

Mary's Musings

Thank you to everyone who made our August Agility Trial such a success! So many members pitched in and helped to get the big job done. This event couldn't happen without you! You are appreciated. Pam Johnson was such a fun judge. There were great courses mixed with lots of laughter and silliness!

On Sept 20 - 21, WDTC will hold our first AKC Fetch event at the club. It is a fun opportunity to try something new, have fun with your dog, and earn a title or two. Pre-entries closed on Sept 12th, but day of event entries will be permitted if spaces are available! Both buildings will be used for the entirety of this event. We had a good turnout for the members' practice day in late August. Blitz and I tried it and had a great time. We are looking forward to participating in this event.

There are a lot of people beyond the board and instructors who volunteer to keep our club humming along smoothly. They are often behind the scenes and not recognized as much as they should be for their contributions. I hope I haven't unintentionally omitted anyone. Thank you to each of you! Your contributions are invaluable. (Please note the position of Club Historian is still open and available!)

Chairmanships 2025

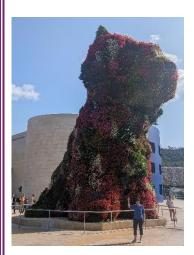
Membership Chair	Melanie Beck		
Themsersing Chair	Wichame Beek		
Agility Trials Committee Chair	Jane Neave		
Agility Seminar Chair	Julia Tan		
Building and Ground	Rick Phillips		
Annual Awards Chair	Chrystal Beck		
Judges Selection Chair OB	Lori Perkins		
Judge's Selection Chair Agility	Jane Neave		
Phone Committee Chair	Keelyn Hanlon		
Email Referral Coordinator	Pam Watkins		
Agility Equipment Committee	Sharon		
Chair	Heckman		

Continued on next page

Key Positions 2025

Dirt Coordinator	Rick Phillips
Dirt worker	Larry Moyer, Renee Thomas
Dirt Watering Coordinator	Debra Powers
Dirt Watering Crew	Katie Haynes, Keelyn Hanlon, Kathy Massey
Monthly Obedience Bldg Cleaner (November is still open! Please volunteer!) Contact Scotland scotlandkplamb@gmail.com	Debra Powers, Katie Haynes, Keelyn Hanlon, Andrea English, Kat Woods, Becky Maddex, Kathy Massey, Susan Jaax, Molly Jaax, Scotland Lamb, Pat Swearingen, Ashley Suttles
Webmaster Primary	Tina Nye
Webmaster Backup	Chrystal Beck
Obedience Resgistrar	Janice Arnold
Agility Registrar	Kim Wells
Supplies Coordinator	Debbie Snider
Vouchers Coordinator	Lisa Smith
Facebook Moderator	Samantha Haxton
Newsletter Editor	Pam Watkins
Newsletter Copy Editor	Kat Woods
WDTC Historian	OPEN - Volunteer Needed
Members Night (November is still open! Please volunteer!) Contact Scotland scotlandkplamb@gmail.com	Rick & Ruth Ann Phillips, Mike Williams, Evelyn Hefley, Nicole Callahan, Debbie Snider, Pam Watkins, Connie Asbury, Pat Swearingen, Charlotte Norris
Agility Instructors / Asst. Instructors (There will be more sessions this year! Please volunteer!) Contact Penny p.l.clement63@gmail.com	Melanie Beck, Allyson Skillman, Penny Clement, Cody Chitwood, Rick & Ruth Ann Phillips, Connie Asbury, Erin Clark, Janet Kernan, Penny Clement, Mary Moyer, Nicole Callahan, Kat Woods, Chrystal Beck, Emma Werth, Taila Bateman, Emily Lette, Julia Tan, Mikel Miller, Donna Feeler, Larry Moyer, Karen Foraker
Obedience / Puppy / Rally Instructors / Asst. Instructors (There will be more sessions this year! Please volunteer!) Contact Lori sleperkins@netzero.net	Nicole Callahan, Teresa Burks Kathy Larkins, Sharon Heckman, Allyson Skillman, Stephanie Sexton, Pam Watkins, Jamie Fisher, Debra Powers, Lori Perkins, Vickie Dewitt, Cody Chitwood, Pat Ropp, Elizabeth Brandyberry

Fall offers so many opportunities for you and your dog to participate in dog performance activities. Hope you are getting out and enjoying the fun!



