



Crateliner

What's Important Now

Kathy Roberts, President

I cannot believe it has been more than 6-months since our club family met in early November to vote on the purchase of our new building. In addition to our new facility and all the work that has taken place to make our new home ready for use in the future, Club members have also continued to host over 20 classes each week, obedience, canine free-style, earth dog and agility events. And a small group of hard core volunteers are pioneering the newest event on the Gem City Calendar, Barn Hunt. This hard work and these activities have one purpose, to help us grow our relationships with our canine friends.

Whether we are raising funds to help pay the bills, creating slide shows or planning the annual banquet to celebrate our past year, sending cards to those who are ill, hanging lights and making improvements to the new facility, mowing the grass at the land, cleaning the building (new or old) teaching classes or training on our own, we do it to move forward to our common purpose.

I recently heard and interview with John Harbaugh, coach of the Baltimore Ravens. He shared an interesting insight regarding his team. In the Raven's locker room, the word WIN is prominently displayed. Only this WIN is spelled W.I.N., for "What's Important Now." Every day our actions can help us be centered on what is most important to us and our relationships with our canine friends, our families and our Club family members.

The building on Northcutt is nearly ready for flooring and our future. From what I hear and see, we are all eager to move to the new location. As shared from the start, our Club has a legal lease obligation to rent the Springfield Street facility through October 2016. At this time, negotiations with our landlord have not yielded an exit that will enable the club to maintain viable cash flow. We continue to communicate and are extremely hopeful and determined to yield a satisfactory settlement. In the meantime, it is important that we manage our expenses and continue raise funds to help with the small improvements desired and needed at the Northcutt facility.

So, "What's Important Now?" Well, that is truly up to you. I can only share my perspective on what is important to the Club and its future NOW. So, here goes:

- Have Fun with your canine partners. None of us knows when your walk, run, performance or class will be the last you share with your beloved partners and friends. Embrace the moments and enjoy them!
- Be kind to one another and try to understand their sport. Dog sport and training enthusiasts are one of the most diverse collections of interests and personalities that I have ever had the pleasure of association. Our sports and the events businesses that support these sports and venues are very different. And, we need the expertise and income from all the activities to be who we are and remain strong. Try to understand the needs of your fellow members and help us build our Club.

- Look for ways to help out and become more involved. The calendar in this newsletter show a number of obedience, earth dog, barn hunt and agility events that require the people power of our members to make them a success. Join the fun. Help for a few hours or a few days. If we all do what we can, we show our visitors how great and hospitable our members are and they will want to return.
- If events are not your thing, perhaps you would like to join in maintaining the building or with improvement projects at Northcutt or the land.
- Have Fun! After all, work can be fun. So, let's work with our friends and help grow the next generation of dog training in Dayton, OH --- Because, from what I can see, that is "What is Important Now!"



Progress! The Northcutt building gets new paint and lighting.

Skills for Any Sport

Pam Murn, Obedience Director

There are a few things that you can teach your dog now that will make your life easier no matter what you decide to do with your dog. Whether you want your dog to be a therapy dog, competition obedience dog, rally dog, hunting dog or just the best darn pet dog, these few skills will take you where you need to go.

The first skill is an attention cue or command. Recently in the new Community Canine class I put the food on the floor while the handler was not paying attention, planning to trick the handler, as she practiced heeling with her dog. Then I instructed her to walk her dog across the room. She started off with a "watch me" and "let's go". Guess what? The dog never even saw the food. No need for leave it. Leave it is a great skill to teach, but it's essentially just another attention game.

The second skill is the ability for the dog to find heel or front position from anywhere in the room. That will certainly take a whole lot of effort out of most of the rally moves. Check out the [ROOT Training Blog](#) for platform/sit box training tips. Why? Your dog needs to be in heel position to do the directed retrieve (glove exercise Utility), to retrieve a bird (hunting), or to go out (Utility and hunting). So now you can call your dog to heel, and your dog is taking off to greet your guest with a little too much enthusiasm. Why not tell your dog to heel? They can't jump on your guest if they are heeling with you or sitting in heel position. Now that's one sure way to earn a cookie.



