MOTC

Yips & Quips

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Muncie Obedience Training Club

NEW JUMP STORAGE FOR MOTC



Last summer the American Kennel Club began requiring that the Obedience and Rally high jumps be changed from a solid wall-like structure to a displaceable board one. As MOTC began using the new panel style jump it became clear that storing the panels as we had the old jump boards was not going to work. The panels were not as sturdy as the old boards. For several years the jumps had been placed ringside, leaning against walls and columns, and sometimes knocked over. To the rescue: Bob Janek and Rick Dalessandro. Bob and Rick installed a rack system in the south ring alongside the kitchen door where broad jump boards can be stacked flat, jump panels can be easily hung, and the bar can be safely placed. Another rack for the second jump set was installed on the wall just outside the north ring. The first time it was tested in a trial was the April Obedience trials and it was a success! Thank you Bob and Rick!

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Meet the Candidates

In anticipation of the June elections for the next Board of Directors, each candidate has submitted a little about themselves and what they'd like to achieve if elected to serve on the next board.

Kim Janek

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the MOTC Board. I would like to provide a brief history of my MOTC experience. I have been a MOTC member since the club was located on N Walnut. Those early years were difficult, often we did not know how we were going to pay the rent. I served as the MOTC Secretary for two terms, tracked member Volunteer hours for two years and then took over as Trial Secretary for eight years. During that time, we hosted two AKC Obedience Regional Events and doubled the number of Obedience and Rally Trials we offered yearly. I was part of the "rebirth of Muncie Obedience" when I helped locate the 214 E Centennial property and worked on the move-in remodel. I have also been involved in Barn Hunt, the early beginnings of Scent Work and Fast CAT.

I am very proud of the renovations we have made to the clubhouse and want to continue to be a part of future improvements. I will encourage the various venues to work together to improve communication and provide timely financial reconciliations. We have at least one more large expense coming up regarding the parking lot and it is of utmost importance that we maximize our profits.

My last area of concern is not only the recruitment of new members but urging them to remain involved in our activities. These include attendance at quarterly Membership meetings, stewarding for the various venues and assisting with classes.

Rick Dalessandro

I think I have served on the Board of Directors for the Club since 2013, the last five years as treasurer. During that time, we have accomplished a great deal, including purchasing our building and totally remodeling it inside and out. Although that was a major accomplishment, there is still much more to do. An ongoing issue that we still need to work on is member participation when it comes to volunteering.

I think we should form a Volunteer Committee whose function would be to keep a list of what members say they are interested in doing for the club and then contacting them when the opportunity arises. Although we have recently added scent classes, it would be nice if we could still offer more classes of various types. Again, offering more classes depends on finding volunteers to teach them. One more thing I'd like to see us tackle in the near future is resurfacing the parking lot. As I am typing this, we are currently waiting to get an estimate back from a contractor. We need to start setting money aside so this project can be completed before too long.

Kendra Ervin

My name is Kendra Ervin, and I am asking for your vote for a position on the MOTC Board of Directors. In 2022 I brought my Labrador Retriever to MOTC for an obedience class. That was when I learned that MOTC offered much more than basic dog training. I then became a member in July of 2022 and began my journey. Since then, I have met many wonderful people at MOTC. I have participated in Scent Work, Rally, and Fast-CAT trials, and have placed several titles on my dogs. Currently, I teach our public classes, S.T.A.R. Puppy and Basic Obedience, on Saturday mornings. I have also held the Director of Family Pet Training position from April 2024 - March 2026, organized our booth and demonstration at Grateful Fest in August of 2024, and organized the 2025 Awards Banquet.

In the past several years there have been some wonderful changes made to help take MOTC into the future and I would like to help keep MOTC on that path. The updated website, digital payments, and Facebook communication all speak to the next generations. I would like to continue to explore ways to use technology to help MOTC function efficiently and cost effectively. There are many free options available such as Canva which I have used to make Facebook post advertising classes and seminars for the Club. I would also like to explore ways to bring in more members to the Club. Specifically, younger members. I know this is a topic that has been brought up in the past. However, just because an answer was not found at that time does not mean we need to drop the issue. New, younger members will be the future of this Club. This year MOTC celebrates its 80th year. Cheers to another 80 years. Thank you in advance for your vote.

