



Linda Luchsinger, President
Adrienne Amdahl, Vice President
Vange Leonis, Interim Treasurer
Adrienne Amdahl, Interim Secretary
Linda Wargo, Past President

At Large Board Members:

Donna Golemon
Sandy Bonifield
Debbie Hilton
Vange Leonis

TRAINING CHAIR: Donna Golemon

OFFICE: Sandy Bonifield

BUILDING: Debbie Hilton

PUBLICITY: Vange Leonis

MEMBERSHIP: Adrienne Amdahl

COUPONS/VOUCHERS:

Adrienne Amdahl

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE: Sue Osborn

BUILDING USE:

Groups: Sue Osborn

Members: Donna Golemon

SUNSHINE: Debbie Hilton

Past newsletters:

nvdtc.org/club_newsletter



March-April 2025



TATTLE TAILS

NVDTC Newsletter

Napa Valley Dog Training Club • (707) 253-8666 • Clubhouse: 68 Coombs St., Bldg N
Mailing Address: 68 Coombs Street #7, Napa CA 94559 • www.napadogtraining.org

Bring your dog to the NVDTC MARCH 10th LUCK of the IRISH General Meeting



6:30 PM

Dogs just want to have fun!
(And so do their owners!)



**On your mark.
Get Set. GO!**

Let your dog
participate in
20 yard dash
recall races
or just observe
the activities from the
side line.

**Treats & Prizes
for ALL!**

**WEAR GREEN TO OUR MARCH MEETING TO
ENTER A DRAWING FOR A PRIZE!**



NOTE:
Dogs wearing
logo shirts
from their
owners
for attention
only. Our
Bonfire.com
shirts are
designed to fit
humans not
pets.

LOOK! LOGO WEAR!

Logo shirts now available from
Bonfire.com for members to wear in the
community to showcase our club!

Lots of styles with NVDTC logo in various
positions to choose from. The club will
profit \$7 to \$9 for each shirt ordered.

Go online to view, select your style and order:

www.bonfire.com/store/napa-valley-dog-training-club



Dog Wisdom: 10 Lessons for Dog Owners

Patience is Key – Dogs learn at their own pace. Stay consistent, and celebrate small victories.

Exercise is Essential – A tired dog is a happy dog. Regular walks, playtime, and mental stimulation prevent boredom and bad behavior.

Training Never Stops – Reinforce good manners daily, and always use positive reinforcement to build trust and confidence.

Dogs Thrive on Routine – A predictable schedule for meals, walks, and rest helps your dog feel secure and balanced.

Your Energy Matters – Dogs pick up on your emotions. Stay calm and confident to encourage good behavior.

Socialization is a Lifelong Skill – Expose your dog to different people, places, and experiences to keep them well-adjusted.

Nutrition Impacts Behavior – A well-balanced diet affects your dog's mood, energy, and overall health. Feed quality food and provide fresh water.

Grooming is More Than Looks – Regular brushing, nail trims, and dental care keep your dog healthy and comfortable.

Love is in the Little Things – Dogs appreciate simple joys—belly rubs, praise, a favorite toy. Small moments build deep bonds.

Cherish Every Moment – A dog's life is shorter than ours. Make every day count with love, adventure, and companionship.

NVDTC'S ANNUAL BANQUET

Napa Valley Dog Training Club holds a banquet each year to celebrate the successes of their members as well as the successes of members' dogs. Awards are given out. A great meal is served.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the company of other dog owners and have a lot of fun learning about their dog interests, activities and loves.

Competition awards are given by the club for titles earned by dogs and their owners. The Gerry Glantz Memorial Club Service Award is also presented to anyone who has made significant contributions to the club.

This year the banquet most likely will be held sometime in April around lunchtime on a Saturday. The games I organized last year went over really well so I plan to have games again.

I will also be looking for volunteers to help with the banquet. If you can help, email me at editor@nvdtc.org/.

