



Muncie Obedience Training Club

MOTC ANNUAL AWARD DINNER

Muncie Obedience Training Club held it's annual Awards Dinner on Sunday February 23rd. The Award dinner is a chance for MOTC members to get together, share a meal, and celebrate their new titles earned in the previous year. The dinner was preceded by a slideshow presentation by Bobbi Siccardi of photos of members' dogs they had submitted for the occasion.



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MEMBERS' MEETING
 SUNDAY JUNE 8 1PM
 MOTC CLUBHOUSE
 Annual meeting for the election of the
 Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MARY-KAY SCHROEDER

We just finished a very busy weekend and I believe it was very successful. On Friday we had 2 Rally Trials and on both Saturday and Sunday there were 2 Obedience Trials. Diane Gibbs the trial secretary did an outstanding job. We owe her a huge THANKS!!!! It ran smoothly and we received many compliments from both judges and many competing handlers. Trial chair Nancy Jenkins replaced Jeann, who is recuperating and did many jobs that people don't even know exist. Laura Beth ran the Rally rings and kept things moving. Ring steward Garnet, and time keeper Sue Roscoe kept everything in order. Josie checked people in and made sure they were ready to get in the ring.

For this club to provide 2 ring trials in the future we need more volunteers. We needed more workers on Saturday but non members stepped up to help us fill a position. Table stewards were Brenda Grice and Jo Geiger. Ring stewards were Laura Beth, Deb (non member), Suzy & Rhonda (both non members, myself, Nancy Knox, Diane Trader, Colleen Massey, and Nancy Jenkins. I'm sure I have missed someone, SORRY, and others that came and set up and stayed to clean up. It does take a lot o people. Thank you all!!!!

Don't forget the member meeting on Sunday June 8th at 1 pm,

Have a wonderful summer and happy training.

Mary-Kay

MOTC,

I attended the Rally trial on April 25. This was my first time to do Rally. I just want to thank all the volunteers who helped with this trial. Everyone was very helpful and kind. The trial ran very smoothly and was very well organized.

Also the improvements that you have made to your building since I was there in 2023 are very nice. I will definitely be attending more trials there.

Please let all the volunteers who worked on Friday [know] that I appreciated all their hard work.

Sincerely,

Sandy Romine

CALENDAR

- June 2 S.T.A.R. Puppy class Monday 6 pm
- June 2 Basic Obedience class Monday 7:30 pm
- June 8 MOTC Member Meeting Sunday 1 pm
- June 21-22 MOTC Scent Work trial Charlottesville IN
- July 31 Newsletter deadline

Friday Night Training slots are available most Friday nights 6:30-9 pm by reservation. Slots are 30 min. and free for MOTC members. Request a slot by emailing tincricket@gmail.com by Thursday midnight.

Jeann Crowcroft

I am a candidate for the board of directors because I believe that MOTC is a vital part of Muncie. I want to continue that. Our club has had a successful year so we can all be proud of our accomplishments. Number ONE is our building no longer has a mortgage. If we look at the building the retaining wall on Centennial has been repaired and is permanently in place. We have two new potty areas that are enclosed and have clean up stations. This has made our area look much more like a business. Inside our building we have new flooring in the hall and the crating area and the kitchen. MOTC hosted three obedience and rally trials this past year. We also held three scent work trials

The challenges we face in the coming year are to continue to offer classes that are stimulating and of interest to our members. In addition to our Obedience classes, we have Rally, tricks, performance fundamentals, and Scent Work. We need to look at the building use. Are there times when our building is not being used? I know there are some evenings when there is nothing scheduled. We have open training most Sunday afternoons because we have members who are willing to put in the time to open the building. Brenda Grice has training times available on Friday evenings. What would you like to see happening those evenings when the building is available? The question always arises at this point of the board election why don't we have more people volunteering to help at the trials or why don't we have more members teaching classes or assisting with classes? Each member needs to answer this question. Have you done enough to support MOTC? What more could I do? How important is MOTC to me? What else can I do?

Rick Dalessandro

I'm not sure how long I have been a MOTC member, somewhere in the twelve to fourteen year range. I believe I've been a Board member for eleven of those years. During that time I have served as a Trustee, President, and Treasurer for the last three years. 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 two store rooms, turned one of the store rooms into additional crating space, striped the parking lot, landscaped the property, rebuilt the retaining wall, created new potty areas, matted the rings, installed new flooring, made major improvements to our website, and last but certainly not least...we paid off the mortgage. 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. I wish it could be done without changing the fifteen hour requirement in our bylaws but I don't know if that is possible. I think we may need to increase the hours and require that some of those hours come from stewarding. 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. Besides trying to improve member participation, in the next year we will need to evaluate the pros and cons of a one ring vs. two ring trial.

