



# Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC since 1955  
"Celebrating the spirit of the Miniature Schnauzer"

Early Fall, 2010

The Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club is affiliated with  
The American Miniature Schnauzer Club &  
The American Kennel Club.

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**2009/2010 Leadership Team**

President: Richard Edwards  
Vice President: Sue Faber  
Secretary: Lois McCormick  
Treasurer: Laurese Katen

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Donna Parzow  
Karin Walden

**AMSC Delegate**

Shawne Imler

**Committee Chairperson**

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Web Master: Chris Franck



We're back! After a hiatus, **Beard 'n Brows** is returning stronger than ever. After a vacation, we all need a bit of a refresher to get the wheels rolling again, so this issue will review the events recognized by the AKC, including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking and Earthdog. The MVMSC has members involved in all these events, and our member education program will focus on each of these activities over the next few club meetings. We hope this primer will help get you started.

Remember our annual Specialty (conformation), Saturday, October 16 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The club will provide a luncheon after the breed winner is crowned for all exhibitors and club members and guests. Join us for the fun and excitement of this once a year event. A raffle for wonderful items for you and/or your MS will be held during the luncheon.

Featured in this Issue: In keeping with school just beginning for fall, **Beard 'n Brows** gets your schnauzer education off to a start this fall with primers in AKC events.

- Focus on AKC recognized events: Conformation, Agility, Obedience, Rally, Earthdog, and Tracking
- Food Allergies: Doing a Home Test
- News from the AMSC and AKC

## President's Letter



Dear Members,

It's hard to believe summer is over and all the vacations, fireworks and lazy days are behind us. Fall is an exciting time for the MVMSC, as we plan for our annual conformation Specialty and luncheon on October 16 at the Howard County Fairgrounds as well as gear up for our new year which begins in November. A new Board will be nominated and club meetings will resume for our new year.

Don't forget our first meeting of the fall – a picnic at the home of Debi and Martin Durst. Many of you have attended their annual pig roast in the past and due to its popularity and the Durst's hospitality, it will be the site for our meeting on September 19. Bring all your schnauzers for play time.

We encourage everyone to attend meetings and become active in the club this new year. We have sent questionnaires to the membership asking their input for time, location and topics/events for meetings. If you have not yet completed this survey, please do so and return in the stamped envelope provided. This is a way to provide your opinion to the club so we can better cater the meetings and goals of the club to those of the membership.

Get ready for an action-packed fall!

Rich Edwards  
MVMSC President

### Welcome New Club Members –

Jim and Connie Conrad - Lakeville, PA  
Carol Ann Meitzler – Allentown, PA  
Jeanette Perosa – Schwenksville, PA

Robert Robbins – Fairfax, VA  
Brian Smith – New Windsor, MD  
Jim and Connie Tibbs – Stafford, VA

### THE THERAPY DOG – DOES YOUR MS HAVE THE RIGHT STUFF?

Therapy dogs perform an important service to humans – they go with their owners into hospitals, nursing homes, or other settings and offer comfort and companionship. The elderly, sick, and mobility-impaired or sightless respond positively to therapy-dog exposure.

One of the most often asked questions owners ask is how to know if their animal is suitable for therapy work. Usually a good indicator is if the dog is very social and approaches people in a calm, confident way. They don't startle easily and aren't intimidated by different settings or distractions.

If you think your MS would make a great therapy dog, (and you a good team member) contact the Delta Society at [www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org) or Therapy Dogs International at [www.tdi-dog.org](http://www.tdi-dog.org). Earning an AKC Canine Good Citizen certification is one way to determine if your MS is well-behaved enough for therapy work.



## Dog News –

- MVMSC will be supporting the entries at the Hatboro show in October. Lovely trophies for Best of Breed, Opposite Sex, Winners Dog, Winners Bitch and Best of Winners will be provided. Trophies were designed by Connie Krohn, a MS breeder, handler and artist in Canada. Drive up to the show site in PA on Friday, October 8 and enjoy the show. We will have a manned table at the show with the trophies displayed prior to ring time.

Supported entry trophies for the Hatboro KC show are leather boxes with various MS poses hand painted on the lids. Pictured below are examples of some of the box lids.