Just wanted to get this information out so people have a heads up about what's coming.

Sue Osborn
Annual Banquet Chair



Spring will soon be here and so will the Mt. Diablo Dog Training Club's (MDDTC) AKC Trials.

WHAT: MDDTC's AKC Obedience & Rally Trials

WHERE: in Martinez, CA

WHEN: Obedience - Saturday, April 26, 2025

Rally - Sunday, April 27, 2025

Download Premium List with Entry Form by visiting www.mddtc.org/.

Hope to see you there!

Leslie Berry
MDDTC Trial Secretary



2025 Training Session 3

April 21st through May 31st, 2025

NVDTC Classes run for 6 weeks for \$150.00 unless noted otherwise.

Class payment & shot records due April 14th.

Registration for 2025 Session 2 classes is **ONLY** accepted between Mar. 17th and Apr. 7th.

Except for continuing classes, registration is by phone **ONLY: 707-253-8666**

Monday

**All Scent Work classes
are continuing classes**

9:00 am

Scent Work

Donna

10:00 am

Scent Work

Donna

11:00 am

Scent Work

Donna

12:00 pm

Scent Work

Donna

2:30 pm

Scent Work

Donna

5:00 pm

Scent Work

Donna

6 Weeks of Classes:

\$150

\$60 max in coupons

**MEMBERS RECEIVE
ONE \$10 DISCOUNT
PER CLASS**

Tuesday

11:00 am

Good Manners 2

Mary

12:00 Noon

Advanced Obedience

Mary

7 pm

**Canine Good Citizen
(CGC)**

Mary

**Scan QR code
for most
current digital
version of this
schedule.**



Puppy:

12 weeks to 5 1/2 months

Adolescent:

6 months to 1 year

Good Manners:

1 year+

Wednesday

9:00 am

Good Manners 1

Carol

10:00 am

Puppy

Carol

11:00 am

Adolescent

Carol

1:30 pm

**Strengthening the
Basics**

Vange

2:30 pm

Delightful

Distractions

Vange

5 pm

Puppy

Carol

6 pm

Adolescent

Carol

7 pm

Good Manners 1

Carol

Thursday

10:30 am

Rally

Dena

11:30 am

Rally

Dena

5:00 pm

Rally

Mary

6:00 pm

Rally

Mary

Saturday

10:00 am

**Strengthening the
Basics**

Vange

11:00 am

Mighty Might's (GM1)

Vange

12 NOON

Delightful

Distractions

Vange

**Schedule
subject to change.**

For all **Dogs Can Dance (Freestyle)** Tuesday classes,
register with Judy: judy@dogscandance.com • (707) 449-1715



Bringing Joy into Training

by Judy Gamet

Success Beyond Luring



I admit it... I was addicted to food. I didn't even realize it. No, it wasn't eating food, it was holding the food in my hand. I was under the powerful illusion that my dog wouldn't do what I asked unless I held food in my hand.

\What I didn't understand was this "habit" had unintended consequences. I had conditioned my dog to expect the food in my hand. Ah yes, I trained this so well we were both dependent on it. But maybe, just maybe, I could break free of this habit.

Ask for the behavior, help your dog understand clearly by communicating with your body and with your words. When your dog understands and performs the cued response, mark it and THEN reach for the food and reward.

I've seen handlers hold food in front of their dog's noses for years. This teaches your dog two things. First, the dog learns to expect the food and the luring. If you aren't carrying food in your hand, we must not be training? Second, you are training your dog to follow the scent of the food or to look at your hand. The dog has no reason to learn to read the rest of your body, just sniff out and follow that food. Remember that eye contact is the ultimate trump card. Our goal, as a team, is to open up this two way communication, this conversation. The dog is reading the story you are telling them through your words and gestures and then giving you feedback.

