

# TEETER TALES



The official newsletter of Kruisin' Kanines

[www.kruisinkanines.com](http://www.kruisinkanines.com)

Vol 22 • Issue 3 • March 2017

## *2017 Westminster Masters Agility Championship Wrap Up*

By Kim Secter

### Our Road to Westminster

“WESTMINSTER”!

The name alone conjures up visions of perfectly groomed dogs being trotted at the end of rhinestone leads on the purple carpet by well-dressed handlers. Thousands throng to NYC, all in quest for the elusive “BEST IN SHOW” Trophy.

For agility teams, Westminster Agility is a totally different story. For the last 4 years, Westminster has included its own version of a “Master Agility Championship” to kick off their whole event week. Piper and I have been fortunate enough to have been able to attend the last 3 years.

Isn't it just another Agility Trial you ask? Well, yes, and no! The preliminary two rounds (one Standard and one JWW) are run just like any other AKC Masters level tests. All the usual obstacles, spacing, and rules apply. That is about where the similarity ends.

What makes Westminster very different is not only the venue (the incredible site of the trial at Pier 92/94, the crowds, the energy, the hype) but also the rules for their Special Championship Finals. This is one of the rare agility events that is broadcast on TV. This brings dog agility into the living room of everyone across the USA. This means competitors try for the limited spots, willing to travel from across the nation. It also brings out some of the very best professional handlers/dogs in our sport.

The unique requirements and scoring for eligibility into the WKC Championship round are as follows. Dogs must Q in one of the first two rounds (Standard and JWW). They cannot be absent or eliminated.

Scoring for eligibility is the combined actual running time for both runs, plus any faults. (This includes time faults.)

R-Refusal/Run-out; W-Wrong Course; T-Pause Table Fault are assessed 5 points.

F-Failure to Perform is assessed 10 points.

Course time faults will be 3 points for every full second over course time.

Dogs are then placed in order of the lowest combined score within their true jump height. Dogs that ran in preferred in the first two runs must run at their preferred height in the Championship round, and are then scored and placed within their true jump height.

Ten dogs from each jump height are selected for the Championship round. In each jump height, the top three qualifying dogs, regardless of breed, are chosen. After that, additional dogs are chosen by individual breed. One of each breed from the remainder of the qualifying dogs in each jump height will be chosen until the limit is reached. If there are not enough individual breeds to make up the 10 dogs in each jump height, the next dog with the lowest combined score will be included, regardless of breed. This means that more than one dog of any breed may be chosen.

So now you have some background, here is our story!

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### Board and General Membership Meeting

Board Meeting 6:15/  
General Meeting 8:15

March 28 @ the barn

### AKC Trials

April 29-30 @ the barn

July 1-2 @ the barn

## Kruisin' Kanines

### AKC Trial

April 29 & 30

ENTRIES OPEN ON  
Tuesday March 7, 8am

ENTRIES CLOSE ON  
Tuesday April 11, 6pm

### JUDGE

**Pam Johnson**

**SATURDAY (small to tall):** Prem Std, Ex Std, Open Std, Nov Std, T2B, Prem JWW, Ex JWW, Open JWW, Nov JWW

**SUNDAY (tall to small):** Ex JWW, open JWW, Nov JWW, FAST, Ex Std, Open Std Nov Std

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# Membership Meeting Minutes

Kruisin' Kanines Minutes, February 27, 2017

**Location:** Point Pleasant Firehouse, 6500 Point Pleasant Pike, Point Pleasant, PA 18950

**Meeting minutes approval:** The meeting minutes for the December 1, 2016, general member meeting and the January 28, 2017, (Banquet) member meeting were approved.

**Revision to Bylaws approval:** The new member language in the by-laws was approved. The changes were made to simplify the new member procedures. The new bylaw language removed the need for a second reading and the new member to leave the room while the club voted. Also, the percent required for voting was changed from 75% to 2/3 to be consistent with the AKC suggested bylaws guidelines, and all applications will be filed with the Membership Chair rather than the Secretary.

## President's Report (Konnie McCaffree):

**Training Committee:** A new training committee was formed to replace the club's previous training director, Carole Allen, who stepped down as training director this year. The training committee includes three representatives to divide the work: a Scheduler, Registrar, and Advertiser. Dina Melendez will serve as the Scheduler, Bob Peck as Registrar, and Allison Walker as the Advertiser. Many thanks to each of them for their support of the new committee.

