



RANDOM LITTLE TIDBITS (#92)

Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

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Illustration by, Mari Meehan

Today's Random Little Tidbit – Judging Resources - a Simple Click Away!

Back in the day (1950s-1980s) there were very few resources available to gain knowledge in one's journey to become an obedience judge. Even with limited recourses there were a significant number of folks who applied to judge, and the sport has thrived as a result of their efforts and in their giving back to the sport.

In the timeframe of the 1950s-1980s we did not have available to us:

1. AKC seminars (Jim Dearing started the seminars in the late 1980s, I believe.)
2. Internet (1990s – thereabout for public)
3. Email (1990s, thereabout)
4. Chat sites, email discussion groups (1990s)
5. Facebook (2003), Twitter (2006), Instagram (2010), etc...
6. You Tube (2005)
7. Local Judge's Groups
8. AKC website (1995)
9. AKC Obedience & Rally Blog (2010s)

What was available "back in the day":

1. U.S. Mail
2. Obedience Regulations – U.S. Mail
3. Resources available: **AKC Gazettes, Chips, Front and Finish, National Club newsletters**, plus periodical judging articles.
4. Judges who were willing to talk about judging and share their knowledge with new folks during their journey.

Today there is "gobs" of information available just for the looking, asking or clicking! One needs to apply themselves as in any other endeavor. Researching today is super easy compared to our past; learn to be resourceful and use it!

To mention a few valuable resources available today for the hopeful judges, handlers and trainers:

1. AKC Obedience Regulations: <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>
2. AKC Rally Regulations: http://images.akc.org/pdf/AKC1193_ROR001_1217_WEB.pdf
3. AKC Rally Signs: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/28125055/Rally-Sign-Set-02272020.pdf>
4. Rally Signs and Descriptions:
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/02112408/RALLY-MiniSignswDescriptions-8.25.2021.pdf>
5. AKC Obedience Judge's Education Program – NOW Available: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/>
6. AKC Obedience & Rally Judge's Q & A Webinars: **Sign up to the Blog for announcements**, <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/>
7. AKC YouTube Novice Obedience: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpkaTxdGkvI1PHaLrDIURVYnzUmnEnZGq>
8. AKC YouTube Open Obedience: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpkaTxdGkvI18nf4XKYezD-9Z_3YaCkBD
9. AKC YouTube Rally: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOmrKkiM2kcaowVI3SxeVQ>
10. AKC Obedience & Rally Blog: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/>
11. AKC Judging process: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/2022/04/14/obedience-and-rally-judging-application-updates-april-2022/>
12. Obedience Judging Requirements: <https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/obedience-judging-information/akc-obedience-judging-requirements/>
13. Obedience Questions: obedience@akc.org
14. Rally Judging Requirements: <https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/rally-judging-information/akc-rally-judging-requirements/>
15. Rally Questions: rally@akc.org
16. AKC Gazette: <https://www.akc.org/products-services/magazines/akc-gazette/>
17. AKC Library and Archives: <https://www.akc.org/about/archive/>
18. AKC Webpage: <https://www.akc.org/>
19. Dog-Talk and Random Little Tidbit articles: <https://saintbernardarchive.com/library/>
20. Front & Finish – The Dog Trainer's News: <https://frontandfinish.com/>
21. Join a Judge's email list and/or forums or Facebook Groups
22. Join or start a local Obedience/Rally Judges Meeting Group (see next page)

*The following is authored by Obedience & Rally judge (my wife) Sue Cox. Along with Fred Marsh, Sue started our **Pacific Northwest Obedience & Rally Judges Group** and has shared other ideas to assist people in their journey to apply to judge. Note there are other areas of the U.S.A. which have similar judging groups.*

Ask around to join in or start a judges group in your area!

“Do you have judges in your area that you respect and would contact about spending some ringside time with you reviewing judging? The chat should cover ring set up, steward instructions, judging positions, handling out-of-the-ordinary judging situations, judging philosophy and some scoring. Perhaps this judge would be at a trial to show their own dog and have some time to sit ringside with you. Or, they might also be willing to give up part of a day to share their knowledge and experience with you. You’ll never know if you don’t ask!

“When I have mentioned our judges group in the Pacific Northwest, several have commented they have very few.....if any.....judges in their local area. Having such a group is valuable to judge hopefuls, new judges and experienced judges! Perhaps your fellow judges would be willing to get together once or twice a year at a location reasonably convenient to the judges in a general area.

“I was aware of two judge’s groups in California....one in the Bay Area and the other in Southern California....and along with another local judge (Fred Marsh) decided to see if there was interest in forming a group in the Pacific Northwest. There was! Our first meeting was a brunch gathering at a restaurant on February 25, 2001 and 17 judges from Washington and Oregon were present. We had a lively discussion where everyone contributed. At that meeting we agreed on a few ‘rules.’ First, we wouldn’t really have any rules (no By-Laws or Standing Rules). We agreed on a name: Pacific Northwest Obedience Judges, later changed to include Rally judges. We agreed to each contribute \$5 for ‘dues.’ If we needed to add to the treasury later, we’d collect another \$5, but we’ve never had to do that. We’ve welcomed Canadian judges who judge AKC trials along with individuals interested in becoming an AKC judge. We sponsored an AKC Continuing Education Seminar restricted to judges and wannabe judges and continued to offer those seminars every three years to meet the requirements. Though we didn’t aim to make a profit, we always had a modest financial gain and that covered our meeting and other minor expenses until the next seminar. We met at private training facilities sometimes, and then often at Cabela’s about mid-way between the Seattle and Portland areas. We continue to meet twice a year and there have only been two or three times when a meeting was cancelled because just a handful could make it. One member arranged for us to hold Zoom meetings during Covid times. We have no officers and we’re not a ‘legal’ organization. Thus, we can’t have a bank account in the group name. The bank John and I use allows some separate accounts so we have one in our names designated as the ‘Judges Group Account.’ We no longer will need to have funds available to host future AKC Continuing Education Seminars. We have a nice treasury so at our most recent in-person meeting in March 2023 a catered lunch was provided. Paying a modest price to use a private training facility for 4 hours or so on a Saturday or Sunday will be covered by our existing funds. We’ll also return to ‘bring your own lunch’ gatherings. Having coffee and snacks/dessert makes for a pleasant gathering; these items can be donated by those attending.

“What do we cover at our meetings? Just about any topic related to judging. About half of the program time is spent on obedience and the remaining time is devoted to judging rally. We never lack for questions and discussion! The program where we each completed a confidential questionnaire regarding our judging fees (and what expenses we charged) was of particular interest to the group.

“If starting up a group in your area is of interest to you, inquire among the other area judges to see if there’s interest in getting together once or twice a year. It’s a challenge to find a date where most of the judges are available and there are no local trials, but you might be able to hold an evening gathering following a trial in the area and involve the out-of-town judges too. One of my goals for our group was to have individual judges become acquainted with one another, especially the newer judges who might feel more inclined to discuss judging with the more experienced judges. It has been very pleasing to see this happen. We each want to do a good job of judging.....and help new, upcoming judges learn from our experience so they will become good judges and be good for the future our dog sport.

“If you have questions about starting a judges group, don’t hesitate to ask or write to me at dog-talk@comcast.net”

Check out Tidbit **#82** for more on this subject matter.

Blog Address: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/> **Sign up to receive updates.**

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