On a personal note, I am training my third Lab while being a member of MOTC, Darby, Callie, and now a puppy named Cider. Sadly, Darby passed almost four years ago. Darby was my heart dog. Everyone told me how special she was 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, Rally Scent Work, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, and she was a therapy dog to boot. Callie will be seven years old this August and so far has earned about twenty different titles in Obedience, Rally, FastCAT, and Scent Work. Cider at the ripe old age of 5

months is a STAR Puppy and has already earned her CGC.

Mary-Kay Shroeder

I've been a member of MOTC for about 10 years, and have been president the last 2 years. I'm proud of the work the current Board has done. We have made several improvements to both the building and the outside. We have added another addition to the building for storage, which has helped make more room for crating. We also have had the new floor installed which I think has made a huge improvement to the looks and easier for cleaning. We had the landscaping retaining wall at the entrance fixed and improved the potty area that existed and added a new larger area. I own and breed Portuguese Water Dogs and have done that for 30 years. I have been active in my breed's national club, served on that board and was President. I also started the regional PWD club for Indiana, and served on that board. I am also a water judge for my breed and have been for about 25 years, I am married and live in Cicero Indiana. We are working on ways to get more members involved in the club. Better communication is always needed, so we need to look at ways to improve that.

Jo Grieger

My name is Jo Grieger and I am running for a position on the MOTC Board of Directors. I have been a member of MOTC for about 3 years. Before coming to Indiana to live, I was involved in AKC & ASCA Dog Obedience in Southern California. I have obedience trained several German Shepherd Dogs and Australian Shepherds. For many years I wanted a Belgian Malinois. I waited until we moved to Indiana to have the acreage and facilities to let him be a dog. He is certainly very different from any other breed that I have owned previously. We are enjoying our journey together. Sometimes, it seems that we each enjoy our journey at different times—LOL....

I think that many club members really care about the future of our club. I would like a chance for everyone's voice to be heard. I think a really great idea would be to have an idea box that everyone can submit their ideas and concerns, anonymously if preferred. I think we should try this for a trial period of 3 months. If the results are positive then we could continue this idea. One of my goals for MOTC is to see more membership participation. Perhaps our membership there are other really great ideas that are waiting to be discovered. To have a successful club we need membership participation. Our club has done so many improvements to our building. Our current board has made many great improvements over this last year.

Barbara Meier

I joined MOTC when it was in its first rented place on Walnut shortly before the Club began its adventure with buying this building. At first, my joining was for admittedly self-centered reasons. If I was a member, I got some discount or some such something—I don't remember what. But "what was in it for me" quickly became secondary. I am a fan of companion dog sports—primarily Obedience and Rally at the time. MOTC was providing a venue and I was all in to support.

As a then practicing lawyer (now retired), I was involved in helping MOTC secure its property tax exemption. Later, I was involved in helping MOTC secure its 501(c)3 status. I was also involved in redoing the By-laws along with Mary Kay and Rick. I served as trial secretary for Club's Rally and Obedience Trials for a couple of years. In the past, I was a fairly regular volunteer at Club events but I have not been nearly as active for the past three or so years at events at the building primarily due to the I-465/I-69 construction on the west side. However, I have remained available and willing to help with tasks remotely when asked and typically volunteer at events which don't require travel to Muncie, such as the Scent Work trials.

Overall, I think one of the challenges the Club faces is fostering a sense of unity and cooperation with a focus on the Club. Although the Club has come a long way and gone through many changes since I became a member, sadly, one thing has not changed: The need for members to step up and volunteer. The need for folks to pitch in applies not just to trials but to other things the Club needs to run as well, such as teaching/helping with classes, monitoring supplies, monitoring and keeping the website up to date, etc. How to increase member volunteerism seems to be the 64 dollar question. When it comes to trials, I can very well understand travel issues. But taking FastCAT for example, if you are going to the event anyway, why not volunteer to help while you are there? But many people do not. To address this, I would like to remind folks that volunteering for any organization has nothing to do with what is in it for you. It has to do with your belief in the organization's purpose and desire to support it. By way of example, there is nothing in it for folks who volunteer at humane societies. They do so because they care about homeless animals. Same mind set applies here --you like having a facility which offers classes and dog sport events? If you want that to continue, it needs your hands on help.

That being said, I would like to see a short survey distributed asking how many hours and if the bare minimum, why not more; did you attend any Club events in the last 12 months, and if so, did you volunteer to help—if not, why not? If that has already been done, I missed it.

