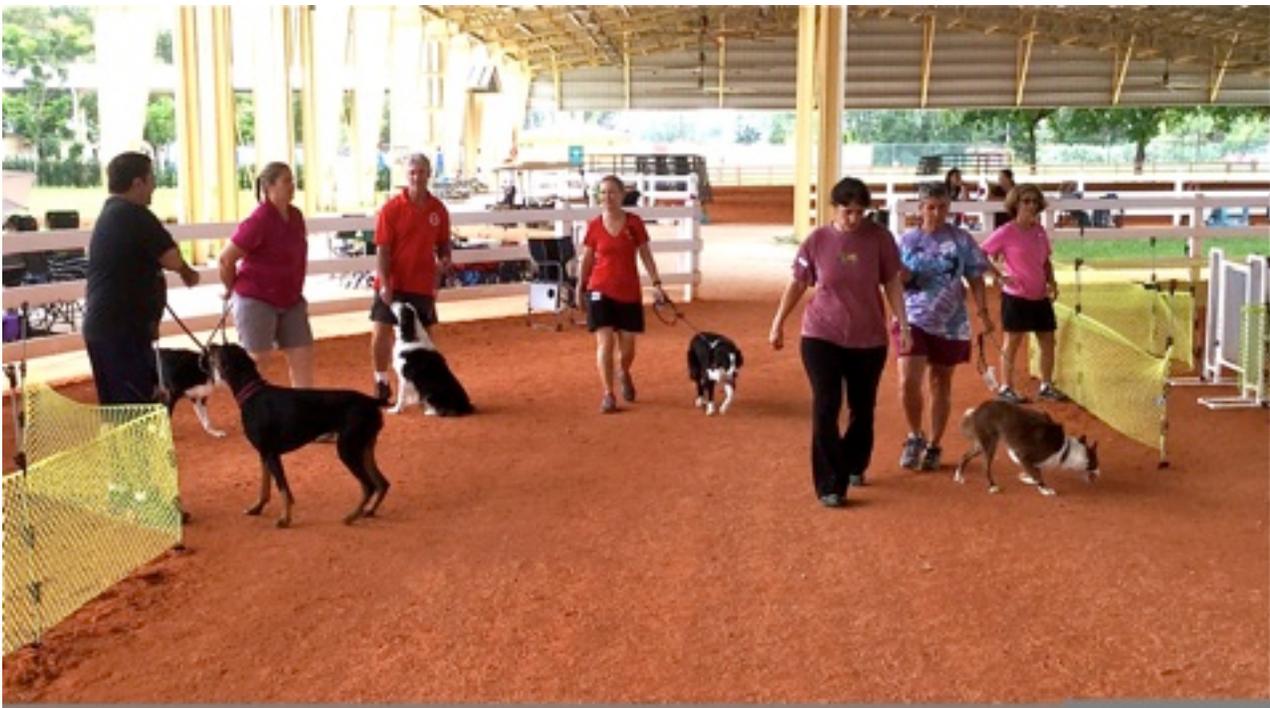


THE SCOOPER



HOMECOMING



It has been a long Summer, and for those who keep track there have been many plot twists and turns along the way. On October 15, MOC finally got back to one of the things that it does best: hosting an agility trial at its home in Tropical Park.

Attendance was down a bit from last year, but for those who were there, the vibe was relaxed and friendly, the judges and courses were superb, the food was top notch, and the volunteers made sure that everything ran smoothly and everyone got through their runs in record time.

MOC was proud to welcome back its Members, its alumni, and local and regional exhibitors. We thank everyone for their participation.

OCTOBER TRIAL IMAGES



Mastering the course



Spectators were treated to lots of great runs



A relaxed and friendly vibe



Getting ready to work the next class

MORE OCTOBER TRIAL IMAGES



Trial Secretary Lori Patterson keeps up with the Q's. MOC greatly appreciates Lori's skill and dedication as the MOC Agility Trial Secretary.

Trial Chair Patti Lieb takes a moment to pause and enjoy one of life's pleasures. Patti, you did an awesome job!

THANK YOU



BEHIND THE SCENES

One of the great benefits that MOC offers to the South Florida agility community is a series of run-throughs preceding MOC agility trials. The run-throughs are held at Tropical Park in the same arena and with the same equipment that is used for the actual trials, providing local agility enthusiasts with a perfect opportunity for a pre-trial warm up. It also provides those who are not quite ready for trialing the ability to test their dog's progress.



