

THE SCOOPER



ANOTHER SEASON ENDS



They say that time waits for no one, and this is most certainly true. So it is that with the completion of the March 10 - 12 Agility Trial we have come to the end of another Season of MOC Agility Trials. In fact, we have now completed 20 Seasons of Agility Trials. There was no fanfare or ceremony to mark the occasion, but perhaps none was needed. Each of our Trials is a celebration of its own. Each one is precious in its own way. The March Trial was no different. Our thanks goes out to Trial Chair Cecilia Armesto, Assistant Trial Chair Patti Lieb, Trial Secretary Lori Patterson, food vendor Joshua's Joint, our Event Committee members, our Judges, everyone who volunteered their time and effort, and of course our Exhibitors.



Trial Chair
Cecilia Armesto and
Assistant Trial Chair
Patti Lieb



Trial Secretary
Lori Patterson
with help from
Sheyla Gutierrez



Exhibitors Walking a Standard Course



Agility Trial Committee Working on Plans for Next December's Trial

AKC EXPANDS RALLY PROGRAM

In February, the AKC approved a significant expansion of its Rally Program with the addition of two new Rally classes and three new Rally titles.

In order to accommodate handlers who have earned a Rally Novice title but who are not yet ready to work off leash in the Advanced Class, the AKC has created a new Rally Intermediate Class with a corresponding RI title. Rally Intermediate Class is on leash and has between 12 and 17 signs, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 stationary signs and a minimum of 3 Advanced level signs. There are no jumps in Rally Intermediate. Rally Intermediate is an optional Class, and an RI title is not required in order to move into the Advanced Class.

In order to accommodate handlers who have earned a Rally Excellent title and who are looking for an additional challenge, the AKC has created a new Rally Masters Class with a corresponding RM title. Rally Masters Class has between 15 and 20 signs, with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 stationary signs, a minimum of 3 Advanced level signs, a minimum of 3 Excellent level signs, a minimum of 4 Master level signs and a minimum of 1 jump sign. Twenty-two new signs have been created for use in Masters Class. Teams are not permitted to retry an exercise in Rally Masters. Ten Q's are required to earn the RM title, and the title will reflect each additional ten Q's earned (e.g., RM2 for 20 Q's, RM3 for 30 Q's, etc.).

The AKC has also created a new Rally Champion title, a RACH. To earn a RACH, the dog must accumulate 300 points (at least 200 of those points in Masters Class) and 20 triple Q's. Points are based on scores received in Excellent and Masters Classes but do not begin to accumulate until the dog earns an RM title. Triple Q's are earned by qualifying in Advanced, Excellent and Masters Classes at the same trial.

These changes go into effect for Trials starting in November 2017. They provide an exciting vehicle for a significant expansion of Rally trials.

NEW AKC TRICK DOG PROGRAM

The AKC has approved a new Trick Dog Program consisting of four Trick Dog titles: Novice Trick Dog (TKN), Intermediate Trick Dog (TKI), Advanced Trick Dog (TKA) and Trick Dog Performer (TKP). To earn a Trick Dog title, the dog must do a certain number of prescribed tricks in the presence of an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator. The Trick Dog Program goes into effect on May 1, 2017.

More detailed information on the Trick Dog Program can be found at:

www.akc.org/about-trick-dog

NEW AKC SCENT WORK PROGRAM

The AKC has also approved a new sport called AKC Scent Work. Scent Work is a sport that mimics the task of working detection dogs to locate a scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found. Scent Work is a sport in which a dog-handler team must locate hidden scents within a defined search area. The dog uses their sense of smell to locate the target odor, which may be an essential oil or the scent of the handler. Any team that finds and calls all hidden odors within the designated time will qualify. Scent Work is a pass/fail sport, however placements will be awarded for the first through fourth place teams, based on fewest number of faults and then on time. Titles are earned when teams reach a certain number of qualifying legs. Scent Work events may be held starting October 1, 2017.

More detailed information on AKC Scent Work can be found at:

www.akc.org/events/scent-work

MARDI GRAS FOR DOGS

We are all familiar with a little celebration called Mardi Gras that is held every year in New Orleans. Mardi Gras in New Orleans revolves around a number of krewes that parade through the streets and host balls during the Mardi Gras Season. But did you know that one of the Mardi Gras krewes is devoted to dogs? Really. The Mystic Krewe of Barkus is a nonprofit organization that promotes the rescue and adoption of homeless animals in New Orleans. It hosts a Mardi Gras parade where the participants are dogs that are costumed according to a central parade theme. The parade participants are limited to 1,500 dogs per year. Parade registration fees are donated to local animal welfare groups. This year the parade was held on February 19 and the theme was “Barkus Tells the Tale of Jean Lafleabag”.



