MOTC Yips & Quips

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Muncie Obedience Training Club

MOTC ELECTS 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the June Annual Meeting the Muncie Obedience Training elected the new Board of Directors for 2026-2027:

Chris Ashmore-Good, President
Mary-Kay Shroeder, Vice President
Rick Dalessandro, Treasurer
Kendra Ervin, Recording Secretary
Kimberly Horn Janek, Corresponding Secretary

Good luck to the new board!

AKC Crowns 2026 National Obedience and Rally National Champions

The American Kennel Club National Obedience Championship and Rally National Championship were held in July. Winner of the NOC was OTCH3 Surefire Up To Speed UDX2 OM4 MH, Golden Retriever "Swift" handled by Mara Wacker of Hastings MN. Winner of the RNC was RNC OTCH RACH Clever K9's She's My Kind Of Rain UCX4 OM6 BN RM4 RAE3 OA OAJ XF, Border Collie "Rain" handled by Ann Marie Scripko of Sumterville FL

There were 141 handler-dog teams entered in the NOC and 662 in the RNC for a total of 803 dogs between the two championships.

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AKC Canine Health Foundation Receives Contribution from Long-standng Purina Parent Club Partnership Program

RALEIGH, NC (July 31, 2026) – The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs through scientific research, announces that Purina has donated $78,838 in support of CHF-funded canine health research through its final contribution from the Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) Program.

Since its launch in 2002, the PPCP Program has provided more than $9 million to support canine health research and other initiatives that have improved the health and well-being of dogs. The PPCP concluded in 2025 after more than two decades of supporting canine health.

“Purina’s Parent Club Partnership Program has been a powerful example of what can be accomplished when those passionate about dogs, breed clubs, and industry partners work toward a common goal,” says Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CHF Chief Executive Officer. “For more than 20 years, this program has advanced discoveries that are improving the lives of dogs. We are deeply grateful to Purina and the Purina® Pro Club® members whose participation has built this legacy.”

Additional collaborations between these two organizations include Purina’s sponsorship of CHF’s biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference and the sale of engraved bricks at the Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO (akcchf.org/pavetheway). These programs embody Purina’s motto, “Your Pet, Our Passion®,” and support CHF’s work to help all dogs live longer, healthier lives.
# # #

About CHF

Since 1995, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has leveraged the power of science to address the health needs of all dogs. With more than $80 million in funding to date, the Foundation provides grants for the highest quality canine health research and shares information on the discoveries that help prevent, treat and cure canine diseases. The Foundation meets and exceeds industry standards for fiscal responsibility, as demonstrated by their highest four-star Charity Navigator rating and Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency. Learn more at www.akcchf.org.

About Purina

Nestlé Purina PetCare creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations.

Purina manufactures some of the world’s most trusted and popular pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Friskies and Tidy Cats. Our more than 11,000 U.S. associates take pride in our trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 46 million dogs and 68 million cats every year. Nearly 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure our commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition.

Over the past five years, Purina has contributed more than $150 million towards organizations that bring, and keep, people and pets together, as well as those that help our communities and environment thrive.

EDITORIAL

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

BK GRICE

I attended an AKC club development webinar a few weeks ago led by Amy Hagy, manager of AKC's Club Development department. It was an active hour and a half with plenty of questions in the Q&A box and highly active chat box; it could easily have gone 2 hours. There are a lot of people concerned about what is happening in their clubs and sharing things they've seen and done. In breed clubs and training clubs we are having trouble recruiting and retaining members, and our members are aging.

Some of this a generational shift, we've talked about this at my company. In the community at large, in companies and in non-profits like ours we have Baby Boomers who tend to be optimistic, competitive, somewhat workaholic, and team oriented; Generation X who tend to be flexible, more informal, skeptical, and independent; Millennials who tend to be competitive, more civic and open minded, and achievement oriented; and Generation Z who tend to be more global, entrepreneurial, progressive, and less focused as members and students/prospective members.

Here are some suggestions to get and keep clubs growing:

1. Recognize that you have cliques in the club; small knots of people who spend time together, share interests and experiences, and share philosophies. Be sure to welcome and try to include new members in your group. People who feel like outsiders don't volunteer and don't stay members.

