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# THE SCOOPER



Mark Your Calendar  
OBEDIENCE AND RALLY TRIALS  
**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

May 23 and May 24

Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center

Entries close on Wednesday, May 6 at 12 PM

## PRE-TRIAL

C Match Run-Thrus Friday, May 22 5 - 8 PM

Pre-Registration deadline is May 19

## FREE PARKING

***As Tracy Hanna says, "Many hands make light work."***

**Many hands will be needed on Friday, May 22 for setting up the rings. Set-up begins at 1:00 so that the rings will be ready to go for the C-Match Run - Thrus, scheduled to begin at 5:00. Please refer to the Premium List for more information at:**

[www.miamiobedienceclub.org](http://www.miamiobedienceclub.org)

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**As the Obedience and Rally Trials** near, it's not too late to make donations, and volunteer.

**Ginny Guin** will be hosting the breakfast and lunch meals for the 5 Judges. If you plan on donating either food or money to purchase food, Ginny would appreciate knowing by MAY 15. Breakfast food offerings should be at the show site by 7:00 AM. Lunch foods should be on site by 11:00 AM. Volunteers will be welcomed for set-up and for picking up food for lunch.

**Debra Willey** is accepting money donations for class winners.

**Trina Chicvara** is accepting new toys for all Novice teams.

**Janet Perales** welcomes donations for her very unique raffle baskets.

The Handler/Dog Teams have trained hard to get to where they are in order to enter the trials. Come on out to the Fair Expo Center to support MOC, your friends, and the pups. **ADMISSION is FREE. PARKING is FREE.**

*ALL THE BEST TO EACH AND EVERY TEAM. HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, no matter how big or how small.*

## AGILITY SURVEY RESULTS

After the March Agility Trial, MOC sent a questionnaire to all exhibitors in order to get some overall feedback on how our agility trials are doing, as well as to solicit opinions on some specific topics of interest. Of the 138 exhibitors solicited, 63 responded. The views of those who responded do not necessarily represent the views of all exhibitors. Statistically speaking, there is a 99% chance that the survey results have an error rate of plus or minus 12 percentage points. However, they do provide us with some degree of insight. Overall, we received high marks. Over 95% of the survey participants rated the March Agility Trial as excellent or very good and almost 89% said that the Trial ran very smoothly.

As a part of the survey, exhibitors were given the opportunity to provide comments and almost 200 comments were received. Most of the comments were either positive or constructive. Some were not. We only have space to post a few of the comments here, but all of the comments will provide helpful feedback for those MOC Members who are responsible for planning and running future agility trials. The overall survey results are set forth below.

1. Overall, how would you rate Miami Obedience Club March Agility Trial?	Excellent	66.32%
	Very good	34.92%
	Fairly good	4.76%
	Not good at all	0.00%
2. How smoothly do you think the trial ran?	Very smooth	88.89%
	Somewhat smooth	11.11%
	Not smooth at all	0.00%

“The trial was well run, excellent judges and things went smoothly. Not sure how it could be better.”

(continued on page 4)

3. What is your preference of classes offered on Thursday for future trials?	T2B, All levels of FAST, Excellent/Masters Standard and JWW - 1 Judge	39.66%
	Standard and JWW only, all levels - 1 Judge	18.97%
	T2B, All levels FAST, Standard and JWW - 2 Judges	41.38%
4. Do you prefer to have an entrance/exit chute outside the ring in addition to the ring gates?	Yes	61.29%
	No	38.71%
	10 Comments received	
5. Do you think the fans should be turned on at the start of the trial each day?	Yes	83.05%
	No	16.95%
"Of course, this depends on the humidity and temperature."	25 Comments received	

(continued on page 5)

