
THE SCOOPER



2015 OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIALS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDE

MOC's 2015 Obedience/Rally Trials were held at the Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center over the Memorial Day weekend. These are the premiere obedience and rally trials in the Miami area and by all accounts were a well-staged success. Our thanks go out to Trial Chair Jill Sidran and her entire team. Please see the following reports from Jill, Debbie Willey and Debbie Russell.

A Note from Trial Chair Jill Sidron

WOW! What a weekend! Everyone there agreed the trials were great. They ran on time, the judges were great - encouraging and efficient - members all pitched in as needed, and the air conditioning was fabulous!

They say "It takes a village..." and that was certainly true last weekend. Thank you to everyone who helped make the shows go so well.

The weekend started with Debbie Russell laying out the outline of the rings on Thursday, ably helped by Phil Sidran. I was sleeping, laid flat by a horrendous cold. Debbie also organized the Varela kids and assigned stewards to the rings. Thank you Debbie for doing such an outstanding job!

(continued on page 2)

A Note from Trial Chair Jill Sidron

(continued from page 1)

Carol Clark moved the obedience trailer to our site Thursday and took it back on Sunday. She had also inventoried and organized the equipment so everything was in the right places at the right times. Thank you, Carol!

Cecilia , our match chair, organized the match and it went very well. Thank you Cecilia.

Our judges, Jeff Kern, Nancy Watson, David and Celeste Maurer bonded and were terrific. Laurie Zisman sent welcome snacks to the judges' hotel room. She also sent two of her employees over on Friday and on Sunday to handle the mats, AND took the judges to South Garden for dinner on Saturday night. They reported that they had a great time. Thank you Laurie!

Trina did an awesome job as always making sure the ribbons were just right. Thanks, Trina!

Debbie Willey collected all the money donated for awards and made sure it all went to the right people. Thank you Debbie, and thanks to all of you members who donated money for awards.

Ginny organized the food and made sure everyone had great breakfasts and lunches, especially the terrific chocolate brownies and the bok choy salad.

Thanks to Janet Perales, who did an outstanding job as always with the raffle. She also had the Pet Emergency Vets give away water and free insulated folding water bowls for our dogs.

Our trial secretary, Bev Skilling, was terrific. This was her first time as our secretary and she was quietly awesome.

Thanks also to people who gave us toys for our novice obedience and rally rings. A special thanks to Denise Thompson for the amazing quantity of new toys she gave us.

(continued on page 3)

A Note from Trial Chair Jill Sidran

(continued from page 2)

Carol Ann Klein helped with rally and beginner novice ring set-up for the match, and helped with the judges and the judging program, and suggested the practice ring. Thank you, Carol Ann. It went very smoothly, was staffed by the Varela students, and was a money maker. Our thanks also to the Varela students for all that they did to help us throughout the trials

“Many thanks to our very generous members who donated awards and trophies for our obedience and rally trials; Carol Ann and Leslie A Klein, Ginny Guin, Jane Davidson, Barbara Ilardi, Jill Sidran, Laurie Zisman, Debbie Russell, Peter Liu and Wien Yu, Trina Chicvara, Diane Cort, Tracy Hanna and Carola DiPerna (for Susan Garrett and John Blenkey). Thanks!”
--Debbie Willey

“Thank you! It was a great trial. Thanks for the tons of hard work the club did for the four trials! Excellent ring set up - rally away from utility. Great Judges too.”
--An Exhibitor

“The Varela students did an awesome job this year. They were on top of everything, all the time. They filled in as table stewards, and the judges were very pleased with them when they did. I was very, very pleased with the students this year, and there were a lot of them!! There were even a lot of them that showed up on Friday to help set up.

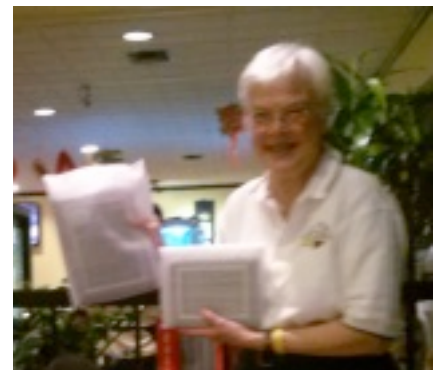
We also had MOC members Jane Davidson, Nancy Bloom, Vicki Phillips, Jan Shad, as table stewards. They all did an awesome job, and were happy to oblige, even when I changed their assignments at the last minute. I want to thank all of them again for all their hard work. We also had a DOCH member, Jil Olsen, that was a table steward for us, both Saturday and Sunday, and she also did a great job, even with her change in assignments.

