

The following article was written for the 2014 PWCCA Handbook by Penny Ford-Bezdkian in collaboration with Derry Krause and Gigi Fitzgerald

HISTORY OF THE CLUB

On June 9, 1973, a small group of Corgi fanciers held their first meeting of the Pembroke Welsh Corgi breed club at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard (Mike) Mickelson in Boston, Virginia. The club was formed to serve the area of Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and interested parties, to educate them to breed with the Standard, a Corgi who can use it's natural ability both in conformation and obedience. The founding members of the then named Tidewater Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club were: Mike Mickelson (who would be the first President of the club); Larry Brown (first Vice-President); Margaret (Peggy) Mickelson; Betty Burwell; Diane and Mike Gaskins; Don and JoAnn Schmidt; Carolyn Waugaman; Peggy Kessler; and, Derry Krause. Nineteen members were represented at the meeting and Peggy Mickelson served as the first recording secretary.



Founding Members represented at the 1999 Specialty were:
Front Row (L-R): Derry Krause; Carolyn Waugaman; Peggy Kessler; Alice Engel w/'Tillie'
Back Row (L-R): Betty Burwell; H. Mike Mickelson; Diane Gaskins
Back Row far right is Molly Bruce; not a founding member but joined PWCCP in 1980
Absent Founding Members were: Don and JoAnn Schmidt; Peggy Mickelson; Larry Brown; and Mike Gaskins (previously deceased)
Photograph by Ashbey Photography

PUBLICATION

In August 1974, the burgeoning club issued its first 4-page newsletter, The TIDE, using a mimeograph machine! Co-editors were JoAnn Schmidt and Peggy Mickelson. The newsletter featured a logo bearing the name "Tidewater Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club." A contest had been held for members to submit entries for the logo and the winning design selected was done by JoAnn Schmidt who was inspired to convey images for the name "Tidewater" by drawing a Corgi seated by the shore with cattails. However, the name "Tidewater" was short-lived. In accordance with the recommendation of the AKC, the membership needed to vote for a name change. The club had 38 members; 5 lived in Pennsylvania and 2 in New Jersey. But the majority lived in the Maryland and Virginia regions. Therefore, the name "Potomac" was voted upon as it aptly reflected ties to the geographical flow of the Potomac River for these 2 states. The AKC advised that effective on November 18, 1974, the name of the club would be officially changed to "The Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of the Potomac" (PWCCP), and the AKC granted permission for the PWCCP to operate as a Sanctioned Club. The PWCCP was incorporated in the State of Maryland, March 24, 1992 as a non-stock corporation.

Currently, The TIDE is a quarterly publication (spring, summer, fall, winter) free to the membership. Contents include coverage for all the PWCCP events, including numerous photos; educational articles specific to the breed; ads from proud owners; show results; and, rescue updates.

The TIDE may also be purchased by non-members by contacting the editor listed on the website (pwccp.org).



MEMBERSHIP

Current membership is 168 with categories of Individual, Associate, Family, and Junior joining the Founding and Lifetime memberships. About half of the members are conformation breeders and many more are involved in performance. Scattered around the mid-Atlantic, most are from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, but members also reside in California, Texas, North and South Carolina, Alabama, West Virginia, and New Jersey.

EVENTS HOSTED

Events hosted by the PWCCP fill the annual calendar. Board Meetings are held 6 times a year, as are the General Membership Meetings; the latter being held in conjunction with events throughout the year.

Each year, beginning with February/March, the club hosts either an educational workshop or seminar. The topics range from breeding to training to health issues with keynote speakers.

In April, the 3-day Specialty Show and Obedience and Rally Trial are held. Corgis and their owners are also recognized at the General Membership Meeting with engraved plaques and/or certificates for their accomplishments in AKC titles earned throughout the previous year. The show concludes with a banquet and a presentation of the President's Award, a perpetual trophy given to a club member "In Grateful Recognition of Continuing Outstanding Service." The award is a magnificent limited edition bronze figurine entitled "Corgi Bitch and Puppies" created by artist Virginia Perry Gardiner. The piece was a bequest to the PWCCP by founding member Diane M. Gaskins.



