



Yips & Quips

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2024

Muncie Obedience Training Club

IMPROVEMENTS ARE IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Keep an eye out for more improvements to the building in the near future. A crew of landscapers will be rebuilding the retaining wall on the south side of the building and adding another course of pavers. Then the plan is to lay weed barrier, landscape with the current plants, and lay river rock on top of the weed barrier. Besides improving the appearance of our Clubhouse it should be easier to maintain that area.

In addition to rebuilding the retaining wall the same crew will be creating a new potty area for us in the northeast corner of our parking lot. We definitely could use more potty area. The plan is to lay railroad ties around the perimeter of the area, install weed barrier, and then fill the area with several inches of pee (pun intended) gravel.

Your Board is also looking into installing new flooring in the crating area and hallway. We are thinking epoxy, something like many veterinary clinics use. We want to find something that is not slippery, but still easy to clean. The old matting we currently have on the floor is impossible to keep clean and looks awful to say the least. Right now we are just in the exploration stage, checking out our options and getting estimates. If you happen to know anyone in the area that installs that kind of flooring, please let one of the Board members know so we can reach out to them.

MOTC Board of Directors

Inside this issue:

2024-2025 Board of Directors

- President: Mary-Kay Schroeder, bayswaterpwd@comcast.net
- Vice President: Jeann Crowcroft, gjcrowcroft@aol.com
- Treasurer: Rick Dalessandro, ardalessandro@aol.com
- Corresponding Secretary: Terry Lattanzio, terla@comcast.net

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MARY-KAY SCHROEDER

I just got home from our August Scent Trial and it was a huge success again. I can't thank the scent committee enough for all they do. If you have never attended a scent trial, you can't imagine how much work goes into it. They have to find locations to hold trials and the locations require a lot of square feet, many rooms, outside areas and parking to give you a rough idea. They hire 5,6, or 7 judges, have to make accommodations for them, load and unload a trailer to get props to the sites. And this is just a few of the major jobs they do. We always need a lot of workers so please consider volunteering for the next one in March.

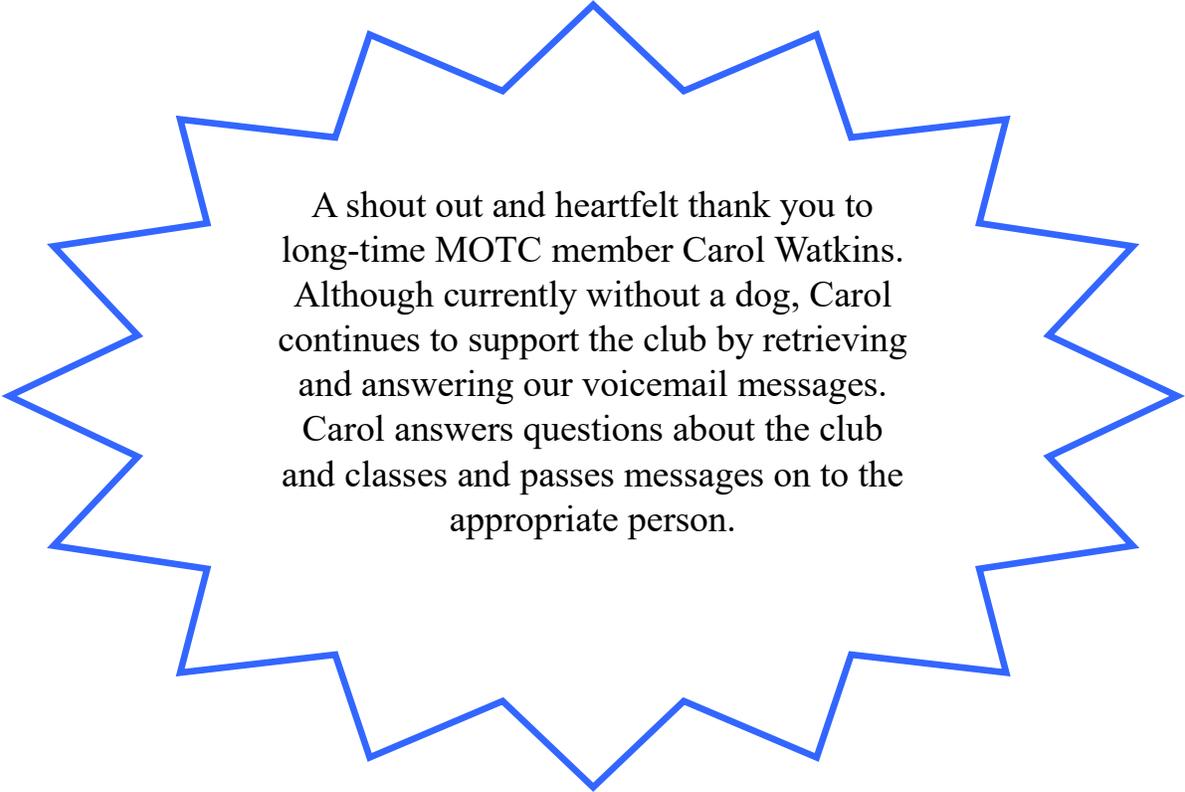
THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU THAT HELPED THIS WEEKEND!!!!