Mary Moyer

In the wake of the controversy triggered by *Made in Heaven*, Koons brought to critics and audiences what would become one of his most iconic and best-loved creations, *Puppy*. This enormous flower-strewn West Highland white terrier was temporarily installed in 1992 in the great courtyard of the Waldeck baroque castle in the German town of Bad Arolsen, near Kassel where Documenta IX was being held. That first version, which stood 11 meters tall, was made of wood and was dismantled at the end of the project. Koons later created a rendition with a steel frame, which was acquired in 1997 for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao Collection and given a permanent home in front of the museum building in September of that year, just in time for the museum's inauguration.

(C

In this piece, whose theme ties in with his earlier series *Banality* and *Made in Heaven*, the flowering of the plants is key because it entails an uneven, riotous pattern of growth that gives the work a life of its own, alluding to the power of life in both its physical and spiritual dimensions. This is at the Guggenheim Bilbao

STEVE MOON SEMINAR 10/31-11/2

We will have a day of young dog, then a jumpers day, and the last day is standard day. He will work with each team at whatever level they are competing.

Each session will be 8am-5pm with an hour lunch break.

We will also be offering individual sessions on Thursday October 30^{th} . These will be either 1/2- or 1-hour time slots. You can split your time slot (1hr min) with another team so that you can work in rotation so as not to tire your dog. Please indicate if you prefer am or pm sessions and we will do our best to accommodate. Individual sessions enrollment will be based on first received. Julia will start accepting enrollment on August 6^{th} , by mail only for the first week. After the first week, hand delivery will be accepted.



Please print and send form with deposit check made payable to **WDTC** to:

Julia Tan, 524 W 47th St N, Wichita KS 67204

10/31 Young dog day	\$180 member/\$200 non-member(\$90deposit)
11/1 Jumpers Day	\$180 member/\$200 non-member (\$90 deposit
11/2 Standard Day	\$180 member/\$200 non-member (\$90 deposit
Audit	\$35/day
10/30 Individual sessions	\$45 (30min) \$90 (1hr)
Please circle to indicate if	you prefer am or pm
(Write a separate check to	WDTC for individual sessions)
Handler name:	
Dog's name:	
Handlers email:	

Positive Force Free R+ Dog Training Library •

Barbara Lloyd tsporndeSo i8:bmtimf81243950tfP14i2Me52ea2afpt0 trS 6mfm21e5

One of the hardest things to do as a handler is to remember that your dog's behavior is just behavior. It isn't a commentary on your worth, your relationship, or your ability to train. It's data. It's feedback. And when we can learn to code that behavior—observe it, label it, and understand it—we take a huge step toward training with clarity and compassion.

When your dog barks, pulls, freezes, or checks out, it can be easy to hear it as, "They don't respect me," or "They don't love working with me." But those stories are ours, not theirs. Dogs aren't sitting around scheming about how to embarrass us in class or make us feel small in front of a judge. They are simply responding to the world, their emotions, and their environment.

Instead of personalizing it, try this: watch the behavior as if you were coding data in a study. What happened before? What happened after? Was your dog seeking distance, comfort, clarity, or reward? Was the environment overwhelming or under-stimulating? By coding it, you pull yourself out of judgment and into curiosity.

This shift doesn't just make you a better trainer—it protects your relationship. When you stop taking behavior personally, you create space for empathy. You can look at your dog and say, "I see you. You're struggling right now, and I can help you." That creates trust. And trust is the foundation of everything we do together.

So, the next time your dog "misbehaves," pause. Instead of asking, "Why are you doing this to me?" Try asking, "What is this behavior telling me about you, right now?"

When we listen that way, we find solutions that are kinder, more effective, and deeply connected to who our dogs are. Training isn't about avoiding mistakes—it's about learning how to read them. Behavior isn't personal, it's information. And when we treat it as such, both we and our dogs are freer to grow.

