

HMKC PAWPRINT NEWSLETTER

HELENA MONTANA KENNEL CLUB*APRIL ISSUE 2017

President: Marion Erp

Vice President: Desiree Moffett

Treasurer: Kathy Shuck

Secretary: Caroline Hudnall

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Nicholson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy May!

The topic on my mind since the last meeting has been how to increase participation on the parts of club members in other areas besides those they are interested or active in.

I know many of you work and have limited extra time, and families and dogs to take care of, or are only familiar with conformation, or obedience. And others live kind of far away. Still, this is a club and it would be nice to see members rise to the call for help. If you use and enjoy the building for anything at all, remember it costs money to rent it and if we have to drop an agility trial because we don't have an agility trial chair, there goes \$2,000 profit, and if we have no instructors for classes, there goes another few thousand and suddenly our nice bank account is dwindling.

As I write this, we are madly gearing up for our upcoming agility trial this weekend. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for people to contribute a little something in the way of help, food for hospitality, set up, clean up – and because I believe you might receive this message and newsletter before the trial happens, I'll emphasize again to check out both Jeanine's and Jean's and Linda's list of needs and scheduling for set up, desserts, clean up. (If nothing else, come to the Fairgrounds at 6:00 p.m. for a couple of hours to set up those lovely baby gates that we all love/hate. While it is true that most of the inside-the-ring work during the trial comes from the exhibitors themselves, it still wouldn't hurt you to spend an hour or two getting a feel for how things run. If nothing else, wander in and make your way to a table, offer your help, watch and if nobody grabs you for a job, you can leave! J

We discovered over the past weekend that our agility entries are lower because one club moved their trial to a week earlier than ours, and there were more trials happening in Spokane, so exhibitors had to pick and choose where they wanted to do all that driving, and Helena took the hit. Nothing wrong with our trials at all, but this is another indication that we will not be making as much profit as in prior years, so

Yes, we need new and younger people in the club because it's the same old crew that has been doing most of the work for years now, if not decades. But it doesn't make much sense to say we

need new agility members, for example, and then not offer prospective trainees a class when they are willing and waiting for one. To that end, I am willing to schedule teaching some sort of Advanced Beginner class incorporating graduates of both the beginner classes we had. It hasn't been scheduled yet but we'll work on it on a suitable night and around my upcoming travels. Caroline is handling the obedience scheduling, Steve & Connie Leatherman are starting Rally practices the Wednesday after the trial (May 3).

I have had a suggestion on how to increase participation that I'll offer here for you to mull over:

Club members will keep track of every event they help with. They turn in those events at the end of the year to a central record keeper (to be designated), and they then get credit towards classes they want to attend, towards membership dues, possibly towards reduced entries into our own conformation shows, obedience, rally or agility trials or to anything else we can think of that a member might want. A scale of points or some such will have to be devised. It would take some thought. I don't know how much of an incentive our classes would bring, but if we offered free obedience or rally classes, would more people come? I don't know. There are other types of classes outside the traditional "box" of events, like freestyle, trick classes and others that I don't even know about that might also be of interest.

I will be sending my President's Message for June from Rochester, MN if I can do so via my iPad, so don't be alarmed if there isn't one for next month. We will be gone for two weeks over Memorial Day weekend, but I will be back in time for the June meeting.

---Marion Erp, President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

HELENA MONTANA KENNEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2017

Those present: Diane Armstrong, Ted Brodowy, Cyd Charlier, Allyn Ann Cummins, Tommie Dahl, Barb Delaney, Marion Erp, Caroline Hudnall, Deirdre Kane, Janet Kosnik, Connie and Steve Leatherman, Chris McGonigle, Desiree Moffett, Patty Mott, Jean Norderud, Linda Owen, Jeanette Prevel, Kathy Shuck, Marsha Rae South, Thea Sperline, and Rachelle Timmer.

The president opened the meeting and asked for approval of the minutes of March. Tommie moved and Jean seconded, all approved.

Secretary report: Caroline reported on a letter from a pet transport company that services our area.

Vice President: no report

Treasurer: report The president gave a short report.

The president reported that her report was in the newsletter.

Committees:

Cluster, Jeanette reported that we still need a Chief Ring Steward and also a Raffle chair.

Agility, Jean advised that the trial was coming along. Discussion on the new AKC changes and that we will need new jumps and possibly other equipment.

We need an Agility Chair for the club.

Thea mentioned that there may be a possibility to go in with another club on a set of new equipment that would be a traveling set for those clubs.

There is a need for someone to organize the practices for the summer. Marion said she could do some nights. Marion also advised that she will be gone the last two weeks of May.

Obedience, Discussion on the Connie Cleveland seminar with 14 auditing spots and 18 working. Susan Ayers has lost a crate that was in the building. If someone took it by mistake please return it to the building, no questions asked.

Rally, practices will resume on the 26th. This is a great sport for beginners as well as the older dog. The success we've had is because of the time the Leatherman's have put into this sport. We thank them.

Conformation, Janet advised that she is getting 10 or more for Sunday afternoon practice.

Misc.

Adele mentioned that there will be a titers clinic and if interested please contact her.

A discussion on carpet runners as well as replacing the ring matting.

Jeanette mentioned that we should donate the hose reel and hose to the Fairgrounds as we don't use it anymore. Thea moved and Janet seconded to give the Fairgrounds the hose and reel all approved. Jeanette felt we could use a lightweight hose, Jean moved and Allyn Ann seconded, all approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Caroline Hudnall, Secretary

MISCELLANEOUS

The GFDTC is offering obedience run-throughs on Saturday, May 6th at the Ursula Gym. You will have to contact Marie Gamradt) for directions at 3blacklabs@bresnan.net.

They will start at 11:30 sharp with Utility and work on down the obedience levels, sits and downs after Utility and Open. You must contact Marie to tell her you are coming, along with what classes you want to work in and jump heights if applicable. Cost is \$5 for 8 minutes, \$3 second run for the same dog if there is time, for training in an obedience setting. Jumps will be set prior to you walking in, you can arrange for a friend to help you or a "judge" to run you through.

We must be done with the run-throughs by 2:00 pm because they are having CGC testing starting at 2pm.

If you are planning on going, be sure to contact Marie.

Marion

CLUB MEETING AGENDA-MAY 2, 2017

Call the meeting to order

Introduction of guests

Minutes of April 4 meeting

Secretary's Report – Caroline

Vice President's Report -- Desiree

President's Report – Marion

Treasurer/Bookkeeper Report – Catherine/Kathy Shuck

Report of Committees

Cluster/Show Committee

Vacant positions still needing filling

Agility Committee – Overall Agility Chair needed

Report of trials

- April trial report – Jean N.
- October Trial Chair needed for Oct. 6/7/8. Application to AKC due May 17.
- Requirement for new agility equipment – possibility of sharing with other clubs?
Report on agility classes
- Agility class awaits instructor/assistants
Report on agility practices
- Jean will coordinate as schedule allows

Obedience Committee

Connie Cleveland Seminar report – Jean N.

Upcoming Basic & Continuing Ed classes – Caroline H.

Upcoming ring run-throughs? – Dianne A.

Rally practices & rally classes – Steve L.

Old Business

- We need a volunteer for HMKC's web pages. (Last newsletter listed is June 2016. Is there a Member's page & password?)
- Titer clinic with Adele? Need 3-4 more people for discount

New Business

Adjournment

Brag Box