The repairs on our building are almost done, just waiting for the painting and then it should be complete. The board is considering putting a new floor down in the crating area, the entry and the hall to the kitchen. We would like anyone that works in flooring or knows someone to let one of us on the board know. We would like a floor that is easy to mop and keep clean. We are investigating different options. We are looking at flooring in veterinarian offices, dog training businesses etc. to get good ideas and input. So please let us know if you have suggestions or someone in the business that we can contact.

Don't forget this is your club so please let one of the board members know if you have ideas for things to do, or help with the flooring ideas too.

And next month is our fall obedience/rally trials, September 27, 28, 29th. We will need workers again, so please make your calendars and come out and enjoy your club.

Mary-Kay Schroeder
President MOTC



A shout out and heartfelt thank you to long-time MOTC member Carol Watkins. Although currently without a dog, Carol continues to support the club by retrieving and answering our voicemail messages. Carol answers questions about the club and classes and passes messages on to the appropriate person.

EDITORIAL

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

BK GRICE

Here we are in 2024! Some of us weren't sure we'd ever see it! We were sure there'd be flying cars like the Jetsons, transporters and food replicators like Star Trek. We may not have those but we have come quite a ways. Computers live in our pockets, calling someone across the world is effortless, paying for things is done by a few finger taps or touching a card to a terminal. That we take pictures with our phone is something my great grandmother would find hilarious.

As the rest of the world, so have dog sports, training, and clubs changed. We have more dog sports available to us: Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Scent Work, FastCAT; and now mixed-breed dogs are allowed to join in most of these. Exhibitors used to be mostly white men and now we see more women, exhibitors of color, exhibitors with disabilities, well as those who are gay and transgender. One of the wonderful things about dogs is that they don't care. If you treat them fairly, take good care of them, they don't care what color you are, whether you are male or female, straight or homosexual, cisgender or transgender, or disabled. None of these matter in any of the dog sports or training and they shouldn't matter in clubs either. The American Kennel Club has taken a stand that it shouldn't matter. In a club with a mission to teach responsible dog ownership, encourage participation in amateur canine companion sports, and combat cruelty to dogs it shouldn't matter either.

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB CHANGES HIGH JUMP REQUIREMENTS FOR 2025

The American Kennel Club has announced that effective July 1, 2025 all high jumps used in Obedience and Rally must have displaceable panels rather than the fixed board style. Currently if a dog hits the high jump it may be injured and may knock the whole jump over depending on its construction. With the displaceable panes, if the dog hits the jump the panel will fall reducing the chance of the dog being injured.

The high jumps for Obedience must be 5 ft. wide with 4 ft. uprights. They must be set at a 4 in. height and adjustable in 2 in. increments to allow heights from 8-36 in. They must have available 4 8 in. panels, a 4 in. panel, and a 2 in. panel in flat white. Numbers identifying the panel height must be in black 2 in. numbers.

The high jumps for Rally may be 4 or 5 ft. wide with 4 ft. uprights. They must be set at a 4 in. height and adjustable in 4 in. increments to allow for heights of 4-16 in. They may be decorated but nothing must be hanging from the jump or interfere with jumping. They must have available 2 8 in. panels and a 4 in. panel. Numbers identifying the panel height must be in black 2 in. letters.

For clubs using Acme plastic board high jumps, AKC suggests fitting single jump Agility strips to the uprights and running a piece of 1/2 in. PVC pipe through the boards and attaching a round adapting cap to each end so the ends can be set in the strip cups. This allows the board to hang similar to an Agility panel jump so that it can be displaced if a dog hits it.

BRAGS & WAGS

Mary-Kay Schroeder's Meme, Portuguese Water Dog, finished her Scent Work Containers Excellent and Scent Work Exterior Excellent at MOTC's August Scent Work trials.

Laura Beth Waldrep and Storm, Black and Tan Coonhound, showed at the American Kennel Club Rally National Championship in Wilmington OH in July. Storm was the only Black and Tan Coonhound in attendance and made the top 100 for Rally Championship class. Here's the link to the AKC article on them <https://tinyurl.com/2njdx32>

BK Grice's Perry, Shetland Sheepdog, completed his Beginner Novice Obedience and Rally Novice titles at MOTC's April trials with an insurance leg in each. In Beginner Novice he won 3rd place at each trial and in Rally Novice he took 3rd place with a perfect 100 and then 2nd place with a 99. He also passed the Canine Good Citizen Advanced and Trick Dog Intermediate tests in July.