Upcoming Agility Event



Trial: Wichita Dog Training Club / Wheatland Golden Retriever Club

Dates: November 13 - 16, 2025

Facility: YMCA Indoor Soccer Facility

Judge: Abbie Hanson

Premium: /https://media.rainpos.com/11075/November_2025_Premium.docx_2.pdf

AKC FETCH

Event: AKC FETCH

Dates: Test 1 & 2 September 20, Test 3 & 4 September 21 Where: WDTC, 6201 N. Seneca St. Wichita KS 67204 Premium is at www.wichitadogtrainingclub.com

Part III. AKC Fetch Test Summary Chart

AKC Fetch

	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Retriever
Format of test	In-person only	In-person	In-person	In-person
Who may test?	CGC Evaluator or AKC judges (who complete training)	Same as Novice	Same as Novice	Same as Novice
Distance	30 ft.	50 ft.	70 ft.	80 ft.
Number of retrieves	3 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to left, 1 to right).	4 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to left, 1 to right, then 1 more to left or right - handler's choice).	2 single retrieves (1 to center, 1 to right or left) 2 doubles All behind blinds	2 doubles 1 triple All behind blinds
Number of obstacles	4	8	3 blinds	3 blinds
Nature of obstacles	May be boxes, for Novice, items found in yard such as a lawn chair	May be boxes, for Intermediate, items found in yard such as a lawn chair	3 blinds at least 24- inches tall, no taller than 30 inches	3 blinds at least 24-inches tall, no taller than 30 inches
Thrower/Helper to Drop Bumpers	Dog owner or helper if needed.	Dog owner or helper if needed.	Event helper drops bumpers behind blinds.	Event helper drops bumpers behind blinds.
Refusals on send	2 restarts	2 restarts	1 restart	1 restart
The Send	Ball must land before send- may hold collar	Ball must land- may hold collar w/ 1 finger	Bumper must land- no holding collar	Bumper must land- no holding collar
Return to Handler	Must come within 3 ft (2 steps) of handler, may give or drop	Must come within 2 ft. (1 step) of handler, may give or drop	Handler must be able to take from dog, or dog delivers to hand	Handler must be able to take from dog, or dog delivers to hand
Retrieving objects	Tennis ball or equivalent, bumper, handler's choice toy— wubba, etc.	Tennis ball or equivalent, bumper, toy	Bumper May use tennis ball or equivalent	Bumper May use tennis ball or equivalent
Number of times to pass	2	2	2	2
Title letters	FTN	FTI	FTA	FTR

Can Dog Sports Keep Dogs Sharper as They Age?

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

Published: Jul 17, 2025 | 3 Minutes

Whether it's <u>agility</u>, <u>scent work</u>, or pulling a sledge, <u>dog sports</u> are an incredibly fun way to spend time with your dog. They provide your dog with <u>mental stimulation</u> and <u>physical exercise</u>, plus all that time spent working as a team strengthens your bond. But could there be an even longer-lasting advantage? Scientists think there might be.

It's possible that dog sports done at any age could <u>delay cognitive aging</u> in later years. However, to explore how dog sports affect <u>senior dogs</u>, the research team needs a huge study sample. If you have a dog over the age of 7, whether you participated in dog sports or not, this is <u>your chance to contribute</u> to a discovery that could help dogs around the world stay happier and healthier in their older years.

Dog Sports Are Beneficial to Dogs' Wellbeing

<u>Dr. Péter Pongrácz</u>, associate professor of the Department of Ethology at Eötvös Loránd University, and graduate student Petra Dobos, are leading the research, which is supported by a grant from the <u>Morris Animal Foundation</u>. According to Dr. Pongrácz, cognitive aging in dogs has been a popular topic of study over the last 10 years. But despite dog enthusiasts debating the benefits of dog sports, nobody has looked at the effect of a dog's lifetime activity on aging.

Dr. Pongrácz and Dobos feel recreational dog sports can be beneficial for dogs because they improve their <u>relationships with their owners</u>. Plus, most sports involve a lot of <u>training</u>, which is great for dogs' everyday well-being. Dog sports also get dogs moving, so they're advantageous for physical health, at least as long as they're not too heavy or intense.

The researchers are excited to see whether dog sports provide the additional benefit of slowing cognitive aging. Dobos says she expects they do because the various types of sports all give a dog's brain a workout. "Sometimes the dog has to follow the instructions of the owner. That also needs some thinking. But there are some problem solver activities as well, or some training includes searching on their own, so we would expect that sport could extend the aging of dogs," she explains.

