

THE SCOOPER



CHRIS VILLANO SAVES THE DAY

Every once in a while, someone does something so kind, so selfless, so . . . GOOD . . . that it makes you pause for a moment with the feeling that the world is a bit better, a bit nicer, a bit more civil than it was before. Usually the feel good bubble quickly bursts and the good deed is forgotten. Maybe, just maybe, not this time.

Many of you know what it feels like at the end of a four-day trial. The long weekend has been fun, but now you're tired and all you want to do is go home and unwind. So imagine how everyone felt at 4pm on Sunday, August 9, the last day of the OCTPBC agility trial in Arcadia. The rings had been broken down, the equipment had been packed in the MOC agility trailer and the trailer was locked and ready to go. Just as everyone was walking back to their RV's and cars to go home and Mike Lieb was ready to haul the trailer back to its home in Miami, Mike discovered that one of the trailer's tires was flat. Chris Villano, a member of the Caloosa Dog Agility Club in Southwest Florida, had stayed around to help out with the tear down and was also ready to go home. He is not an MOC Member, and he could have easily shrugged his shoulders, wished Mike all the best, and walked away from the situation. But he didn't. Chris offered to let Mike use his air compressor to pump up the flat tire. You see, MOC's agility trailer does not have a spare tire and Mike would not be able to get the trailer back to Miami unless the flat tire was fixed. Mike took Chris up on his offer. They pumped the tire up, but the tire didn't hold air. Mike and Chris discovered that the tire had picked up a 3 inch nail. So Mike went to a local tractor supply store to get some tire plugs to fix the hole. Meanwhile, Chris waited around so he could continue to help out. When Mike got back, Mike and Chris struggled to get the nail out of the tire so they could insert the plugs. However, the plugs didn't

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work. The nail had put two holes in the tire and the holes were too large for the plugs. Mike was up a creek. It was late on a Sunday afternoon and he wasn't going to be able to get the agility trailer back to Miami. So what did Chris do? He offered to let Mike use his own spare trailer tire. He got it out of his own trailer and helped Mike put it on the MOC agility trailer. No questions, no hassles, no strings attached. Chris Villano selflessly saved the day. By this time it was 5:30 in the afternoon, and Chris had not only volunteered his air compressor and an hour and a half of his time and effort, he had provided his own spare tire.

Chris is a frequent exhibitor at MOC agility trials and lends a helping hand when he can. The Scooper is sure that it speaks on behalf of all MOC Members in extending Chris a heartfelt thanks.

As for Mike Lieb and the trailer, Mike was able to get the trailer back to its home at Tropical Park sometime after 9pm on Sunday evening and to finally get back to his own home sometime after 10pm.

AGILITY TRAILER BROKEN INTO

MOC Equipment Wrangler Mike Lieb reports that sometime between mid-July and August 3, someone broke into the agility trailer while it was parked at Tropical Park. Strangely enough, it appears that the only items that were taken were several plastic buckets and the lock that was on the side door of the trailer. Whomever broke into the trailer scattered the contents of the missing buckets, together with other items that were on the trailer shelf, onto the trailer's floor. Even more strange, the lock on the trailer's side door had been replaced with another lock. Since whomever did this did not leave behind the combination to the new lock, the side door was rendered inoperable, forcing Mike to take quick action to get the trailer back in working order in time for the OCTPBC trials. All of this supports the old adage that sometimes fact is stranger than fiction.

A MESSAGE FROM BETTY GANSKY, PRESIDENT/TRIAL CHAIR OCTPBC

A VERY Big Thank you to MOC!

Our trials last weekend in Arcadia were once again a VERY successful endeavor for both MOC & OTC. The trials ran very smooth. The exhibitors really stepped-up & volunteered. I did not hear one negative comment about the trial. Quite a few exhibitors told me they thought the trials were well-run & a lot of fun. I want to give a note of SPECIAL thanks to all the members of MOC who have helped make this possible.