Meme sports her Scent Work Excellent Ribbons for Containers and Exterior



Laura Beth and Storm running an AKC Rally Nationals course



Perry showing off his placement and New Title ribbons

HOW FLUENT IS YOUR DOG?

BK GRICE

The word fluent comes from the Latin word for flow. To be fluent in something is to do it quickly, easily, and with confidence. Watching a dog/handler team perform fluently in Obedience, Rally, or Agility is inspiring and magical. Fluency comes with practice. The fluency of an Open A or Utility A team often pales compared to that of an Open B and Utility B team with the varying exercise order. In Rally and Agility, where every course is different, fluency in the exercises or obstacles is more obvious. Less fluent teams show hesitation, slowness in response, and incorrect performance as they concentrate more on what they are supposed to do.

How quickly and confidently does your dog respond to your verbal cue or signal to sit? Does the distance away from you matter? Does giving your verbal cue with your back to your dog matter? Does the response vary depending on if you are sitting, standing, or lying down? Does the response vary if you are wearing a hat, sunglasses, or coat? We expect the dog to respond to the cue quickly and confidently in any of those situations because the cue and correct response haven't changed. For a dog used to hearing the cue "sit" when you are standing a foot or two away and facing it wearing jeans and a t-shirt, a change in any of those can cause them to stop and think. (You always tell me to sit when you are in jeans and a t-shirt, what does it mean when you're in a bathrobe and slippers?) A dog who is fluent in the cues for down, jump, or come (regardless of what you're wearing.) usually will adapt quicker than a dog who has never seen you give cues in your robe.

In the Basic Obedience class it is not unusual for some of the teams to be teaching their dogs to sit on cue while others seem to know the cue. I like to give the more advanced students a challenge to work on as I teach the less experienced. I have the more advanced students test how well their dog knows their cue for sit by getting their dog's attention, then say their sit cue once with their arms at their side and see how quickly their dog responds. If they use a signal, I have them get their dog's attention, then give their signal once without saying anything and see how quickly their dog responds. If their dogs sit immediately, then I commend them for their dog's fluency. If their dog hesitates or fails to respond, then I explain that the dog is giving them information and just needs a bit more practice with their cue.

Helping your dog become more fluent with your chosen cues improves your teamwork in any sport. It improves you and your dog's confidence. When your dog seems to know a cue well give it what is sometimes called the Dr. Seuss or Green Eggs and Ham test: "Would you, could you on a boat? Would you, could you with a goat?" Would you sit, could you sit as I walk round and round? Would you sit, could you sit if I stand upside down? Good training!

RENT-A-RING SCHEDULE

Both rings available

Obedience 9 am-1 pm, sign up at
8 am

Rally 1-4 pm, sign up at 12 pm

\$10 for 10 minutes, \$5 for 5
minutes

Sept 15

Nov 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/15 Thursday 6 pm Performance Fundamentals begins
- 8/21 Thursday 7 pm Trainers' meeting at Clubhouse
- 8/19 Monday 6 pm S.T.A.R. Puppy /7:30 pm Basic Obedience classes begin
- 9/4 Wednesday 9 am-12 pm Competition Obedience classes begin
- 9/15 Sunday Rent-a-Ring 9 am-1 pm Obedience, 1-4 pm Rally
- 9/15 Sunday 1 pm MOTC Member meeting
- 9/27-29 Fri-Sun MOTC Obedience & Rally trials
- 10/14 Monday 6 pm S.T.A.R. Puppy /7:30 pm Basic Obedience classes begin
- 10/30 Wednesday 6 week session Competition Obedience classes begin
- 11/3 Sunday Rent-a-Ring 9 am-1 pm Obedience, 1-4 pm Rally
- 11/8-10 Fri-Sun MOTC Obedience & Rally trials
- 12/8 Sunday 1 pm MOTC Member meeting

FRIDAY NIGHT TRAINING CONTINUES!

MOTC makes 30 min. training slots available by reservation on most Friday nights. MOTC members may reserve slots for free. Non-members pay \$10/slot and must sign a facility waiver, these are kept on file for one year. To view availabilities and instructions for reserving a slot visit muncieobediencetrainingclub.blogspot.com.

August 16, 23

September 6, 13, 20

October 4, 11, 18, 25

November 15, 22 (November 1st uncertain at this point*)

December 6, 13, 20

* I will be unable to monitor Friday Night Training on November 1 due to a church event. If someone with a key would like to volunteer to monitor the building 6:30-9 pm (I usually open up by 6:15 pm and am out by 9:15 pm) I will email you the reservations that I have for that night. It is an opportunity for you to train in the free rings when they are not booked and it is a chance to get volunteer hours. Catch me at the Clubhouse or email me at Brenda.grice@comcast.net.



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 dogs.

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.