- Registration for 2nd Session began today. Classes remain similar to first session, except that Sue Tovino's classes will be 90-minute sessions capped at 8 people, by Sue's request. There is a class built in from 5-6 pm for Novice/Open students, which is capped at 6 people, or private lessons will be scheduled if there are no students enrolled. Sue Tovino's class will be 7 weeks since she will be away on April 20.
- The 2nd Session training schedule has one make-up week due to class cancellations. All trainers will have the time to conduct any make-up classes.
- Jeff will have two classes on Wednesday.
- Allison Miele requested feedback from the members on how the registration of classes went on the Kruisin Kanines web site. Members are to contact Allison M with questions or feedback. Members reported that the registration went smoothly on the website.
- The 3rd Session training schedule will be 8 weeks.
- Dina Melendez reported that most instructors will be available for a full Summer session, and she was getting responses from the public for Foundation classes. There could be the need for more Foundation instructors in the future.
- Substitutes will be arranged for instructors who will be away during their classes.
- Instructors will be able to see who has signed up for their classes. The Registrar, Bob Peck, will have a Google spreadsheet which will have instructor class lists.
- The Membership Meetings will be rotated each month by request of the club members at the January Membership meeting. The March Membership Meeting will be on a Tuesday (March 28, tentative date, Konnie to confirm date is available with the firehouse) and the April Member Meeting will be on Thursday, April 20.
- Reminder to members that Kruisin' Kanines is a very active club with heavy reliance on emails and members are requested to use individual e-mails rather than Digest to receive information from the club.
- Allison Miele asked about development of a newsletter for the public using a non-member mailing list. Tony Luzynski to work with Allison Walker to discuss how to do this since she is responsible for Teeter Tales.
- The upcoming AKC trials will utilize advertising to the public.

## Treasurer's Report (Tony Luzynski):

There were not a lot of details to share since the last day of the month is tomorrow. It was reported that there is \$27,000 in cash available

today, but this will change tomorrow with registration ongoing with the classes.

- Training revenue increased by \$4600 since January 1.
- Barn rent increases in March.
- Other business: The AKC judge was let go for the August 2017 AKC trial since the Board voted not to hold the August AKC trial this year. Pitman's new facility with air conditioning will be ready in 2018. Two judges have been tentatively booked for the AKC August 2018 trial: Greg Beck and Dan Faulkner.
- Tony will need to work with the AKC to keep our August trial date for 2018. If we don't use that date other clubs can ask AKC for the date, and we would lose that date for us.

## Committees:

### Training

- Dina Melendez – Scheduler and Course Overview/Bob Peck, Registrar/Advertising: Allison Walker
- Registration started today with the 2nd session. Registration is progressing well. See President's Report above for the Training Committee and status of registration.

### UKI 2017 Trials (Teresa Koziatek):

The next UKI trial is on Saturday March 4.

- Workdays will be Thursday, March 2 (Noon,) and Friday, March 3 (6 pm). Konnie to cover the Thursday workday and Teresa to cover the Friday workday. Tasks listed for Thursday are those that should be done in daylight (trailer and outside) and other tasks. The ring will be dragged and course building on Friday due to the Thursday classes.
- Food volunteers are still needed per the email Teresa sent on Saturday.
- A judge is needed for the October UKI trial. Oksana Syrkin and Carol Mount are not available. Teresa has asked Judy Kolva again, but there was no response yet. Lauren Duckworth was suggested by Tony.

### April AKC Trial (Anne Ford/Sherry Wilson):

Trial dates: April 29-30, 2017

- The premium has been posted.
- Pam Johnson, our judge, is working on the courses.
- Volunteers will be requested at the March membership meeting.
- No food truck will be used because the barn is in a remote location. It was suggested that the confirmation letter and website could indicate that there will not be a food truck at the trial.
- Food options are being evaluated for the trial. Anne is considering hoagies and pizza, and she will talk with Jeanie Burton to find out the budget used last year for the AKC trial. Hoagies from Walmart and Costco were found to be cost-effective options for other events last year. A quick and easy way to identify individuals who worked and qualified for food is to use stickers, which could be placed on the workers each time they helped, or food vouchers. Non-workers can use cash to purchase food at the trial.

### July AKC Trial (Kim Sexter/Dina Melendez)

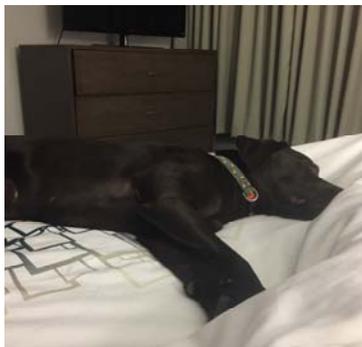
Trial dates: July 1-2, 2017

- Dawn Falk has been identified as the judge and she is currently working on the courses.
- There are changes in the FAST class which will allow for all 3 levels together as one big class (nested courses). This change will be incorporated into the July trial – other clubs have been incorporating this change.