Peter Liu
Wien Liu
Mike Lieb
Patti Lieb
Tracy Hanna
Cecilia Armesto

Mylene Arza
Ginny Guin
Jane Davidson
Dave Proe
Lynn Proe

As always it has been my pleasure working with each of you at the trials we partnered. I was very sad to hear that our partnership had to end after this trial but certainly understand all the work that is involved with having to travel to show sites that are a great distance from our home bases.

I want to wish MOC & its Membership success in all its future endeavors. I will be forever grateful to MOC for the success they have made possible to both MOC & OTCPBC.

If I can be of any help to you in the future you can count on me!

Thanks again!

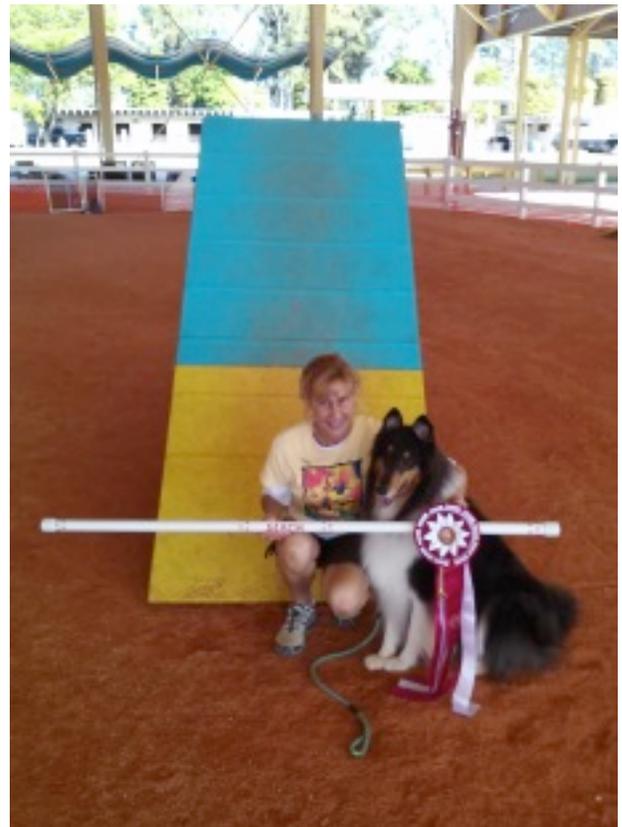
BEHIND THE SCENES:

OCTOBER AGILITY TRIAL CHAIR

It's the end of August and MOC's October Agility Trial is still almost eight weeks away. But October Trial Chair Patti Lieb has been hard at work on trial preparations for some time now. The Scooper talked with Patti to find out just what the Agility Trial Chair does. Here's what we learned.

The whole Trial Chair process starts almost a half a year before the Trial. Patti's first step was to fill out and submit the appropriate AKC trial application. The Trial does not become official until the AKC approves this application. Once the AKC approval was confirmed, Patti's next step was to coordinate with MOC's Agility Judges Selection Committee Chair Wien Yu to finalize the arrangements with the Trial judges. Then Patti submitted the judges' panel schedule to the AKC. At the same time, Patti made sure that our Trial Secretary was on board. Patti noted the importance of not taking anything for granted.

With the official AKC documentation in



Patti Lieb with Alex

place, and the judges and Trial Secretary secured, Patti's next task was to assemble the team that will be working together to make the Trial happen. There's the Trial Committee, whose official AKC function is to

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BEHIND THE SCENES

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conduct hearings on any incidents that arise during the Trial. Then there are the other key Trial positions: the Awards Chair, the Hospitality and Vendor Chair, the RV Coordinator, the Chief and Assistant Ring Stewards and the Chief Course Builders. Of course, the Equipment Wrangler and the Timer Coordinator are also members of the team. In talking with Patti, she stressed the importance of having a strong team approach to running the Trial. She pointed out that each member of the team has his or her own job to do, but the Trial Chair needs to work well with every member of the Trial team, making sure that everyone is on task and that everyone is kept fully informed. Patti believes that an important part of the Trial Chair role is to act as a facilitator and to ensure a good flow of information. After all, the Trial Chair cannot properly run the Trial all by herself!