Specialty: Tasha Tudor Certificate with Ribbon and Trophy by Linda Ozelis.
Photographer Penny Ford-Bezdikian

The Fun Fair held in May was started as a way of introducing pet owners to the world of showing dogs and making people aware of events where they could participate with their dogs. The lure coursing activity is open to all breeds but the Corgis, Pembrokes and Cardigans, are the breeds that participate in the Corgi games, costume contest, and fluffy contest. Micro chipping and CGC testing are offered as well.



Fun Fair: Lure coursing.
Photographer Ron Felty

In June the annual meeting for election of officers is held in conjunction with the annual picnic and B-OB Match. The Match includes conformation, obedience, rally, and junior showmanship. The Juniors Program features a handling clinic, held prior to judging, for all aspiring Junior Handlers. In 2014 there will be a handling class for Adult Handlers followed by a “special attraction” class for said handlers. Special Attraction classes at the event include the Parade of Champions and Champion of My Heart. In the Champion of my Heart segment of the event, the public casts their vote for the Corgi with the most ‘heartwarming’ story submitted by the owner.



B-OB Match: Madilyn Gooding wins Best Junior Handler; Judge Sarah Woodling Houle
Photographer Sherri Crivelli

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The all-breed Agility Trial is held for 2 days in July. Boasting an indoor arena in Frederick, MD, the entries are always filled to capacity.

The PWCCP Rescue is dedicated to helping displaced Corgis find their 'forever' home. In August a Rescue Picnic is held to honor the rescuers and the rescued Corgis. Participants share their heartwarming stories about their rescues. Items are donated to sell at a Rescue Table and the day concludes with a huge raffle. Proceeds from the sales and the raffle are used to help fund the club’s continuing rescue efforts.



Agility Trial
Photo by Ron Felty



Rescue Picnic
Left: Samantha and her wheelie cart
Right: Group shot of Corgi rescuers.
Photographer Kathy Kelly

October brings the Great PWCCP Herding Weekend, held continuously for 20 years over the Columbus Day weekend. There are 2 ½ days of AHBA Testing and clinics. All herding breeds can test to qualify for a First Leg HCT (Herding Capability Test) or a Second Leg HCT after successfully completing the necessary qualifications. The testing can also include runs to qualify for the JHD (Junior Herding Dog). Also at this event, PWCCA certificates are given to award the title of Pembroke Herding Instinct Certified (PHC).



Left: Linda Ozelis presents Derry Krause with the club thanks and ceramic figurine for her 20 years of service to the Great Herding Weekend
Photographer Kathy Kelly



Great Herding Weekend HCT qualifiers.
Photographer Kathy Kelly

The year comes to a close with the annual Holiday Banquet held in November. It is a festive time to celebrate with food and merriment and a raffle!

The PWCCP has continually supported entries at nearby shows. Some of these include: In October, The Middleburg Kennel Club show at Oatlands Plantation, Leesburg, Virginia (with a Tailgate Picnic); in November, the Turkey Cluster, Chesapeake Kennel Club of Maryland at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland.

WAYS AND MEANS

The PWCCP offers a large selection of apparel and all styles of caps, totes, aprons, and towels. New items are always being added to the line. PWCCP club members have created many of the embroidery designs that are featured on the products.

PERTINENT DATES

First 'Fun Match' - August 12, 1973

First Sanctioned B-OB Match – October 26, 1974

First Sanctioned A-OA Match – April 30, 1977

First Specialty Show (in conjunction with Old Dominion KC of Northern Virginia Show) – April 22, 1978

First Independent Specialty Show – April 17, 1981

FUTURE PLANS

The PWCCP takes pride in the diversity of its membership. Many of its members are actively participating in all the venues which the AKC has open to the Pembroke Welsh Corgi. It is through the energy and enthusiasm of the members that the club is being kept current on the AKC's ever-evolving list of events, which the PWCCP can add to its yearly roster to promote and highlight our corgis. The PWCCP will meet the challenges of the future in the sport of dogs through the continued, active participation of this membership.