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Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm. Overnight Stay!

Packed up my Lab-Van and drove Piper with all our gear to the La Quinta Hotel in Secaucus, NJ. This is a great staging area for overnight into the city. It is a quick 20-minute drive early in the morning through the Lincoln Tunnel into the city. I am NOT a City



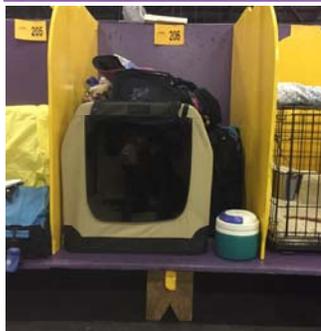
person and driving in NYC almost freezes me with stress. Luckily this was my third time to the show, so I pretty much knew where I was going. Either way, I still had a bit of a restless night. The room was nice (newly remodeled), but only one elevator made it challenging for all the dog teams staying there. Alarm clock set for 4 am and we hit the hay around 10 pm.

Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 am. The Day Begins!

Packed up, fed Piper, loaded up the van, and hit the road so we could arrive a little after 5 am. That is when the parking opens for a rooftop spot at the Pier. The building itself does not open till 6 am, so we had a bit of nap time in the van and I organized my



things. At 6 am there was a line already for the freight elevator to take us down to ground level.



Check in was really simple because I had my exhibitor ticket, which I downloaded online, for admission. We got our arm bands, course maps, and special paperwork for bringing a dog in and out of the building, black T-shirts, and some goodie bags. I then set out for my crate space in spot #206.

Got everything unpacked and crate set up, met

my neighbors, and got a free cup of coffee they offered for folks competing. Then back up to the parking area to get Piper and take her to potty out on the street. For dogs that are not used to going potty in busy roadways or on concrete this can be a challenge. There is only a small strip of ground without really any grass for the dogs to go on. Piper is a trooper though and makes short work of it. I get her settled in her bench by around 7 am.

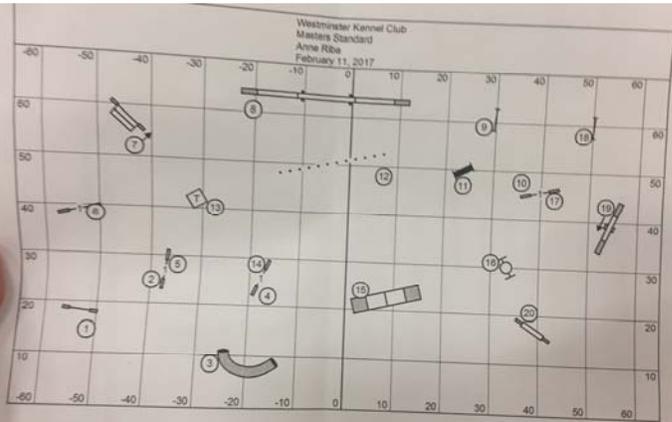
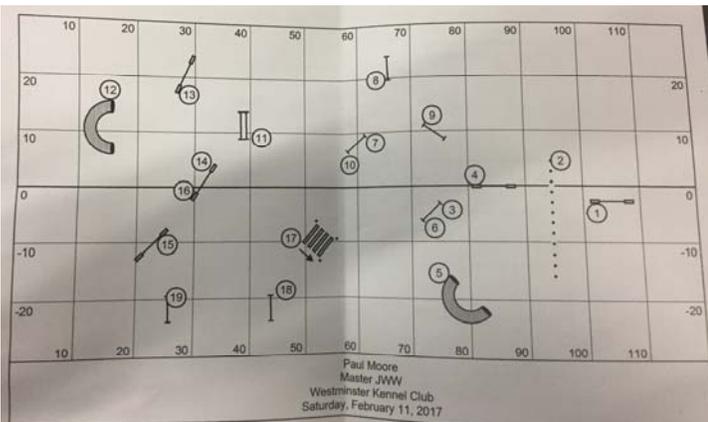
At 8 am they had a briefing and walk thru's began. We were going to be doing JWW first and we were also the second 20-inch dog in the ring. They were running the 16-inch P (preferred) dogs first, and then the 20s. This is because they were all going to be scored together. The course was very international and challenging by normal AKC Trial standards.

After our walk thru, I did our normal pre-run routine. Got my treats ready, toy out, took Piper outside again (and yes, I had to show my badge and paperwork to get her out/in the building).

