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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

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~Rally Trials

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## MOORE COUNTY KENNEL CLUB

# THE BARKER

March 2026 Newsletter

Published March 17, 2026

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2026

Happy Spring, Everyone!

Scent work - March 28 and 29. Please see John Zopatti to assist with the event at Sandhills Community College



Dog Show !!!! Dog Show !!!!  
We all excited for this event!  
April 23 and 24 - Please come and help Wednesday afternoon until Friday clean up.  
Southeastern NC Agricultural and Events Center  
1027 highway 74 East, Lumberton.

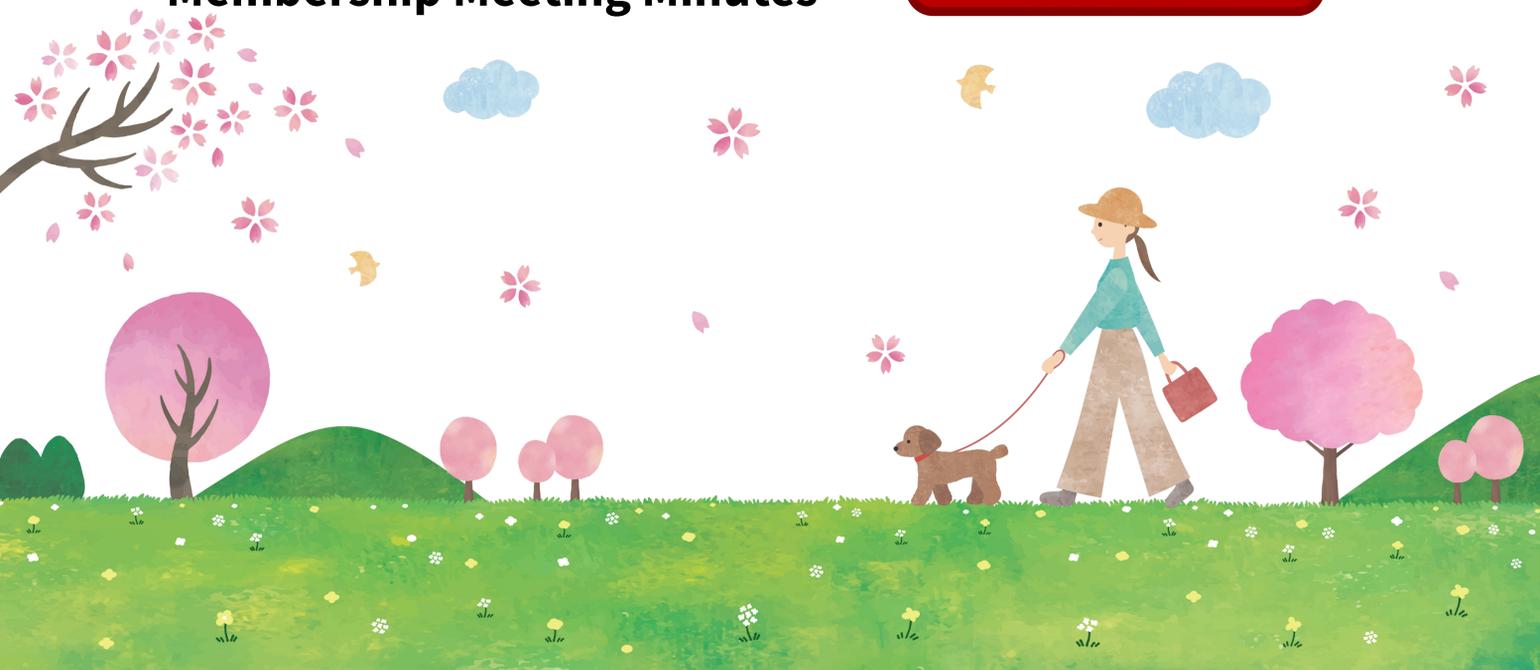
Please reach out and give our Board Members a hand:  
Marjorie Riddle Watson - Show Chair  
Kathy Pellerino - Rally Chair  
We would love to see everyone there!