- Happy Ours He's My Hero, UD, RAE2 earned his Utility Dog title at the Salisbury, MD Obedience Trial on Feb. 27 with a score of 189 ½ and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. He also placed in his first leg with a score of 178 ½ (1<sup>st</sup> place) and for his second leg, a score of 190 ½ (3<sup>rd</sup> place). Hero is owned, trained, and handled by Susan Check-Landis.
- CH Sarius Galloping to Glory completed his AKC conformation title Nov. 6, 2009 in MA. A special thanks you to Joan Huber of Blythewood Kennels and Shawne Imler of Ernhart Kennel for their excellent grooming, conditioning and presentation. A special thanks also goes to the judges who recognized Glory's qualities.
- Crossroads-Ernhart's How Do You Like Me Now (Toby) received his Companion Dog Excellence (CDX) August 8, 2009 with a first, third and second place. He also received his Graduate Novice title (GN) in October, 2009 with three first places. He was named the #7 terrier and #3 MS in the country for obedience. Toby's proud owner/handler is Sue Faber.

## Human News –

- Our web master, Chris Franck, and family have moved to Germany, where Chris is on assignment with his job for the government. Chris continues to perform his web master duties for the club abroad.

# **Conformation 101 – everything you need to know to show like a pro (or at least get started)**

Dog shows are the most frequent and best known events regulated and promoted by the AKC. Thousands of them are held annually in communities across the country. They celebrate and help preserve the distinctive features of different breeds, and they provide a forum in which dogs are evaluated for future breeding programs.

At shows, whether for one breed or many, dogs are competing for one to five points, which advance a dog toward the coveted title of Champion. It takes 15 points, including two major wins (three, four, or five points), awarded by at least three different judges at separate shows, to earn a championship. The number of points awarded is determined by an average of your breed's entries in shows across the country. There are several regions of the US and the number of dogs required to "make a major" varies by region, with more entries required in areas that have historically had more entries than those areas that historically do not have as many entries. This makes it possible for owners living in areas in which there are not many dogs of a particular breed to complete their championship without extensive travel.. For example, it may take only 6 dogs for a major in one region of the country, but 12 in a more "schnauzer populated" area.

Dogs are judged against the breed's standard (not against the other dogs). Each of the 153 breeds recognized by the AKC has its own written standard. (Go to the AKC website to read the MS standard.) Standards describe the ideal size, color, and temperament of each breed, as well as proportion, structure and movement.

At all-breed shows, thousands of contestants are narrowed down to a single dog – all in the course of one day's judging. To accomplish this, judges must be able to recognize not only how well a dog conforms to its breed standard, but also the inner qualities that animate the spirit of a champion.

Selecting Best of Breed or Best in Show is a big challenge, and the Judges Education program is an important part of the AKC's work. In seminars, AKC judges learn to evaluate a range of breed variation. The continued success of the sport depends on their trained eyes and consistent decisions.

Dogs in a specific breed are entered in one of several classes. These include the puppy classes, which are divided into two classes, the 6-9 month old puppies and the 9-12 month olds. This is further divided into separate classes related to the sex of the animal. In addition, there are classes for bred-by, in which only dogs/bitches bred by the exhibitor can be entered, and the open class, in which any dog/bitch over the age of one year can be entered. A winner from each class is selected for both the dogs and bitches, after which all the class winners go back into the ring to determine "winners bitch" and "winners dog". Each of these dogs earn the number of points consistent with the number of entries at that show in that particular part of the country. These two winners go back into the ring for the Best of Breed competition. Here they compete with "Specials" dogs/bitches, who have already earned their Championship title, and are competing solely for the points. The dog/bitch with the greatest number of points at the end of each year is Number One for that breed. Dogs/bitches that are competing for this honor are said to be "campaigned" and often you will see ads for these dogs/bitches in the dog show magazines.

Once a Best of Breed has been crowned for each breed, each winner goes into the Group competition. All breeds fall into one of seven Groups: Terrier, Working, Herding, Toy, Sporting, Non-sporting, and

Hound. Each breed winner competes against the breed winners of all the other breeds in his Group and a Group winner is determined. The top four placements in each Group receive ribbons. Once all Group winners are selected, these seven dogs/bitches compete for Best in Show. Dogs receive points for the number of dogs they defeat at the Group and BIS levels. For example, the “number one terrier” has defeated more terriers in Group competition (and other breeds if he has won a BIS). Note that the points are given based on the number of dogs defeated, not on the number of shows in which the dog has won. This makes it almost impossible for a dog to win at very small shows and still be in the top rankings. Since it’s all about points, top dogs win at larger shows.

Conformation shows are the backbone of the AKC network of more than 4,600 member clubs. Each day of a show is sponsored by a separate kennel club. Each year, hundreds of thousands of fanciers enjoy these shows, as either participants or spectators.



## **Agility 101 – Mastering the A-Frame**

Most dogs love to run, climb, and jump. Agility events provide a great opportunity for them to show off these inherent skills and, at the same time, work closely with their favorite teammate – their owners and handlers. As they scamper over A-frames, through tunnels and over jumps, the dogs are consistently alert to the verbal cues and body language of their owners and handlers.