On the flip side, there are great reasons for using food as well. Even luring has it's place in training. One of the ways food can be an advantage is to clearly show the dog the path that their body is to take to execute a new move. Especially in the sport of freestyle or rally, where there are so many diverse moves, using food as a tool to make the new move less stressful to help the dog practice the move correctly. Our goal is to help our dogs succeed. I suggest using the food to guide your dog until the light bulb in their mind goes off and you see that they understand what you are asking. Once they understand what is expected of them, test them every once in awhile. If the move is breaking down, go back to giving the dog more help. Set them up for success.

Another example of when food is helpful is when you are cleaning up precision. The position of the food in your hand and the delivery can help the dog perform to your chosen criteria. Utilizing food in this way teaches the dog their correct body placement. Just like in the world of human dance, practice doesn't make perfect, perfect practice makes perfect.

Unless our dog is a food junkie, handing them the food as if you are a living PEZ dispenser might not be very exciting or engaging. Toss the food for your dog to catch, chase down that treat, or run to the table where your treats are stashed ahead of time. This makes delivering a reward so much more, well... rewarding!

If this article intrigues you, be sure to register for "Step by Step" on Tuesdays starting March 4 through Dogs Can Dance at NVDTC. Contact: Judy@DogsCanDance.com

Judy Gamet, CPDT-KA Member: IACP, PPG

**MARK YOU CALENDAR
FOR "BRING
YOUR DOG TO THE MEETING"
NIGHTS:**

March 10

Luck of the Irish—Details on Page 1

May 12

May Madness

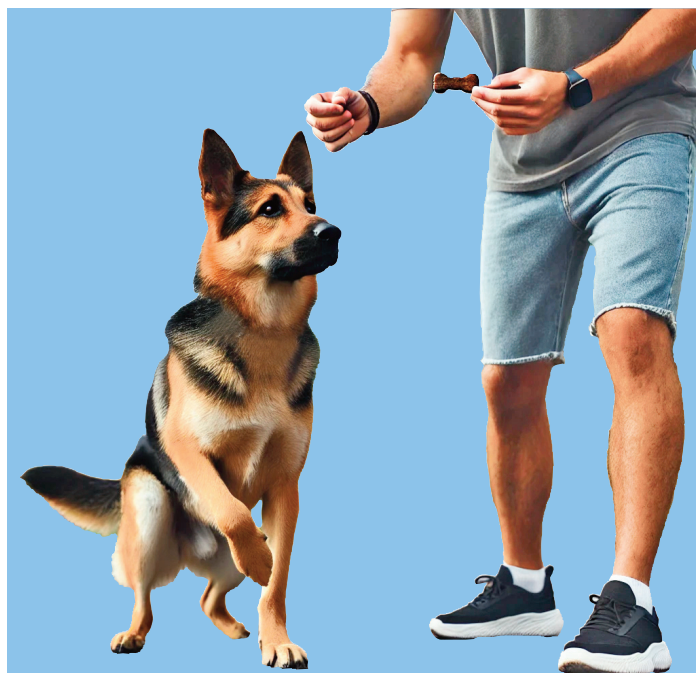
Oct 13

Halloween Costume Party

Nov 10

Holiday Photo Booth

**Check out dates for hospitality theme
nights on page 5.**





Xylitol (a.k.a. Birch Sugar) Is Deadly for Dogs —Know the Hidden Dangers!

Most dog owners know that xylitol, a common sugar substitute, is highly toxic to dogs. But did you know it may also be labeled as birch sugar or E967? Manufacturers use these alternative names to make products sound more natural—but make no mistake, it's just as deadly!



Why Is Xylitol So Dangerous?

Even in small amounts, xylitol can cause life-threatening hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and fatal liver failure in dogs. Just two sticks of sugar-free gum can kill a small dog.

Where Is Xylitol Found?

