



MOTC ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY JUNE 5 AT 1 PM MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Muncie Obedience Training Club will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday June 5 at 1 pm at the MOTC Clubhouse for the election of its new board of directors. A slate of nominees organized by the nominating committee was presented to club members at the March members' meeting and there were no nominations offered from the floor. Per the club rules, because no nominations were made from the floor, the submitted slate of nominees will be affirmed by club members at the June meeting to serve for one year.

Note from the Editor: Board Nominee Interviews

Special Points

of Interest:

- *Board Nominee Interviews*
- *Member Spotlight*

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I think that when voting on club leadership it's important to know a little about those running such as why they're running, how they view the club, and what they think is important for the club. There were no nominees from the floor this year which means that the offered slate will serve next term barring unforeseen circumstances; but I still think this information is important for members to know.

Full disclosure: I am on the slate. I have tried to make the interview questions as objective as possible to give every person on the slate a way to state their views. I wrote the questions and sent them out on April 18, and purposely did not look at them again until May 4. Here are the interview questions:

1. How long have you been a club member? Tell us about your dogs.
2. Why did you decide to run for the board?
3. What do you bring to the board?
4. What do you think are the club's strengths?
5. What do you think the club can improve on?
6. What do you think should be a priority for this board?

BOARD NOMINEE INTERVIEWS

Rick Dalessandro

I'm not really sure how long I have been a member of MOTC, probably 8 years and have served on the Board for 6 of those years. I currently have two terrific yellow labs, Darby (10 years old) and Callie (2 years old). Darby is my once in a life time dog. She's nearly perfect, sweet and eager to learn and in her whole life she has chewed up a shoestring. I think she has 23 titles. Her crowning achievement is her UDX2 and OM1 but she also has titles in Rally, Dock Diving, Fast CAT, Scent Work, Barn Hunt, Tricks, and she's a therapy dog. My other Lab, Callie is the sweetest dog ever but can be a little hellion. Unlike her big sister, she has destroyed 12 throw rugs, 8 pairs of shoes, the upholstery in my car, a couple of pant legs, and countless toys. But she is coming along. Currently she has earned 7 titles in Obedience, Rally, Fast CAT, Tricks, and Scent.

I decided to run for the Board because there are just a few more things I would like to see the Club accomplish. MOTC has come so far since I first became a member of the Board. Since joining the Board we have purchase our building, remodeled it and now we have a terrific building to train in and host events. One thing I would like to accomplish while on the Board is to increase Member participation. I also would like to see some cosmetic improvements to the building like landscaping (Thanks Karen) and finish striping the parking lot. I would also like to at least begin preparing for the time when we have to resurface our parking lot.

At this point, having served on the Board for a number of years, I think I bring leadership experience to the Board. I have been self-employed for over thirty years, so I know what it takes to run a profitable business and how to maintain financial records. Although not perfect, I think my people skills are pretty good and I do my best to conduct myself in a non-confrontational manner. Although everyone may not agree, I think I can get along with most people.

I think our Club has a couple of real strengths. In my opinion its greatest asset are the dedicated Members who volunteer every time they are asked. It really is this core who keeps MOTC afloat. Our building is also one of our Club's greatest assets. I am sure it is the envy of many other clubs.

What do you think the Club can improve on?

MOTC is not perfect by any means. There are a couple of things I think we need to work on. The one thing that could bring this Club down is the petty bickering between its Members and the resulting factions. I have seen the Club split a couple of times and I would hate to see that happen again. I would like us to learn to listen and talk to one another rather than talk at each other. We need to try to see things from each other's point of view. The other thing the Club needs to improve on is Membership participation. It should not be as difficult as it is to find volunteers to help at events or teach classes.

What do you think should be a priority for this Board?

I would like to see the priority for this Board to be to find a way to increase Member participation. I am afraid the Members who do volunteer on a regular basis will soon burn out and then I am not sure what will happen to the Club.

GARNET E MEYER

I've been around dogs all my life, from country living to city living. I was introduced to dog obedience in junior high and enrolled in 4-H, which I believe was one of the first years the 4-H program offered dog obedience. My mixed breed, Sugar, received Grand Champion at the county fair for 2 years and nice placements at the State Fair.

I trained for many years with Velma Janek. I trained a GSD, Dalmatian and a Golden Retriever, Toasty, who received a HIT.

I have trained and shown in conformation since 1998 and completed Champion and Grand Champion titles on 7 or 8 Goldens. I have received additional titles in field work, agility, tricks, dock diving, FastCat and scent work. I am currently competing in scent work with my Seger girl, GCh Ch Gemstone Night Moves DS BCAT CGC TKN ATT SIA SWN (SEN SIN SEN SBN).