AGILITY TRIAL RUN-THROUGHS

MOC hosted two run-throughs prior to our October trial, offering a Standard course on October 6 and a JWW course on October 13. It takes a dedicated team to organize and host an agility run-through. The first step is to coordinate with Tropical Park to find out if the arena will be available for the desired dates. Then notice of the event needs to be distributed to the local agility community. It seems that MOC does not have its own agility community data base, but between our Trial Secretary Lori Patterson, and the generous help of our Member Tracy Hanna, we are able to get the word out. Our Chief Course Builder Peter Liu makes sure that we have an appropriate course design for the run-throughs, including the nesting of a Novice level course within an Excellent/Masters course so that the run-throughs offer something for dogs at all levels. Equipment Wrangler Mike Lieb ensures that the agility equipment trailer is positioned to support the evening's event.

Participants are encouraged to arrive at Tropical Park by 7pm on the night of the run-through to help set up the course with the goal of beginning the run-through by 7:30. In fact, a small but dedicated group arrives at Tropical Park well before 7pm to get the set-up process started to help ensure an on time start. Suffice it to say, both

(continued on page 5)

BEHIND THE SCENES

(continued from page 4)



Waiting for the next run

October run-throughs were underway by 7:30. The activity leading up to the start of the run-through is hectic but organized. Participants register and pay for their runs, a running order is prepared, finishing touches are applied to the course build and participants begin their pre-run walk through. Once the runs begin, volunteers act as bar setters, gate stewards and timers. Finally, after all runs have taken place, handlers are asked to pitch in and help haul the equipment back into the agility trailer

where it will be safe and secure until needed for the next event, be it an evening of agility classes, run-throughs, or 4 days of an Agility Trial.

So, what's the result of all this effort? An opportunity to train with your dog in as close to a trial setting as you can get. An opportunity to run well designed and well built courses. An opportunity to spend an evening with friends and to meet new people. An opportunity to encourage and support the growth of the local agility community. What more could you ask for? **MORE RUN-THROUGHS!**





PREMIER CLASS

COMING SOON TO AN AGILITY TRIAL NEAR YOU

The AKC is continuing its development of the sport of agility with the introduction of a new agility trial class called Premier Class. Premier Class was first introduced at the AKC Nationals last March and made its nation wide debut in October. Several recent trials have introduced Premier Class to Florida exhibitors and as momentum builds it will be included in an increasing number of trials.

What is Premier Class?

Simply stated, Premier Class is a more challenging level of Standard and JWW courses. It is intended to allow handlers to demonstrate advanced handling skills and speed beyond the requirements of the Excellent/Masters Class level. Premier Class is open to dogs that have earned their corresponding Excellent title. Premier Class is entirely optional. Clubs may offer either or both of Premier Standard and Premier JWW on one or more days of their trials, or may elect to not offer Premier Class at all. Exhibitors may elect to enter their eligible dogs in both Premier Class and in Excellent/Masters Class on the same day, thus allowing those dogs to run up to two Standard and JWW courses in one day.

Premier Class carries its own titles, the Premier Agility Dog (PAD) and Premier Agility Dog Preferred (PADP) for Standard, and the Premier Jumpers Dog (PJD) and Premier Jumpers Dog Preferred (PJDP) for JWW. To earn a title, the dog must earn at least 25 qualifying scores. But 5 or more of those Q's must be earned while placing in the top 25% of the dogs competing in the same jump height. Lifetime Achievement titles (bronze, silver, gold and century) will be awarded for each additional 25 qualifying scores earned in the Premier Class event.

(continued on page 8)

PREMIER CLASS

(continued from page 7)

How does Premier Class Differ from Excellent/Masters Class?

As a general matter, Premier courses will use the same obstacles as Excellent/Masters courses. A new jump obstacle, officially called a viaduct and informally referred to as a wall, may be used in place of a panel jump or a spread jump, but don't expect most Clubs to rush out and buy viaducts any time soon. Standard courses will not have a table. Premier courses may have up to 3 tunnel



A fancy viaduct jump

passes, as opposed to the 2 passes allowed in Excellent/Masters. In addition, Premier courses may have one bi-directional tunnel or bar jump on the course in order to allow for variations in handling strategies. Interestingly, there are no refusals for the bi-directional obstacle. Premier courses will have 19 - 21 obstacles, as opposed to the 18 - 20 obstacles on Excellent/Masters courses.

A bigger difference between Premier and Excellent/Masters courses will be in the types of handling challenges that will be included. The whole idea behind the Premier Class is to present handlers with challenges that are either not allowed or are not frequently encountered on Excellent/Masters courses. The AKC refers to these as Premier Elements, and each Premier course is supposed to have 4 Premier Elements. Premier Elements include sequences such as threadles, backside jumps, pull-throughs, layering, challenging weave pole entries, slice jumps, 270's and longer running passes. The AKC has not made a full list of Premier Elements publically available and one may well expect those Elements to evolve over time. In any event, as a general matter, Premier courses are intended to be more difficult than Excellent/Masters courses.

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PREMIER CLASS

(continued from page 8)

Another big difference between Premier and Excellent/Master courses is that there is no measured standard course time for Premier courses. Instead, there is a set maximum course time and this set time does not vary from course to course. In order to Q on a Premier course, the dog must complete the course under maximum course time with no faults.

