

Good Morning!



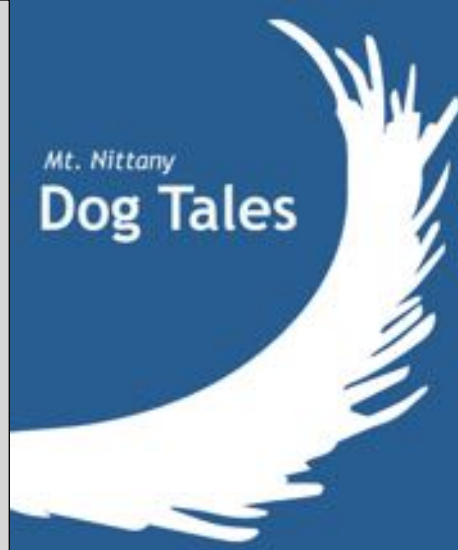
AKC NATIONAL
AGILITY
CHAMPIONSHIP



Laura Kuterbach and Tracey Dooms flew with their dogs to Reno, Nevada, in March to compete in AKC's National Agility Championships. See their story on page 8.



Mt. Nittany
Dog Tales



May 2018

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Send Us Your News!
Do you have news for the Mt. Nittany Dog Tales newsletter? Send it to news@mndtc.org. The newsletter is published every other month, before the general meeting.

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From the President

The MNDTC voucher policy has undergone several changes and there seems to be some misunderstanding on how/why vouchers may be used. This is an update about the relation between the cost of a class and the value of a voucher, as well as how to obtain 'change' for vouchers online under the policies section of our website.

Instructors and apprentices are given vouchers based on the number of classes taught: two vouchers per class for instructors and one for apprentices/assistants. These vouchers may be redeemed in three different ways: for classes, in exchange for cleaning coupons, or they can be put towards continuing education in the form of seminars, classes and workshops offered by the MNDTC, another club or online. Instructors, assistants and apprentices must follow the relevant instructions when using vouchers. Note: vouchers issued before 2012 are only good for classes.

The first way a voucher may be redeemed is to take a class from the club. When a voucher is applied, the user will not be charged for that class.

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May General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pine Grove Mills

Reminders

MNDTC May AKC Agility Trial

Volunteers are needed for the MNDTC AKC Agility Trial, which will be held at the Ag Choice Building on May 11–13, 2018. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mel Eng or watch for the LBN with a link to the sign-up sheet. If you are a member applicant, you can get in both your required activities through this one event.



Get in on the ACT

Do you have a dog that has been learning agility, but is not quite ready to enter a regular trial? MNDTC will be holding an Agility Course Test (ACT) at the AG Choice Building in Pennsylvania Furnace on Sunday, May 20, 2018. It is open to club members, nonmembers and students. Two ACT 1 and two ACT 2 events will be offered. The courses are shorter than in regular trials, refusals are not judged, and ACT 1 has no weaves, teeter, or dogwalk. Any dog that is 15 months or older and has not earned any AKC agility titles may enter. Dogs may jump at any height. Two qualifying scores earn an ACT 1 or an ACT 2 title. For complete ACT information, go to



www.akc.org/events/agility/act-program. Registration will close on May 12. You can get more information and an entry form on the club's website.

Conditioning Seminar

Maureen Burke from High Octane Agility will be holding a conditioning seminar on July 14–15, 2018 at the Ag Choice Building in Pennsylvania Furnace.

Human athletes cross-train and utilize conditioning exercises to stay in top form for their sports and dogs should be given the same opportunities. The seminar is entitled "Get on the FitPAWS Equipment." Registration opens to the public in May.



