



HEEL AND SIT

GREAT SALT LAKE DOG TRAINING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

◆◆◆ MARCH 2026 ◆◆◆

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What: **GSLDTC Board Meeting**
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Room 101, Columbus Community Center
495 South West Temple, South Salt Lake
84106



What: **GSLDTC General Meeting**
Date: Monday, April 27, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Room 101, Columbus Community Center
495 South West Temple, South Salt Lake
84106





**What: Stewards for the Rally & Obedience Trial
and the Beehive Cluster Dog Shows**

When: April 30 - May 3

We need 3 - 4 stewards for each ring (rally and obedience) each day. This is a great way to learn about these sports. You will receive lunch and \$25 for a half-day; \$50 if you work the full day.

To Steward for **Obedience** contact Jodie Hanson at jodhan801@msn.com

To Steward for **Rally** contact Cindy Whitehair at cmwhitehair@gmail.com



Important: Self-Certification Update

At the last General Meeting, members approved updates to our Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, including revisions to the self-certification process that impact fee-waivers for classes.

The approved fee-waiver change is as follows:

- Club members seeking fee-waivers for training classes **must submit a self-certification** to the President (or other designated person) **prior to the requested training sign-up.**
- Once approved, this will be presented to a Training Director prior to the sign-up for the requested class.
- To certify, **club members must complete at least two of the following, during the past 12 months:**
 1. Attend one (1) Club meeting
 2. Instruct or assist in a training class
 3. Assist with sign-ups
 4. Serve as club officer or committee chairperson
 5. Steward a minimum of four hours
 6. Help with set-up or take-down at an Obedience/Rally/Scent Work trial
 7. Be a track layer at a Tracking Test (TD, TDU, VST, or TDX)
 8. Volunteer a minimum of four hours at a Scent Work Trial

**Members seeking fee-waivers for classes, please contact
Tom McLelland via email: tmclelland1025@yahoo.com**

April Classes

April									
<p style="text-align: center; transform: rotate(-15deg);">No Tuesday Classes in April</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday classes which begin in April <i>Sign up for these classes on April 8 @ 7 PM</i></p>								
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Tricks</td> <td>7:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Puppy STAR</td> <td>7:45 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beginning Obedience</td> <td>7:45 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intermediate Obedience</td> <td>7:45 PM</td> </tr> </table>	Tricks	7:00 PM	Puppy STAR	7:45 PM	Beginning Obedience	7:45 PM	Intermediate Obedience	7:45 PM
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<p>Classes run 8 weeks, giving you plenty of time to learn, grow, and have fun with your four-legged family member along the way.</p>																					

Click on this link to see class descriptions:

<http://gsltdc.com/training/>

Class Sign Up Information:

- **Where:** West Jordan Utah National Guard Armory,
7602 So. Airport Road, West Jordan, UT [*Click for Directions*](#).
- **How to Enter the building:** Entry for signups and all classes is on the South side of the building

Helpful Tips from AKC



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB



Understanding How Your Dog Sees the World Can Make You a Better Trainer

You may have seen deaf dogs responding to the hand signals of their owners, and perhaps, you use hand signals with your own dog. But no doubt, you do a lot of talking to your dog, too. Have you ever wondered which would be easier for him to understand, spoken words or visual cues? What is the most effective way of communicating with your dog?

Hand Gestures and Body Language

It's helpful to appreciate that visual cues are more important to dogs than we might think. Humans are a very sight-reliant species, so it's surprising that we do so much talking to our dogs. Many people expect their dogs to listen to their words alone, and never teach hand signals for basic behaviors, such as [sit](#) or [down](#). However, dogs are more likely to be in touch with what we are doing than what we are saying.

Hand signals are easy to teach, particularly if you use [lure-and-reward](#) training. For example, the common hand signal for sit, raising your hand from your side to be parallel with the floor, comes from holding a treat to your dog's nose and lifting it over his head to lure a sit position. Although it is best to train using the hand signal first, even if you have already taught a verbal cue, you can add a hand signal later by giving the hand signal before you say the verbal cue. After enough repetitions, your dog will learn that the hand signal means the same thing as the word.

Some [research](#) has shown that a dog's ability to learn is influenced, not just by hand signals, but also by overall body language and the distance between the trainer and the dog. It seems the farther the trainer is from the dog, the less responsive the dog will be. Therefore, it pays to be aware of where you are standing when you are communicating with your dog. How you are standing is important, too. For example, leaning over your dog might intimidate him. Even if your words are positive, your threatening body language is a visual signal that may carry more weight than the verbal signal of your words.

~ By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

Read More Here:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/understanding-your-dog-can-make-you-a-better-trainer/>



March Tracking Trial

Our Club held the 43rd Annual Tracking Dog Test on March 15, 2026.

There were ten entries with **three successful passes!**

We were fortunate to have **many wonderful volunteers.**

Judges for the test were **Kristie Rasmussen** and **Judy Campbell** (Provisional Judge).

The **Tracking Chair** was **Kelley Marusich**; she and her husband, **Chris** coordinated the track layers and volunteers for the trial.

The **Tracking Secretary** was **Misty Porter** and the **Chief Tracklayer** was **Dorriane Clark.**

Leanne Miller, and her co-pilot **Rosie**, were the judges' drivers.

Jeff McCleery managed all the supplies while **Michelle Larsen** and **Kelly Pippins** provided hospitality.

Lisa Beagley, **Kel Scudder**, **Keaton Shirk**, **Lacey Goforth**, **Stephanie Burdett**, **Sierra Brown**, **Becky Anderson**, **Kate Sieverts**, and **Sandy Morgan** were track layers.

Congratulations to our passing teams:

Brittany Wilding and her Pembroke Welsh Corgi, **Archie**;
Heather Berg and her Bernese Mountain Dog, **August**; and
Dan Wheeler with his Standard Poodle, **Shadow!**

~Excerpt from article written by Judy Campbell

2026 Officers & Committee Chairs	
President:	Tom McLelland
Vice President:	Michelle Larsen
Secretary:	Amanda VanAusdal (Acting)
Treasurer:	Judy Campbell
Show:	Betsy Coleman
Equipment:	Jeff McCleery
Hospitality:	Kelley Pippins (Acting) Michelle Larsen (Interim)
Training:	Austin Kalfaolu Cindy Whitehair
Trophy Chair:	Tiva DiFrancesco (Acting)



Share your brags—send us a pic of you and your dog at one of our classes, trainings or while you are volunteering for our club.

Send info and photos to: Maria Sweeten, msweeten22@gmail.com



Questions?

glsdogtrainingclub@gmail.com | www.gsltdc.com

*This newsletter drops six times a year—February, April, July, September, and November.
If you're looking for additional information, visit our website.*