All went smoothly, thanks to everyone involved!!”

--Debbie Russell

Great Food, Great Accomplishments

The Annual Awards Banquet was held at the South Garden Restaurant on May 6, 2015. The monthly meeting was followed by the presentation of awards. Master of Ceremonies, Trina Chicvara, presented *numerous* awards. Congratulations to each and every "Team". See pages 13 - 15 for award listings.



"When love and skill come together, expect a masterpiece."
Japanese Proverb

MOC AGILITY TRAINING TO RESUME WITH NEW FEATURES

MOC's agility training program has evolved over the years. When the program resumes on June 2, it will be embarking on a new and exciting phase.

MOC will be offering a series of agility classes on Tuesday evenings in ring 2 of the Tropical Park arena. Classes will be held in 6-week sessions. The first session will have two classes: an Excellent/Masters class from 6:15 to 7:15 and a Novice/Open Class from 7:30 to 8:30. Classes are limited to 6 dogs per class. Additional classes may be added in the future based on interest and additional instructors volunteering to conduct classes.

The reaction so far has been very positive. The first two classes are already fully booked and have waiting lists. Considering what the classes have to offer, this strong demand should come as no surprise.

Location, Location, Location

Agility trials in South Florida are held on dirt surfaces in horse arenas. So what better place is there to train than on MOC's home turf: ring 2 of the Tropical Park arena. MOC's classes will offer the Miami agility community its only opportunity to train on a realistic trial surface at an actual trial site. For many of us, this is a fantastic training opportunity. For those of us with dogs that need additional "seasoning", this is a dream come true! Oh, and did we mention that the equipment used in the classes will be the very same equipment that MOC uses for its trials?

Collaborative Approach

The Excellent/Masters class will be conducted as a collaborative focus group. The
(continued on page 6)

MOC AGILITY TRAINING

(continued from page 5)

class will follow a cooperative training approach geared toward working on specific skills through group input. The idea behind this approach is that the handlers at this level already have a basic foundation in agility training and handling. Most class participants will be experienced handlers, and the class will be one in which class members will have the opportunity to learn from one another and to jointly work on ideas together. This will give everyone the opportunity to receive invaluable input from other experienced handlers, explore new ideas and see what works best for themselves and their dogs.

Emphasis on Stress-Free Atmosphere

While talking with MOC's Agility Training Director, Mike Lieb, it became clear that one of his priorities is to create a stress-free, fun environment for all involved. Mike's vision is an atmosphere of friends getting together to have fun with their dogs. It's easy to see how this priority dovetails with the collaborative approach of the Excellent/Masters Class. But even with the Novice/Open Class, where a more instructor centered approach will be appropriate, maintaining a stress-free environment will be a priority.

Classes Open to the Entire Community

Like MOC's obedience classes, MOC's agility classes have been opened up to the entire local agility community, not just to MOC Members. Mike views this inclusiveness as important to the vitality and success of the training program. His challenge in this regard is to find ways to reach out beyond the MOC membership and spread the word to current and prospective members of the agility community at large. For example, Mike wants to start up a Pre-Novice Class to run concurrently with the Novice/Open Class, but was not able to tap into enough beginning agility handlers to form a class for the first session of classes.

(continued on page 7)

MOC AGILITY TRAINING

(continued from page 6)

Looking Ahead

In addition to successfully implementing the first session of classes, Mike's goal is to expand the training program, including starting up a Pre-Novice Class. Mike sees the training program as an excellent opportunity for those who are training with others to supplement their training program with an additional opportunity to gain experience in a realistic trial venue. For those who train on their own, it provides an opportunity for feedback from other experienced handlers, an opportunity to experiment with different handling approaches, and access to MOC's equipment in Tropical Park's ring. And for all involved, it is an opportunity to have fun with their dog.

MOC's agility training program truly represents an investment in the future. It is an investment in, and a service to, the Miami agility community. It is also an investment in the continued vitality of MOC and the continued success of our agility trials. The more the training program succeeds and grows, the more our Club will benefit.

Mike Lieb, working with a few others, has clearly put a lot of thought and time into MOC's agility training program. Running the program will also take a lot of effort. For example, each evening of training will require obstacle sequence design, as well as equipment set-up and tear-down. We're pretty sure that Mike would appreciate any assistance that you might offer.

The Scooper wants to thank Mike for all that he is doing and we will be rooting for the success of the training program.

If you have any questions about the agility training program, or if you wish to offer your assistance, please contact Mike Lieb @ mocagility@yahoo.com.

SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT...