The first widely documented demonstration of agility was at the Crufts show in 1978 in England. Shortly thereafter, groups formed in the US and the first exhibitions took place in the early 1980s. The AKC became involved in 1993, creating its own rules and regulations. The first sanctioned agility match was held in 1994 at the Houston Kennel Club show.

### **Am I Eligible?**

To be eligible to compete in AKC Agility trials, a dog must be:

- Registered with the AKC or listed with the AKC Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP) program, or a Foundation Stock Service (FSS) recorded breed that meets the eligibility requirements for competition.
- Since April, 2010, a neutered/spayed mixed breed dog listed as an AKC Canine Partner
- Six months of age or older

### **The Role of the Judge**

Agility judges are responsible for the proper setting of the agility courses at the trials they judge. All courses are different for every trial and they must meet certain guideline standards, established by the AKC, to ensure safety and consistency throughout the country. Judges meet with the exhibitors prior to competition at each trial to summarize the class rules. During this “briefing”, the judge also announces the expected time for dogs to complete the course, called the Standard Course Time. Dogs that exceed the expected time receive time faults.

The judge is on the course during the exhibition of the dog to determine any errors, or “faults”, the handler or dog may commit. The judge then signals those faults to a “scribe” who records all signals from the judge. The faults are recorded on the dog’s score sheet to determine qualifying scores.

## How an Agility Trial Works

Once the judge has set up the course and determined the sequence of obstacles, handlers are allowed a “walk-through”, which is done as a group, without the dogs. Handlers follow the numbers set at each obstacle to become familiar with the course. Most handlers walk the course as many times as they can in the time allowed to plan their handling strategy.

The handler and dog team runs the course individually, off-leash. The “timer” tells the handler when he or she may begin, starting a stopwatch as soon as any part of the dog crosses the start line and stops the clock when any part of the dog crosses the finish line. As each dog runs, the judge indicates the faults, if any, that the dog commits. These faults are recorded by the scribe on a score sheet along with the dog’s time. This information is then given to a scorekeeper, who calculates the qualifying performances and top placements of each team.

## Two Types of Classes

There are two types of classes offered at an agility trial: Standard and Jumpers with Weaves. The Standard class has contact obstacles, which have yellow “contact zones” at each end. Contact obstacles include A-frame, dog walk and seesaw. The dog must place at least one paw in the contact zone in order not to receive a fault. This encourages safety in training and in running the course. Standard class also has a variety of jumps, weave poles, pause table, tunnels and a closed chute. The Jumpers with Weaves class does not have contact obstacles or a pause table to slow the team’s forward momentum. This is a very fast course requiring decisions by the handler and close attention from the dog.

## Levels of Competition

There are three levels of competition in agility:

- NOVICE – for the dog just starting in agility. There are 13-15 obstacles on this course. The focus of the Novice class is on performing the obstacles with minimum handling technique.
- OPEN – for the dog that has completed the Novice level. There are 16-18 obstacles on this course. The focus of the open class is on more difficult obstacle course performance with more handling skill required.
- EXCELLENT – for the dog that has completed the open level. There are 18-20 obstacles on this course. The focus of the Excellent A & B class is to provide the opportunity for the dogs and handlers to demonstrate their superior skills in moving quickly and efficiently with close communication and teamwork through challenging agility courses. The Excellent B level is the class where handler-dog teams can earn the title Master Agility Champion. (MACJ).

## How Faults are Given

Agility is a time and fault sport where the qualifying requirements are more challenging as the competition class levels get higher. There are two types of faults, time and penalty. Time faults are given for every second a dog goes over the Standard Course Time. A perfect score in any class at any level is 100.

## Winning

Award placement rosettes or ribbons are the same in all levels of classes and first through fourth place receive ribbons. All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a “leg” or qualifying score, toward their title. The titles awarded are as follows:

Novice Agility or Novice Jumpers with Weaves	NA or NAJ
Open Agility or Open Jumpers with Weaves	OA or OAJ
Excellent A Agility or Excellent A Jumpers with Weaves	AX or AXJ
Excellent B Agility or Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves	MX or MXJ

Excellent B would also produce the title Master Agility Champion	MACH
Novice Agility Preferred or Novice Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	NAP/NJP
Open Agility Preferred or Open Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	OAP or OJP
Excellent A Agility Preferred or Excellent Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	AXP or AJP
Excellent B Agility Preferred or Excellent Jumpers with Weaves Preferred	MXP or MJP

The PREFERRED Class affords an opportunity for a greater variety of dogs and their handlers to participate in the sport of agility. Handlers have the option to enter the Preferred classes with modified standards of lower jump heights and more generous course times.