Jeann Crowcroft

I am a retired school teacher. I have been a member of MOTC since last century. I have titled two dogs. I currently have one Shi tzu (work in progress). I have served in every position on the board. I am a CGC evaluator. I have been an instructor or assistant for puppy class and basic obedience classes. I have been trial chairperson and stewarded at many trials.

My vision of our club is to be a cohesive group of people who love dogs and want to be a part of an organization that works for the betterment of all dogs and dog sports.

I'm running for the Board of Directors of the Muncie Obedience Training Club because I care deeply about the future of our club and the people who make it special. I have previously served on the Board as both the Corresponding Secretary and Vice President, and those experiences gave me a strong understanding of how much work and dedication it takes to help the club grow and succeed. During my time on the Board, I was part of the team that updated our website and helped the club begin accepting online payments for classes. Those changes have made things more convenient and accessible for our members and students, and I would like to continue building on that progress.

Moving forward, I would love to see us expand our online services even more by allowing online registrations and payments for trials and events. I also think we should explore more ways to advertise our public classes and bring new people into the club. As a 501(c)(3) organization, there may be opportunities for free or reduced-cost advertising that we have not fully explored yet. Increasing awareness of our classes could help us grow membership, strengthen participation, and introduce more people to the dog sports and training activities we all enjoy.

Even more important to me, however, is the idea of truly becoming a club again. A club is defined as "an organization of people with a common purpose or interest, who meet regularly to take part in shared activities." We all share a love of training dogs and striving to improve in the sports and activities that interest us. We should be supporting each other more, encouraging each other's successes, and creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and included. Too often, it feels like certain groups stay separated from others, and we continue canceling the fun social get-togethers that help people connect outside of training.

I want to help change that. I believe our club should not only be a place to train dogs, but also a place where friendships are built and members genuinely enjoy spending time together. We need those fun get-togethers, whether they are simple social gatherings, celebrations after trials, or group activities that bring members together. A stronger sense of community will make our club more enjoyable, more welcoming, and ultimately more successful. I would be honored to serve on the Board again and work alongside all of you to continue improving our club for both current and future members.

Michael Wiggin

My background in the dog world is as follows: Certified Dog Trainer, Certified Dog Behaviorist, Board Member, Head Dog Instructor, dog instructor at MOTC, own a dog magazine and paper, (45,000 readers), compete in dog sports, clicker trainer, former member of APDT International (Association of Professional Dog Trainers), speaker at many AKC events.

Looking forward to serving members this coming year at MOTC

Brenda Grice

I joined MOTC 32 years ago with my first purebred dog because I wanted to get into the sport of Obedience after training my family mixed breeds for several years. I volunteered to assist and instruct beginner classes shortly thereafter. Since then I've taught Rally, transition to Obedience, CGC, and other classes. I served on the board several times over the years as vice president, treasurer, recording and corresponding secretary, and various directors of training (just training, family pet, & Obedience/Rally). I have been a CGC evaluator for many years. I train and show in Obedience, Rally, & Scent Work with titles in each of those sports and did a little Agility years ago.

A large part of our purpose involves holding training classes but scheduling, publicizing, and signing up for classes varies. Some classes start and end dates are available on the website, others only get posted on Facebook, some are posted at the clubhouse but not all. Some classes sign up through the website and can pay there, others you contact the instructor and pay the first night of class, and others you just show up and pay the first time you show up. I'd like to see some conformity, we all belong to the same club, right? I'd also like us to get a better handle on handling volunteering and membership.

Steve Sneed

I was born and raised in Muncie. He earned both his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology/Sociology and his master's degree in Sociology from Ball State University, before receiving his Juris Doctor from Ohio Northern University.

Following law school, Steve joined the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, where he served for 11 years. He currently serves as Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Blackford County. Over the course of his legal career, Steve has built a strong reputation as a trial attorney, prosecuting hundreds of criminal cases and conducting more than 40 jury trials.

Outside the courtroom, Steve has maintained a lifelong passion for dogs. That passion deepened in 2002 when he acquired his first bulldog and began attending obedience classes with renowned trainer Velma Janek. Since then, Steve has bred and shown bulldogs — including his first champion, Honey Boo Boo — as well as miniature poodles, French bulldogs, and Dobermans. He is currently focused on training his Doberman toward working titles in competitive dog sports. Steve Sneed sees MOTC as the perfect resource to help achieve his training and competitive goals, and he is eager to join and work alongside fellow members of the club as he continues striving for success.