We played some tug games near the rings while the final walk through finished. Piper was relaxed and focused. We had a good clean run, certainly not the prettiest of our runs ever, but we got through it. Then it was time to relax and watch other teams in Jumpers, as well as see how the small dogs were handling the Standard ring.

We did not have to walk Standard till about 12:45. So during our down time, we watched other teams, talked to spectators, walked around the vending area, and took a few trips outside. Our Standard run was really, really fun. Fast-flowing course, and Piper was running very fast and

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Dog's view of crowds

and happy. She seemed to really like the crowds. The hardest thing for that run was actually getting Piper to the ring, because the crowds had really increased in the afternoon. The warm weather this year seemed to bring out the entire city! We almost were late for our run, trying to make our way to the ring.

YES! We were clean again with a pretty good time, and I was so proud of my little girl for the way she handled herself, getting petted by folks as she walked through crowds and being a wonderful partner with me.

So now we had to wait till around 3 pm to find out the results for the 20-inch class, and if we may have made it into finals. They posted the Finals list and the running order and, YIPPEE!!!, Piper and I had a spot.

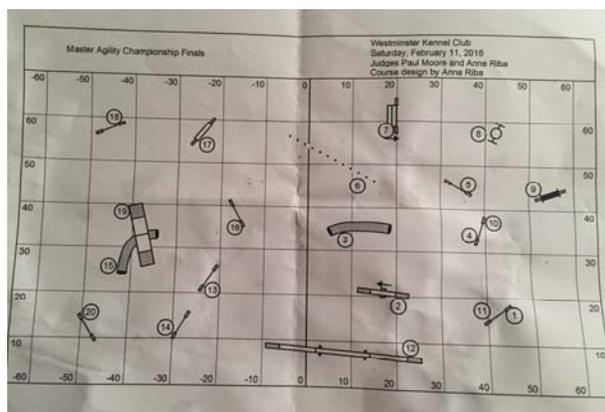
Now it was time to decompress since the briefing was not till 5 pm with the walk-through at 6 pm. I got a bite to eat, took Piper for a longer walk, had some play time, and went up to the van for a short nap. The crating area by that time was a zoo! People everywhere, and if you had your dog out of the crate, there was usually a crowd surrounding you within a few minutes asking about your dog. Piper and I both needed some quiet time.



Ribbons from the morning rounds.

### 5 pm. Two Hours to Go!

Piper and I went back to our crate area and I attended the briefing. We got our "purple" shirts and a briefing from the Fox TV folks, as well as the Agility folks. We had



our walk through for all teams at 6 pm. The first dog was going to be on the line at 7. Again they were running the 20-inch dogs first, so we had to be ready. Since this was our second time in the Finals at Westminster, I was much less nervous. The course had some challenging elements, but I believed in my dog. We had a great run, and it was so exciting to be cheered by so many people who only want to see you do well. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime moment for us to have so many people cheering for us. Piper ran really fast and happy. I created a few wide turns and one slight bobble that added to our time, but we had no faults and ended up in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 20-inch class!

It had been a long, long day filled with energy, crowds, and amazing moments with my Piper. I could not have asked for more. I was able to stay and watch most of the rest of the finals. We then packed up our things and headed home.

For me it was an amazing day that I will forever treasure. For Piper, it was just another agility trial, with perhaps a few more humans to deal with, and a late dinner!



4th Place!

**Congratulations to Kim & Piper, Jeanie Burton & River, Kris Bartell & Tonk, Jeff Abel & Snafu, and Carole Allen & Kelsey & Trudy! See Jeanie and Jeff's stories on page 5, and Carole's on page 8.**

## River Takes 5th Place Twice

For the third year in a row, River and I have been lucky to get into the Westminster Kennel Club trial. Each year we spend the weekend in NYC with our good friends Kris Bartell and Tonk. Staying at the Hotel Pennsylvania across from Madison Square Garden is an adventure in itself. Many of the people who show in conformation



stay at this hotel, so there are dogs everywhere. There is even an indoor potty room on the lower level. Friday evening includes getting checked in and then dinner and drinks in the city.

On Saturday morning we had only a

15 minute drive to Pier 94. We arrived at 7:20 am and registered, parked the car, and found our crating space. This year the crating spaces were reserved and we were able to crate with our friends. I liked this idea.



Once the dogs were settled in their crates, we got to look at the jumpers course. Very interesting, and quite a difficult opening. Over the course of the next few hours, the crowds really poured in. The atmosphere is really like no other trial I have

ever been to, and that includes AKC Nationals. It is crowded getting to and from the ring, and people are cheering for each and every person. We saw so many awesome runs, and quite a few heart breakers too.