Next on Patti's to do list was to work with the Trial Secretary to get the Trial Premium prepared and filed with the AKC for approval. Once the Premium was approved, Patti coordinated with both the Trial Secretary and MOC's Webmaster, Laurie Zisman, to ensure that the Premium was both distributed and accessible. Also on Patti's list was to file the Trial Disaster Plan with the AKC and to arrange for a Voluntary Measuring Official to be available at the Trial and file the appropriate AKC VMO paperwork.

Throughout this pre-Trial period, Patti has been dealing with a number of details that have been coming up. For example, the size of the Trial rings is changing from 115 x 100 to 110 x 100. It's not a big change, but Patti needed to ensure that the proper information was included in the Trial Premium and that the judges were given the correct ring size for designing their courses. Some of MOC's ring fencing is no longer suitable for use and needs to be replaced before the Trial. Patti is on top of the issue and making sure that this, and many, many other things are taken care of before the Trial begins. The Trial Chair gets involved in numerous operational details as part of her coordinating role.

During this pre-Trial period, there is a lot for the Trial Chair to do, but the pace of activity is moderate. As the Trial draws nearer, the activity will increase and the pace

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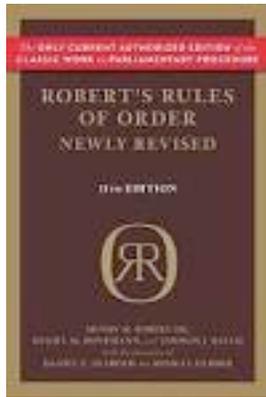
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will pick up. There's monitoring of Trial entries, preparation for the Wednesday Trial setup, coordination of the judges' dinners, arrangements for the National Anthem, preparation for volunteer raffles, and dozens of other details. Then, from the start of setup on Wednesday through the end of tear down on Sunday, Patti's personal approach is to be there and be on time. Make sure that everything is running smoothly. Make sure that the exhibitors are happy. Check to see whether help is needed. Fill in as necessary. Run interference where needed. Make sure that the judges are OK. Conduct the volunteer raffles. Find solutions to any issues that arise. Did we mention that Patti will also be filling her role as Timer Coordinator and running her own dogs?

When the Trial is over and everyone has gone home, Patti's work as Trial Chair is not over. She still has to file a Trial Chairman's Agility Trial Report with the AKC. Finally, she is responsible for putting together a financial report of the Trial and submitting it to MOC.

Throughout the entire process, the Trial Chair is surrounded by details that have to be addressed. Patti believes that it is also important to always keep the big picture in mind. She feels that the most important thing that she brings to the Trial Chair position is the mindset that the exhibitors are our customers. They have many choices when it comes to agility trials, and we want to bring them to our trials and keep them coming back. Patti stressed the importance of the attitude of the Trial Chair and her entire team for the success of the Trial. Patti had high praise for Wien Yu and her judges selection committee for the quality of judges at MOC Agility Trials. Patti talked about the importance of carefully listening to the comments of our exhibitors and remaining open to their suggestions. She also commented on the importance of our Trial volunteers and the need to encourage and support their contributions to the Trial.

This is the third year that Patti has served as the October Agility Trial Chair. She is also a member of MOC's Board and serves as the Timer Coordinator for all of MOC's Agility Trials. Thanks to the hard work and thoughtful approach of both Patti and her entire Trial team, the Scooper is confident that the October Agility Trial will be a blast!



SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT . . .

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Last month's Scooper mentioned some of the general principles of Robert's Rules of Order that are designed to make meetings run as efficiently and orderly as possible. Those principles are:

- Meetings are run by a presiding officer who is responsible for keeping things orderly and enforcing the rules while remaining neutral
- A motion is required before discussion begins and action is taken
- Only one motion can be discussed and decided upon at a time
- A Member cannot speak until the presiding officer has given him or her the floor
- Only one Member speaks at a time
- Every Member has the right to speak before any Member may speak a second time
- A speaker may only be interrupted for a limited set of urgent matters
- No Member may speak more than twice on any one motion

In addition to these principles for conducting meetings, Robert's Rules of Order has a set of rules regarding how Members should conduct themselves during meeting

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debates in order to preserve a sense of proper decorum.