Let's go team Moore County Kennel Club!!

Carol Dowd  
President Moore County Kennel Club

MARCH 2026  
Membership Meeting Minutes

[CLICK HERE](#)





Our popular Scent Work event returns March 28-29, 2026

**PREMIUM!**

CLICK HERE!

**ONLINE ENTRY!**

Trial Chair - John Zopatti



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL EVENTS!

We rely on our volunteers to make every event a success, and getting involved is easy and fun. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at another dog sport, and every helping hand truly makes a difference. **Contact the event chairs for info on how you can help!**



## CONFORMATION SHOW & RALLY TRIALS APRIL 23-24, 2026

Two Days of Conformation  
Two Days of Rally  
(2 trials each day!)  
and much more!

Premium Available Here

[www.palmetto2pines.com](http://www.palmetto2pines.com)

Conformation Show Chair - Marjorie Riddle Watson

Rally Trial Chair - Kathy Pellerino



# FIT DOG WALK!

Our March Fit Dog Walk is scheduled for March 22 at the Southern Pines Reservoir Park! Meet up at 2:00 near the dock! This is a pleasant 2 mile hike that rambles around the reservoir.

[Learn more about the AKC Fit Dog program!](#)



## MCKC JUNE AGILITY TRIAL

We're making plans for our next agility trial!

**June 5-7, 2026**

**Quicksilver Canine!**

Watch our social media, newsletter, and the website for details. The premium and online entry links will be posted as soon as we have them!

[Trial Chair: Kathy Pellerino](#)

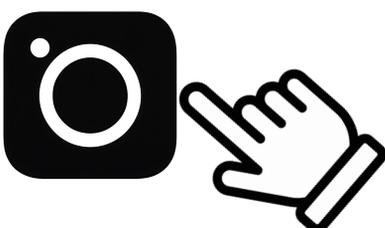


# Find us on Social Media!

Instagram

Facebook Group

Facebook Page



## TARGES A PENNY FROM HEAVEN BCAT

Cyndi Klepper and her **Cardigan Welsh Corgi, Sophie**, had a terrific weekend at the Danville and Forsyth Kennel Clubs All-Breed Shows held February 27–March 1 at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds.

On Saturday, Sophie captured **Winners Bitch**, adding valuable points toward her championship, and she followed it up with a strong showing on Sunday, earning **Reserve Winners Bitch**.

Congratulations to Cyndi and Sophie on a successful weekend in the ring—we look forward to watching this team continue their momentum!



**LET'S GIVE A STANDING OVATION TO OUR  
FOUR-LEGGED STARS!**

I'm looking forward to sharing all of your brags, fun news, and photos of you and your amazing dogs! Please be sure to send them in! Remember, this newsletter is only as good as the content that I receive!

**SEND IN YOUR BRAGS!**

# Handler's Corner

## Teaching Dogs to "Switch Off" at Events



Most experienced handlers can cue a down-stay, but a down does not always mean a dog is **relaxed**. At shows, trials, and training classes, dogs often remain highly aroused even while lying quietly.

A **relaxation protocol** teaches calm behavior is the correct response while activity happens nearby. Instead of constantly managing excitement, the dog learns how to settle and conserve energy between turns in the ring.

### ESTABLISH A RELAXATION FRAMEWORK

Start with a mat or crate pad as the designated "rest spot":

Reward relaxed behaviors:

- soft expression
- settling onto a hip
- resting the head
- calmly watching in a down



### PROGRESSIVE CHALLENGE IDEAS

- another dog gaiting past
- a judge approaching and greeting you
- grooming equipment being moved
- ring gates opening and closing
- applause or crowd noise



### WHAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY TRAINING

- ✓ emotional regulation *in stimulating environments*
- ✓ impulse control *around other dogs and activity*
- ✓ faster recovery after excitement



### Trainer's Tip

Dogs that learn to "switch off" between runs or ring appearances often perform better because they conserve mental and physical energy rather than remaining in a constant state of excitement.

