



UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB



AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2026

Club Meeting

August 13, 2026, at Tautphaus Park

Trial set up at 6PM

Meeting to follow

Our Club Obedience Trial is

August 14-16, 2026

At Tautphaus Park

We have some fun new things planned for the August Obedience and Rally Trial including Rally Teams. We will need lots of helping hands so please contact Tiffany Stolworthy to volunteer at tiffanystolworthy@hotmail.com or text 208-716-8941.

No obedience or rally experience needed to volunteer. This is a great opportunity to get familiar with a new dog sport!

We will also appreciate help as we take down
Sunday afternoon.

President

Nicki Bowden
Nedwob88@gmail.com

Vice President

Richard Brizzee
richbriz@gmail.com

Treasurer

Suzanne Belger
desertmtnmalinois@gmail.com

Secretary

Lacey Moon
Philandlaceymoon@hotmail.com

Board Members

Eric Ward (3 Years)
Mtnhme9@gmail.com

Christina Krieger (2 Years)
christinaekrieger@gmail.com

John Baughman (1 Year)
jmbaughman170@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Shelby Tornblom
shelbyrmoad@gmail.com

www.USRVDTTC.org

Member Accomplishments

Recon completed CGC and Dock Diving DN titles.



Mozzie earned his Novice Containers, Buried, and Exterior Scent Work Titles and 2 legs towards his Interior Novice!



Summer Picnic Fun!





Thank you, Richard, for another great picnic!

Dog Obedience Trials 101: How Obedience Works

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

What Is Obedience and Who Can Compete?

Developed in the 1930s, the sport of obedience is all about fostering dogs that are well-behaved at home, in public, and in the presence of other dogs. During an obedience trial, dogs must demonstrate abilities like walking politely, staying, retrieving, and jumping, all while showing they enjoy working with their handler.

For a dog to compete in an AKC Obedience trial, they must be at least 6 months old and have an AKC number via AKC Registration, Canine Partners, the Purebred Alternative Listing program, or the Foundation Stock Service for breeds on the road to full AKC recognition.



Pix 'n Pages

Breaking Down Obedience Classes

There are three main levels, or classes, of competition in Obedience: Novice, Open, and Utility. Dogs start in the Novice class and advance to Open, then Utility as they master the increasingly more difficult skills. There are many optional classes to choose from that provide exercises that are half-steps between these classes.

Here's a brief rundown of the core classes:

- **Novice:** Dogs in this class need to demonstrate good companion skills, such as coming when called, standing for an examination, staying in both a "sit" and "down" position with a group of other dogs, and heeling both on- and off-leash.
- **Open:** Dogs in this class need to perform all of the above exercises off-leash. In addition to some of the exercises performed in Novice, retrieving and jumping exercises are included.
- **Utility:** Dogs in this class have added challenges including directed jumping and scent discrimination. With scent discrimination, a dog must find and pick up a dumbbell with their handler's scent from a pile of dumbbells, referred to as articles. Other exercises must be performed with the handler giving hand signals only.



MF Photo/Shutterstock

Scoring and Title Requirements

Each dog-handler team starts a trial with a perfect score of 200, then points are deducted for any errors. For example, if the dog is slightly out of position while heeling, that's a deduction of points. As dogs are animals with minds of their own, obtaining a score over 195 is quite an achievement.

To receive a qualifying score, a dog needs to earn more than 50% of the points for each exercise. They also need to have a total score of at least 170 points. To earn titles in the sport, such as the Companion Dog Title at the Novice level, dogs need three qualifying "legs" under at least two different judges.

Benefits of Obedience

Training for obedience trials will strengthen your dog's manners. Plus, having a well-behaved canine family member means you can enjoy your dog's company almost anywhere. It will also prevent many problem behaviors, like barking or jumping, by teaching your dog alternative ways to behave. Not to mention all the mental stimulation training can provide. All that teamwork in the ring will also build your bond and give you both a fun activity to share.