



## LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Muncie Obedience Training Club is a lot easier to find during these dark winter months with the addition of some solar powered lights.

The board approved the purchase of the lights after numerous complaints that it was hard for people looking for our clubhouse to find in the dark. Particularly between November and March when daylight is at its lowest, people coming to show at our trials or attend our evening classes can't always make out the sign identifying our entrance. Rick Dalesandro purchased and installed the lights and they make a nice addition to our landscaping.

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### Note from the Editor:

As this is the first newsletter of 2022, I thought a good start to a new year would be to reaffirm the purposes for which the Muncie Obedience Training Club was organized as a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization. The mission of the club should guide all of its activities and actions. So, in this issue you will find the constitution of the Muncie Obedience Training Club. It has only one article, with just four sections.

# MUNCIE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB, INC. CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTIVES

### *Section 1.*

The name of the club will be the Muncie Obedience Training Club, Inc. (“MOTC” or “Corporation”)

### *Section 2.*

The purposes for which MOTC is formed are:

To educate dog owners, their household members, and the general public on the care and training of all dogs, pure breeds and mixed breeds alike, by their owners and household members as companion dogs, good canine citizens and team mates in companion dog sports, including, but not limited to, sports under the rules of the American Kennel Club (“AKC”) and the Barn Hunt Association (“BHA”).

To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of all dogs, pure breeds and mixed breeds alike, by encouraging sportsmanship and participation by dog owners and their household members with their dogs in amateur companion dog sports events, including, but not limited to, those sponsored by the AKC and BHA.

To sponsor and conduct classes for dog owners and their household members in the vicinity of Muncie, Indiana regarding the care and training of their dogs as companions, good canine citizens and team mates in companion dog sports, including, but not limited to, sports under the rules of the AKC and BHA.

To promote public safety by educating dog owners and their household members and the general public on good practices in interacting with dogs and potential safety issues.

To promote and educate dog owners and their household members and the general public on the use of companion dog and obedience training and companion dog sports as tools to strengthen the bond between humans and canines to their mutual enjoyment and benefit, and thereby combat cruelty to and abuse, neglect and abandonment of dogs.

To encourage the training and use of dogs by their owners and/or household members as therapy dogs under a registered therapy dog organization.

To conduct amateur companion dog sport events under the rules of the AKC and BHA.

### *Section 3.*

In addition, MOTC shall be a non-profit corporation and is organized solely and exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, fostering national or international amateur dog sports competition, preventing cruelty to animals, and for assisting and engaging in any other activities which are permitted by the Indiana Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1991, as amended from time to time (the “Act”) and permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal taxation under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) and the regulations issued pursuant thereto, as amended (the “Regulations”), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code and the Regulations, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### *Section 4.*

The Voting Members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws required to carry out these objectives.

**2020/2021 MOTC Awards Recognition**

At this time the Awards Banquet has not been scheduled but we want to be sure to make up for members who may have finished titles in 2020 and 2021. If this is your first award for your dog please complete the form and include a 5x7 (landscape/horizontal) picture of your dog. If you already have a plaque, please fill out the form and leave it with your plaque. If you have more than one dog please use a different form for each dog. At this time we are collecting plaques and forms in the kitchen in the designated area. Please have everything in by March 27, 2020. At this time, if you have questions please ask a board member. Thank you.

MOTC Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Registered Name (including all titles earned in 2021)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Call Name \_\_\_\_\_

List of titles and certifications earned in 2020 & 2021 (Please write out the titles and title abbreviations and year earned) ex: Rally Advanced Excellent RAE 2020

If you need additional space please attach an additional page.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### SUSY HASECOSTER

#### How long have you been a MOTC member?

I have been a member of MOTC for a little over 2 years.

#### Why are you a MOTC member?

My husband, Jim, and I joined after we had participated in a Puppy Class with our 2 German Shepherd's, Alabama and Corona. We liked the idea of a building in which to train, and the many types of classes that we could join.

#### What breed(s) of dog do you have?

We have been the proud parents of 8 GSD's. Heidi and Cinder we had as singletons. Arizona and Bear were our first pair of littermates. Dakota and Cheyenne were the next. And now we have our two crazy present girls.

#### What do you like and dislike about your breed?

All of our dogs have been great family members. The first ones loved our two sons; and the last four have been inseparable with our grandchildren. We have always had large yards for them to keep busy in, and the littermates have found activities to keep themselves occupied. (Chasing moles, chipmunks, squirrels, and each other.) These last two also chase flies, dragonflies, raindrops, leaves, snowflakes, and snow melting from the trees. (Did I mention CHASING!) They even pulled the downspouts off the house to get to the rain that was running off the roof!