Nickie loves the UPS man. He has a Goldendoodle at home and pocket full of dog treats. She is beside me and I release her to greet him. As she flies at him I say tell her to do something. Then I realize she is heeling with the UPS man. That's my kid.

SAVE THE DATE!

The next membership meeting will be
Monday June 16,
2014 at 7:30PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT GEM CITY PREMISES

GEM CITY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

When: June 16 7:30 PM
Where: Gem City Building
Come and find out what's happening at your club!

GEM CITY AKC EARTH DOG EVENT

When: June 6-8
Where: Gem City Land

GEM CITY BARN HUNT PRACTICE AND FUN TEST

When: July 19-20
Where: Gem City Building

MASON/DIXON CONFORMATION & RALLY SHOW

When: July 25-27
Where: Gem City Building

CROSSROADS CANINE UKC AGLITY SHOW

When: August 2-3
[Crossroads Canine](#)

CROSSROADS CANINE UKC OBEDIENCE & RALLY SHOW

When: August 23-24
[Crossroads Canine](#)

GEM CITY BARN HUNT EVENT

Lastly there are the little exercises you dog can do beside you. That's right, pivots and the kick back stand. If your dog can pivot with you, you can squeeze through a crowd, your dog can get the right glove, get a perfect rally score, or fetch the paper. If your dog can do a kick back or pop up stand he stays in heel position for all those pivots. [Watch this video](#) to see Janice Gunn teach the kickback stand. Her main purpose is training for competition obedience, however, teaching the kick back stand will come in handy for any large dog. It can even help a therapy dog get out of small patient rooms.

These are things you can teach and practice at home in a distraction free environment. You can work on attention any time anywhere, in the parking lot, in the club while waiting for class to start at the pet food store or in the park - you get the idea.

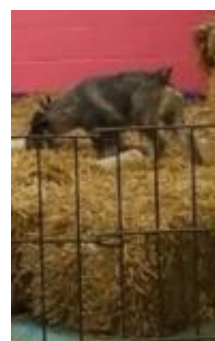
QUICK TIP

You can make your own training platform with just a little time and materials. [See How!](#)

When: August 30-31
Where: TBD

CROSSROADS CANINE
CPE AGLITY SHOW
When: September 12-14
[Crossroads Canine](#)

GEM CITY AKC
OBEDIENCE & RALLY
TRIAL
When: September 20-21
Where: Gem City Building



Barn Hunt Comes to Gem City!
Join us for the next practice and Fun Test on July 19-20.

Gem City Brag Boards Are Now Available!

Members can now share their brags and help the club at the same time! Brags are \$5 per Brag per dog and will stay up for one month from the date posted. All proceeds will go towards the Northcutt Building.

Forms will be available at the GCDOC building by the locked money box (next to the club store). Money and form must be attached and placed in the locked money box. Boards will be updated on Tuesdays.

When Can I Start Trialing My Dog?

Deb Werts

The beginning agility instructors here at Gem City are faced with this question frequently. My answer is usually something about it being up to the individual handler to decide. Here is what I look at to determine whether my team is ready to trial or not.

First I look at my dog's performance. Is he able to perform each obstacle confidently and independently? Can he do the weaves without hesitation and on both sides? Does he understand to go on to the next jump or does he run by the jumps? Is he consistently able to nail his end contact behavior? If these are all answered with a "yes," we could be ready.

Next questions have to do with my dog's stress levels. When I am in class with my dog, does he show signs of stress? Stress in dogs does not necessarily look like stress in humans. If my dog does a lot of sniffing on the ground - especially after making a mistake - it might be stress. If my dog runs off while I am running a course with him, it might be stress. If my dog gets the zoomies - running at breakneck speed around the ring, it might be stress. If my dog pants excessively - it might be stress. If my dog runs fast at home but in class just trots around the ring, it might be stress. I know that if my dog shows stress in the agility ring in class, it may not be time to start entering trials.