Do Different Dog Sports Have Different Effects?

Dr. Pongrácz believes dogs who participate in dog sports may show less severe <u>symptoms of cognitive aging</u>. But all sports may not be created equal. He explains that there are different ways to stimulate a dog's brain. It could be through social interaction, such as with the stimulation. "We have a suspicion we cannot prove right now," he says, "but hopefully after the study we can say something

about which are the most beneficial sports. And whether it is important that the dog is doing something which is sort of closer to the original function of the dog, or if it doesn't matter, just do something."

The idea of matching your dog sport to your dog's original purpose is a fascinating one. For example, would a <u>Dachshund</u> benefit more from Earthdog than <u>obedience</u>? Or a <u>Siberian Husky</u> from <u>pulling a sledge</u> versus participating in agility? Dr. Pongrácz and Dobos expect different sports to have different impacts on dogs, but they need to tease apart both breed and sport in their study. They also need to account for confounding variables like the size of the dog, whether they live indoors or outdoors, whether the dog is <u>spayed or neutered</u>, the dog's physical health, and so on. That requires a massive sample size.

Dog Owners Needed for Citizen Science

To truly study how dog sports affect senior dogs, Dobos says they're hoping for around 1,000 participants. From their point of view, the best way to recruit many dog owners is by conducting an online questionnaire. Finding participants virtually also allows the scientists to reach a wide range of owners around the world. The questionnaire is for any owner of a dog 7 years of age or older. Both purebred dogs and mixed breeds are welcome, and the dog doesn't have to have done even a day of dog sports to participate.

The anonymous questionnaire only takes 15 minutes. Researchers also plan to keep all answers confidential and only use them for research purposes. Dobos and Dr. Pongrácz hope to reach their target number of participants in the next six or seven months and have final results available in about a year.

They're also conducting in-person experiments to complement the questionnaire. They'll be putting older dogs through a variety of experiments, such as memory tests, <u>eye</u> <u>contact</u> tests, and problem-solving tasks, to measure the actual effects of cognitive aging. Those results may take an additional year to complete.

The goal of the study is to provide dog owners with advice about how to best help their dogs minimize cognitive aging. It's not about which sport is right or wrong. This questionnaire is a chance for dog owners or breeders to participate in a study that could eventually benefit dogs everywhere. Dr. Pongrácz hopes the research will "truly yield something that is useful for everyone around the world who wants healthier, happier dogs to live with until old age."

Do you have an obedience question or lots of questions? Please send them to <a href="https://www.work.org/www.work.org/w

Welcome back to Rally! I chose a sign for everyone to look at that is intermediate level. This is the next step up from novice. There is a map that has the sign in it so you can see how it is used in an intermediate course. This just shows you that as you move through getting your titles the signs do get a little more advanced and a little more technical and so much more fun.

I have an announcement to make! Ice got his championship in El Reno a couple of weeks ago and it was such a an amazing time. The judge was so amazing and she said it was the first RACH that she had given out in a while and she was thrilled!



If you have any questions or anything that you would want to know more details about, give me a shout and if I don't know the answer, I will find it for you!

Debra, Libby & Ice

Rally practices are usually held the second and third Fridays of the month, unless there is a trial. Next practice dates are September 19^{th,} October 10th and October 17th.









Side Step Right





109. HALT - Side Step Right - HALT -While heeling, the handler halts in front of the sign and the dog sits. The dog and handler move one step directly to the right together. The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. This sign will be placed directly in line of the team's path requiring the dog and handler to sidestep to the right to pass the sign. (Stationary).

Can Be In:



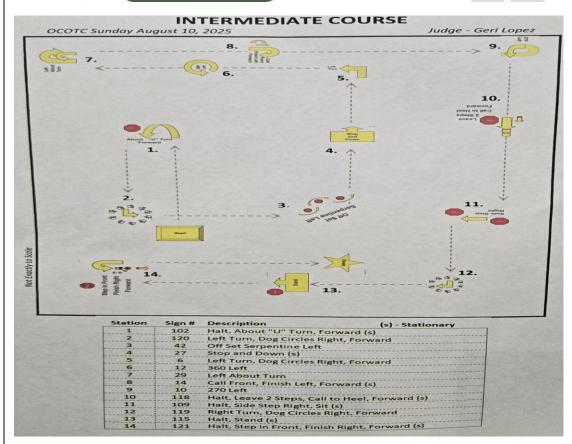








Level: (Advanced



Do you have an obedience question or lots of questions? Please send them to WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com and we will work on getting an answer.