Mary-Kay Shroeder

I have been a member of MOTC for about 14 years. During that time I have assisted in training classes, been chief ring steward for many trials, and served on the Board of Directors.

I show my dogs in several venues and appreciate having MOTC as a place to train them. We are lucky to have our building and as the saying goes, it takes a village to keep it running.

While I was president of MOTC, we made several improvements to our building which I am proud to have been a part of. We put on an addition to help with storage space, acquired matting for the floors, improved the potty area and added a larger potty area We had the front entrance wall fixed and we had the epoxy flooring added to the seating area and hall.

I am currently the Director for scent work for our club. Scent work h as become the most popular venue for AKC, and is helping to pay many bills for MOTC. We currently hold 3 scent work trial weekends a year, which takes many workers and lots of planning. I have brought a new instructor to the club to help bring in more interest and add new people to the sport.

I do think we can improve on communication in the club, and I would hope to help get that done. I think we need to improve how we welcome new members and work to get them more involved with club events.

Chris Ashmore-Good

I'm running for the Board of Directors of the Muncie Obedience Training Club because I care deeply about the future of our club and the people who make it special. I have previously served on the Board as both the Corresponding Secretary and Vice President, and those experiences gave me a strong understanding of how much work and dedication it takes to help the club grow and succeed. During my time on the Board, I was part of the team that updated our website and helped the club begin accepting online payments for classes. Those changes made things more convenient and accessible for our members and students, and I would like to continue building on that progress.

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BRAGS & WAGS

Rick Dalessandro's Cider, Labrador Retriever, got her first Open leg and a first place at our April trials. Rick says he's very proud of this little girl!

Bobbi Siccardi and Mary Janek's crew has a great first quarter with their dogs. In January at the Dayton DTC both Surge, Belgian Malinois, and Crush, Miniature Schnauzer go their first Rally triple Qs. At the Hoosier KC Axel, Belgian Sheepdog, debuted in the show ring taking best of winners and a 3 pt major. In February at Hamilton OH Quest, Standard Poodle, finished Preferred Novice Obedience with High Scoring Preferred in Trial. In March at Queen City DTC Buzz, Belgian Sheepdog, earned his second CDX leg, Crush got a third Rally triple Q, and Surge got his second Rally triple Q. At the Louisville cluster Belgian Sheepdog regionals Axel, Belgian Sheepdog showed well, Cheers took Reserve Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex finishing the Champion title. On Saturday under judge K Berns Axel and Cheers won their classes while Flirt moved up to Champion class, won Best of Opposite Sex, and took a 5 pt major toward grand championship. At our April Obedience trials Mary handled Buzz for an ailing Bobbi finishing his CDX with a 2nd place.



Rick and Cider pick up her blue ribbon

Thank you to everyone who helped make our spring Scent Work, Obedience, and FastCAT trials a success!

MOTC CALENDAR

- Competition Obedience Wednesdays 9 am-12 pm
- Competition Obedience Tuesdays 6:30-8 pm
- Conformation Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm
- Training Seminar, Bobbi Siccardi & Mary Janek 5/13 6:30 pm
- Friday Night Training 5/29 6:30-9 pm
- S.T.A.R. Puppy begins 6/1 6:30 pm
- Basic Obedience begins 6/1 7:45 pm
- Friday Night Training 6:30-9 pm June 5, 12, 19, 26
- Members' Meeting, elections 6/13 1 pm
- Rally Classes begin 6/18 5:30 pm
- Training Seminar, Bobbi Siccardi & Mary Janek 6/27 10 am
- Scent Work Trial 6/20-21
- S.T.A.R. Puppy begins 8/10 6:30 pm
- Basic Obedience begins 8/10 7:45 pm

HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jeann Crowcroft, president gjcrowcroft@aol.com
- Jo Grieger, vice president kagandjag@gmail.com
- Brenda Grice, recording secretary tincricket@gmail.com
- Mike Wiggin, corresponding secretary charliescoasters@gmail.com
- Rick Dalessandro, treasurer ardalessandro@aol.com

Welcome to our newest MOTC members

Ronda Stewart-Lee

Susan Armstrong

Jan Alspach

Chloe James

Sandy Durham

Toni Vinson

Jessica Pardo

Debbie Cutter

Beverly Widmeyer

Breanna Collins

Judy Bruch

Steve Sneed

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.

