Farm Broadcasters annual convention. My mentor in radio gave me a list of names of people I needed to meet at the event. Those four seasoned professionals became mentors, advisors, and most importantly, friends. I paid my dues to that Association nearly 15 years after I left the profession... Why? Because I valued my association with the people in the organization.

In my daily vocation as an association executive, I see this every day among our members: the people who haven’t missed our annual conference in decades because it’s like their professional family reunion, the senior professionals who keep coming back after retirement to encourage a young student member, and the members of our board who consider our association their professional home. Those fond feelings have little to do with the amenities and benefits membership their dues buy, and everything to do with the network of friends and colleagues the Association offers.



My advice to my fellow dog club members is to take that wisdom to heart. Invite a friend to a Club meeting or social event; pick up the phone and specifically ask them to come with you, don't make it a vague, "you should come to the club sometime" mention at the show that can be easily ignored.

If you're assembling volunteers for a show or event, try this: instead of sending out a blanket call for support, ask a few specific people to do a specific job. Our club's vendor chair is excellent at this; every year she needs three or four people to lay tape to mark vendor booths, and she will ask a few specific members by name to do the job. She always gets the help she needs, because it's harder to say no to a person than it is to ignore a mass email.

And it goes without saying that one of the things we need to remember above all else is: BE NICE! Far too many of us have experienced a situation where a fellow Club member has treated us poorly or treated us badly. I get it, I've been there myself. Our community is small enough that we cannot afford to run people out of dogs because we've forgotten the Golden Rule.

There's always time to be nice, and to consider ways we can work together for "The Good of the Order." Maybe if we do that, we'll find more of our fellow exhibitors are willing to pitch in and lend a hand the next time our clubs need help.



HAPPY NEW YEAR