All our girls have been bright with great vocabularies, so it's nice to be able to have conversations and communicate with them. I am a retired teacher of high ability students, so having an intelligent breed of dog makes it interesting to challenge them to think! It's been hard for me to follow the obedience protocol of not talking to the dog when training, because that's what I do.

GSD's are barkers and sometimes it's a little much. However, the only time anyone has ever broken into our house was when one of my former cub scouts who knew the dog decided to give it a try. She didn't bark at him!

#### What activities do you do with your dogs?

We have always done basic obedience with our dogs, but starting with our last two, Dakota and Cheyenne, we began working with TDI. They were both fabulous therapy dogs – Dakota and I volunteered in schools to teach science – (Science Nana and Science Dog), and Jim and Cheyenne visited Reid Hospital in Richmond. Bama is now registered with TDI, and Cory and I will finally be taking the test in March.

We chose to have them work with us in therapy volunteering, because it's nice for people to see that Shepherds can be friendly dogs that love to be around humans. It's also great to be able to take them with us when we are in the community.

I have also been doing Scent Work with both girls. They have both done well in their first trials, and they take turns going to class with me on Wednesday nights. It's an activity that they love to do. It lets them use their thought processes to figure the activity out on their own. When I say, "Let's do boxes!," they go crazy!

#### What other hobbies do you have besides dogs?

I am treasurer of the Whitewater Valley Dog Training Club in Richmond. I help with classes and club activities. I am learning to quilt and belong to the Muncie Quilt Guild. I am the Scholastic Book Fair chairperson



for my grand-daughter’s middle school. I help teach first grade math in my grandson’s classroom. When it warms up, I like to work in our garden and make apple cider and apple sauce from our small orchard. My grandson and I are on an environmental council in Richmond made up of students concerned with climate change.

**What club activities do you volunteer in?**

At the present time I am the new Trial Secretary for Scent Work. I was Recording Secretary of the Board of Directors for one year. I like to help at trials to learn about the activities.

**You get to declare a national holiday! What is it and how do you celebrate?**

“Take Your German Shepherd to the National Parks Day”

We would pack up the girls and the grandkids and go to Rocky Mountain National Park to hike and tour the mountains and shops.

**Nomination of Next Year’s Board of Directors Coming Up**

Our June election of officers for the board of directors is only 4 months away! If you have ever considered being on the board now is the time to start thinking seriously about it. The nominating committee will put together a slate of candidates for next year’s board, but if you aren’t asked don’t be discouraged! At the March members’ meeting on Sunday March 27 nominations for the board will be taken from the floor. That means that you can step up and say “I’d like to run for the board!” or have someone else nominate you at that time. If someone else nominates you, simply say that you accept the nomination or provide a written notice that you will accept to the recording secretary, Garnet Meyer, before the meeting. Elections will be held at the June annual meeting.

**CALENDAR**

February 18 & 25 6:30 pm-9 pm—Friday Night Training, to reserve a slot email [tincricket@gmail.com](mailto:tincricket@gmail.com)

February 20 time to be announced—Board meeting

March 7, Family Pet classes begin: Family Puppy 6 pm, Family Dog 7:30 pm

March 4, 11, 18, 24 6:30 pm-9 pm—Friday Night Training, to reserve a slot email [tincricket@gmail.com](mailto:tincricket@gmail.com)

March 27 time to be announced—Member meeting, Nominations for Board of Directors

March 19-20—AKC Scent Work trials

April 1, 8, 15, 22 6:30 pm-9 pm—Friday Night Training, to reserve a slot email [tincricket@gmail.com](mailto:tincricket@gmail.com)

April 29 &30, May 1—AKC Obedience and Rally trials, MOTC Clubhouse

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### JEAN CROWCROFT

John Kennedy speaking at his inauguration said “Ask not what your country can do for you but what can you do for your country,” Perhaps we should change that to Ask not what your club can do for you but what can you do for your club. Why are you a member of MOTC? Is it because you want a place to train your dog? Is it because you enjoy dog companion and performance events? Is it because you believe and support that MOTC strives to promote responsible dog ownership? Is it that MOTC encourages participation in dog performance activities? Is it a combination of these beliefs or others of your own? For what every reason or reasons “what can you do for your club?”