Xylitol is commonly used in:

1. Sugar-free gum, mints, and candies
2. Peanut butter (check labels before sharing!)
3. Baked goods and sugar-free snacks
4. Toothpaste and mouthwash
5. Gummy vitamins and some medications

Signs of Xylitol Poisoning

1. Vomiting
2. Weakness or staggering
3. Loss of coordination
4. Collapse or seizures

What to Do in an Emergency

If you suspect your dog has ingested xylitol, treat it as an emergency! Get to your veterinarian or an emergency clinic immediately. Time is critical.

How to Keep Your Dog Safe

1. Read ingredient labels carefully—especially on sugar-free products.
2. Keep xylitol-containing items out of reach.
3. Be mindful of guests' purses and backpacks—gum and mints can be deadly if left within reach!
4. Consider eliminating xylitol-containing products from your home entirely.
5. Spread awareness—many pet owners still don't know about this danger!

Xylitol poisoning is preventable. Let's work together to keep our dogs safe!

GENERAL MEETING HOSPITALITY THEMES FOR 2025

(For NON "Bring Your Dog Nights")

April 14

Spring Fling (or Easter)

June 9

Hawaiian Summer

July 14

BBQ

Aug 11

Dog Days of Summer

Sept 8

Grape Festival

Dec 8

Holiday Potluck Party/Gift Exchange

ATTENTION!

We want everyone to know that xylitol is now being labeled as "Birch Sugar"

This is a sweetener used in food. Most common peanut butter and candy. It is VERY toxic to dogs. Keep your pups safe.

TATTLE TAILS

NVDTTC Newsletter
March-April 2025



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Roxann Gracia



Great news!

Tanner got Best in Breed 2024 in two categories...Urban Locating Level 1 and Trailing Locating Level 1.

*North America
Sport Dog Association*



Carol Coawette



Pierre

Over 3 trials (12/8/24; 12/31/24 & 1/1/25) Pierre achieved the following in AKC Scent Work:

Excellent Interior Elite TITLE

Excellent Buried Elite leg

Excellent Buried Elite leg -2nd place

2 Excellent Interior Elite legs

Master Buried Elite TITLE

Master Interior Elite leg



Louie

Over 3 trials (12/8/24; 12/31/24 & 1/1/25) Louie achieved the following in AKC Scent Work:

Novice Interior Elite TITLE - took 2nd place

Novice Exterior Elite leg

Advanced Handler Discrimination TITLE -took 4th place

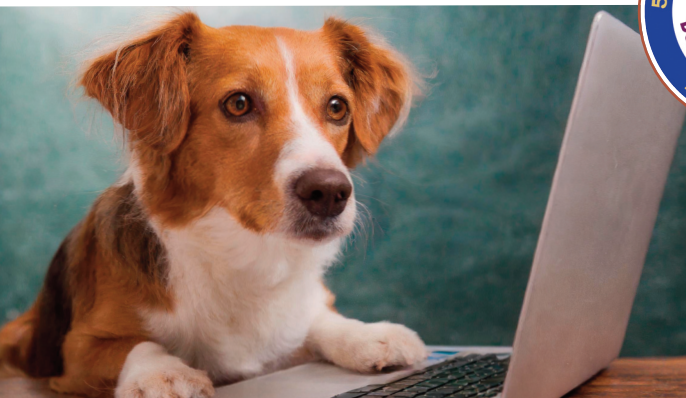
2 Advanced Elite legs in Buried

2 Advanced Elite legs in Exterior

Excellent Handler Discrimination leg -took 4th place

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NOTE: View attachments in the online version of minutes.



www.nvdtc.org/meeting

February 10, 2025 General Meeting

MINUTES (unapproved)

Past and present minutes are available online at:
napadogtraining.org/meeting/

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm

Board Members in attendance: **Officers** – Linda Luchsinger, President, Adrienne Amdahl, Vice President. **Members at Large** – Sandy Bonifield, Debbie Hilton, Vange Leonis **Past President** – Linda Wargo. A list of General Members in attendance is available in the Club office.

