



Yips & Quips

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Muncie Obedience Training Club

MOTC ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 11

Muncie Obedience Training Club members will meet at the Clubhouse on June 11 at 4 pm for their annual meeting which includes the election of board members to serve 2023-2024. Members in good standing, who have fulfilled their volunteer hour requirement will choose from a choice of seven candidates. The five who get the most votes will serve on the new Board of Directors which will organize at the conclusion of the meeting.

The MOTC Board of Directors is made up of a president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, and correspondence secretary. They meet several times throughout the year to take care of club business and plan club activities. Any member may attend a board meeting and ask to address the board.

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CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHRIS ASHMORE-GOOD

I have been a member of the Muncie Obedience Training Club for about two years however; I've been training dogs (family pet and tricks) for most of my life. It was always my job to train the new dog that came into our family.

We currently have two dogs: a 3-year old German Shepherd, Obi, and a 17-month old Great Dane, Lexi. Obi is showing in Rally and Obedience. Over this past year, Obi has earned his CGC, TKN, BCAT, BN, and RN. Lexi has earned her CGC and TKN. She will also be shown in Rally and Obedience, although we are taking some time off while I get my new knees.

I am running for the board again to continue to bring about some changes that I think are necessary for the club to move forward. This past year our focus was to update the website and I think that's been a huge success. We still have some work that is needed to bring us fully into the digital age and I hope I'm not too old to help with that yet, even though my students probably think I'm ancient.

We will be opening a private member page on the website to record your volunteer hours. I would also like to see an online sign up for volunteer duties. I know there is still some confusion among members and knowing what they can volunteer for and then trying to figure out how to sign up to do the volunteering. The new private member page will have a list of volunteer opportunities, hopefully that will clear up some of the confusion.

I would also love to see us out in the community doing more to bring folks into the club. I think the new Fit Dog title is something we need to take advantage of to do this, especially with the good weather that is coming our way. Maybe we could even put on demonstrations at pet supply stores to show off what our dogs know? We have several members who have certified Therapy Dogs, maybe we can start going to some local schools or Ball State during exam weeks, or something similar?

I've also taken over the position of Director of Pet Classes and worked closely with Mary Janek to learn the ins and outs this position requires. We've increased our enrollment in our pet classes by going digital with class registrations and payments. I would love to see us make even more increases in our pet classes by offering more classes (maybe adding some trick classes) and getting more members involved in teaching/assisting classes. We can't increase classes without more instructors. This past year has seen a much-needed increase in the number of instructors, but we need even more...hint, hint, nudge, nudge, wink, wink.

I the club's strengths are its people. Everybody that I've encountered has been incredibly friendly and willing to help as much as they can. I feel, as we increase our classes, which means more community members finding out about us and then joining, we will only become stronger as a club.

RICK DALESSANDRO

I don't really know how long I have been a MOTC member, but I'm guessing ten to twelve years and I believe I have probably been a Board member for nine of those years. Over those eight years I have served as a trustee, President, and treasurer. During that time, MOTC has come a long way; we have purchased a building, remodeled the clubhouse (adding walls and removing walls, change the location of the office), added a

kitchen, added a store room, striped the parking lot, landscaped the property (thanks Karen), matted the floor, and made major improvements to our website (Not that I had anything to do with that, thanks Angie). While serving on the Board, MOTC has shown a profit each and every year. I would like to think that I had something to do with most of these improvements. Also having served on the Board for many years, I know how much time and effort it requires. Therefore, I will be taking on the position knowing full well what is involved.

I would like to see the Board improve member participation. So far that seems to be the most challenging task our Club continuously faces. Hopefully, our new Board can come up with some innovative ways to improve participation. I don't foresee the Club being able to cut back on the number of trials held each year for a little while. I believe we will need to refinance the building in December of 2024. My goal for the Club is to pay off the building before it is necessary to refinance.

On a personal note, I have trained two Labs while a member of MOTC, Darby and Callie. Sadly, Darby passed almost two years ago. Darby was one special dog. Everyone told me that at the time, but I didn't really believe it. But it was definitely true. During her life, Darby earned twenty-eight titles ranging from a UDX2 to Dock Diving, Scent Work, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, and she was a therapy dog to boot. Callie will be five years old this August and so far has earned eight-teen titles in Obedience, Rally, Fast CAT, and Scent Work.