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| 6. How would you rate the food vendor at the March Agility trial?  | Excellent  | 77.59% |
|  | Very good  | 18.97% |
|  | Fairly good  | 1.72%  |
| 7. How could future MOC Agility trials be improved?  | 30 Comments received   |        |
| 8. If the MOC March Agility Trials was moved to the 3rd week in April for 2016, how likely is it that you would attend?  | Very likely  | 37.10% |
|  | Somewhat Likely  | 22.50% |
|  | Probably not   | 40.32% |
|  | 33 Comments received   |        |
| 9. What did you like about the trial?  | 52 Comments received   |        |
| “Great footing, excellent equipment, great facility, great job on manning the trial and keeping things smooth by the club! The food vendor was Spectacular!!!” | “Judges were friendly, professional and efficient. MOC volunteers worked very hard and kept it moving. Trial secretary is the best.” |        |
| “Well organized - good job by all”   | Friendship. This is one of my favorite trials. I think the club does a great job.  |        |
| 10. What did you dislike about the trial?  | 42 Comments received   |        |
| “It ended.”  |  |        |
| The Scooper would like to acknowledge the time and effort that Patti Lieb put into making the survey happen. Thanks Patti.                                     |  |        |



## SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT...

### THE OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIAL RAFFLE

When May rolls around, Janet Perales' spare bedroom starts to get cluttered. The same thing happens over at Jill Sidran's house! It's not that they are packrats. It's just that, well, raffle items need to be stored *somewhere*!

Since 2013, Janet has volunteered to be the coordinator of the raffles for MOC's Obedience /Rally Trials. It's a major production. The process starts in late March when Janet sends out a letter asking for raffle donations. This letter is sent to local businesses, friends and anyone else who might be sympathetic. Janet then follows up with lots of phone calls and in person solicitations. As donations become available, she goes around town to collect the items. She also gets donations at the Monday night Obedience Training classes. Naturally, all kinds of items start to accumulate at home.

Janet welcomes all types of donations, from the obvious, such as dog treats,

toys and training equipment, to the not so obvious, such as gardening tools, movie tickets and wine. She ends up with quite a diverse collection of items, and that's where the fun begins.

One week before the trial, a group of friends gather in Janet's living room to assemble the raffle baskets. Janet provides the refreshments, and rumor has it that there's a good amount of wine involved! The team sorts through the assorted donated items and they use their imaginations to group items together to assemble baskets that are designed to appeal to a variety of interests. There is an art to putting together the right mix of items but there are no rules. A basket's theme might be based on color, pet size, specialized interest or pure whimsey. You just never know. Then the assembled items are wrapped in beautiful decorative baskets. The gathering involves a lot of fun, a lot of talk and a lot of companionship over the course of a

(continued on page 7)

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## SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT...

(continued from page 6)

couple of hours. The result is somewhere between 25 and 30 wonderful baskets of goodies available for the trial's Raffle Table. Imagine what Janet's house looks like once the baskets are all assembled!

The next step is to get the baskets to the trial site the day before the trial. With so many baskets to transport, Janet has to make multiple trips. It's a huge effort to move that many baskets from home to the raffle table but Janet gets it done.

Janet isn't the only one bringing baskets to the trial. Others bring their own baskets and other items directly to the trial to be added to the raffle table. Janet organizes everything for the raffle before the trials begin.

Then comes the raffle itself. Raffle participants get the chance to examine the various offerings and decide what they are interested in. Once tickets are purchased, they are placed in containers that are in front of each basket. At noon on the last day of the trial, Janet enlists Varela students to pick the winning tickets and she announces the winners. Janet tries to make sure that all the baskets are claimed so nothing is left behind. Last year, all baskets were claimed.

It is very expensive to host a trial at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds Expo Center, and the raffle proceeds go a long way toward covering that expense. The raffle was successful the first year that Janet ran it, and raffle proceeds doubled last year. Donations have been coming in at a slower pace so far this year, but Janet

(continued on page 8)

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Any type of donation can be included in a raffle basket and need not be limited to dog related items. This is a great opportunity to clear your storage spaces of those items that you really aren't going to use or to pass on those gift cards that will just sit around gathering dust. Janet is always on the lookout for baskets, so if you have any extras, you know what to do. The assembly gathering sounds like it would be loads of fun to join. Also, if you are around when Janet is unloading the baskets and organizing the raffle table, we're pretty sure that she would welcome some extra hands.

Janet can be reached by e-mail at:

[janet.perales@gmail.com](mailto:janet.perales@gmail.com)

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## SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT...

(continued from page 7)

is hoping that things will pick up.