I want my dog to have confidence and drive in class before I enter a trial with that dog. I know that in a trial situation, even if I don't look like it, I am stressed. My dogs know it. My older dogs now know what to do. We have a routine before going in the ring. I know when to get each of my older dogs out to get ready to go into the ring. My youngest dog doesn't have a routine yet. He doesn't know what to do when all of those dogs are standing next to him, each one just as excited as he is. When we get into the ring, he doesn't know what to do about that person following him around the ring. So, before I enter a trial, he needs to know how to handle distractions and how to handle my stress levels.

These are just a couple of things I take into consideration before I enter a young dog in a trial for the first time. I consider my relationship with my dogs to be everything. I don't want to damage that by entering him too soon and having him lose confidence in me and in himself. I have less than a minute to run with my dog in that ring at a trial, but a lifetime to love him at home. I would rather have the love.

Run clean, run fast, and run fun.

HELP WANTED

Many of you have expressed a desire to share your time and talent with the Club to help us raise the funds to support additional improvements to the new training facility, take part in projects that improve the facility or help with on-going maintenance this summer. Now is the time to step up to the plate. Listed below are just a few areas where the Club will need help. Next to each is the telephone number and/or email address of the Gem City Board member who is currently taking the lead on this/these tasks. Please contact this person to share your energy and help make our collective dream a reality.

Fund Raising

Help with Lunch on September 13 & 14, 2014 - GCDOC will serve lunch at the CCC September CPE trial. We need volunteers to shop, cook and serve food as well as donate side dishes. Contact Kathy Roberts at katmoose@prodigy.net or call 937-750-9000. In May, we raised over \$1,100 to help with building expenses!

Virtual Garage Sale - Need donated items to place on Craig's List and larger items or the Facebook garage sale group. If you have something large, contact Cheri Davis cheri3866@yahoo.com, smaller items can be left at the building.

Advertising and Sponsorship Programs - Ideas are endless. The Board has concepts for a building advertising program and new items sponsorship opportunities - would you like to be on the ground floor of this project? We can use your help. Contact Jennifer Looper at looperinvestments@yahoo.com or call 937-845-9218.

Building Readiness

Floor Cleaning and Sealing - Pam Mum is working to seal the floor before we lay the rubber matting. Not for the faint of heart, but think of the calories you will burn... Contact Pam Mum at myeltneb@aol.com or call 937-233-2190.

Outside Help /Mowing - We will need volunteers to mow and improve the outside and keep the grass mowed. Contact Jennifer Looper at looperinvestments@yahoo.com or call 937-845-9218.

Bathroom Upgrades - We plan to lay flooring and do some cosmetic upgrades. Is this your cup of tea? Contact Deb Arnold at darnold002@woh.rr.com or call 536-4775.

Artistry for Building Signs - We have the opportunity to paint or otherwise display our logo and other information on the glass doors and in the building sign...got talent? We need your help. Contact Deb Arnold at darnold002@woh.rr.com or call 536-4775.

This list is just a sample of projects that will need the time and support of all the Club members. Please stay tuned to the club yahoo list and website for additional volunteer opportunities in addition to maintaining our current property and supporting our robust event schedule.

New Sunshine Guidelines

As shared at the April membership meeting, the board has voted to modify the guidelines for Club Sunshine. Since we are a Dog Club and our relationships with our canine friends is the reason we are part of this organization, memory stones will continue to be offered when a member loses a canine friend. Flowers will be sent in the event of a club member or spouses death. Cards will be sent for all other reasons. If you know of a Sunshine Event, please contact Karen Pompei At kpompei@wohrr.com or Joyce Osborne at jaosbum@ameritech.net.

Earth Dog Volunteers Needed

We will be holding our annual June earth dog tests on the 6th, 7th, and 8th and will need volunteers for all three days. Right now it looks as it will be a smallish entry so probably will finish up around 4:00 each day. The action starts with the master run at 9:00 AM.

Gem City Brags!

Congratulations to the Gem City members who received new titles at the latest AKC Agility trial!

- Cheryl Schiml and Dylin - PACH
- Barb McCabe and Pickles - MACH
- Wende Call and Fiesty - MACH
- April Johnson-Mozzetti and Tammy - MACH

Do you have an announcement you would like to share in the next Gem City Grati liner? A new fur kid, a new title, or Rainbow Bridge memorial? If so please send them to GCDOCinfo@gmail.com