MARY-KAY SHROEDER

I have been a member of MOTC for about 11 years. I compete in Obedience and Scent Work here at our club. I also compete in Agility and Water completion with my breed which is Portuguese Water Dogs. I also compete in Conformation and Rally. I was recently approved by AKC as a CGC Evaluator.

This past year I have been responsible for opening the building on the weekends for open training. I have been the chief ring steward for the last 2 Obedience trials and also volunteer at Scent trials.

I have owned Portuguese Water Dogs since 1990. I started breeding them in 1992. I am a n AKC Breeder of Merit and have been one of the top 5 breeders of the year for PWD's since this program started about 10 years ago. This means I have produced the most titled dogs in a year. I am very proud of this since I only breed 1 litter a year.

I have been a member of the PWD national club since 1991. I have served on that Board of Directors and I'm also a past President. I am also a Water Judge for the breed and have done this since 1995. I travel to all regions of the US to judge Water trials for the breed.

I think the club has come a long way since we started having more pet classes available. I would like to see us encourage those taking these classes to continue in the sport. I would also like us to offer seminars to help educate and promote Obedience.

ERIC FRAZEE

I have been a member of the Muncie Obedience Training Club for a year. I have a Poodle, Edith, that I

have started showing in Obedience and Rally. I have volunteered as a steward for Scent Work, Rally, and Obedience trials and I have helped with puppy classes. As Edith and I move forward with our training I hope to be able to encourage others to grown and learn also.

JEANN CROWCROFT

I am Jeann Crowcroft and I would like to serve as a board member. I have been a member since last century. I am an evaluator for AKC canine Good Citizen, S.T.A.R. puppy, and tricks. I'm an instructor for puppy classes. I have filled every position in the board. I have been a steward at Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and FastCAT trials

I have titled 2 dogs : Hank, with a BN, CD, RAE2, SCN, and BCAT. Jesse' with a BN, CD, RAE, and BCAT

As a member of the board I would like to see better communication between officers and members. Agenda and complete minutes should be published for all members . There should be committee reports at all board meetings. I would like to see better training so credit cards could be taken for all classes and events. Thank you for your support.

TERRY LATTANZIO

I have been a member of MOTC for approximately two years. I began training dogs in my teens, training German shepherd dogs, a Rottweiler (who was a regular visitor to a nursing home) and have owned Belgian shepherds since 1989. I have shown in conformation, obedience, rally and have dabbled in herding. I was an active member of the Hamilton Dog Obedience Club (Ontario, Canada), serving as Open class instructor, seminar chair, table steward and judges' hospitality. I have been a member of the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America since 1991 and served as newsletter editor for three years. I have also instructed numerous pet dog classes. I co-chaired a specialty show for the Four Seasons Belgian Shepherd Club (Ann Arbor, MI). Most recently, I served on the committee to update the MOTC website.

While I know that pet classes are an obedience club's bread and butter, I would like to see MOTC find ways of encouraging more students to pursue competition obedience to help stem the decline in the sport. I would also like to see the club offer more classes in rally. Seminars by guest speakers are another way for the club to serve the sport while generating income and benefitting its members and students.

BRENDA GRICE

I have been a MOTC member for 29 years. Having joined the club originally to get into Obedience as other sports became available I have had competed also in Rally and Scent Work and briefly in Agility. I have been registered AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluator for 27 years. I have been an instructor for many ears teaching beginner classes in their various versions, puppy classes, novice Obedience, CGC, Therapy Dog, Tricks, Rally, and transition classes for beginner class graduates to prepare for Obedience and Rally classes .I have served on the MOTC in various positions during my membership and currently also serve as newsletter editor. Currently I have two Shetland Sheepdogs, Lumi and Perry. Lumi is my current working

dog and also acts as my class assistant and demo dog. Perry is just beginning his sports career and I anticipate debuting him in Rally this fall.

I like that MOTC is not just an Obedience club but has broken out into other sports as they became available.. It allows for people to join who are unable or not interested in Obedience. I also like that we have members who are friendly and helpful. Having our own building to train in is a great plus. I would like to see us get back to longer term planning, setting goals for not just the next year but the next 5 or 10 years. I think it is time for the club to focus on membership recruitment and retention ; not just getting new members in but keeping them. I also think that our planning and membership growth needs to be in line with our mission and values. Without keeping our mission and values in mind we risk our identity and existence.

A FAREWELL FROM SUSAN NAFFZIGER

Sunday was likely my last obedience trial at MOTC. As many know, I no longer live in the area served by MOTC. With that said, I have many wonderful memories centered around this club and I will always be a member in my heart. I owe much to the club and many individual members.

