



Spring 2026

DOCOF Doings



1975 DOCOF team, Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg



KEN KINCAID
October 31, 1952 – April 26, 2026



Today marks a very sad day. Ken Kincaid has passed and left a huge void in the dog world. Ken, along with his loving wife Aimee, are great supporters of the AKC. They have been the voices at so many AKC events providing a narrative for the Classic and the NOC. Besides judging both Obedience and Rally, Ken was also very welcoming to potential judges, and he was always there to offer any assistance and advice to help new judges feel comfortable in the ring.



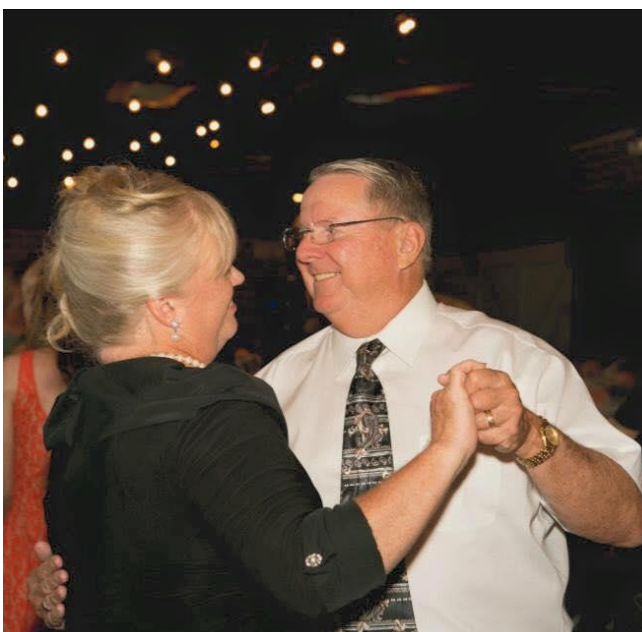
Ken and Aimee have done wonders to get the Danish Swedish Farm Dog recognized by the AKC as well as the fancy. Ken's videos explaining the rules of the various exercises in AKC obedience and rally have helped so many people over the years. He willingly provided the sound system for so many seminars provided by DOCOF, the AKC and individual clubs so everyone could hear clearly. Ken will be missed, but somehow I think we will always know that he will be there to guide us. If you needed anything, all you had to do was ask Ken, and if he was available he would always offer to help.



I guess that is what happened on April 26, 2026. God asked for his help and Ken said yes.



Rest in Peace my friend,
 Ron Seeley



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reminders: By now your club's Team Captain should be starting to put together the teams for DOCOF. That includes teams for Rally as well as teams for Obedience. The Special Event Trial, SET for Obedience and Rally, are avenues where exhibitors can earn legs and titles for their dogs. Please complete the "DOCOF Team Entry Form" and the "DOCOF Rally Team Entry Form" in addition to the Premium for your perspective event. I hope to have the Premium available soon. This is to ensure that we have all your team's information.

Your Club/Team Rosters are due no later than June 1st. Please email them to our **Membership Chairperson, Deb Neufeld** at: obdnn@aol.com also please begin to familiarize yourself with the various DOCOF forms on our website. You will find them under the Downloadable Forms tab. If your club/team is unable to field a complete team, don't forget you may unify with another team. Simply complete the "Team Unification Form" found on our website. Click on Downloadable Forms and scroll down to # 8. Click on the link and complete the form, it is a writable PDF so you can download it and complete it on your computer.

Jon Mett Award: Now is the time to nominate someone for the Jon Mett Award. Nominations must be submitted no later than June 1st. You will find the application under the Jon Mett Award tab on our website at <https://docof.org/jon-mett-award/>. A link to the writable nomination form is at the bottom of the page.

Adopt a Judge for lunch: I was glad to see this tradition return to DOCOF last year. The judges loved sitting with the teams that adopted them and enjoying the camaraderie. Getting their picture taken inside the "Hippie Bus" at the Pawsitively K9Performance booth was a big hit! So please, consider adopting one of the judges for lunch on Saturday, Sunday or both days. It is a lot of fun.

Volunteers Needed: DOCOF requires several volunteers to run smoothly. Everyone that



belongs to a club/team that competes at our event is a "member" of DOCOF. Contrary to popular belief, the Board members are not the only ones that are required to volunteer. **EVERYONE** that attends our event has a responsibility to help by volunteering for jobs that allow DOCOF to run smoothly. I have listed below the positions if there is no name next to the position, I hope your team members will consider volunteering where they can.

The positions listed with asterisks next to them require multiple people to do the job. These positions are necessary in addition to volunteering to be a Steward. **The Rally and Obedience events will not start until we have volunteers to fill these positions.** Please contact me directly or our Secretary Terri Bell no later than June 15th to volunteer. I anticipate setup will again start at 11:00 am Friday. If you are planning to help with transportation or hospitality, you are invited to attend the Saturday night Judges' dinner and DOCOF will pick up your tab.