If the issue is “compensation,” paying folks is not an option for a number of reasons, some related to non-profit/501(c)3 status, and some for reasons related to paper work logistics and the potential for employee vs volunteer status confusion. Once upon a time, I reached out to other clubs to see how they handled volunteer “compensation,” I have slept since then, but none paid members. But there are certainly things that those clubs did that we can do for folks who put in time for the Club over and above the minimum, such as vouchers toward trial entries or classes. It would take some work to figure out “values” (this many hours over and above gets you x) but that is one option.

As for other things I would like to see are 1) for the Club to get back to being more active in public education and assistance, either through periodic workshop/presentation offerings and perhaps at least one seminar/workshop the Club hosts for an invited outside speaker/trainer; and 2) to make member meetings more “fun” for lack of a better term by featuring a member to demo or speak on some dog/dog training related topic for 5 or so minutes, such as toe nail trimming, this is how I taught my dog to open the refrigerator and get me a beer, whatever...anything to foster us getting to know each other better.

Mike Wiggins

What do I think are some challenges that need to be addressed in the next club year? Better communication to members, transparency between board and members, develop and execute more member inclusive events, community open house and demonstrations, improve and implement advertising for MOTC.

Brenda Grice

I am a 30+ MOTC member and have served on the board several times in various positions. I began teaching classes shortly after I joined and usually teach beginner classes but over the years I have taught Novice Obedience, Transition from beginner class to Novice Obedience, Rally (all levels), and Tricks classes. I am a certified CGC evaluator and I have shown and titled my dogs in Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Tricks, and they have their CGCs.

I think a big challenge for this coming year is to deal with the lack of volunteers for things. We have been

trying to get more volunteers by pleading, threatening, and applying guilt for many years and yet the problem still exists; so why are we still using these if they aren't working? Looking at the member hour log for 2023-2024, we have a pretty good volunteer percentage for a non-profit; generally it's 10-15%, we had over 50% turning in 20-100 hours, plus a few members who turned in less than 20 and a few who turned in more than 100. If we need more volunteers maybe the solution isn't to wring more hours out of the volunteer pool but to increase the size of the pool. Certainly we need more members interested in Obedience, Rally, and Scent Work; but we may be overlooking a potential member market: family pet. I'm not talking about trying to get basic obedience and S.T.A.R. puppy graduates into one of the sports, although I don't think that's a bad thing. Most of our graduates are not interested in the sports when they finish. It doesn't mean we couldn't get them interested later on but if they're not interested in the sports at graduation, we lose them. I've seen family pet graduates eagerly continue their training in Tricks class and Performance Fundamentals (sort of a sampler of Obedience, Rally, Agility, and Scent Work). Some of these joined the club but I don't know if they were ever approached to volunteer. If we can get these people interested in dog training and help them continue to work with their dogs, maybe down the road they will consider Rally, Scent Work, or Obedience. Right now, for many of them the idea of showing is pretty overwhelming. Providing a less intimidating and fun way for these people to stay involved in training and join could provide additional volunteers.

Related to this is to work on recruiting new members and retaining current ones who support our mission. The mission statement I use (derived from our constitution) is that MOTC teaches responsible dog ownership, encourages participation in amateur dog sports, and combats cruelty to animals. I think if we recruit and retain members who support this we will have a stronger and more vital club.

Mary Janek

At publication time we had not received a submission by Mary.

Mr. Blanchard of the Anderson Obedience Training Club picked up their old Obedience jumps when they replaced them. He'd like to see someone get some use out of them so if you are interested in them please contact Bob Janek and he'll get you in touch with Mr. Blanchard.



BRAGS & WAGS

Lisa Petty's Oakley, Golden Retriever, finished her Rally Master 2 title with 2 First place, a 2nd place, and a third place. If that weren't enough, Oakley also got Rally High Triple Q and picked up 3 triple Qs and RACH points. He also qualified for his Novice and Intermediate Fetch titles at Paws Up Pups.

Gayle Fahl's Heddie, Border Collie, got her first Obedience Open leg in Open A with a 2nd place.

Brenda Grice's Perry, Shetland Sheepdog, got 2 legs in Rally Intermediate with a 3rd and 4th place.



Lisa & Oakley are awarded High Triple Q in Rally



Oakley with his Rally prizes



Perry showing off his 3rd & 4th place Rally Intermediate ribbons



Lisa & Oakley sport his Fetch new title ribbon



Muncie Obedience Training Club is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has been part of the Muncie, Indiana community since 1946.

Our mission is to teach responsible dog ownership, encourage participation in amateur canine companion sports, and combat cruelty to animals.

We do this by holding classes, seminars, and amateur dog sports trials in Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and FastCAT through the volunteer efforts of our members.