At the end of August, Stephanie Sexton & Mercy attended their first Portuguese Water Dog National Specialty - and came home with big wins!

Mercy earned her Apprentice Water Dog Title and Fetch Novice Title.

Mercy was a respectable 2nd place in Puppy Sweepstakes, 18-24 months b*tches. But the crowning jewel was earning 1st place in the Open B*tch Class at the National! It was a large and very competitive field and Stephanie & Mercy were so very honored with this placement.





The Portuguese Water Dog, past and present, is a working breed. As a working crew member on Portuguese fishing vessels, tasks included retrieving overboard objects, carrying messages, swimming fishing floats into place, and guarding the boats, nets, and catch when in port. The successful completion of these tasks required teamwork between dog and owner. The PWDCA water trial program provides a context in which to record our present efforts to preserve the past and insure the future of this noble working water dog.

In order to preserve these qualities and maintain the future of the breed's natural instincts, the PWDCA designed a series of water work exercises, which reflect the historical working background of the Portuguese Water Dog. These exercises not only showcase the dog's working abilities, but also enhance the working relationship between dog and owner.

The most unique aspect of a PWDCA Water Trial is that there is not one winner. Instead, each dog/handler team is tested against the PWDCA rules for the level at which the dog is competing. At each level, the dog and handler are judged on a Pass/Fail basis. If the team passes every exercise for their level, they are awarded a title. This is harder than it sounds: natural conditions, such as wind, rain, sun glare, and currents, can make each task slightly different than it was for the preceding dog. On average, about 35% of our dogs pass at any given level at a trial. Because there is no head-to-head competition, handlers are supportive of the other teams which makes this one of the most uplifting, supportive competitions that you can experience with your canine friend!

Summary of Exercises by Level of the 2 titles that Stephanie and Mercy have earned.

Junior Water Dog (JWD)

Retrieve Dummy From Shore (30')

Board Boat and Ride with Handler

Call Dog from Shore to Boat

Timed Swim with Handler (1 min)

Apprentice Water Dog (AWD)

Underwater Retrieve

Retrieve Dummy from Shore (60')

Dummy Carry Boat Ride Recall

Retrieve Floating Line from Shore

Timed Swim with Handler (2 mins)

Meet Emma Werth & Colby "From First Dog to First Qs"

Emma Werth didn't grow up with her "own" dog—but as a veterinarian, she always knew animals would play a big part in her life. Her journey into dog sports began in vet school, when she adopted Colby, an energetic shelter pup who had been part of the junior surgery program. Colby quickly became her first real companion—and her first agility dog. "We started with a basic obedience class in Hutchinson," Emma says, "but we moved before we could continue."

A web search eventually led her to the Wichita Dog Training Club, which offered the structured path she was looking for—all the way from beginner to competition-ready. A bit of a drive, but one worth making. Now about two years in, Emma and Colby are competing at the novice level. He's already earned his Novice Jumpers title, and they're working toward their Novice Standard. "He's eager to please and loves it," she says. "My job is just to not confuse him."

Emma keeps a healthy perspective on competition. "I have plenty of my own hobbies—this one is Colby's," she laughs. "If he ever stops having fun, that's when we'll stop." While she's toyed with the idea of a future dog purpose-bred for agility, for now the goal is simple: joy and connection.

Outside the ring, Emma works as a veterinarian for Lap of Love, providing inhome hospice and euthanasia services to families navigating end-of-life care for their pets. It's a role she finds deeply meaningful and often emotional. Her husband works as a utility locator—so if you've ever called 811 before digging, you might have seen him show up.

At trials and classes, you'll spot Emma and Colby running with heart, navigating challenges one course at a time—with joy, patience, and the occasional "tactical collision." If you haven't yet, be sure to say hello.



WDTC Events Calendar

Entry for WDTC/WGRC November Agility trial - Thursday, September 4th

Premium /https://media.rainpos.com/11075/November 2025 Premium.docx 2.pdf

WDTC Champions Party / General Meeting Tuesday, October 14th at 6:30

WDTC Obedience Building Clean Up – A few jobs are still open.

