Yips & Quips

Muncie Obedience Training Club Newsletter Vol. 33 Issue 4

Closing out MOTC's 80th Year

On September 16, 2026, the Muncie Obedience Training Club officially turned 80. When the club began it was a group of people getting life back to normal after World War II, a life that included dogs and the still relatively new sport of Obedience. It continued through the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Gulf War, 9/11, the Afghanistan War, the Great Recession, the Covid-19 epidemic, and multiple changes in the sport of Obedience and the addition of new dog sports. It continued through various training locations and finally settled in a place of its own. It has remained supportive of the sport of Obedience embracing also Rally, Scent Work, FastCAT, and Agility for a time. It has gone from offering one Obedience trial a year to six, as well as six Rally trials, six Scent Work trials, and four FastCat trials. It has gone from offering classes and training opportunities once or twice a week to seven days a week. It has passed from the 20th century into the 21st century. Here's a tip of the hat to those who came before us and to current and future members who keep us going.

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A Message from the President

Chris Ashmore-Good

As we head into the final months of the year, I want to remind everyone about the importance of volunteering and helping keep our club moving forward. Our final trial of the year is here, and it is our last big opportunity to earn volunteer hours for 2026. Remember, each member is required to volunteer for **8 hours in support of a trial** as part of the **15-hour yearly volunteer requirement**. If you were unable to get scheduled for these last few trials, we have plenty more coming in the spring.

We still have a few projects where an extra set or two of hands would make a big difference. We could use some help filling the holes at the entrance to the parking lot. If you have experience with this type of work, please contact any board member. We could also use volunteers with a weed eater or edger to clean up the weeds around our potty areas. These projects absolutely count toward your volunteer hours!

We're also always looking for people willing to teach or assist with our public classes. We offer a 6-week Puppy Class covering basic manners and commands, as well as an 8-week Basic Obedience Class that prepares teams for the Canine Good Citizen test. There are some nice perks, too! Instructors earn one free trial entry for each full class session taught, or one free class for every two full sessions taught. We would especially love to have some daytime instructors, as most of our classes currently take place in the evenings. If you're interested in teaching or helping, please contact Mary Janek at **m.janek@aol.com**.

As classes wind down for the holidays, we'll also be looking for members willing to open the building for Open Training Sessions. This is an easy way to earn volunteer hours while getting some extra training time with your own dogs!

One other thing: I'd really appreciate some feedback about the process of finding and completing volunteer hours. Is it easy? Is something confusing or inconvenient? Are there opportunities you'd like to see offered? We want volunteering to be as straightforward and enjoyable as possible, so please share your thoughts.

Our club exists because of its members, their generosity, and their love of dogs. Every contribution, whether it's an hour at a trial, helping with a class, tackling a maintenance project, or simply opening the building for fellow members, makes a difference. If you see something that needs doing or have an idea for another way to help, please reach out to me or another board member.

Thank you for everything you do to make our club a great place for dogs and the people who love them. I appreciate you all!

Editorial

ICAN

BK Grice

Every year on Columbus Day or Veterans Day my employer pulls us all together at Fort Wayne Convention Center for Learning Day. This is a chance for us to meet people we may only have interacted with virtually, improve our knowledge about aspects of our jobs, share some laughs, and remind us of our company mission and values. Usually there is also an area non-profit highlighted that receives a donation. This year that organization was ICAN, Indiana Canine Assistance Network. They had a table with handouts and four handler/dog teams that worked the table in shifts throughout the day. It was very popular. As I watched the handlers working with the dogs and demonstrating skills some things looked very similar to how I work my own dogs, so I introduced myself and asked about their training; yes, they use operant conditioning with a bias to positive reinforcement using verbal markers or clickers.

ICAN is the only accredited service dog organization in Indiana. They renew their accreditation with Assistance Dogs International every five years. Puppies are placed in correctional facilities with chosen inmates who care for, train, and socialize them. Later they receive more advanced training with ICAN trainers who prepare them to be Psychiatric Assistance dogs for military veterans, Mobility Assistance dogs, Facility Dogs, or In-Home Skilled Companions. Information on ICAN and how to make a donation can be found at icandog.org and they also have a Facebook page.

Fundamentals of Urban Tracking Seminar

Garnet McConnell



Garnet (Meyer) McConnell and Jazz, German Shepherd, attended a Fundamentals of Urban Tracking Seminar in Bowling Green OH October 2-3 conducted by AKC Tracking judge Mike Roehrs and George Sype. Either Tracking Dog (TD) or Tracking Dog Urban (TDU) is the first AKC test after certification. Ten working teams participated in this seminar.

First day consisted of discussion of the theory of Urban Tracking and participation in several training games. Second day each team ran two tracks with the other teams following and listening to feedback: the good, the bad, and the ugly. Each team left knowing areas that needed work and how to improve their training. Good seminar.

Thank You, Trial Volunteers!