Jeann

## DELAWARE COUNTY 4-H DOG CLASSES

In March the Delaware County 4-H Dog Club will be holding its training classes at MOTC through June on Thursday nights 5:30-6:30 pm. As you come in for Thursday night classes or training please remember that these kids are learning with their family's pets how to be responsible dog owners and canine companion participants. They are learning the etiquette of being dog owners, trainers, and exhibitors. Please be good role models as you bring your dogs into the building so we can help inspire this next generation to get into dog sports.

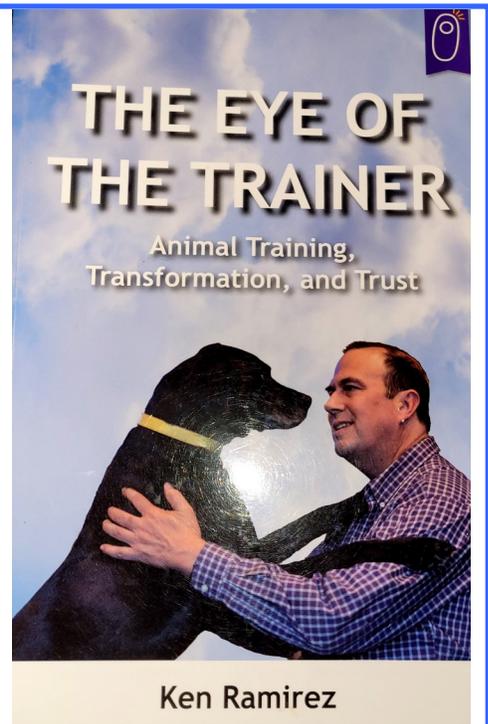
## BOOK REVIEW

### THE EYE OF THE TRAINER BY KEN RAMIREZ

#### BK GRICE

This book is a series of short essays by animal trainer Ken Ramirez. Ramirez has worked with guide dogs, search and rescue dogs, and pet dogs as well as sea mammals, elephants, big cats, birds, fish, and even butterflies. These essays are all about training. Many are educational and most are peppered with anecdotes of his many years working with and training animals and teaching people how to train.

The forty essays are short, most around seven pages long, with pictures only on the section title pages. They are easy to read and entertaining. This is a good book for a rainy day with a hot cup of tea or chocolate. It is published by Karen Pryor Clicker Training.



## EDITORIAL

### OVEREXTENDED?

BK GRICE

Each year the Muncie Obedience Training Club holds several trials. Trials can be fun, but they are a lot of work. They require a lot of planning, preparation, and coordinating to pull off smoothly. A non-profit such as MOTC usually does this with volunteers.

For many years MOTC held just one 3-ring Obedience trial at the Delaware County fairgrounds. Preparations began a year before and in earnest in January. Putting on a trial reminds me of preparing for a theatrical event or circus. From putting together and distributing premium lists to getting sponsorship for special awards to taking care of the judges to setting up, stewarding, and tearing down the trial; it was a club event in the truest sense and almost every one of our 60 or so members at that time volunteered.

If I counted correctly, in 2021 MOTC held 48 different trials. All of these were held in pairs concurrently, so it actually makes up 24 days of event. It breaks up to 3 weekends of Obedience, 3 days of Rally, 3 weekends of FastCAT, and 3 weekends of Scent Work. They all require preparations that begin at least a year before the event. MOTC put them all on, and made a profit; which is good because even non-profits have to pay bills, with a membership of about 50. It can be very frustrating being asked continually to volunteer your time and efforts every few weeks. It can be very frustrating trying to recruit volunteers every few weeks. Occasional frustration can be good for a group, it can inspire creativity as it seeks solutions. Continued frustration can lead to short tempers, poor morale, and people leaving the group. I think that at least three possible solutions present themselves

One possible solution would be to increase club membership. With a larger membership there is also a larger volunteer hour pool to draw from. It could also bring more diversity to the club in terms of age, gender, and areas of interest. A larger membership means more revenue from dues. A larger membership could mean better scheduling so everyone gets a change to use equipment and facilities.

Another possible solution would be to reduce the number of trials we hold. With fewer trials there are fewer volunteer hours required. Pleading and threatening to get volunteers could become less frequent. Fewer trials would also mean fewer trials for members to show in close to home.