TRACY HANNA

We all know Tracy Hanna as a leading figure in the Miami agility community. Tracy was one of the pioneers of agility in South Florida. She owns and operates Paws in Motion, Miami's leading agility training operation. She has taught many of us the fundamentals and finer points of agility training and handling. She is a long-standing MOC Member and serves as the Chief Ring Steward for MOC's agility trials. And Tracy has had great success running her own dogs in the ring. But did you know that before Tracy joined MOC, before she helped introduce agility to South Florida, before she started teaching us how to train and handle our dogs, Tracy worked for the California Department of Forestry in the San Francisco Bay area?



Tracy went to college at Stanford University. Upon graduation, she went to work for the State of California in its fight against Dutch Elm Disease. At first, she conducted field surveys. She would go block to block throughout the San Francisco peninsula identifying Elm trees and looking for signs of disease. She would report back on any suspect trees needing further examination. The job gave Tracy a great way to get to know one of the most beautiful urban areas in the United States. But it also had its challenges. Some people were suspicious of a stranger coming around to inspect their trees. Some neighborhoods were not the best place for a stranger to be in. And the hills of San Francisco! One time Tracy drove to the bottom of a hill and found that there was no place to turn around. When she tried to back up to get back to the entrance at the top of the hill, she couldn't get enough traction to make it out. Overall,

(continued on page 9)

SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT...

(continued from page 8)

however, Tracy really enjoyed her job.

After the first Summer, Tracy moved to the Department's offices to manage the program's data base. Around this time, the program started facing budget cuts and over time Tracy was asked to wear more and more hats. In addition to managing the data base, she started coordinating the mapping of the field surveys and also was put in charge of sampling trees that were suspected of disease. The job became a bit overwhelming, but Tracy always had something appropriate to do. She had the ability to choose to work outdoors on days when the weather was good and indoors when the weather was bad.

Tracy had been working for the California Department of Forestry for two years when Hurricane Andrew paid a visit to South Florida. Tracy's family's business was booming in the aftermath of the hurricane. Between the budget cuts in California and her family business's need for extra help, Tracy decided to come back to Miami.



Tracy in Brussels with pup Jiro

Throughout this period, Tracy was raising guide dog puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, California. She was introduced to the program while she was in college, renting a room from a participating family. Shortly after graduation, Tracy got her first guide pup, William, and raised him until he was 18 months old.

(continued on page 10)

SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT...

(continued from page 9)

She was raising her third guide dog puppy, Jenna, when she decided to move back to Florida. There was some red tape involved, but Tracy was able to bring Jenna to Florida with her and continue raising Jenna until she was ready for her formal guide dog training. When she got to Florida, Tracy wanted to take Jenna to a training class, and that's what led to Tracy's first contact with MOC. Jenna was returned to California when she reached 18 months of age, but as it turns out, Jenna's prey drive was too strong for her to successfully complete the program. Jenna was then reunited with Tracy. Later, when William was retired as a guide dog he was also reunited with Tracy. Both William and Jenna were German Shepherds, and they went on to become Tracy's first agility dogs.

Hurricanes, budget cuts, guide dog puppies. They all had a role in leading Tracy down a path that resulted in her very special place in the Miami agility community!

MOC's Members 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.

WELCOME TO THE PACK



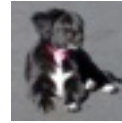
SILBERKINDER MAN ON A MISSION

Meet Teddy, Carol Clark's new puppy. Teddy was born on February 5th in the Tampa Bay area and joins his new brother Wally and elder sister Lucy. Wally is reportedly happy to have a younger brother while Lucy thinks that both of the boys should go back to where they came from.

From left to right,
Wally, Teddy and Lucy



CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

I don't understand a lot of things about the world we live in. For example, why do I rarely see dog performance sports on TV? I can find television coverage of dart tournaments and billiards competitions. There are programs on truck drivers and pastry chefs. There was even a series devoted to pumpkins being tossed tremendous distances. But try to find coverage of agility or obedience trials. Oh, I know, dog confirmation has been growing in popularity and has prime coverage during Westminster and after Thanksgiving and Christmas parades. And I seem to recall seeing some programming on frisbee and dock diving events sometime in the distant past. But why don't they have a weekly edition of the Wide World of Dog Sports, brought to you by the makers of only the finest of dog foods?

I, for one, would love to see what ESPN could do with agility trials. With the right announcer teamed with knowledgeable color commentary, they would have a hit on their hands. Background stories on handlers and dogs. Analysis of course layout. Commentary on handling strategy and technique. Discussion of handler rivalries. And coverage of the actual runs. Replay in slow motion? Side by side comparisons of runs? Viewers would be entertained, amazed and enthralled. Just think what television coverage would do for the growth of agility trials around the country.