To Premier or Not To Premier

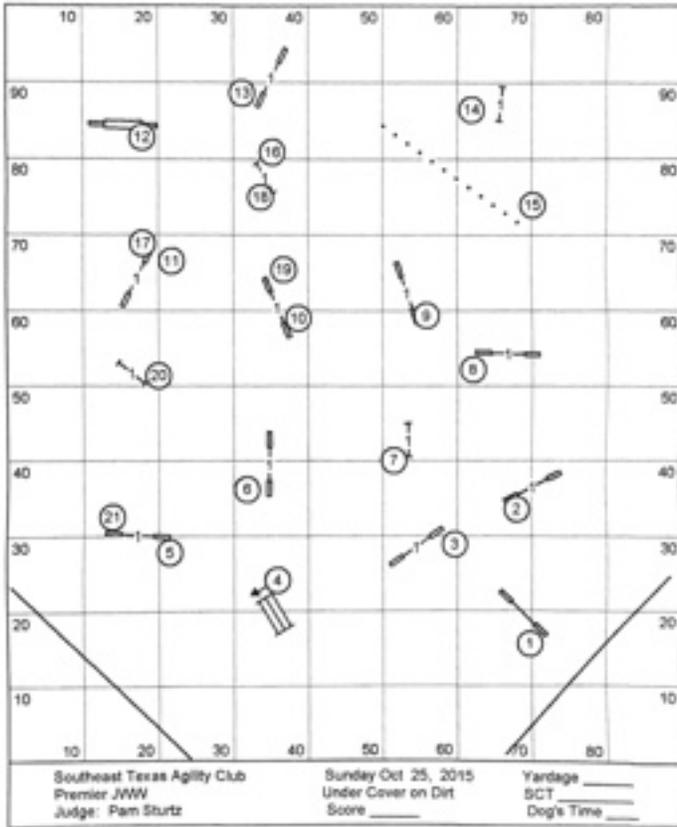
As things stand now, the introduction of Premier Class is a grand experiment. It is up to each Club to decide whether to offer Premier Class at its trials. Some Clubs are embracing Premier Class and offering it each day of their trials. Some are offering it for only one or two days. Others are waiting to see how exhibitors react. The addition of Premier Class may have an impact on a trial's running order and the length of each trial day. It may also impact the number of trial entries.

How will exhibitors react? Some will undoubtedly love the additional challenge and the ability to run two Standard and JWW courses in a single day. Others may not be so receptive.

Premier Class will not be tied to MACH titling. The AKC Director of Agility has stated in an interview earlier this year, however, that the AKC is considering a new type of agility championship that would be tied to FAST, Time 2 Beat and Premier Class.

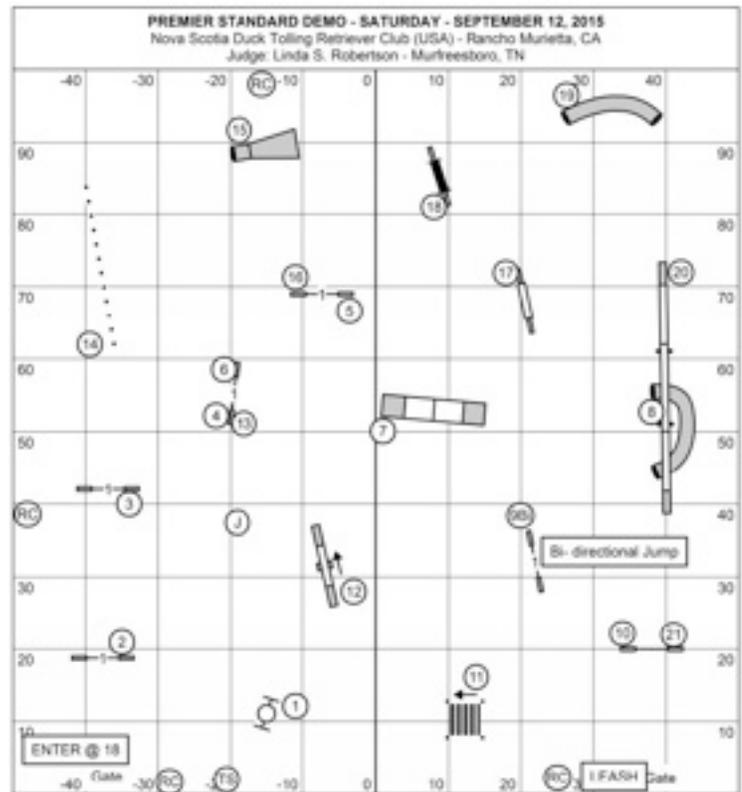
No matter what your view, it is likely that Premier Class will soon be coming to an agility trial near you.