I have been a MOTC member for a short time, perhaps 2 years. I have volunteer at many of the trials held by MOTC and enjoy watching the dogs competing. I hope to gain a better understanding of how the Club operates and be able to be a positive contributing member of the Board. The Club has so much to offer to the community and community involvement should be explored. Hopefully we can get more of the membership involved in Club activities in the future.

JEANN CROWCROFT

I have been a member of the club so long that I can't remember how long it has been. I think perhaps Carol Watkins is the member with the longest time. I may be the second longest member. I joined the club when I was adopted by Frankie a Chow Shepherd mix. We were meeting at Northwest Wrecker then. I currently have Hank the miniature Schnauzer mix and Jesse' a Shih Tzu mix. Hank has his CGC, BN, CD, RAE2, Scent Work Containers novice, Interiors advanced and Exterior advanced. Jesse' has CGC, BN, CD, RE.

I decided to run for the board again after I volunteered to fill the Vice President office after Rick moved up to President after there was a vacancy.

I feel I can be effective as a board member for several reasons. I have served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and director. I have taught Puppy Class, Family Dog Class, and CGC/Therapy Dog class. I am a CGC/Star Puppy and Trick Dog Evaluator.

One of our Club's strengths is the dedicated members, the diversity of our members, the willingness of our members to help one another whether a newbie or a veteran trainer. Another obvious strength is that we own our building.

We need to have more people willing to volunteer. Trial chairpersons should not have to plead for stewards. There are several committees that are lacking chairmen and members. There are ways to volunteer that do not involve teaching a class. I know members have other responsibilities beside the club but please arrange your schedule to include your support of this club.

There should be several priorities for this board. We should continue to serve the public with our public classes and training time for the members. We should work to increase our membership and participation of the members. We should work to improve the physical condition of our building and property.

BRENDA K GRICE

I have been a club member for 27 years. I currently have a 4-year-old tri-color Shetland Sheepdog, Lumi. We train and show in Obedience and Rally and hope to add Scent Work to the mix. Lumi frequently acts as my class demonstration dog.

I decided to run for the board because it's easy to gripe when you're not the one making the decisions. I hope to bring to the board a different point of view

I think that I bring to the board organizational, planning, and goal setting skills; experience in retail operations/management, and banking. I am a life-long learner with an interest in training, small business, and the arts.

I think that MOTC's strength is its members who support its mission and projects with their time, talents, and cash. I don't think that anything else matters if we don't have member support.

I think there are some small things that we can improve on: class registration, use of storage space. I also think the club can improve on how it gets members involved, which isn't easy as our membership ages, and is more spread out than before. Communication can use some improvement, which is true of most organizations.

I think a priority for this board should be members. How do we retain members? How do we recruit members? Members are our most valuable and fragile resource.

JASON LUDWICK

Unfortunately Jason was unable to get his interview in before publication deadline. We appreciate all that he does for the club and look forward for having him on the board.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

RICK DALESSANDRO

Well, it's time for another President's message. This one is going to be short and sweet. I have been the Chief Ring Steward for the last two trials MOTC has hosted. Serving in that capacity, I was reminded how difficult it is to find volunteers. To maintain our current status with the AKC, we are required to have one obedience trial per year. We are committed through 2022 and our judges are under contract. I would like the Membership to let your Board know which trial you would like to continue having and which should be cancelled. Also we need to consider no longer hosting Scent Trials as well as Fast CAT Trials. All of these events are labor intensive and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the necessary workers to host these events. I would like to have your input. Any suggestions on how MOTC can continue to prosper without conducting trials?

Rick

EDITORIAL

THINKING OF ELEPHANTS

BK GRICE

Most of the time something is on my mind or I think needs to be said, and the editorial largely writes itself. This time I find things complicated because we will be voting in a new board of directors in a few weeks and I am on the slate. I want to be objective, not put the cart before the horse. I do find that there are a few elephants in the room with me so here they are:

- I've served on the board before and I always hate it when the club seems to fall into the Board vs. Other Members mind set. "They don't care." "They don't listen." "It doesn't matter to them." Let's make the problem the enemy and not each other.
- About a year ago I suggested a club mission statement derived from our constitution. Mission statements set a standard and guide decision making and goal setting. I recently rewrote it (no one seemed to be using the old one any way): Muncie Obedience Training Club teaches people to be responsible dog owners and canine companion sports participants, and holds events celebrating dog training. This is what we do, right?
- Members make a membership organization. People join them for various reasons: tax breaks, companionship, educational opportunities, to give back to the community, to share expertise and experiences, to have fun, for exercise, prestige, to add to their resume, networking, etc. Organizations grow only if they keep and get members.
- I think it's important to remember that not everyone works for the same reasons. For some just getting a chance to give time for a good cause is enough. For others it's important that they get a chance to chat and meet new people. For still others work is a chance to learn and to help others learn to better themselves. Then there are those for whom work is a chance to achieve something, to meet a goal.