It seems like the club is experiencing membership growth. I know that I saw a lot of new faces volunteering this weekend! Long-time members of MOTC have seen many challenges test our club but what we have today is the result of the hard work and perseverance of our good and dedicated members.

When I joined, almost 20 years ago the club had less than \$40 in its bank account. We have changed buildings no less than 4 times in that period of time before purchasing our current building. We have taken that club (and those \$40) and the organization has emerged as one with a very nice competitive and educational facility in our own building with a growing membership and a solid bank account!

We should be proud of our accomplishments and always remember our roots and the challenges we have overcome. There surely will be more along the way. MOTC will thrive in its future if we stay true to our mission.

Members will have their own personal goals in whatever competitive venue they choose to participate in. Yet all members should work toward helping each other achieve their goals. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

So I have nothing but hope for MOTC's future and I have faith in its members that when I hear from you and on the occasions when I may return I will feel renewed by the strength and viability of the MOTC I know and love.

So remember, train your dog every day; as if it is the last day you will ever spend with them!

Susan Naffziger
Really-Boxer
Trip-Portuguese Water Dog

EDITORIAL

PUT THINGS BACK WHERE THEY GO, PLEASE

BK GRICE

How many times growing up did you hear your parents say “Put things back where you found them!” They had reasons for trying to drum that into you. First, putting things back where you got them once you are finished with them makes them easier for you to find and they are less likely to be damaged accidentally. Second, as part of a group such as a family unit, putting things back when you are finished with them makes it easier for other group or family members to find when they need them and less likely to be accidentally damaged by being someplace they shouldn’t be or are not expected to be. In the past year or so Muncie Obedience Club has done some reorganizing and some things have been re-located. The former storage room next to the entrance is now the hot room for Scent Work. This means that items in it have been used with scent and must be kept away from unscented items, Nothing that has not been used with scent should be kept there lest it pick up scent which could distract a Scent Work dog. The door should be kept closed to prevent scent from drifting out into the building for the same reason. Rally equipment is now kept in the back annex to the left side. Clean/unscented items for Scent Work are to the right side in the annex along with distraction items such as wheelchair and walkers that are also used in CGC and pet classes as distractions. Obedience jumps and cones are kept in or near the rings. If you remove the wheels from the jumps, please remember to put them back when you are through. These make them easier to move and protect the mats from damage caused by dragging the jumps. Please remember if you borrow something to return it to the area you found it once you are finished. This way the next club member using it will be able to find it and it will be less likely to be lost or damaged.

CALENDAR

Board Meeting—May 21 4 pm	Member Meeting—June 11 4 pm, election
Queen DTC—Obedience/ Rally C matches, 5/21	MOTC Scent Work trials June 24-25
Hamilton DTC— FastCAT, Brookville OH 6/16-18	Hamilton DTC—Agility trial, DDTC 9/22-24
Board Meeting—June 11 3 pm	MOTC Rally & Obedi- ence Trials Sept 29-Oct 1



BRAGS & WAGS

BK Grice's Lumi, Shetland Sheepdog, completed her Scent work Container Novice title at MOTC's Scent Work trial March 19. She also was honored with an invite to the AKC Rally National Championship. BK's Perry, Shetland Sheepdog, finished Basic Obedience class.

Hanna Kadinger's Luna, Brittany, has 8 legs toward her Scent Work Detective title. Hanna's Brooks, Brittany, finished his Scent work Container Novice, Interior Novice, and Buried Novice titles as well as getting 2 major wins in conformation in March. Hanna's Obie, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, finished his Scent work Novice title with some help from Rachael Alsprach.

Susan Naffziger's Trip, Portuguese Water Dog, finished his Companion Dog Excellent title at Scottsbluff NB with two HITs, as well as finishing his Graduate Open title in 3 tries. 3/31-4/2



Hannah Kadinger shows off Brooks' Conformation pose



Hannah Kadinger's Obie shows off his ribbons with friend Rachael Alsprach



The Kadinger-Brewer bunch shows off their bling



Susan Naffziger and Trip pose with their ribbons



BK Grice's Perry after finishing Basic Obedience class. He wasn't sure of the mortar board.



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

Our mission is to teach people to be responsible dog owners and canine companion sports participants and to hold events that demonstrate the benefits of dog training.

Our mission is accomplished through the actions of our volunteers who support our mission, support dog ownership, and love dogs.