Do you have training tips you'd like to share?  
Or is there something specific you'd like to see in our newsletter?  
Let your Woofmaster know! ---> [mckcwoofmaster@gmail.com](mailto:mckcwoofmaster@gmail.com)

## MCKC APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING!



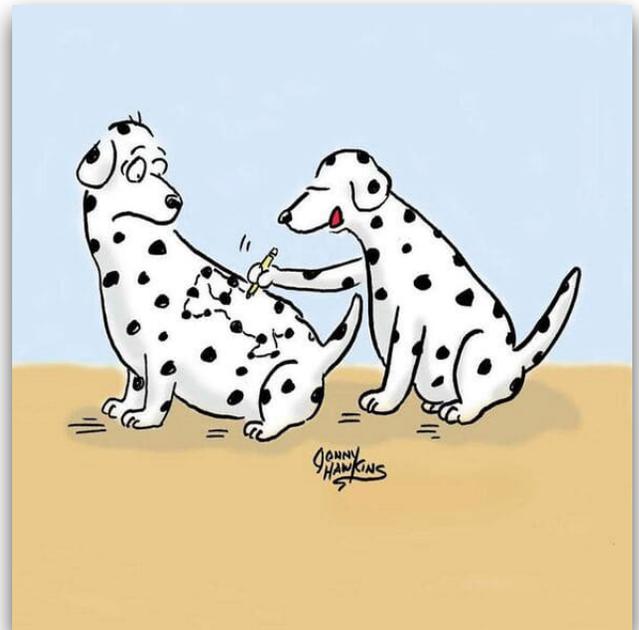
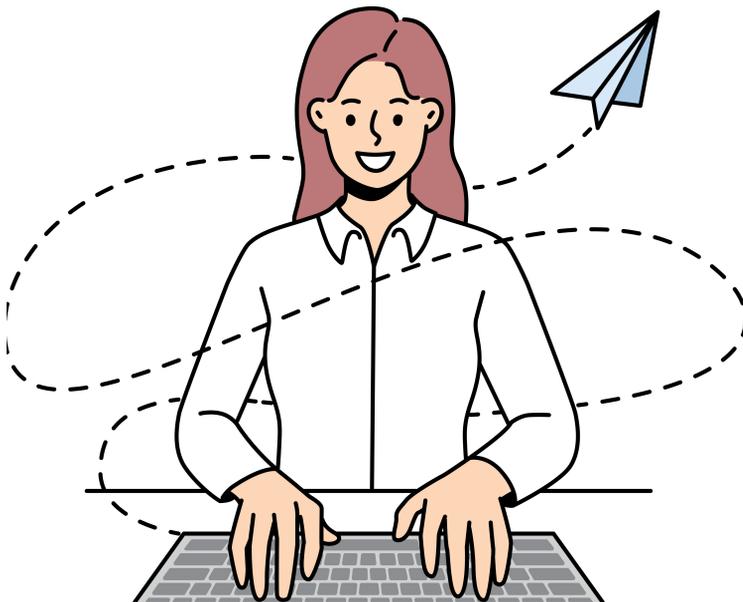
APRIL 1, 2026      TABLE ON THE GREEN, PINEHURST  
DINNER & SOCIAL 6-7 PM ~ MEETING STARTS AT 7 PM

## KNOW ANY LOCAL DOG LOVERS?

Know someone who loves dogs as much as you do? Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to a meeting or event and help us grow the next generation of Moore County Kennel Club members!



# SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!



Deadline for inclusion in next month's newsletter is the 10th of the month.

REACH OUT TO NANCY AT [MCKCWOOFMASTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MCKCWOOFMASTER@GMAIL.COM)