Avoiding the Use of Members' Names

Members are supposed to avoid referring to one another directly by name during the course of a debate as much as possible. Officers are supposed to be referred to by their formal titles rather than by name. Other Members are supposed to be referred to by some impersonal designation. For example, if one wanted to refer to Ethel and Ethel was the person who had made the motion that was being debated, one would properly say “The person who brought the motion makes a good point” rather than “Ethel makes a good point”.

Addressing All Remarks Through the Presiding Officer

Members are not supposed to address one another directly during debate. Instead, they are supposed to address all remarks to the Presiding Officer. For example, it would be proper to say “Mr. President, does the person who brought the motion realize how much it would cost?” rather than “Ethel, do you realize how much that would cost?”.

Addressing the Presiding Officer Formally and Respectfully

Members are supposed to address the Presiding Officer in a formal manner, addressing him as “Mr. President” or by whatever other title that person has. When referring to the Presiding Officer, the proper reference is to “the Chair”. When addressing the Presiding Officer, it is proper to refer to them in the third person, using the term “the Chair” rather than the pronoun “you”. For example, one would properly say “Mr. President, do I understand the Chair to state . . .” rather than “Willie, did you just say that . . .”

Refraining from Attacking a Member's Motives; Maintaining a Courteous Tone

When a question is pending, a Member can condemn the nature or likely consequences of the proposed measure in strong terms, but they must avoid

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personalities, and under no circumstances can they attack or question the motives of another Member. The measure, not the Member, is the proper subject of debate.

In addition, a speaker is required to maintain a courteous tone and to avoid injecting a personal tone into the debate.

Confining Remarks to the Merits of the Pending Question

In debate, a Member's remarks must be limited to matters that are relevant to the motion that is under consideration.

Refraining from Disturbing the Meeting

During debate, during remarks by the Presiding Officer to the Members, and during voting, no Member should be permitted to disturb the meeting by whispering, walking across the floor, or in any other way.

Formality and Neutrality of the Presiding Officer

The Presiding Officer is supposed to refer to himself in the third person, referring to himself as "the Chair" or "your President" rather than using the pronoun "I". In addition, the Presiding Officer is supposed to refrain from engaging in the debate in order to maintain his neutrality. If the Presiding Officer feels the need to engage in debate, the proper procedure is for him to relinquish his role as Presiding Officer for the matter under consideration and have someone else (in the case of MOC, the Vice President) serve as Presiding Officer in his place.

Robert, You've Got to be Kidding, Right?

Put all of these rules of decorum together and you've got yourself one very formal sounding meeting. After all, Robert's Rules of Order was written in the 1800's when things were much more formal than they are today. Gentlemen wore coats and ties with stiff collars. Ladies wore long dresses that covered them from neck to ankle. Children did not address their elders by first name. And yet, if you have recently

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observed a modern legislative body in action, you have witnessed these rules of decorum in action. The rules were designed to take some of the sting out of the process of debate, to keep things from becoming too personal, too acrimonious.

When everything is going smoothly and everyone is working cooperatively, such formality seems out of place. But when things start to heat up? To quote from Robert's Rules for Dummies, "Nothing stands to ruin an organization's spirit and sense of group pride quicker than an acrimonious debate. When debate gets heated and personal, good members quit . . ." As was pointed out in last month's article on Robert's Rules of Order, ultimately the decision as to whether or not to enforce Robert's Rules of Order, and how strictly it should be enforced, is yours.

A BIT OF WHIMSEY

As this article on Robert's Rules of Order was coming together, it got the Scooper Editor thinking about this business of refraining from using people's names. In the U.S. Senate, they use geography to help them out, referring to "the distinguished Senator from Vermont" or to "my esteemed colleague from Kentucky." We don't have this advantage at MOC. Most of us are from Florida.