Rally!

Next 6 week Rally classes begin Saturday June 12. Sign up at Clubhouse or email Brenda Grice at tincricket@gmail.com by Saturday June 5. Class fee is \$54 for members, \$90 for non members.

1-2 pm Beginner Rally: Beginner skills for AKC Rally, Novice Signs, Intermediate/Advanced signs. Dogs should be able to sit and lie down on cue, stay in a sit and down for 30 seconds from 6 ft. on leash, walk on a loose leash for 20 ft., and be able to work around other working dog/handler teams.

2:30-3:30 pm Excellent-Master: Skills for Excellent and Master level, Excellent Signs, Master signs. Dog/Handler teams should be familiar with Novice and Advanced signs and be able to work off leash.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Sara Renee Beaver
Hanna Kadinger
Gabriella Fluhler
Tammy Jamison

UPCOMING DATES

May 23 10 am-3 pm Member Open Training, Guest w/member \$10

June 1 Annual dues deadline

June 5 1 pm Annual Meeting (Elections!) Clubhouse

June 12 Rally classes begin

June 13 10 am-3 pm Member Open Training, Guest w/member \$10

June 26-27 AKC Scent Work Trials, Williamsburg IN

August 6-7 AKC Scent Work Trials, Williamsburg IN

August 19-22 Ice Tea Cluster AKC dog shows, Delaware County Fairgrounds

October 1-3 MOTC AKC Obedience and Rally trials, Clubhouse

November 12-14 MOTC AKC Obedience and Rally trials, Clubhouse



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BARBARA MEIER

How long have you been a member of MOTC? **Time flies when you are having fun....since ??? Probably at least 8 years.**

What dogs do you have? **Labradors**

What do you like about the breed(s)? **1. They tend to be spirited, intelligent and imaginative, many times marching to their own drummer; 2. They are very affectionate and tons of fun.**

What do you not like about the breed(s)? **See number 1 in response to Question 3 above - their drummer often leads them to mischief.**

What activities do you do with your dogs? **Formal: Obedience, Rally, Scent Work. Informal: Just about everything. Helping me cook as well as emptying the dryer in the hope that I will drop a sock are favorites of theirs.**

What volunteer activities to you do with MOTC? **In particular, I volunteer to help at trials whenever possible. Help to put on trials, not only during the event, but before (e.g. set up) and after (e.g. clean up, returning the venue to pre-trial condition) is vital. In addition, I serve as MOTC's pro bono legal counsel. My latest volunteer endeavor was playing Trial Secretary at the Spring Rally/Obedience Trials.**

What other hobbies do you have? **Reading, puzzles and crafts.**

Are you an early bird or a night owl? **Depends on what is up. Generally more a night owl but will get up to catch the worm when needed - which is typically something involving dogs.**

MOTC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE BY JUNE 1

Membership renewals for the 2021-2022 year are payable now and due by June 1, 2021. Send your dues in now to keep your membership current so you can still get class discounts, special member notices, free member training nights, newsletters, and voting privileges. Please also check that your contact information is current.

Dues and renewal forms can be dropped off at the Clubhouse or mailed to MOTC, 214 E Centennial Ave, Muncie IN 47303. Checks should be made payable to MOTC. Renewal forms may be picked up at the Clubhouse.

- Single \$65
- Senior \$45 (60+, member the last 2 years)
- Junior \$25

BOOK REVIEW

ANIMAL TRAINING : SUCCESSFUL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT THROUGH POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT BY KEN RAMIREZ