Our club runs on volunteer power! First, thank you to all our volunteers who cleaned up the outside of our building by pulling weeds, pruning shrubs, and picking up trash. Also, we want to thank each of you who volunteered for our Obedience trials this October:

Rick Dalessandro	Kim Janek	Sandy Durham
Amy Terrell	Jan Alspach	Tammy Newsome
Debbie Cutter	Chikage Castle	Sabrina Prim
Stephanie Woodson	Joanne Grieger	Kendra Ervin
Nancy Knox	Jane Stangel	Mary Janek
Tracy Blackford	Gayle Fahl	Barbra Riley

Wonderful Volunteers for Scent trial

Mary-Kay Schroeder

I'm not sure how much most of our members know about the Scent committee and the trials we run. We hold trials 3 weekends a year and it’s a small committee that actively does most of the work. The current committee is made up of Rick Dalessandro, Audrey Muhlenkamp, Susy Hasecoster, Chris Bragg, Krista Rhoades, Vicki Willmann and myself.

This past weekend’s trial was a huge success and what helped us was how many club members not entered that stepped up to volunteer one or both days. I want to personally thank the following people, Monte Hitchcock, Bob and Kim Janek, Nancy Jenkins, Nancy Knox, Jackie Powers, Sue Roscoe, Laura Beth Waldrep, Garnet Meyer, Jane Stangel and Chris Bragg's husband Dave, who brings his trailer and helps us load up on Friday and then unload on Sunday.

I hope I didn't miss anyone!!! These scent trials are big money makers for our club. This past weekend we cleared $12,000- $13,000. Final numbers are not in yet. MOTC scent trials are very well known, and they fill with entries within 2 days of when they open.

We need your help to let us continue to offer well run trials. We need people at the trials, but we also need people on Friday before to help us load the trailer and then even more important we need people to meet at the building on Sunday when we return with the trailer to unload. Believe me, those of us that have worked all day are exhausted, and we did load the trailer to come back. If a few people can meet us there to unload that would be a big help.

So please when I send an email looking for volunteers for the 2027 scent trials, consider helping in one of those ways. It will help YOUR club.

Wags & Brags

Chris Ashmore-Good and Lexi, Great Dane, traveled to Kingsport TN at the end of October for the Great Dane National Invitational. Lexi was invited as a Top 10 dog in Master, Excellent, and Advanced Rally classes. Lexi finished her Rally Championship and RAE3 on the first day, then won High Combined on the second day with a score of 199. At the following awards dinner they discovered that they had won both the Master and Excellent Championships. A very successful National!

Rick Dalesssandro's Cider, Labrador Retriever, finished her Companion Dog Excellent title at Queen City at the age of 1 year 8 months; she is already ready for Utility. At our October Scent Work trials, she completed her Excellent Interior title with 2 placements. Rick is proud of his little girl.

Mary-Kay Schroeder's Meme, Portuguese Water Dog, aka Ch. Bayswater's It wasn't Me, finished her Elite Containers level and overall Scent Work Master title.

Jan Alspach's Bosco, Labrador Retriever, passed the Canine Good Citizen test and got his Trick Dog Novice title in May, earned his Rally Novice title in August, and got his Beginner Novice Obedience title in October, with 6 placements!

Sabrina Prim's Woody, Pumi, attended Pumifest in Colorado Springs CO in September. At the national after a rocky start Woody pulled it together to qualify for a run off for HIT which he unfortunately lost to an OTCH dog. Woody also took first in Rally Intermediate at both national trials and was Winners Dog for his first major! He also passed both herding instinct tests making me a Versatile Pumi!

Bobbi Siccardi's Buzz, Belgian Sheepdog, took a break from Obedience to finish his Rally Advanced title with perfect 100s at the Dayton DTC trials.

Mary Janek's Crush, Miniature Schnauzer, started his RACH journey January 3rd, 2026, at the Dayton DTC's trial and finished his RACH at Dayton DTC October 16th, 2026. "I'm very proud of this little dog who has given me everything he has and enjoying our time in the ring." AKC's mid-year stats show Crush as the #1 Miniature Schnauzer and #2 Terrier in Rally Master, Excellent, and Advanced.

Calendar

Board Meeting Nov. 22 11:30 am
Friday Night Training Nov. 20 6:30 pm
Member Meeting Dec. 12 2 pm Carry-In, training
Friday Night Training Dec. 4, 11, 18 6:30 pm
Feb. Newsletter Deadline Jan. 31





Chris & Lexi getting HC and RACH awards



Chris with Championships ribbons



Cider w/Scent Work bling



Meme & Mary-Kay w/Master and Elite title ribbons



Woody in Colorado



Jan & Bosco CGC



Jan & Bosco Beginner Novice



Jan & Bosco Rally Novice

MOTC

MUNCIE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB

Muncie Obedience Training Club is a 501c3 non-profit membership organization that has been part of the Muncie and Delaware County communities for over 80 years.

Our mission is to teach responsible dog ownership including care and training, encourage participation in amateur canine companion sports such as Obedience, Rally, and Scent Work, and to encourage the 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.