Sign up here. Obedience Building Fall 2025 Clean Up

Steve Moon Agility Seminar - Thursday October 30 - Sunday November 2nd

Enrollment opened August 6th.

For more information contact Julia Tan jtan929@gmail.com

Wichita Dog Training Club / Wheatland Golden Retriever Club Agility Trial

Thursday November 13^{th} - Sunday November 16^{th} at the YMCA Indoor Soccer Facility

Judge Abbie Hanson

To volunteer to help sign up here Agility Trial Volunteer Duties

For Trial Committee volunteer questions contact janeneave@gmail.com

For Ring Crew Volunteer questions contact kayjaywoods@gmail.com

WDTC Christmas Party / General Meeting

Tuesday December 9th at 6:30 pm

More info to follow soon

A R E A

WKC Fall Fast Cat Tests October 3rd - 5th

Opens: August 15th at 9:00 am CT. Pre Entries Close: September 14th at 9:00 pm CT https://www.wichitakennelclub.com/uploads/1/3/5/9/135985811/wkc fastcat premium oct

ober_2025.pdf

For questions: WKCFastCat@gmail.com

Kansas City Golden Retriever Club Agility Trial October 17th – 19th

Opens: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 8:00 am CT Closes: Friday, October 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm CT

All Star Dog Sports, Blue Springs, MO

Premium List

Hutchinson Kennel Club, Inc. Agility Trial October 23rd – 26th

Opens: Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 7:00 am CT Closes: Monday, October 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm CT

Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, KS

Premium List

WKC Scentwork Sniff n Go (Fun Match) October 25th

Entry form:

https://www.wichitakennelclub.com/uploads/1/3/5/9/135985811/snif%E2%80%99n_go_entry_form.pdf

Scissortail Agility Club of Stillwater Agility Trial October 31st - November 2nd

Opens: Friday, August 29, 2025 at 7:00 am CT Closes: Friday, October 17, 2025 at 8:00 pm CT

Canadian County Expo & Event Center, El Reno, OK_

http://www.c2cagility.com/scissortail Oct Nov 2025 premium.pdf

WKC Barn Hunt Fun Match Test November 1st

Opens: September 12, 2025 Closes: October 22, 2025

https://www.wichitakennelclub.com/uploads/1/3/5/9/135985811/fun test nov 1 25.pdf

WKC Fall Scentwork Trials November 7th - 9th

Opens: August 26, 2025 at 9:00 0 am CT Closes: October 31, 2025 at 8:00a pm CT

Sedgwick County Fairgrounds

Premium: Premium

Wheatstate Agility Group of Northeast Kansas Trial November 7th - 9th

Opens: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 8:00 am CT

Closes: Friday, October 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm CT

All Star Dog Sports, Blue Springs, MO

Premium List

Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA Agility Trial Nov 7 - 9

Opens: Monday, 9/15/2025 8:00 am CT Closes: Saturday, 10/25/2025 6:00 pm CT K-9 Manners and More, Broken Arrow, OK

Premium not available

В



Saturday, October 4, 2025, Sedgwick County Park
For more info, contact Chrystal Beck or heckcc@hotmail.com
Come visit our booth



We welcome contributors to our newsletter. If you have an interesting article or idea and would like to share it with others, send it to WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com by the 10th of the month to be included in that month's newsletter.

If you hear of events in our area, please let us know so we can share with others.

WDTC Board of Directors for 2025

Mary Moyer President Marymoyer0@gmail.com

Kyle Okumura Vice President kk.okumura1989@gmail.com

Sharon Heckman Treasurer HeckCC@hotmail.com

Katerina Woods Secretary kayjaywoods@gmail.com

Lori Perkins

Obedience Director

sleperkins@netzero.com

Penny Clement
Agility Director
p.l.clement63@gmail.com

Scotland Lamb
Activities Director
scotlandkplamb@gmail.com



Supplies running low at the club?

Contact

Debbie Snider (316) 201-7347

If you are on the grounds and notice anything that needs fixing or immediate attention, please contact



Rick Phillips at (316) 655-3738

Send all questions or suggestions to: WDTCNewsletter2@gmail.com

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