2. Make everyone feel welcome at meetings and events. Introduce yourself to someone at a meeting or event that you don't know. If they are new to the club introduce them to some other members. Consider appointing a hospitality person or committee to be sure someone is greeting these people.

3. Communication should be clear throughout the club. It should be easy for new members to find information about when classes start, who to contact to get into classes, how to volunteer for events, etc. Consider appointing a concierge or creating a central location such as the club website where members can get information and then be sure the information is kept up.

4. Longtime members tend to think that new members need to earn their position in the club, to take time to learn how the club does things, and value the experience of the club elders. New members want to be included in club activities quickly, get clear direction as they participate, and get involved immediately in the club such as serving on the board. Consider getting new members involved immediately when they are voted in and provide any training they might need. Be patient when they try new things (everything was new once). Consider providing mentors to new members when they are voted in or first apply for membership.

5. Gossip is poison and can kill a club. Complaints should be seen as opportunities to improve and act upon. People complain often because they see something they know could be better but don't know how to do it or where to go with it. Negativity in a club can scare away hundreds of potential members.

6. Make it easy for people to know about your club, don't keep it a secret. Social media such as Facebook should have a club post at least weekly. Contact area organizations and schools and offer to have a

member give a presentation on the club or dog-related topic, a training demonstration. Consider having a blog on the club website where dog care or training tips for everyday dog owners are posted regularly. Put it out there that MOTC is where you find dog experts. Show that the club is organized, what our mission is, and why it is important.

7. People join and remain members of a club because of what they get from it. As a 501c3 non-profit membership organization no member may profit off the club, but that doesn't mean members can't get something out of being a member: relationships, sense of helping society and dogs, sense of helping people be better dog owners, preventing cruelty to dogs, being valued for your knowledge and/or expertise, being appreciated as a person and volunteer, enjoyment of learning, enjoyment of your achievements, etc. At a minimum you should feel welcomed and valued as a person.

8. People hesitate to volunteer sometimes because they don't get clear directions on what to do and if they make a mistake, they get a reaction that implies they are stupid, useless, and irresponsible. That's one way to be sure that the 10% of the club who already feel overworked and underappreciated remain that way. Consider creating a "succession plan" where an experienced member helps someone else learn how to do what they do. If they make an error, show them how to fix it and help them learn.

The key part of keeping a club growing and active is keeping its mission in sight, actively welcome new members into the club, get new members involved in the club immediately, keep communication in the club clear, keep members learning so that responsibilities can be shared without burning people out.

Board of Directors

Chris Ashmore-Good	ashmoregoodchristine@gmail.com
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THE SCIENCE OF OPERANT CONDITIONING

Operant conditioning is the principle that behavior is affected by the results it gets for the doer. If you do something and like the result you get, you are likely to do the same thing in a similar circumstance. When you start your car you put the key in the ignition, turn it, and the car starts. The act of the car starting reinforces the act of turning the key in the ignition. If you have been driving long, you have probably turned the key to start the car hundreds of times and each time the car starts it makes it more likely you will turn the key the next time you want the car to start. You are also more likely to turn the key in the ignition when you want to start your neighbor's car in their driveway or your cousin's car at the park because the behavior has been repeatedly reinforced. Operant conditioning happens all the time; every time you turn the faucet handle and water comes out, you hit the button and the alarm clock shuts off, etc. Operant conditioning applies to humans, dogs, horses, cats, birds, giraffes, snakes, Guinea pigs, butterflies, leopards…all living creatures.

Knowing how operant conditioning works helps us use it when we train our dogs. By seeing that the behavior we like gets a good result for the dog it makes it more likely that the dog will repeat it. When the dog sits, we give it something it likes such as praise, affection, food, or play. After this happens repeatedly the dog will offer a sit to get the praise, affection, food, or play that it enjoyed. This works whether we simply reward spontaneously when the dog sits, if we lure the dog into a sit, or if the dog responds to a cue, command, or signal to sit. Once the dog responds readily and consistently to the cue, command, or signal, the reward or reinforcement may be used only occasionally to keep the behavior consistent.