Still another possible option would be to change nothing. The number of volunteer hours needed and available remain the same. The frequency of being asked to volunteer stays the same, and probably the pleading and threatening to get volunteers stays the same. If nothing changes, nothing changes until it breaks or outside forces force it to change; until people decide that it would be easier to just quit.

I don't profess to have "the" answer. There certainly may be more options than those I've suggested. Per our club constitution we need to hold amateur canine companion trials. We need to find a solution that allows us to fulfill that part of our purpose.

## BRAGS AND WAGS

From the MOTC November Obedience and Rally trials!

Nancy Knox's Newman, Newfoundland, completed his Utility Dog title. He did it in just 3 trials.

Brenda Grice's Lumi, Shetland Sheepdog, got her first CD leg in Obedience. In Rally she earned High Triple Q 296, won a 1st and 2nd in Master, and earned 48 RACH points.

Gabby Thornburg's Helix, Pembroke Welsh Pembroke Corgi, completed his CD in Obedience and RI in Rally

Mary Kay Schroeder's Meme, Portuguese Water Dog completed her CD title

Haley 's Tucker, Welsh Pembroke Corgi, finished his CDX with a first place?

Judy Bruch's CH Gully took first in Utility B with 4 OTCH points

Sabrina Prim's Drama, Golden Retriever finished her BN



Haley Smithson & Tucker CDX



Karen Scantland & Meeka CD



Nancy Knox & Newman UD



BK Grice & Lumi RE with their High Triple ribbon



Sabrina Prim & Drama BN

## TROUBLE WITH YOUR TRAINING? CHECK YOUR CRT: CRITERIA, REINFORCEMENT, TIMING

### BK GRICE

**Criteria**—What is it that you really want? What does it look like? Could you describe it to someone who knew nothing of dog sports without technical terms like “heel position” or “finish?” The more clearly you know what you want, the better chance you have of getting it. If you only know what you don’t want, that’s a start. Use that to help clarify what you do want.

**Reinforcement**—Behavior that gets good results tends to be repeated. If I want a drink of water, I go to the faucet and turn the tap. I don’t beat on the faucet or wave my hands over it because those don’t seem to work, but every time I turn the tap it gets reinforced by getting water. How are you making meeting your criteria work for your dog? Reinforcement can be anything your dog is willing to work for: praise, food, play, attention, access to something, etc. It also varies in value by the circumstances; food is more appealing when you’re hungry. When what you want works for your dog, that behavior is more likely to recur.

**Timing**—Because dogs do not speak as humans do, it is difficult to tell them exactly what you want. The better your timing of your reinforcement delivery the more likely your dog will associate its appearance with the behavior you want. If you are teaching your dog to sit on command, your dog sits and then rolls over on one hip, and you then deliver reinforcement, your dog is likely to think that rolling onto one hip is what made the reinforcement appear. The better you time the delivery of your reinforcement to what you want happening, the clearer it will be to your dog what it is doing that makes reinforcement appear; and it will be more likely to be repeated.

If you are having trouble with your training, take a closer look at what you are doing. Are you clear about what it is that you want? Are you making it sufficiently valuable to your dog to repeat what you want? Does your timing make it clear to your dog what you want? Know what you want, reinforce it when you see it, time your reinforcement to appear as what you want happens.

## AKC EXTENDS TWO JUDGE REQUIREMENT THROUGH DEC. 31, 2022

At the February 2022 meeting the AKC Board of Directors extended the suspension of the requirement in canine companion events of the requirement for a dog to receive three passes under two different judges for a title to December 31, 2022 or lower-level classes in Obedience (10 titles), Rally (4 titles), and Agility (18 titles).





## **MUNCIE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB**

Muncie Obedience Training Club, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit membership organization that has been part of the Muncie IN community since 1946. We teach people to be responsible dog owners and canine companion sports participants and hold events that demonstrate the benefits of dog training.



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!**

Our first Scent Work trial is coming up March 19 & 20. Volunteers are needed as ring stewards, transport and set up March 18, and tear down and transport after trial March 20. To volunteer contact Jeann Crowcroft, trial chairman.

Our first Obedience & Rally trials will be coming up April 29 & 30 and May 1. Volunteers are needed as ring stewards, set up April 28, and tear down & clean up after trial May 1. To volunteer contact Sabrina Prim, chief ring steward.

Family Puppy and Family Dog assistants are needed for the March 7 classes. Assistants typically take attendance, help with class signup, help with equipment, and assist as needed within their capabilities. Classes meet for 1 hour weekly for 6 weeks. To volunteer contact Mary Janek.