Event Calendar

- **May 8:** General membership meeting, 7 p.m., St. Paul's Lutheran, Pine Grove Mills
- **May 11-13:** MNDTC AKC Agility Trial, Penn State Ag Choice Building, Pennsylvania Furnace
- **May 19:** Barn Hunt Seminar, Penn State Ag Progress Grounds Special Events Building 2 (Equine Building), Pennsylvania Furnace
- **May 20:** ACT, Penn State Ag Choice Building, Pennsylvania Furnace
- **June 16-17:** MNDTC AKC Obedience and Rally Trial, Penn State Ag Choice Building, Pennsylvania Furnace
- **July 6-8:** MNDTC AKC Agility Trial, B&D Creekside Activity Center, Latrobe, PA
- **July 10:** General Meeting, 7 p.m., Penn State Ag Choice Building, Pennsylvania Furnace
- **July 14-15:** Conditioning Seminar, Penn State Ag Choice Building, Pennsylvania Furnace

For more information on events, and dates of up-coming run-thrus, go to the MNDTC events and run-thru pages at www.mndtc.org. Trial Premiums can also be found on the events page as they become available.

Welcome New Members!

At the March general meeting, **Leigh-Anne Congdon**, **Laura Dionne** and **Cheryl McMillan** were voted into full membership and applicant **Caroline Banton** was introduced.

Congratulations!

Obedience Seminar Reminder

If you are thinking about signing up for the Mathew Twitty seminar in October be sure to get your registrations in soon. This seminar opens to the public on June 1.

From the President continued from page 1...

The second way they may be used is in lieu of the cash charge or cleaning requirement for instructors/apprentices/assistants who wish to use the building for private training. In this case, the individual will submit the voucher to Melanie Eng in exchange for \$5.00 cleaning coupons. Example: an \$80.00 voucher would be worth 16 coupons. Those coupons will be deposited in an appropriate receptacle when they are used for training.

This policy is new as of the March general meeting and takes the place of the previous cleaning exemption policy.

The final way they can be used is to exchange vouchers for seminars, workshops or online classes or video rentals. Vouchers used for this purpose must be approved prior to the event by the MNDTC board of directors by completing the form provided online and submitting it to the board of directors for approval. The form can be obtained by going to the member's area of the website, clicking on the policies and procedures icon and then on the voucher redemption policy. The individual must pay for the event first, and then present the appropriate number of vouchers to the treasurer after the event for reimbursement. The board may require proof of payment for such events and the requestor can ask the club for partial reimbursements. The goal for this option is for the instructor/apprentice/assistant to use the knowledge they gain from the educational experience in the classes they teach for the club.

There is a limit of \$320.00 per year for each person. However, there is no limit on the number of events they can be used toward provided the applicant does not exceed the \$320.00 limit.

~ Janet

Agility Seminar

The MNDTC hosted Donna Rohaus for an agility seminar April 15th at the club building in Rocksprings. Donna shared her knowledge about handling sequences with beginners in the morning and with intermediate/master handlers in the afternoon. A two day seminar was planned however it was decided we would reduce it to one day this year for cost efficiency.

Everyone had a good time and if you're a beginner or exhibiting at the master level, attendees took new information home to improve their handling skills. Thank you to Sandy Roth, Nancy Miller, and those who arrived early to help set up and/or stayed afterwards to help put equipment away. Also, many thanks to Alicia Alwine and Mel Eng for providing lunch for the attendees.

~ Roxanne Rishel



Kathy Huey and Mick with Donna



Roxanne and Nancy Miller

Spring Tracking Test

The MNDTC spring tracking test was held on Sunday, April 8. The day started out cold, but eventually warmed up a bit with only light winds. The fields were just starting to grow green.

Our judges, **Sue Ammerman** and **Ken Barna**, plotted tracks.

We had two passes: one TD, Carl Tier and his Border Collie and one TDX, Lynne Glennon from Maryland and her Golden Retriever.

I would like to thank all the tracklayers: Lois Albright, Carol Aulick, Brenda Palmgren, Jill Paige, Helen Smith, Diane Albright, Craig Bohren and Kathy Huey; the cross tracklayers for the TDX: Sandy Roth, Dan Havrilla, Amy Bergstrom and Lisa Davis; my drivers: Andrea Minassian, Janet Lewis and Bonnie Jacobs, and anyone else who jumped in to help.

Mel Eng and Alicia Alwine provided a marvelous spread of food. Our judges did a great job of plotting tracks. Vicky Dale did her magic on the colored versions of the passing tracks.

Thanks to all of you. The test would not happen without you.

