



TEETER TALES

The official newsletter of Kruisin' Kanines

www.kruisinkanines.com

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PREZ SEZ

BY SHERRY WILSON

When I joined Kruisin' Kanines twelve years ago, I never imagined that I would become president someday. Being a member of Kruisin' has come to mean a lot to me. I have taken many classes and seminars at "the barn," assisted teaching classes, been a board member and officer several times, helped with trials, and have been a trial chair once.



The barn provides the only real opportunity I have to train because I have only a few pieces of agility equipment. When I go to trials, there are always other members with whom to pass the time, commiserate over bad runs, and celebrate the good ones. I've made good friends that extend beyond agility.

The coming year promises to be one of challenges and, hopefully, triumphs. We face the continuing challenges of generating enough cash flow to keep us financially healthy, attracting new members, and maintaining and growing a rich training program. There are plans in place for our April trial at the barn, a two-ring trial in August at a new air-conditioned site in Warminster, continuing UKI trials, and more ACT evaluations. New ideas include weekday trials at the barn and possibly a puppy/manners class to begin on Saturdays in April. Kruisin' Kanines has also been approved to hold AKC scent work trials.

Kruisin' Kanines is a small dog sports club, and as such, relies on everyone making a contribution of time, efforts, and abilities. To be successful, everyone must step forward and contribute more than the minimum required of membership. We cannot afford to have people waiting in the background for someone else to shoulder the responsibility. If you are asked to take on a certain job or position, please give it careful consideration. Being small also means rubbing shoulders with the same people frequently. We don't all have to be close friends, but we can respect others and work together for the good of the club. As we all know, it takes a lot of hard work to make the "having fun with your dog" part of agility happen.

We may never be a big dog sports club, but we can be a great one if we work together. Here's to a great 2018 for Kruisin'!

**Board and General
Membership Meeting**

Meeting quarterly
starting in 2018. Dates to
be determined!

Work Days

TBD

Hold the date!

FEBRUARY 24, 2018

**KRUISIN'
KANINE'S
ANNUAL
BANQUET**

Gardenville Inn





Tips for Memorizing Agility Courses



Everyone who has competed in agility probably has experienced forgetting some part of a course. I was lucky if I could remember one in class, much less under pressure. Here are 6 tips from Kristin Kaldahl, who writes about agility on Pethelpful.com, that might help.

1 Memorize patterns, not obstacles: it's simply easier to remember fewer things. Memorizing 18-20 obstacles is much more challenging than remembering the pattern of the course. Use the course map to form a picture in your head, such as loops and areas where the course doubles back. Breaking the course down into simple patterns lets you focus on movement, rather than ticking off jumps and obstacles.

2 Use the map: if you can get a copy of the map well before your run, you may have hours to think about it before finalizing your ideas during the few minutes you get during walk-throughs. You can break the map into patterns and have those memorized when it's time to refine your handling strategy as you walk the course.

3 Embrace your inner zombie: yup, walk the course like a zombie! Ignore everything but figuring out your run. Don't talk to people. Wear earbuds if that would help you concentrate—apparently it's the universal signal in agility that you want to be left alone while you're focusing on memorizing the course and imagining running through it with your dog.

4 Zombies in pantomime: after memorizing the map and walking the course, step to the side, close your eyes, and start running it through in your head. This is your dress rehearsal.

Now you've got the "spacial reality" of the physical course to compare to the earlier planning you did looking at the map, and you can "run" the entire course in your head, "pantomiming the crosses, serps, pushes, etc." Repeat this as many times as you can before your run.

5 Zombies at the start gate: ignore everyone around you at the starting gate. You have multiple jobs to do while standing there—bonding with your dog, warming up your dog and yourself, watching the line up, and entering the ring at the peak of your preparedness. Use this time to keep rehearsing the course and your handling strategy. Repeat your pantomime as many times as you can to keep it sharp in your short-term memory.

6 Zombies in the living room: practice memorizing and pantomiming courses at home whenever you can. You can easily find lots of agility course maps on the internet. Study them and test yourself a few minutes later to see if you can still run through it in your head. This extra time will facilitate training your brain to memorize patterns to which you can customize various handling strategies. Expecting yourself to be able to successfully and consistently do this process just once a week in class or once a month at a trial is impractical. Like anything else, practice makes perfect!

— by Allison Walker

Adapted from: Getting Lost on Course: How to Memorize a Dog Agility Course by Kristin Kaldahl

<https://pethelpful.com/dogs/Getting-Lost-on-Course-Tips-on-How-to-A-Dog-Agility-Course>

Happy New Year

Congratulations!



Betty Skilton & Wynn earned their ACT2 title.



Hope you had a

Happy Hanukkah



Help Promote the Club and Build Membership

Distribute our new club brochure to other clubs and venues, Vet offices, pet stores, groomers, etc. Copies are available at the barn or from any board member.

Kruisin' Kanines



AGILITY & DOG SPORTS CLUB

- Learn to train and bond with your dog.
- Open to all dogs—any size, breed, mix, or age.
- Classes for everyone, beginner to advanced.
- 100% positive training methods.
- Indoor and outdoor training areas.
- Small groups
- Nose work
- Tricks
- Canine Manners
- Canine Good Citizen testing (CGC)
- Agility Course Test (ACT) 1 & 2
- A great way to have fun with your dog.



Kruisin' Kanines offers a large selection of year-round classes, including agility from Beginner/ Foundations through Master Level taught by instructors who regularly compete at national events.

Our training facility is located in Bucks County, PA, just outside of Carversville (northeast of Doylestown).

Visit <http://www.kruisinkanines.com> for class details, registration fees, membership information, and private instruction.



\$10 PRESENT THIS CARD FOR **off** your first class



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

January TBD — Board Meeting 6:15pm @ the Point Pleasant Firehouse. No membership meeting!

February

February 28 — KK Banquet at Gardenville Inn

Weekly Club Events 2017

Every Sunday: Run Thrus all day, unless another club event is scheduled

For a detailed look at all Classes and Events, visit www.Kruisinkanines.com, and click on: Kruisin' Kanines Calendar.

For Barn Use Schedule, click on: Barn Use Calendar

Teeter Tales deadline is 19th of month before publication

For general information visit www.kruisinkanines.com

Training Schedule*



Classes resume in January. Keep your eye on emails and the Kruisin' website for alerts and new details.

THE BOARD

President: **Sherry Wilson**

Vice President: **Konnie McCaffree**

Treasurer: **Betty Skilton**

Secretary: **Terri Natishan**

DIRECTORS:

Anne Ford

Bernadette Fletcher

Linda Goldman

Sally Hunter

Kruisin' Kanines holds a General Membership meeting quarterly. The Board of Directors meets once a month. If you would like to attend either meeting, please check the Kruisin' website calendar for dates and times.

Teeter Tales is designed and edited by Allison Walker. Send stories and photos to awwalker2@gmail.com

* Subject to change