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Members of the American Klee Kai Association participated in this weekend's dog show hosted by the AK9's Club. Pictured are (from left) Violet Hognite, of Upland, Calif., with Koda; Terry Wright of Alaska; Ken Compton of Cool Spring with Puff Daddy; and Lo Binkley of Thousand Oaks, Calif. with Mac. (Photo by Alison Baker of The Punxsutawney Spirit)

[AK9's Club holds semi-annual dog show in Albion](#)

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By Alison Baker Of The Spirit

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The show, which is also held Memorial Day weekend, has been held for the past seven years, according to AK9's president Michelle Wachob.

This weekend, however, was the biggest show yet, with more than 100 dogs shown.

"This was exceptionally good," Wachob said.

Not only were there a lot of dogs - they were from a lot of places.

One group that traveled far was the members of the Alaskan Klee Kai Association of America.

Klee Kai, which are a 33-year old breed of miniature huskies, have been licensed with the United Kennel Club (UKC) since 2000. As of right now, 1,200 are registered in the United States.

And the Association was celebrating its 10-year-anniversary this weekend in Punxsutawney.

The anniversary/annual picnic was hosted by member Ken Compton, a PAHS graduate who resides on the northern side of Coolspring.

Members attending the picnic and competing in the show were from all parts of the U.S.

Lo Binkley, who has been on the road since August 8 with her Klee Kai dogs, hails from Thousand Oaks, Calif. She has been making an 8,700 mile trip with her dogs to visit family and friends, and the annual picnic in Punxsutawney was one of her stops.

Binkley, along with the other members, likes Punxsutawney.

"It's peaceful," she explained. She said a small rural town is like family.

"There's something comfortable about that," she said.

Violet Hognite, of Upland, Calif., also enjoyed her visit to Punxsutawney, saying there was a lot of serenity due to the trees.

Other Klee Kai members were from New Jersey, Massachusetts and Illinois. All together, there are 175 members, from every state in America, and some members from Ireland and Canada.

Why do the owners of these miniature huskies get so involved with this particular breed?

"They bond very well to the owner," said Hognite. "And they're trainable."

Compton added that they're "very intelligent."

"They are incredibly bright," agreed Binkley. "And for someone my age, they keep my brain going. Keeps me on my toes!"

Terry Wright of Alaska said the AK9's club was very helpful to them. "They're the greatest," she said. "They've been wonderful."

Corrections:

Hognite – Hignite, Violet

1,200 registered AKK is approximate

10-year-anniversary – AKKAOA was started November of 1988, which will be 18 years in November (per Linda Spurlin and Eileen Gregory)

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