Course maps for two recent Premier Class courses are reproduced on the next page.



Premier JWW Course

Premier Standard Course



AKC APPROVES NEW AGILITY COURSE TEST EVENT

At its September Board meeting, the AKC approved a new beginner level agility event that it calls an Agility Course Test (ACT) Event. ACT is an entry level agility event meant to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the AKC agility program as well as to the AKC as a dog sport organization. An ACT event can be hosted by an AKC club or by an independent training facility. The event can be hosted as part of an agility trial or as a separate event. An ACT event is judged by either an AKC agility judge or an AKC approved ACT evaluator. Host organizations may accept day-of-event entries and dogs do not need to be registered with the AKC at the time of the event in order to participate. There are two levels of courses and titles, ACT₁ and ACT₂. ACT₁ courses are 10 - 12 obstacles, including jumps, A-frame, tunnel and table, but do not include the dog walk, chute, teeter or weave poles. ACT₂ courses are 11 - 13 obstacles, including jumps, A-frame, tunnel, table, teeter and 6 weave poles, with the dog walk and chute being optional. Refusals are not judged and the dog is given up to 3 attempts to complete an obstacle. A dog needs two ACT₁ Q's to earn an ACT₁ title and two ACT₂ Q's to earn an ACT₂ title.

One might view an ACT₁ or ACT₂ title as being similar to a Beginning Novice title in Obedience.

The ACT regulations will be published in Chapter 12 of the AKC Regulations for Agility Trials. Hosting organizations may start offering ACT events beginning January 1, 2016.

Fast CAT

At its September Board meeting, the AKC also approved a new dog sport called Fast CAT. Fast CAT is a 100-yard dash for dogs using a lure. Dogs run the dash one dog at a time. Fast CAT events may be held beginning February 1, 2016.

CRUMBS IN MY POCKET



by Mike Smith

On a recent Sunday afternoon, a very wonderful South Florida dog rescue organization, Paws 4 You, held a fund raising event at the former Parrot Jungle facility that is now known as Pinecrest Gardens. Cindy and I jumped at the chance to go. You see, four years ago we adopted our dog from Paws 4 You.

The event was a great way to spend some quality time with friends and dogs in a beautiful outdoor setting in the company of hundreds of other dogs and their people. There was music and food, training demonstrations, activities for dogs, informational booths for humans and plenty of dog related freebies. We loved the opportunity to walk around Pinecrest Gardens with our dog while exposing her to a new and stimulating environment.

The highlight of my day was the Paws 4 You alumni parade. Each Paws 4 You alumnus got to take their human onto the outdoor auditorium stage to be introduced to the crowd by the well known humor columnist Dave Berry. This was doubly special for me. First, because I am so proud of my dog and how far she has come since we adopted her. Second, because my father and I shared a bond in our appreciation of Dave Berry's humor, and every time I think of Dave Berry I think of my father.

When our turn came and we went on stage to be introduced, I asked my dog to sit during the introduction. She was interested in the crowd and being on a stage was a new experience for her, but she sat on command and was attentive. My heart skipped a beat. After our introduction was made, Dave Berry commented on how well behaved my dog was. He then asked me to do something that was totally unexpected. He asked me to have my dog stand. In truth, I think that he said this a bit sarcastically, as if to say anybody can make their dog sit, but can they do anything else? He had been asking other people whether their dogs could do any tricks and most had said no. So I really don't think that he expected my dog to be able to stand on command. But without missing a beat, I told my dog to stand, and without missing a beat my dog stood on command (thanks to all of our MOC obedience instructors and to Cindy!). My heart swelled. My day was complete.

REUSE REDUCE RECYCLE

**THANK YOU ALL FOR
PITCHING IN DURING THE
OCTOBER AGILITY TRIAL**



Recyclable items collected at
MOC's October Trial

**HERE ARE SOME REASONS WHY WE SHOULD MAKE A CONSCIOUS
EFFORT TO RECYCLE**

Recycling ONE aluminum can saves enough electricity to run a TV for 3 hours.
Recycling ONE glass bottle or jar saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for
4 hours. (Factmonster.com)

According to the EPA, it will take approximately 50 years for a Styrofoam cup to
decompose. What about one aluminum can? It takes up to 500 years for an
aluminum can to decompose, (DoSomething.org). Plastic shopping bags, the ones that
we are so familiar with, are not biodegradable, they photodegrade (reuseit.com).
Check it out.

Please remember that we can recycle clean plastic bags, Styrofoam, and paper bags at
Publix. Whole Foods recycles clean #5 containers.



*BIRTHDAY
WISHES*

Happy Birthday to Members
Born in November

Trina Chicvara
Jan Shad
Hilda Wood

Next MOC
Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
7:30PM

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



The Scooper can be reached by e-mail at
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Thank you for reading The Scooper.