For the third year in a row, River double Q'd at this event. She was one of only 11 dogs in the 24-inch jump height (out of approximately 40 dogs) to go clean on the JWW course, and was in 5th place. The Standard course was much more straightforward, but this ring had a much bigger crowd watching, with bleachers on three sides. River ran her heart out and again took 5th place. It was fun to hear the roar of the crowd as she crossed the finish line and moved into 1st place, temporarily.

We checked the cumulative results and River took 5th overall. I

am so proud of her!! To come from rescue to being the best teammate a person could ask for, makes me so grateful! As in the past 2 years (4th in 2015 and 5th in 2016), if River does not earn her way in in the top three (which is regardless of breed) she does not make the finals. There has always been one faster border collie.

With a few hours until finals began, we decided to get dinner. We walked to an excellent tavern a few blocks away with a group including Kris Bartell, Jeff Abel, Joanna Fleming, Doris Bartell, and Mike Bartell. Then we went back to watch the finals and cheer on our friends!

The Westminster Kennel Club does a great job of putting this event on and I have really enjoyed competing at it! Looking forward to it again next year!



## Jeff & Snafu

Snafu had some great runs at Westminster. Unfortunately, two small errors kept those runs from being perfect. The courses were really fun to run. His Jumpers run was my favorite. Unfortunately, he nicked the broad jump at the end. The board didn't even move.



Our Standard run started off with something really unexpected. My bomb-proof BC, Snafu, got really nervous with the tremendous crowd. I needed to run perfectly to have a chance to get into finals. Well, the huge crowds so close to the start line got the best of us. Snafu was really nervous going into the ring. He actually was lying down and didn't really want to go up to the gating area. So when I set him up and started to lead out, he got up and walked around the first jump. He really didn't want me to be that far away from him. The judge called a refusal on us before we even started. He has never done that before in his whole agility career. So the rule is, if I lead out and go back to him to set up, I need to run with him and I'm not allowed to lead out. Well that didn't work out too well with us because there was a really tight turn at jump 2, so I needed to slow him down and collect to make the turn. I couldn't do it because as soon as I released him he was ahead of me. I called his name to keep him off the off-course jump, and I got him to turn at full speed, but he slipped on the turf and hit his shoulder. It was one of those things that you don't expect. Once we got through that, he ran beautifully.

It was a lot of fun seeing all my agility friends, talking to the spectators, and watching great runs. Next up will be the little "blue girl" next year. Hope she can handle the crowds.

# Trainers Talk

“What is the most stressful thing that’s happened to you when trialing?”

## Anna Burbank



Top row, left to right: Roulette, Brio, Cruiser the cat. Fluffy dog in my lap: Bello. Brown pit mix: Po.

The most stressful thing that happened to me at a trial was reaching into my pocket and realizing that my car keys were missing. I searched everywhere to no avail. My entire family was out of the country in various places at the time, so no one was home to bring me another set. Local car dealers were already closed, and I wasn't sure how much AAA could help. I was on hold with AAA, wondering how I was going to get home, when fortunately, Frankie Joiris happened to notice my keys on the bleachers. Disaster averted! That was a pretty awful 15 minutes, though. I had four dogs with me down in Dream Park, about 1.5 hours from my house. Other than that, I can't think of anything at trials that's been particularly stressful.

## Konnie McCaffree

For me, the most stressful part of trialing in agility is the first time I trial when I have not been in the ring for awhile. I usually take every summer off since it is too hot for my dogs and after 2 months or more without preparing for a trial, I find that my timing and coordination seems to be off. My dog is fine. Dogs seem to remember better than I do. I run into pieces of equipment in the ring, lose contact with my dog because I am worried about where I am, and send my dog in the wrong direction. It is like riding a bicycle. I've always heard that you always remember how to ride a bike, but I have found that the longer it is since I've ridden a bike, the worse my balance is and my timing with the breaks and moving the handlebars. Feels the same with my dog.



Bike art created by Frimufilms - Freepik.com

## Carole Allen

When Stress Comes Calling . . .

While this may sound odd, I perform best under stress. From business to personal goals, once stress is introduced, I become more focused and more determined. I embrace challenges and stress; some say I am drawn to them. That being said, sometimes things don't go quite as planned.

At the 2007 AKC Agility Nationals in Sunbury, Ohio, the state competition (something that is no longer held) was scheduled on Friday. After having a nice round in which I was unfortunately eliminated because my dog made contact with me out of a chute on a front cross (she brushed my thigh), I loaded my car and headed back to my hotel. Driving in the right lane of a 4-



lane highway (with no median), I saw a deer approach the roadway from my right and I slowed down to stop, but the truck in the left lane passing me did not stop, and ultimately hit the doe which then ricocheted

off the truck and onto my car, cracking my windshield, smashing the hood and front of my car before coming to rest on the same side of the road where she had her ill-fated adventure.