A correction was made to the minutes from the January General meeting to change wording about employees who periodically choose to work as volunteer indicating that they will note on their time cards that they are working as a volunteer for a particular class or classes. Marilane Bergfelt made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Debbie Hilton seconded. All present voted Aye. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Vange Leonis

Checking: \$18,389.53 Savings: \$22,369.14

CD: \$21,578.73

December P&L: Net loss of \$3,509.36

New signers have both signed the bank signature cards and Vange is working on getting a new debit card and online access.

President's Report – Linda Luchsinger

We are still looking for any members interested in taking on the roll of Secretary. Please contact Linda Luchsinger if interested.

Vice President's Report – Adrienne Amdahl

We currently have 36 members. Marilane Bergfelt noted that our member numbers are low. Our due date for members to renew was Feb. 1. Can we extend that date and send an email blast renewal reminder? David LeCount motioned to extend membership renewal to March 1st; Conrad Everhardt seconded. All present vote aye, motion passed. Adrienne will contact Sue about an upcoming email blast.

The NVDTTC t-shirts available thru Bonfire.com was presented to the membership. T-shirts are available with the logo in various positions. The club will profit between \$7 - \$9 per shirt.

Printed info on how to order was made available. Info will go into the next newsletter.

Tonight's membership coupons will be issued by Linda Wargo.

Office – Sandy Bonifield

Sandy noted that no puppies are signed up for any session 2 daytime classes at this time.

Our GM1 nighttime classes are filling up. Carol Coawette noted that if her GM2 on Tuesday nights doesn't fill we could do a combined GM1/GM2 class if needed.

Training – Donna Golemon

Donna is not in attendance. The training chair highlights from the Janu-

ary Board Meeting were read as follows:

Sessions 3, 4 and 5 are all mapped out.

People cannot just walk into classes, please wait until you are recognized and asked to enter.

The board voted to approved Linda Wargo as a scent work instructor so she can substitute ' when needed. She will work as a volunteer.

There was a discussion about possibly bringing back PayPal as a payment option – tabled to a later date.

We should look at and tighten up our refund policy.

Donna and Sue did a recent online survey of students in puppy, ado, GM1 and Mighty Rights from sessions 6 & 7 last year asking what they liked and disliked. 61 surveys went out and only 2 responses. Linda Luchsinger noted that it would probably be more efficient to reinstate reviews at the end of classes.

Publicity – Vange Leonis

Vange noted we are going to have updated business cards printed. If anyone would like some to pass on, please let her know.

Debbie, Vange and Marilane are looking at the class was with flyers to rearrange it to better advertise our classes.

We are looking more into our Facebook and how it works. Marilane presented an outline to the board via email on how our FB has performed and who it reaches and what needs to happen to maximize our reach and interactions with our content.

Building – Debbie Hilton

Ross got all of our bad lights repaired

Pest control will be spraying the last Friday of this month

Hospitality – Debbie Hilton

Debbie passed around a meeting calendar asking the General Membership to sign up to bring refreshments. Each month is themed. Thank you to Dena Parrish and Marilane

Bergfelt for tonight's refreshments. Debbie and Adrienne will bring refreshments for the March meeting.

Sunshine – Debbie Hilton

Judy Gamet's (long time teacher of Dogs Can Dance at NVDTTC) mother passed away last week. Our bereavement policy notes that if a member's family member passes we send a card and make a \$50 donation to the charity of the family's choice. Judy is not currently a member, but has been in the past and has a long relationship teaching at the club. A majority of the board responded via a previous email to make an exception to the rule of being a club member and to have Debbie con-

continued on page 7



MINUTES

Continued from page 7

tact Judy and make a donation to the charity of her choice in her mother's name. A card has been sent.

Old Business

PAWS for Healing has requested to use the club on March 22nd and to use the baby gates at no additional charge. Linda Wargo motioned; Sandy seconded. All present voted aye, motion approved.