Nanette Bohren,
Test chair and secretary



Carl Tier with judges and track layer, Jill Paige

Barn Hunt Seminar "A Race to the Rats"

A barn hunt seminar will be held on Saturday, **May 19, 2018** in the Equine Building on the Ag Progress grounds. The presenters will be Karen Shilliday and Debbie Sherman. Karen and Debbie are



passionate about learning and teaching---dogs and horses---the fun of agility, shaping, herding or tricks. Now they have teamed up in the sport of barn hunt. They are always looking at the foundational pieces for the activity or job that will help the learner, now and as they advance. Breaking down behaviors to develop confidence and understanding in each dog team is important to them. You will often find this training duo learning from Fenzi online classes, attending Clicker Expos, or on the phone, discussing training ideas to help others enjoy and understand barn hunt.

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Introduction and Beginners Barn Hunt Workshop: To build a good foundation for dogs and handlers, dogs will begin or advance a positive association with the rats, climbing and reading the bales, and novice tunnel skills. They will also work on building confidence in the find. Handlers will practice good handling and reading their dogs.

1 – 4 p.m. Rat Games: Dogs often respond differently at trials than they do in training. In this workshop, a variety of different games will be used to bring some competitive elements into training exercises. Each game will be designed to help handlers and their dogs build confidence, focus and useful skills for competition. This is for dogs who are working at the open through master levels.

All working spots are full; auditors are welcome. If you think you and your dog would like to try barn hunt or if you would like to sharpen your hunting skills, the registration form is posted on the Events page of the club website. Welcome to the rat race!



OSCAR & GUSTER



IZZY

PSU Caring Canine Day

May means the end of another school year at Penn State. Which also means another PSU Caring Canine Day during finals week. After the long cold winter we had, it wasn't looking too promising that the weather would cooperate. But it turned out to be a perfect day in Happy Valley. We had fewer students stop by to pet the dogs, but a steady stream meant all the dogs got plenty of attention!

I overheard one of the students sharing how the universities are making it a point to tell potential high school students that they offer de-stressing days with the dogs during finals week. Apparently these events all over the country have become so popular that it has become a selling point to incoming freshmen. Yes, Penn State was one of those schools! Not only that, but our event was also featured in the Penn State news! Here is the link to check it out...http://news.psu.edu/gallery/519550/2018/05/01/keep-calm-and-wag?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=519598_HTML&utm_content=05-01-2018-22-57&utm_campaign=Penn%20State%20Today

~ Trina Bauer



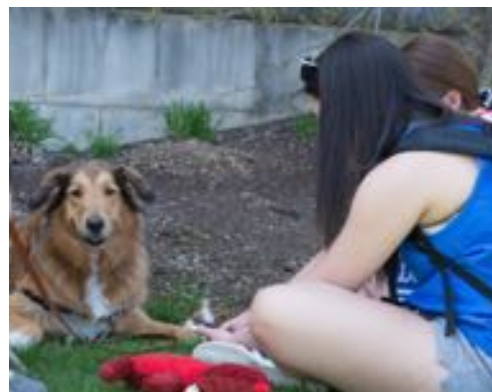
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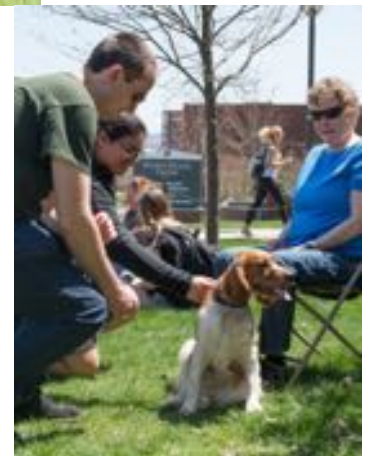
BRUTUS



JIMMY



MIMOSA



BELLA

AKC Agility Rule Changes

Effective May 1, 2018

AKC Judge Howard Etzel reviews the changes made to AKC Agility effective May 1, 2018