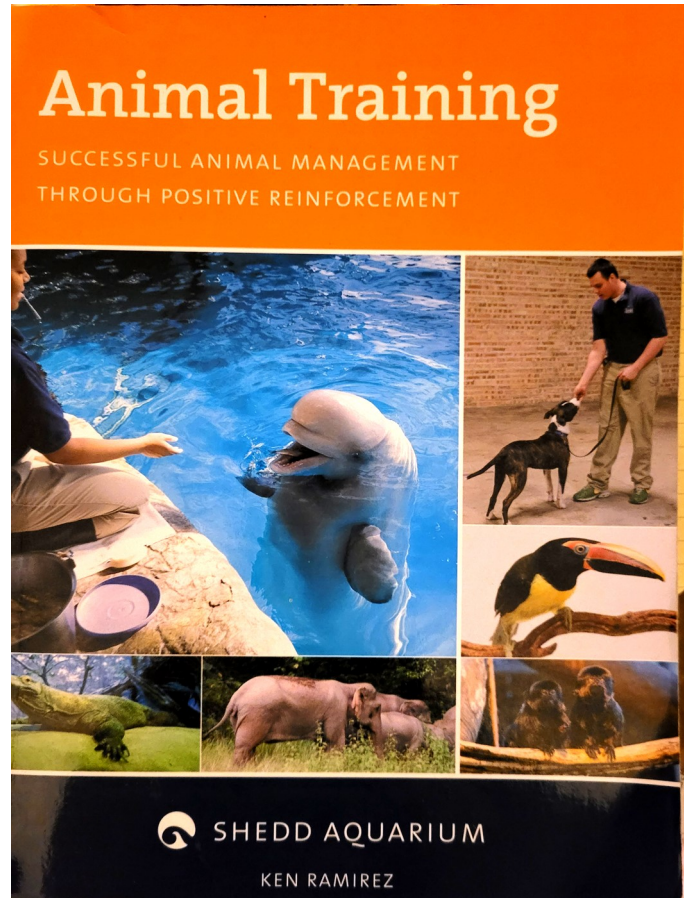
BK GRICE

This book is a hefty 578 pages long, written by Ken Ramirez as a text book for new trainers at Shedd Aquarium when he was executive vice president of animal care and training there. It contains articles he collected over the years with permission of the author, as well as what he learned over the years working with a variety of animals. It is a nice reference book for anyone training animals from alpacas to dogs to parrots to zebras using positive reinforcement.

While not specifically a dog training book, although there are some articles on working with dogs, dog trainers and training instructors will find ideas that can be adapted for use with dogs:

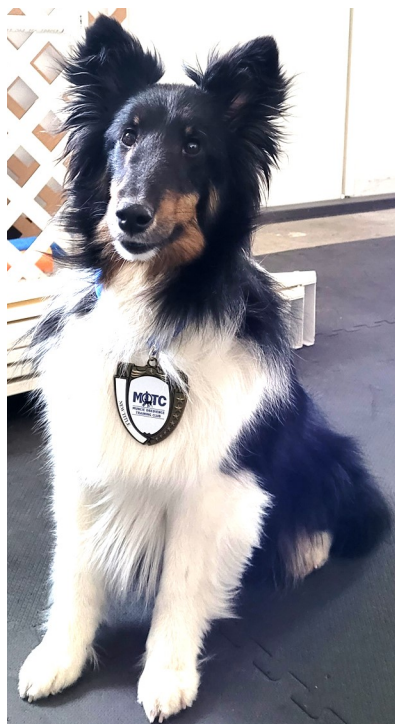
- The importance of knowing about the species
- The benefits of record keeping
- Developing trust
- The value of training plans
- Teaching animals to help with their care
- The benefits of variety
- Dealing with aggression
- Problem solving

Ken Ramirez has been a professional trainer for over 40 years working with a variety of species, working with guide dog and law enforcement dog trainers, zoo and aquarium trainers around the world, and conservationists. My own personal favorite story is his training of butterflies for an exhibit in England to fly from one area to another synchronized to music. Ken currently is chief training officer of Karen Pryor Clicker Training.



BRAGS & WAGS

Gabby Fluhler and Hanna Kadinger competed in Conformation, Lure Coursing, Obedience, and Rally at Marion, Ohio. Hanna's Luna finished her Coursing Ability Title and Obie, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, got Sporting Group 4. Gabby's Helix earned two Beginner Novice Obedience legs and two Rally Novice legs.



Brenda Grice's Lumi, Shetland Sheepdog, competed in Muncie Obedience Training Club's April Rally trials. Lumi finished her Rally Excellent title, earned two Rally Advanced Excellent legs, got a perfect 100 score, and earned a 4th place ribbon.

Susan Naffziger's Trip, Portuguese Water Dog, finished his Beginner Novice title as well as his Rally Novice title which he finished in 3 perfect 100 runs to bring home 3 blue ribbons. Susan's Really, Boxer, finished her Utility Dog title.





Muncie Obedience Training Club has been part of the Muncie community since 1946.

We teach people to be responsible dog owners and canine companion sports participants, and hold events that celebrate dog training.

We have fun with our dogs.

We are good sportsmen.

We practice good stewardship.

REMINDER—

**ANNUAL MEETING IS JUNE 5 AT PM AT THE
MOTC CLUBHOUSE, 214 E CENTENNIAL
AVE, MUNCIE IN 47303. ON THE AGENDA IS
THE ELECTION OF NEXT YEAR'S BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**