CALENDAR

Thursday Sept 17 Rally Exc & Master 5:30 pm
Thursday Sept 17 Rally Nov & Adv 7 pm
Friday Sept 25 MOTC Member Meeting 6:30 pm
Fri-Sun Oct 9-11 AKC Obedience trial
Monday Oct 19 S.T.A.R. Puppy begins 6 pm
Monday Oct 19 Basic Obedience beings 7:30 pm
Sat-Sun Oct 24-25 Scent Work Trial
Fri-Sun Nov 6-8 AKC Rally trial

FRIDAY NIGHT TRAINING

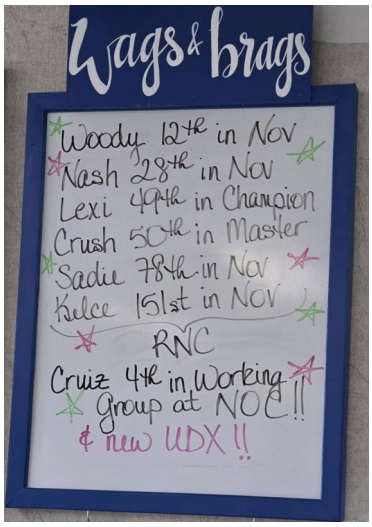
Friday Night Training will be available on August 21 & 28; September 11 & 18; and October 2, 16, 23, & 30.

30 min. slots are available in each ring, $10/slot for non-members, free for MOTC members. To view availabilities and how to reserve a slot go to

muncieobediencetrainingclub.blogspot.com

BRAGS & WAGS





Our 2026 Rally National Championship MOTC Exhibitors

Breanna Collins & Nash, Collie, competed at the 2026 Rally National Championship in the Rally Novice class earning 28th out of 62 entrants with scores of 100, 98, and 95.

Stephanie Woodson & Cruiz, Rottweiler, competed at the 2026 National Obedience Championship and earned 4th place in the Working group. Cruiz also finished his UDX at the Evansville Obedience Training Club Trial.

Rick Dalessandro's Cider, Labrador Retriever, got her second Open Obedience leg with a 1st place at Gem City's trial and at our June Scent work trial completed her Scent Work Advanced Container, Advanced Buried, and Advanced Interior titles. Rick's Callie, Labrador Retriever, finished her Scent Work Master Interior title and Scent Work Master title at our June Scent Work trial and is now ready for Detective class.

Jo Grieger's Elijah, Belgian Malinois, passed the AKC Canine Good Citizen test and earned his Trick Dog Novice title. earned his Canine Good Citizen and Novice Trick Dog titles. He also earned his first Utility leg at our April Obedience trials with 1st place and got 1st in Open B. He also got his first Utility leg at our April Obedience trial and then won the Open B class on day 3. Jo thanks the MOTC CGC evaluators, Bob Janek, and the Wednesday morning training class. "I also wanted to say that earning my first Utility leg under Mary (Janek) at our last Obedience trial –was a very special moment for me. A moment I will always remember."

From Kim Horn Janek: "Early on, Bob Janek picked the Green puppy out of their July, 2023 Borzoi "If" litter. Named Karitonova No Ifs Ands Or Buts, "Vera" showed potential right from the start. A sighthound is not a typical Obedience prospect but with proper preparation and consistent training, Bob and "Vera" started their trialing in the Fall of 2024. The first few trials were a little rough but once Team "Vera" got it all together, the CD title came easily. Bob and "Vera" finished out 2025 and their Novice career by going High In Trial, being the Top AKC Novice Hound in the country, as well as the Top Borzoi in the Midwest Borzoi Club and #2 Borzoi in the Borzoi Club of America. Training now for Open, and because of Bob having multiple OTCH's, he must compete in Open B. It's a learning curve for a green dog but they are showing much promise as they navigate the Open B class. Vera is an enthusiastic retriever, a precise heeler and is fun to watch!"



To the left, Bob Janek & Vera accept High In Trial at MOTC

To the right, Cider with her ribbons for SCA, SIA, & SBA





To the left, Nash gets a souvenir photo at RNC

To the right, Callie with her hard earned Scent work SIM and SWM title ribbons





Jo Grieger & Elijah at MOTC April trials

To the left, first Utility leg & 1st place

To the right, 1st place in Open B



MUNCIE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

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 encourage humane treatment of 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.