I pulled over or rather my car decided it would pull me over. While my driver's side airbag did not deploy, the hood and front of my car (a pristine Ford Explorer with low mileage) was fairly demolished. The State Troopers arrived soon thereafter and kindly duct-taped the lights, grill, and everything else that was smashed back together in order to get me through the weekend and prepare me for the drive home to New Jersey. The resulting pattern of duct tape wrapped around my car may have looked fairly comical, but considering what could have happened (the passing truck veering into me, etc), I felt pretty fortunate that neither my dogs nor I were hurt. Still, my fire-engine red Explorer now had tufts of deer fur and splats of "debris" along with all the duct tape stuck to the hood, front end, and grill.

I pressed on. Saturday I had two terrific clean rounds (STD and JWW) with my Border Collie "Better" and I went out to dinner with friends on Saturday night.

Continued on page

Sunday morning arrived and I departed for the arena bright-eyed and bushy tailed. A new day! New opportunities! But, on my way to the last day of Nationals, I was broadsided (T-boned) by a car that ran a red light coming off a highway ramp onto the roadway on which I was traveling. It demolished the right side of my car, pushing me sideways into the oncoming traffic lane, where fortunately there was no traffic. There were other competitors on their way to the arena behind me when this happened, and they pulled over and waited for the police to arrive to take a report. The police interviewed me, the driver of the other car, and the witnesses, and this took quite a bit of time. Again, neither my dogs nor me were injured, but now I could not open the passenger front or rear doors, and I could not open the tailgate, not to mention the severe crease in the side of my car. To get access to my dogs, I now had to open the driver side back door, shimmy across the vehicle and open the latch to my crates to get the dogs out (my wire crates have front and rear access—lucky for me).

**“Traumatic happens in agility. . .”**  
Rosemary McQuate

But I pushed on. I arrived at the competition late and missed my scheduled walk-through, but was allowed to walk with another group. As news about the accident spread, I suddenly felt very tired even though I'd had plenty of sleep. An acquaintance and fellow competitor who is a psychiatrist sat down to talk to me because while I felt fine, friends were concerned and told her that I had become quiet, withdrawn, and distant. All I could think at the time when presented with these symptoms was given how my weekend had gone, who wouldn't be a tad quiet, withdrawn, and distant? But as it turns out, sudden onset fatigue, without a diagnosed medical condition, can be a sign of extreme stress. And I was indeed physically and mentally fatigued. I fell asleep in the bleachers despite the noise, bustle, and cold, and had to be awakened by friends to run my dog.

I ran the Hybrid round; first up that Sunday morning. It was a course in which I had earlier felt confident about when walking, had felt comfortable about the course in general, and looked forward to running. While my run was impressive, I inadvertently went off course at the *second to last* jump, making a simple closing far more difficult than required.

And just like that, the end of our chance at a spot in Finals (or the Challengers round) at AKC Agility Nationals met us like a hard, impenetrable brick wall.

There's really no moral to the story here other than *stuff happens*. My dogs and I were lucky to have survived two serious accidents 520 miles from home in less than 36 hours. I discovered that stress CAN affect my performances, no matter what I think of my own capabilities. And, as if in some sort of sad, personal funeral procession, I drove my once bright and shiny red Explorer, now smashed on two sides and covered in duct tape (and without working lights), home and was relieved to find the long weekend over. A few days later, I watched as a flatbed truck hauled my car away after the insurance adjuster deemed the car totaled, making all evidence of the event (except my own inability to meet that level of stress) gone forever. *Stay safe everyone!*

Carole has stepped out of the Training Director role, but will continue working with Kruisin' in other ways. We thank her for all her efforts on behalf of the club, and wish her continued success in agility and nose work!

**Rosemary McQuate**

When I first started trialing lots of things seemed very traumatic to me. If my dog missed her weave poles or broke her start line or took an off course jump it seemed really serious and made me miserable. But I guess as the years passed I began to realize that nothing, except my dog or myself suffering a serious injury, would be really traumatic.