Thank you for all you do to help DOCOF be a very special event each year.

Position Needed:

Volunteer:

Transportation: Driving judges.	_____
Hospitality: Planning for Saturday judges' dinner.	_____
Raffle Table: Selling raffle tickets Sat, & Sun.	_____
*Practice Rings: Monitoring the practice rings.	_____
*Friday & Saturday Night Practice Ring.	_____
Chief Steward: Assigning stewards to all rings.	<u>Luci Seeley</u> _____
Pins and Bars: Handing out pins and bars to teams.	<u>Aimee Kincaid</u> _____
*Setup: Volunteers get first crack at the practice rings.	<u>Ron & Luci Seeley</u> _____
*Trash Duty: Empty trash cans throughout the day.	<u>Ron Seeley</u> _____
*Monitor Bathroom Supplies. Restock as needed.	_____
*Poop buckets Empty throughout the events.	_____



Judges Announced for DOCOF 2026

Rally:

Mrs. Charlotte Mielziner will judge Novice, Master and Choice
 Mrs. Barbara Wedekind Shelton will judge Intermediate, Advanced and Excellent

Obedience:

Mrs. Charlotte Mielziner will judge Novice and Preferred Novice.
 Mrs. Barbara Wedekind Shelton will judge Open and Preferred Open.
 Mr. Ores Chever will judge Utility and Preferred Utility

A Brief History of DOCOF

By Deb Neufeld

In the late 1960's a few local Clubs formed Dog Obedience Clubs of Florida. It was to be a "calendar club" whereby clubs would meet once a year and compare dates for their events so that no one would book a competing event, which would hurt both clubs.

The idea of a state competition was brought to the officers around 1970. It was rejected as the officers felt it would create poor sportsmanship by increasing competitiveness among local handlers. After judging in California, AKC Obedience Judge Jon Mett brought back the idea of a tournament based on handlers competing for their clubs, which was eventually accepted. The first DOCOF Tournament was held in 1975 with 13 clubs competing. Marilyn Krejci (my mentor) competed in that first Tournament. Originally, each club sent 2 entries at each level who competed. Alternates were listed, but alternates did NOT compete unless someone on the team could not make it. Only obedience clubs were eligible to join.

The event continued to grow, and eventually training groups, organizations, and schools were also allowed to join, not just clubs, and breed-specific clubs were permitted to join. Over the years the rules were changed to allow the alternate to compete, with the two best scores at each level being counted/the lowest score was considered the alternate. Clubs were originally allowed to send only one team, then two teams, and recently 3 teams. Clubs may now also designate emergency substitutions, but are not required to do so.

To compete in DOCOF you must be a member of a club, school or organization that has joined DOCOF. DOCOF is a club of clubs. Only clubs that have joined DOCOF can send a team of their members to compete for them. Even members of a club belonging to DOCOF cannot compete unless they are also Florida residents, (although that has changed as well). The only exceptions were clubs bordering Georgia, who may have members residing there. No individual entries have ever been allowed. The idea is that we compete for our club, with our club members for state rankings, and we all help each other and support each other. It's a big reason why

Florida has some of the best sportsmanship in the nation, and any AKC Rep will tell you that.

In the past, the hospitality person arranged for a sandwich plate for the judges of the competition, bought and brought in lunch for the Judges. One year lunch wasn't ready in time and clubs generously offered to feed the Judges, who loved the feeling of inclusion and hospitality. From then on, we asked clubs to volunteer to feed a judge as part of the "DOCOF experience".

After Marilyn Krejci passed away, we started offering one of her old DOCOF trophies for the best table decorations at the dinner on Saturday night, with the Judges picking the winners. Once her trophies were gone we offered a coupon for a free dinner next year (then a free entry for the next year, which I paid for myself) for the best table decorations. The dinner was eventually discontinued for lack of participation.

My first DOCOF competition was in 1988, and I was on ODTC's winning team in 1990 (no one could send more than one team at that time.) Since that time I worked with Marilyn and Steve Krejci, DOCOF President Karl Wissler, then Nancy Grotheer, Matt Twitty, and Ken Kincaid in whatever capacity needed. I was also trial secretary for about 5 or 6 years and Vice President for about 10 years. I have done the banquet, scheduled stewards, scheduled the seminar for about 20 years, raffle, arranged for a photographer, booked the venue, etc., etc., etc. Now I just do membership.

DOCOF grew over the years from 13 original clubs to an average of over 30 teams, and between 250 and 325 entries, up and down a bit depending on the economy, but it held steady since I've been a part of it, and most of us plan our year around the competition. The numbers dropped since the pandemic.

Incidentally, I was the assistant coordinator for the 1995 Gaines Classic in Orlando with George Burburan, and Chief Ring Steward for the NOI two years in Tampa, was a member of the first and second Rally Advisory Committees, but my association with DOCOF is still my proudest accomplishment. I hope you will feel the same way.