Every year, the Mystic Krewe of Barkus is presided over by a King and a Queen, just like the other krewes. It is quite an honor to be chosen as Barkus royalty, and this year the honor of Barkus Queen went to a local resident named Athena. Athena is a Pomeranian rescue dog who is the very fortunate daughter of Barry Cooper and Stuart Smith of Miami Beach.

So how does Barkus royalty prepare for the big event? After all, in addition to the parade, there is a ball as well as meet and greet events with local dignitaries. Well, in Athena’s case, her father enrolled her in MOC’s Level 2 obedience class to help her prepare for her duties. Mylene Arza may not have known that she had royalty under her tutelage. Our thanks goes out to Barry Cooper for making us aware of the Mystic Krewe of Barkus and of Queen Athena’s reign.



Barry Cooper with Queen Athena (right)

A CALL TO SERVICE

Each trainer and dog coming to MOC's Obedience Training Program has their own unique and wonderful story. This is the story of Kathy Nateman and Duke, who took MOC's Level 1 class with Diane Cort earlier this year.



Kathy Nateman with Duke

The story started nine years ago when Kathy was mourning the loss of her Lab. She and her husband David saw a beautiful Golden Retriever service dog in action at a shopping mall and that got Kathy thinking. Why not participate in a program where you can raise, love and teach puppies and never have to see them grow old. Kathy did some research that led her to the Southeastern Guide Dog School in Palmetto, Florida.

The Southeastern Guide Dog School (SEDG) is a non-profit organization that focuses on breeding, training and providing guide dogs for the visually impaired. SEDG breeds new service dogs at its Palmetto facility. At 10 weeks, the puppies are transferred to the homes of volunteer puppy raisers who teach basic obedience and house manners in a loving home environment. The volunteer puppy raisers provide socialization and instill confidence as the puppies experience the world around them. After 14 to 18 months, the puppies are returned to the SEDG facility for advanced specialized training as either a guide or a service dog.

Kathy decided to become a volunteer puppy raiser and has been doing it ever since. That's where Duke comes in. Duke is Kathy's sixth SEDG puppy. Kathy's first pup, GeeBee, works with the Bradenton Sheriff's Office. Pup two, Clancy, is a working guide dog in Houston. The third pup, Chancy, was career changed due to bilateral elbow dysplasia. Pup four, Hairy-Cane, is a working guide dog in Tampa.

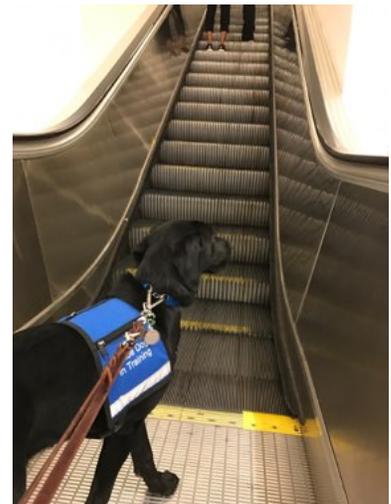
(continued on page 8)

A CALL TO SERVICE

Pup five, Louie, was selected by the International Association of the Blind as a breeding dog, and pup six, Duke, is from the first litter that Louie sired. Duke is a Black Lab and is now about 10 months old.

Like previous SEDG puppies, Kathy enrolled Duke in MOC's Level 1 Obedience class so that he could socialize in a safe place with other dogs that have been immunized while working on his basic obedience skills. In addition to basic obedience skills, Kathy is teaching Duke proper kennel and home behavior. This includes no jumping at the door, no jumping on furniture, no counter surfing and no stealing food off the table. In addition, Kathy is introducing Duke to the big wide world.

Once Duke completes his initial training with Kathy, he will return to the SEDG facility for five weeks of physical evaluation and then six to ten months of learning the advanced skills that he will need in order to become a working guide dog. Kathy will see Duke one more time, on the day of his graduation, when she will also meet his handler for the next seven to nine years of work. Kathy says that her work as a volunteer puppy raiser is perhaps the greatest gift that she can give, both in terms of time and emotional distress, returning puppies that she raised and molded and provided with the tools to become a guide dog. She does it for the



Duke meets escalator

greater good, so someone not as fortunate as she is can have a life of dignity and move forward in life with independence. At the bottom of Kathy's emails is this quote from John F. Kennedy: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." Kathy is a living expression of that quote. And that is just the beginning of the story of Kathy Nateman and Duke.