I have made almost every mistake in the ring that can be made. I ran Jackie in a jumper's course, got stuck in it and could not find the way out of the course. After going around the course three times I just cut my losses, thanked the judge, and left. My dog Dai has both pooped and vomited in the ring. Eliminated—but I lived through it. I've knocked down a jump, run into my dog or she ran into me, fell down on my butt on wet slippery grass, and nearly had my pants fall down during a run. I had to complete that run one handed while the other held my pants up. My dogs have visited the judge, the ring crew, and Joey left the ring during a run to visit Alan. With my dog Dai, I ran a victory lap when I thought we had gotten our MACH 3, but actually he had missed his dog walk contact. After the judge caught up with me he had to tell me that we did not get our MACH that day, but we did get it the next day. The next day when we did get it, I didn't take a victory lap as I figured we had already done that the day before.

So many funny, silly, embarrassing, exasperating things happen in an agility career, or at least in mine. It really helps to remember who signed the premium (it was never my dog) and try to enjoy the journey with your dog. Agility is a game we play with our best friends and as long as we come out of the ring physically healthy and still best friends, that's all I can ask for.

**Dina Melendez**

When you first begin showing your dog in any event, there can be various stressful experiences. Usually they become less stressful as you continue to compete and become more comfortable. For me, there is one thing that continues to keep me a somewhat uptight when traveling to a dog show: missing my walk through at an agility trial.

Years ago, when I first began showing Boone, I drove to a trial at Freehold Park. It had been raining, and I didn't realize at the time that a lot of people would scratch and the ring times would move up—considerably! I was walking towards the closest ring and realized that I had missed my class walk through, and they were running! I watched a few runs, moved my dog to the bottom of the list, and ran him.



We qualified that day, but I would do this four more times, still qualifying without the walk through—even once at the AKC Invitationals in Florida. So, to this day, I tend to be a bit anxious until I get to my trial site and I am attentive in watching my rings very closely! It's become a joke with my agility friends, and they'll "remind me" every once in a while not to miss my walk through!

### Membership Meeting Minutes continued from page 2

- Other changes: the tire is no longer allowed in FAST, there will be 12 weave poles in Novice, and some of the distances have changed for Open and Excellent.
- Help is requested from the club members as the trial date approaches.

### Membership (Peg Antrobus)

- There is one new member application, but the new member and the sponsors were not available (since they are teaching) for today's meeting, so the new member will be discussed at the March Membership meeting.
- Peg found extra Krusins' Kanines club shirts in storage. Club members are to contact Peg if they do not have a shirt. New members will receive new shirts for free.

### Library (Becky Forry)

- No new updates.
- Konnie has donated "Treat and Train," which can be checked out by club members.

### Website (Allison Miele)

- Registration for the second session went well on the website.
- Bob Peck will send out confirmations.
- One spam came through and was addressed.
- Reported that there were 490 views of the website pages today.
- Reminded members that they do not need to log into the website to log into Members Only. Trying to remove the Log-in from the website.

### Old Business:

- Three tunnels have been approved, ordered, and delivered: two 15 ft,

and one 20 ft. They will be marked with name of supplier (MAX 200) and date to see how long they last. MAD can no longer guarantee tunnels for 2 years.

- ACT program: An ACT program will be set up in the future with Tony Luzynski as the ACT judge. ACT is new program for beginner agility dogs without a Novice title.
- Barn cleaning, roofing, electrical upgrade: all are in progress.

### New Business (Note: Did not discuss these topics at the meeting due to timing constraints, topics will be discussed at the March Membership meeting):

- Scent work program with AKC titling
- Advertising brochure
- Mentoring Committee to help with new members
- Information on Policies and Procedures from the website; Meeting attendance requirements; Workday requirements; Barn-use forms, combination, library
- Barn and equipment usage guidelines
- Aggression policy
- Legal responsibility in barn
- Continuing education reimbursement & policies
- Open Agility or Run Thrus?
- Other revenue generating ideas: Tricks certification, CGC testing

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The next meeting will be tentatively on Tues. March 28, 2017 (Konnie to confirm with the firehouse that this date is available).

Respectfully submitted by Terri Natashan in Teresa Koziatek's absence.

## Lights! Camera! Action! *Westminster Agility!*

By Carole Allen

You've heard it before: The Masters Agility Championship at Westminster is an event unlike any other. The crowds are massive, the energy is electric, and the day is long. But unlike other events, The Masters Agility Championship at Westminster (TMACW) has its own very unique set of rules, and understanding them will help competitors either focus on their game for the Finals portion of the event held in the evening, or help them "Keep calm and 'Q' on."

The event is designed like any other local trial—there is a JWW and a Standard round, and the first goal of competitors is to get through those rounds without any faults. However, it should be noted that depending upon the total number of your breed represented at TMACW in your jump height, a fault in one of the classes may NOT exclude you from Finals. For example, more than one of the 20" Finalists had *not* been clean in both rounds, but made it into Finals because they were the highest placed (cumulatively) within their breed (and All-American). While this means that faster, clean dogs are excluded in Finals, it also means that TMACW can offer spectators a Finals round that is not dominated by any one specific breed.