Old Rule	New Rule (effective May 1, 2018)
<p>If your dog left the table before the 5-second count was completed AND engaged another obstacle, the judge would signal an F (for failure) and you would not be permitted to re-attempt the table.</p>	<p>Leaving the table and engaging another obstacle would be signaled as a W (for wrong course). Leaving the table before the 5-second count would also count as a T (for table fault). This change could enable a Novice and Open team to qualify, assuming the run was otherwise clean.</p>
<p>A handler touching an obstacle that aids in the performance of the dog, the judge would signal an F (for failure). This call would require the judge to determine if the handler touching the obstacle aided the dog.</p>	<p>A handler touching any obstacle prior to the completion of the course would result in an F (for failure). The judge does not determine if the equipment touch aids the dog.</p>
<p>The four-paw rule was in effect. That is, if the dog had all four paws on the ascent portion of a contact obstacle and then bailed off, the dog could not be permitted to re-engage the contact. If the dog did engage, the whistle was blown and the team had to leave the course.</p>	<p>This rule is removed. That is, the fly-off would receive R (for refusal) and then the dog would be permitted to re-engage the obstacle IF the fly-off occurred on the ascent portion of the obstacle. If the fly-off happened on the descent portion of the obstacle, the dog would not be permitted to re-attempt the obstacle. The call would be an F (for failure).</p>
<p>The judge was permitted to send a set up map for the first course of the day without obstacle numbers for the course builders 24 hours before the trial would begin.</p>	<p>The 24-hour time frame is changed to 48 hours. Please note that once the obstacles are set, NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED TO TRAIN OR PRACTICE ON THE OBSTACLES.</p>

AKC Obedience Changes

The March 2018 MNDTC newsletter has an article that discusses the new obedience regulations that go into effect on May 1, 2018. Here are additional resources:

AKC Quick View:

<http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/may-2018-judges-quick-view-pp.pdf>

AKC YouTube channel video demonstration:

<https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/2018/01/12/akc-obedience-videos-on-youtube/>

AKC official regulations online:

http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999_0318.pdf

MNDTC Awards Banquet

The MNDTC Awards Banquet was held in March at *The Tavern* in State College. Congratulations to everyone who was honored at the event and we hope to see everyone again next year for another fun-filled night of friendship, food, and celebration.



Roberta Horner reads the awards after dinner. (right)

Patty Horn is really enjoying her dessert with husband, Jim. (left)



Two rooms of members looking over the program. (below)



Mel Eng, Alicia Alwine and Laura Dionne. (above)



Carrie Miller, Karen Bettleyon, Brenda Palmgren, and Katie Kennedy. (right)



AKC's National Agility Championship

Agility in the 'Biggest Little City in the World'

MNDTC members Laura Kuterbach and Tracey Dooms flew with their dogs to Reno, Nevada, in March to compete in AKC's National Agility Championships with more than 900 teams from around the country.

"I wanted to travel to the AKC Nationals with Skittles, who turned ten years old in January, because I had never been to this site before. He and I had a great time running agility together in Reno, Nevada, walking along the shores of Lake Tahoe, California, and traveling together through three different airports. We ran three agility runs with just one off-course (...my boy's a sucker for an off-course tunnel). If anyone is on the fence about attending a big event, I would encourage you to give it a try. You'll have memories to cherish forever."

—Laura Kuterbach



"Reno was Zena's and my third AKC Nationals, after Harrisburg in 2014 and Tulsa in 2016. My big goal — other than having lots of fun with my dog and with agility friends — was to run clean in all our classes for the first time at a big event. We did! We even won \$\$ without setting foot in a casino thanks to AKC's Premier Standard Sweepstakes. Zena was a good sport about traveling under the seat in front of me on the plane and about the minimal grass in desert-city Reno. I loved spending quality time with her on this last major trip before her agility retirement."

—Tracey Dooms



Congratulations!



Fanfare's Spring Fling (**Frisbee**) owned, bred & shown by Sandy Roth was Reserve Winners Bitch at the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America regional specialty from the 6 to 8 month puppy class. Frisbee is out of Splash & Dublin. ~Sandy Roth

New Kid on the Block

New puppy in the Rote Household, meet Muddie Aussie's Kyah Emily. I welcomed **Kyah** home on January 15, 2018. She is a blue merle Australian Shepherd born Nov. 22, 2017. She has earned her AKC Puppy STAR and is now preparing for her agility career. Kyah loves everyone and is a joy to have around the household.

~Wendy Rote