(continued on page 9)

A CALL TO SERVICE

(continued from page 8)



Kathy and Duke take a break

It takes a lot of money to train a guide dog, and SEG D is totally dependent on private support to carry out its mission. On March 11, Kathy and Duke participated in a fund raising walkathon, but it is not too late to make a donation. If you would like to support this great cause, you can contribute online at:

www.GuideDogsWalkathon.org/dukeandfriends

or mail your donation, payable to Southeastern Guide Dogs, to Southeastern Guide Dogs, Attn: Walkathon Donation for Kathy Nateman, 4210 77th Street East, Palmetto, FL 34221.

Thank you for your consideration.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Cecilia Armesto reports that Zayne earned his CD title at the Davie Obedience Trial in early February. And at the MOC March Agility Trial, Zayne earned 2 Novice Standard legs and 1 Novice Jumpers leg! It seems like it was only yesterday that the Scooper was welcoming baby Zayne to the pack. Well done Cecilia and Zayne.

AGILITY EQUIPMENT CHANGES

The AKC has approved a number of changes to approved agility equipment that will go into effect in January 2018. Most of the changes are technical in nature and do not affect MOC's existing equipment. The one change that will impact everyone is a change to the required heights for the pause table. Beginning next January, the table height for 12" dogs will be raised from 8 inches to 12 inches, the table height for 20" dogs will be raised from 16 inches to 20 inches, and the table height for 24" dogs will be lowered from 24 inches to 20 inches. The table heights for 4", 8" and 16" dogs will not change. This means that come January, we will need two additional sets of table legs (12 inch and 20 inch) and we will no longer need those heavy 24 inch legs. It also means that the ring crew will need to change the table legs one additional time for each Standard class.

In addition, Clubs now have the option of using two additional types of jumps, the wall jump and the ascending double jump. Since these two new jumps are optional, however, don't expect a lot of Clubs to rush out and start using them.

TIME TO REGISTER FOR OBEDIENCE/RALLY TRIALS

MOC'S annual Obedience/Rally Trials are coming up on May 27 - 28, so its time to submit your registration. The Trial Premium, complete with registration form, is on the MOC website. This will be another great event, so don't delay.

MOC AKC TITLE PLAQUE REMINDER

The 2017 MOC Awards Banquet will be held on May 3. The deadline for getting your application to Trina Chicvara is April 5 at the next General Membership Meeting. Don't miss out. A copy of the application form is available on the MOC web site.

AGILITY JUDGES COMMITTEE

In the February Scooper, we inadvertently omitted the Agility Judges Committee from the list of 2017 Committees. The Agility Judges Committee consists of Wien Yu (Chair), Tracy Hanna, Patti Lieb and Peter Liu. The Scooper apologizes for the omission.

CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

My Father was part of what Tom Brokaw called The Greatest Generation. He went off to fight World War 2 before he turned 20. He trained for the D-Day invasion, was wounded in battle, recovered and returned to the front lines. After the War, he went to college on the GI Bill, got a job, fell in love, married and raised a family. During my youth, I regarded him as being very clean cut and very corny. He had these sayings that I also regarded as corny. Those sayings are now seared into my soul.

One of my Father's sayings was that you get out of life what you put into it. At the time, the saying didn't mean much to me. Now, I am awed by its wisdom. To me, the saying adds meaning to almost every aspect of my life. And that most certainly includes the relationship that my wife and I have with our dog. Yes, we get out of our dog what we put into her.

Looking back, we realize that we have put a whole heaping lot into our dog. All of the walks, the tugging, the fetching, the chasing. All of the long sits and longer downs, the healing and staying and recalling. All of the training and trialling. All of the field trips. All of the feeding and grooming. All of the treats and the toys. All of the petting. All of the praising and ignoring and waiting. And sometimes the frustration. All of the spending. All of the time spent basking in the simple fact of her company. All of the joy. All of the worry. All of the love.

All in all, we have put a whole heaping lot into our dog. We do not regret any of it. We have truly received a whole heaping lot in return.

Next MOC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
7:30PM

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

“Dogs do speak, but only to
those who know how to listen.”
- Orhan Pamuk

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Thank you for reading The Scooper.