The amount of time and effort that Janet puts into the success of the Obedience/ Rally Trial raffle is truly amazing. Even more amazing is the fact that Janet is not even an MOC member. Because of a conflict with her job schedule, Janet is not able to attend Wednesday evening Club meetings to meet the membership eligibility requirements. Janet simply wants to support MOC and what it stands for so she volunteered to run the raffle as a way to support the Club. We really cannot thank Janet enough.



Janet and Ben

MOC's Members (and friends!) come from many different backgrounds. They have a variety of interests and a wealth of experiences. In other words, they are downright interesting. If you are an MOC Member and would like to share something about yourself that is not widely known, or if you know something about another MOC Member that you think ought to be shared, please let The Scooper know by contacting us at [mocscooper@aol.com](mailto:mocscooper@aol.com). Don't worry. Nothing will be published in this column without the permission of the person who is being written about.

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## WE REMEMBER

### MIA

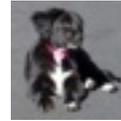
12/25/1998 - 4/9/2015



“Mia came into our lives as a 9 month old stray in September 1999. She was so smart and willing and fun to train. She was a great agility partner and a joy to run. She was my best Snooker and Jumpers girl. She was happy to do anything with me and we also did Canine Freestyle, obedience and rally. We walked thousands of miles together and spent many hours cuddling. We had a great journey together and I will miss my beautiful blonde girl, her irresistible soft fur, smiling eyes, perfect ears and almost non-stop wagging tail. Rest in peace, Mia.” Debbie Willey

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## CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

Somebody recently called my dog a performance dog. I liked the name but I wasn't sure that I knew exactly what it meant. So I googled the term "performance dog" to find a definition. My search gave me loads of sites for dog training facilities, dog food and dog equipment. I even found a site that would allow me to register my performance dog with something called the United Kennel Club. But I couldn't find a straightforward definition. Next I turned to Wikipedia, the internet compendium of human knowledge. Wikipedia has no results for the term "performance dog". This left me entirely on my own to reflect on what it means to be a performance dog.

We all have our preferred activities with our dogs. For many people, basic interactions around the house suffice. Some like to play tugging and fetching and chasing games. Others like to take their dogs for walks around the neighborhood or trips to the dog park. These are all wonderful activities but I don't think that they fall into the performance dog category.

There are many activities that do take our dogs into performance dog territory. Obedience, rally, agility, tracking, frisbee, fly ball, dock diving, barn hunting - the list goes on. We humans have created and organized these activities into competitive events that give us the opportunity to test and display our dog's abilities and our training prowess. These activities provide challenges to both our dogs and ourselves. They require us to spend a lot of time with our dogs engaged in the training process. When we choose to engage our dogs in one or more of these activities we are giving them a job to do and giving them the opportunity to work for us. We are turning our dogs into performance dogs.

When we turn our dogs into performance dogs, we are giving them a gift. A gift that goes beyond the basic care and feeding and sheltering that we provide to a pet. A gift that goes beyond the attention and affection and exercise that we provide to an animal companion. A gift that goes beyond the ribbons and titles that lay in waiting down the road. We are giving them the gift of a job, a sense of purpose. Moreover we are giving them the gift of our focus and attention and of the deeper bond

(continued on page 11)

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(continued from page 10)

between handler and dog that is sure to follow.

Now that I have thought about it, I'm going to go back to that person who called my dog a performance dog and thank them for the compliment.

**The Annual Awards Banquet and  
Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM**

SOUTH GARDEN CHINESE  
RESTAURANT

10855 SW 72 ST

305-274-9099



## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to Members  
born in May:

Diane Cort  
Dave Proe  
Lynn Proe  
Denise Thompson



MOC Welcomed

Shari Griffith  
as a  
guest at the April Meeting

### *WHO TRIALS AND WHY?*

Barbara Ilardi sent in the following link to an article about who trials and why they do so. Take a peak and see if it describes someone you know!

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/canine-corner/201503/who-participates-in-dog-sporting-events-and-why>

### A WORD ABOUT THE SCOOPER

Please feel free to contact The Scooper with any comments or suggestions. If you have anything that you would like to include in a future edition, please let The Scooper know. You need not do the writing yourself. Just send in the information and The Scooper will take it from there.

The Scooper can be reached by e-mail at  
[mocscooper@aol.com](mailto:mocscooper@aol.com)

Please include your name and contact information.

Thank you for reading The Scooper.