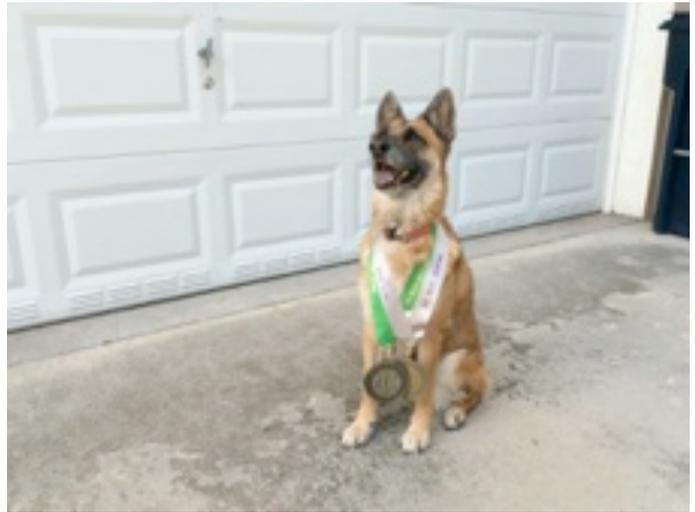
So how, for example, could people refer to the Scooper Editor's husband without using his name? "The gentleman who fails to properly adjust the shower curtain after showering?" It's an accurate description, but no, Robert's Rules of Order does not allow personal attacks to be made. "The Member with crumbs in their pocket?" Nope, that would describe too many Members. "The gentleman with the impressive amount of visible scalp?" Hmmm.

BELGIAN MALINOIS MASTERY

As of July 1, Peter Liu and Wien Yu have three of the top five dogs on the AKC list of Agility MACH Competition for Belgian Malinois. Queenie is #2, Niki is #3 and Jody is #4. By the way, Evie is #21 and Wilma is #25.

Jody took home the Top Belgian Malinois Medallion at both the 2013 and 2014 AKC Agility Invationals.

Jody Yu



THEY GROW TOO QUICKLY

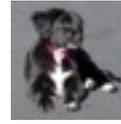
Just three months ago, The Scooper was welcoming Carol Clark's new pup, Teddy, to the MOC pack. When The Scooper got a request to include the following in this month's Scooper, it seemed like time was going by much too fast.



For sale: Midwest Pro Ultimate Crate
31" long X 21.5" wide X 24" high

Clearly outgrown! \$25 OBO
Contact Carol teach2ride@aol.com

CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

It takes a whole village to raise a child. - Tribal Proverb

This beautiful proverb is both simple and profound. It reflects an overarching belief in what is good about human beings. It speaks of such things as connectivity and interdependence, caring and trust, kindness and generosity. I have come to realize that it applies to many things beyond raising a child.

For me, it takes a whole village to train my dog. I am pretty new at this whole dog training thing and I need all the help that I can get. I have been fortunate to have a village behind me.

A few of the people in my village are professional trainers for hire. Some of the people in my village are volunteers who teach classes for their clubs. Each of them has been worth every penny spent, and then some. Many of the people in my village have shared their knowledge and experience freely with no expectation of compensation. These are the people whom I have run across in classes and at trials, in club events and at informal gatherings.

I have lost count of the number of people in my village, but it is quite large. When you have a lot of people in your village you get a lot of advice and I appreciate all of it.

Yes, I am thankful for all of the people in my village. They have taken the time to try and help me and my dog. They have given me hope when things seemed not quite hopeful. They have sustained me when things became frustrating. They have taught me things that I didn't know and have reminded me of things that I had forgotten. They have made me a better trainer and a better person.

As time goes on, I will probably know more about training my dog and be a more confident trainer. But I hope that my village always continues to grow and to thrive.



BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to Members
born in September

Peter Liu



Next MOC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2015
7:30PM

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

*“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make
our lives whole.” - Roger Caras*

A WORD ABOUT THE SCOOPER

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

Thank you for reading The Scooper.