While I think that agility has the greatest potential to capture the public imagination, my vision doesn't stop there. Frisbee, flyball, rally, even obedience have potential. I must admit, though, that commercial breaks would be appropriate for long sits and downs!

 CLUB AWARDS 2014

Cecilia Armesto

SHAE - *Tropics Quietly Making Noise* (Border Collie)

[AX,AXJ,MX](#)

Cecilia Armesto & Mylene Arza

TEAK - *Solstice Hot Shot* (Aussie)

[RN](#)

Nancy Bloom

PARKER - *Pennycaerau's Court Jester* (Aussie)

[MXB](#)

Trina Chicvara

LINDSEY - U-CH. *Brianwood's New Beginning* (Toy Poodle)

[NF, NA, PCD](#)

STEVIE - CH. *Tropical's Bringing Down The House* (Toy Poodle)

[NFP, PCD](#)

Carol Clark

LUCY - *Lurking In The Shadow* (Weimaraner)

[GN,CDX,OAJ](#)

Jane Davidson & Ginny Guin

THOR - *Margaux's Blazing Gun* (Bouvier)

[RN](#)

Ginny Guin & Jane Davidson

TAZ - *Bravo's Raz* (Mini-Schnauzer)

[MXB, MXF](#)

Tracy Hanna

JIRO - *Jiro Du Hameau St-Blaise* (B. Malinois)

[MXF,MX, MAD, MJB](#)

Jackie Kurzban

DAMON - CH *Tailwynd's Night Stalker Targons* (Cattledog)

[GN](#)

GALA - CH *Targon's Abstract Dreams* (Rottie)

[NJP, BN](#)

continued on page 14

Club Awards 2014 Continued

Mike Lieb

RAVIN - *Freespirit's Ravin Bout 'Me* (Aussie)CD, MJB, MXB, **MACH**

Patti Lieb

MYLES - *Shoshannah's I'm Clearly Amazing* (Rough Collie)

NA

RYDER - *Shoshannah's Never Say Never Again* (Rough Collie)OF, MXB, MJS, **MACH****ALEX** - *MACH Sylvan Argent My Dark Fantasy* (Rough Collie)**MACH2**, MXC, MJB2, MXB2, MJS2**AMANDA** - *Sylvan Argent Little Dreamer* (Rough Collie)

MXB

Peter Liu & Wien Yu

EVIE - *Evie, The Mummy Slayer* (B. Malinois)

MXB, MXS, T2B3, MJS, MFS

JODY - *MACH 6 Jody Liu* (B. Malinois)MXC2, MJB4, **MACH 7**, MJS4, MXB3, MJG4, T2B, MXS 3**QUEENIE** - *MACH 4 Queenie Liu* (B. Malinois)**MACH 5**

Vicki Phillips

CHANDLER - *Logo's Vain The Storm* (Italian Greyhound)**CH**

Lynn and David Proe

DANCE - *Freespirit Z-Proe's Moondance*

MJB, T2B2

DRAKE - *Zischka - Proe's Born To Be Our Drake*

OF, OAJ, AX

RIVER - *Zischka - Proe's Peace River*

AXJ

Sally Richardson

BENJI - *Benji* (Mixed Breed)

MXP, MJP, MXP2

NALA - *Richardson's Nala* (Mixed Breed)

NF, NA

continued on page 15

Club Awards 2014 Continued

Debbie Russell

HAILEY - *Spinaround Just Get A Grip* (Aussie)

CDX, MFPB

CAELIN - *Spinaround Just Tryncatch Me* (Aussie)

MFP, MJP, MXP, MXP₂

Jill Sidran

MOLLY - *Saddlehill Miss Molly* (Lab)

NAP, PCDX, GO

Cindy And Mike Smith

GRETA - *Smith's Dream Girl Greta* (All American)

NAJ, NA, NF

Debbie Willey

DINAH - *7 - Sticks of Dinah Might* (Malinois)

RAE₃, PCDX, CGCA, MFP, MJP

Lauris Zisman

SHEILD - *GCH Cornerstone's Big Game James* (Lab)

CD, RN



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to Members
born in June

Jane Davidson
Sally Richardson
Ted Stein



Next MOC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, JUNE 3
7:30 P.M.

DENNY'S
8503 SW 40th ST. (Bird Road)
Miami

****A Special Note****

Thank you to those who contributed pictures of the Awards Banquet. .

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
mocscoper@aol.com

Please include your name and contact information.

Thank you for reading The Scooper.