

Capital City Kennel Club

10/11/2026

The Year at a Glance: Celebrating Our Volunteers!

Dear Capital City Kennel Club Members,

As we look back on the year, it is important to recognize what makes the Capital City Kennel Club such a special organization: our members and their willingness to volunteer their time, share their knowledge, and support the many dog sports we love.

Our club is a 100% volunteer organization. Everything we accomplish is made possible by members who step forward, contribute their talents, and work together to provide opportunities for dogs and their handlers. We would like to take a moment to recognize members who have dedicated their time and energy to our training classes and programs throughout the year.

- **Jim and Sandy** have been teaching our Manners class, helping handlers build better relationships with their dogs.
- **Lori and Donna** have taught our Puppy Kindergarten class, giving puppies and their owners a positive start in training and socialization.
- **Sharon and Destiny** have organized Scent Work at all levels, providing exciting opportunities for dogs and handlers to develop their skills.
- **Kristy** has spearheaded our Agility program, helping members enjoy and participate in this fast-paced dog sport.
- **Gina** has organized our Obedience program, supporting handlers as they work toward improved skills and performance.

To each of you, thank you for your dedication, hard work, and love for dog sports. The time you give to teaching, organizing, and encouraging others makes a meaningful difference in our club and in the lives of the members and dogs you serve.

Recognizing Our Outgoing Board Members

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to RJ Susman and Erika King, who are outgoing members of the Capital City Kennel Club Board. Thank

you both for the time, effort, and commitment you have given to the club through your board service.

A Special Thank You to George Utermohle

Some members deserve a little extra recognition for the years of dedication they have given to our club. George Utermohle is certainly one of those members!

George is a longtime member—or perhaps even one of our founding members—he has been involved in just about every aspect of the club. He has volunteered as a trial secretary and, it seems, has filled nearly every job on the club roster at one time or another. His willingness to step up wherever help is needed is a wonderful example of what volunteerism and club loyalty are all about.

George also brings something extra to our events. He takes photographs of the dogs, capturing memories for handlers to enjoy long after the trials are over. And George and Deb make sure the four-legged participants are not forgotten, bringing bags of goodies for the dogs and cookies for the humans! These thoughtful touches add a little extra fun and warmth to our events and remind us that our club is about more than competition—it is also about friendship, shared experiences, and a genuine love of dogs.

Thank you, George and Deb, for your generosity, your many years of service, and all the special things you do to make our trials memorable. Your dedication is appreciated more than words can express, and we are fortunate to have members like you as part of our club family.

Thank You to All Our Trial Volunteers

We also want to recognize the many members who volunteer their time during our trials and events. From preparation and setup to the many jobs required to keep everything running smoothly, these efforts are essential to our success. Volunteering is not always glamorous, and it often requires giving up personal time, but it is what keeps our club active, strong, and moving forward. Every hour contributed, every class taught, every trial supported, and every task completed helps create a welcoming environment where we can learn, compete, and celebrate our dogs together.

New Spaces, New Opportunities

The closing of Mt. Jumbo Gym left us scrambling a bit, but we were fortunate to secure space at Marie Drake Gym, which offers a larger and nicer facility for our classes and events. Finding suitable indoor space in Juneau is no small feat, and we are grateful to have a place where our members and their dogs can continue learning, training, and competing.

Space is a valuable commodity in our community, and we sincerely appreciate the City and Borough of Juneau and the Juneau School District for working with us to provide facilities for our classes and trials. Their cooperation helps make our programs possible and allows us to continue offering valuable opportunities for local dog owners and handlers.

A Busy and Successful Trial Year

It has been a busy year for the Capital City Kennel Club! We hosted numerous Nosework trials and workshops. We were also excited to host an Obedience trial after a long hiatus. Bringing this event back was a wonderful accomplishment and an opportunity to renew interest in this traditional dog sport.

Special Recognition: Sharon Moore

We would also like to extend special congratulations to Sharon Moore, who became a certified judge for the beginning levels of Nosework this year! This is a wonderful accomplishment and a testament to her knowledge, dedication, and love of the sport. We appreciate the time and effort she has invested in developing her skills and look forward to contribution to the Nosework community in this new role.

Looking Ahead to a New Year

As we wrap up another year, we have much to be proud of and many reasons to be grateful. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, supportive community partners, and enthusiastic members, Capital City Kennel Club continues to provide opportunities for learning, competition, and fun with our dogs.

We look forward to a new year filled with exciting events, classes, workshops, and trials. With everyone's participation and willingness to volunteer, we can continue to grow our programs and make the coming year another successful one for our club.

Thank you for being part of the Capital City Kennel Club. Here's to another great year of dogs, sports, friendship, and teamwork!