The Finals round is designed to highlight a diversity of breeds. Given Westminster Kennel Club's sponsors, their spectators, and their Fox-Sports viewing audience, they find that a diversity of breeds leads to better overall broadcast entertainment. For a comparison, 26 20" dogs went to Finals at last year's AKC Agility Nationals in Tulsa, OK. Finalists included 22 Border Collies, 2 Golden Retrievers, 1 Belgian Malinois, and 1 Australian Shepherd, out of total entry of 344.

TMACW's 20" Finals round (this year) included 10 dogs (from a total entry of 97): 3 Border Collies (the limit allowed to advance to Finals for



any one breed), 1 Australian Shepherd, 1 Golden Retriever, 1 Labrador Retriever, 1 Dalmation, 1 English Springer Spaniel, 1 All-American, and 1 Portuguese Water Dog.

Finals across all jump heights provided fun entertainment and competition as spectators found lots of breeds to very loudly cheer for. Dogs making their way to Finals that you might not often see in a Finals round included Yorkshire and Norfolk Terriers, Maltese, Coton de Tulear, Pug, Beagle, All American, Schipperke, Lowchen, PBGV, Shiba Inu, Mudi, Brittany, Lagotti Romagnoli, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Curly Coated Retriever, and Flat-Coated Retriever. It was really nice to see that there was something for everyone to appreciate during Finals.

I encourage anyone who enjoys the excitement of an energy-charged event, particularly if you can focus despite large crowds, to enter or attend in 2018. The crowds were never negative or invasive; rather the spectators are incredibly supportive and well mannered. If you can manage to hold it together through 1 or 2 rounds and find yourself ranked at the top of your breed (or mix) in your jump height, you just might get a chance to wear that purple Finalists shirt!



**Luke's (Cindy Everett) picture on the elevator doors at Doylestown Hospital, where he is a therapy dog.**



**Duke (Sally Hunter) gets caught raiding the fridge!**

## Upcoming Events

### March 2017

March 28 – Board meeting  
6:15pm, Membership meeting  
8:15pm @ the barn

### April 2017

Barn work days for trial: Thursday afternoon (4/27) and Friday night (4/28), times TBD

April 29 & 30 – AKC trial @ the barn

Teeter Tales deadline: 19th of the month before publication date

## Weekly Club Events 2017

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

For a detailed look at all Kruisin' Classes and Events, visit [www.kruisinkanines.com](http://www.kruisinkanines.com) and

click: [Kruisin' Kanines Calendar](#)

For the Barn Use Schedule

click: [Barn Use Calendar](#)

For general information visit [www.kruisinkanines.com](http://www.kruisinkanines.com)

# Training Schedule \*

## Mondays

6:30-7:30pm Foundations 2 (w/Anna Burbank)  
7-8pm Fancy Handling (w/Jeanie Burton)  
7:45-8:45pm Beginner Agility (w/Anna Burbank)  
8-9pm Fancy Handling (w/Jeanie Burton)

## Tuesdays

7-8pm Skills & Handling (w/Linda Goldman)  
7-8 pm Foundations 1 (w/Dina Melendez)  
8-9pm Skills & Drills (w/Kim Sectar)

## Wednesdays

9:30-11am Advanced (w/Konnie McCaffree)  
5-6 pm NW1/NW2 Prep (w/Stacy Barnett)  
6-7pm NW1 Prep (w/Stacy Barnett)  
6:30-8pm Masters & Beyond! (w/Jeff Abel)  
7-8 pm NW1 Prep (w/Stacy Barnett)  
8-9pm Developing Amazing Weaves (Jeff Abel)  
8-9pm Nose Work Elements (w/Stacy Barnett)

## Thursdays

10:30am-noon Intermediate (w/Rosemary McQuate)  
5-6pm Novice/Open/Private (w/Sue Tovino)  
6-7:30pm Masters/Specialty (w/Sue Tovino)  
7:30-9pm Advanced Agility Skills (w/Sue Tovino)

\* Subject to change.

## THE BOARD

President: **Konnie McCaffree**

Vice President: **Sherry Wilson**

Treasurer: **Tony Luzynski**

Secretary: **Teresa Kosiatek**

## DIRECTORS:

**Linda Goldman**

**Bernadette Fletcher**

**Joanna Fleming**

**Terri Natishan**

**Diane Carney**

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

TeeterTales is designed and edited by Allison Walker. Send stories and photos to [awwalker2@gmail.com](mailto:awwalker2@gmail.com)