LAPS has requested use of the building on March 29th and April 12th (with access on April 11th to clean) and use of the baby gates at no additional charge. Linda Wargo motioned; Sandy seconded. All present voted aye, motion approved.

NACSW Trial – presented by Anne Stanley

We have been assigned a trial coordinator by the NACSW

The draw period for the trial has been set for Monday, April 14 and entries will close Wednesday, April 16

This week we are executing agreements for our Certifying Official, Score Room Lead and Judges.

Our trial premium has received tentative approval from the NACSW. We have created an online form for volunteers to sign up. When both those items are finalized, we will publish them online. We will also have printed sign-up sheets.

We will need many volunteers in a variety of jobs. We will also need vehicles for vehicle searches. The vehicles do not have to remain onsite overnight.

Budget – We have a draft budget per NACSW and will continue to refine. We have some fixed costs identified including payments to judges and score room lead (both determined by the NACSW). We don't have revenue estimates as we are waiting for approval from the NACSW on the number of teams we can accept and the amounts the teams will pay to enter.

We are seeking donations of some supplies and hospitality items.

We will use the Agility Gate app which provides online check-in, running order and maps.

Banquet – date has been pushed to April 5th (tentatively)

New Business

Deadline to submit items to Sue Osborn for the March/April Tattletales Newsletter is February 22

Per State of California – we must carry over sick leave hours for each employee up to 40 hours. Sick leave carry over will show in the next payroll.

Carol has a person who is signed up for one of her session 2 classes that has no contact info or paperwork. If that person's paperwork is not received by the close of registration, Carol has been given the go ahead to fill that space if needed.

Brags

David LaCount has done 5 agility trials with his 3 dogs and has earned 8 titles.

Anne Stanley decorated her Christmas tree with her dog's ribbons

Linda Wargo - At the Bay Team USDAA agility trial Ziji won Master Gamblers, placed second in Steeplechase and third in Jumpers. Happy won Steeplechase and Master Jumpers.

At the the Golden State Greater Swiss Mountain Dog AKC Scent Work Trial, Sonny finished his Novice Buried title and his overall Scent Work Novice title. He also earned legs in Advanced Interior and Exterior.

At the Sacramento Beagle Club AKC Scent Work trial Ziji earned legs in Excellent Interior, Exterior and Containers. Sonny earned a Novice B Interior leg and an Advanced Buried leg.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Adrienne Amdahl

*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!*



TATTLE TAILS

NVDTC Newsletter

March-April 2025

Misplaced, Lost, or Missed eMails from NVDTC?

Misplaced your email from NVDTC via
MailChimp with link to newsletters?

Missed that announcement about an upcoming
presentation or workshop?

You can access recent emails sent out from
NVDTC via MailChimp by [CLICKING HERE](#) or by
scanning the QR code below.



Submission deadline for the
MAY/JUNE 2025 newsletter
is April 22, 2025.

Send submissions to: editor@nvdtc.org

Scheduling of Board Meetings:

Board meetings are open to all members
and are scheduled on the *FOURTH* Tuesday
of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Call 253-8666 to verify both date
and location of meeting. Minutes from board
meetings are available online & at the club.

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Next Meeting:
March 10, 2025
6:30 PM at Clubhouse

*It is a "Bring Your Dog to the Meeting Night"
Join us for some "Luck of the Irish" fun!*



The Electrifying Tzoey

Photo from
Dena Parrish

Do you have a special
or cute dog picture
you'd like to share?

If you send a photo of
YOUR dog (ε name) to
the newsletter editor, he
or she could appear in a
future newsletter!

Email to:
editor@nvdtc.org



Visit NVDTC on the web for
current info & photos at
www.nvdtc.org and on
Facebook at

www.facebook.com/NVDTC/.

GENERAL INFO: info@nvdtc.org | 707-253-8666 (Club Office)