### Information About Agility Trials

The AKC offers a wide variety of resources to assist everyone, whether you are new to the sport or want to know how to set up your own agility trial. Contact the AKC at 919-233-9767 or email [OrderDesk@akc.org](mailto:OrderDesk@akc.org) to inquire about additional resources.

## Obedience 101 – Mastering Good Manners

Obedience Trials promote better canine-human companionship by encouraging good basic behavior and manners in dogs. Dogs have a natural desire for companionship, for work to do and to please their owners. Obedience exercises channel those desires into a working relationship with the handler. As titles are earned, the exercises become more challenging.

Companion Dog exercises are the foundation for a manageable family pet or starting the career of a competitive dog. They include heeling on and off lead, coming when called, standing for examination, and maintaining a calm sit and down with other dogs in the busy show ring.

The Companion Dog Excellent title stresses teamwork with all heeling off lead and a quick down during the recall. Jumping and retrieving activities add fun for the dog and handler.

The Utility Dog title becomes even more challenging as the heel, stand, sit, down, and come are performed with non-verbal hand signals from the handler to the dog. Identifying an object touched by the owner tests the dog's scent discrimination. Attention and practice come into play as the handler signals to the dog which glove to retrieve. Their teamwork is put to the test when the dog is sent across the show ring to turn, sit, and wait to be told which jump to clear.

### Types of Obedience Trials

- All-breed trials – the most common type of trials, offer competitions for more than 150 breeds and varieties of dogs recognized by the AKC.
- Specialty trials – are restricted to dogs of a specific breed or varieties of that breed.

### Am I Eligible?

Eligibility is the same as discussed in the Agility section above.

### Role of the Judge

The judge must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the class. Judges are not permitted to inject personal variations into the exercises, but must see that each handler and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in the AKC Obedience Regulations. The judge must carry a mental picture of the theoretically perfect performance in each exercise and score each dog and handler against this standard.

A qualifying score in the judge's book is his or her certification that the dog has satisfactorily performed all the required exercises. The judge will not disclose the scores until the conclusion of the trial, but will immediately inform a handler after the group exercises if his or her dog received a qualifying score. At the end of the judging and after all scores have been recorded, the judge will call qualifying dogs back into the ring and will announce the scores of each of the four placements.

### **Levels of Competition**

There are three levels of competition in Obedience –

**Novice** – for the dog just getting started in obedience. Exercises include:

- Heel on leash and perform a figure eight – show whether the dog has learned to watch the handler and adjust its pace to stay with the handler.
- Heel free – done off leash.
- Stand for examination – is of great benefit when the dog needs hands-on care by a veterinarian.
- Recall – provides the handler with the ability to call the dog and get an immediate response at all times.
- Long sit (1 minute) – allows the handler to have control of the dog when visitors come to the home.
- Long down (3 minutes) – dog must remain in a down position.

**Open** – The second level includes more complicated exercises, which teach the dog to do a variety of tasks and to follow commands either by voice or signal. Exercises include:

- Heel free and figure eight – same as novice but off leash.
- Drop on recall – can be a lifesaving command for a dog, since it gives the handler control in potentially dangerous situations.
- Retrieve on flat surface
- Retrieve over high jump
- Broad jump
- Long sit (3 minutes) – similar to the long sit in novice, but the position must be held for a longer period of time with the handler out of the dog's sight.
- Long down (5 minutes) – dog must remain in a down position.

**Utility** – The third and highest level of obedience competition. Exercises include:

- Signal exercise – shows the dog's ability to understand and correctly respond to the handler's signal to stand, stay, down, sit, and come. No voice commands are given; only hand signals are allowed.
- Scent discrimination – shows the dog's ability to find handler's scent among a pile of articles.
- Directed retrieve – proves the dog's ability to follow a directional signal to retrieve a glove and promptly return it to the handler.
- Moving stand and examination – the dog must heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away. The dog must stay and accept an examination by the judge and return to the handler on command.
- Directed jumping – the dog must go away from the handler, turn and sit. Then, the dog must clear whichever jump its handler indicates and promptly return to the handler.

### **Qualifying Performance and Qualifying Score**

A qualifying score indicates that the dog has performed all the required exercises according to AKC regulations and justifies the awarding of the obedience title associated with the particular class. A dog receives a qualifying score when it earns more than 50 percent of the points for each exercise, with a total of at least 170 points. A perfect score in any class is 200.

## **Awards**

Ribbons are awarded for first through fourth place as well as highest scoring dog in the regular classes and highest combined score in Open B and Utility. All dogs that have received a qualifying score in their class receive a dark green ribbon to indicate that they have earned a “leg” or qualifying score toward their title.

## **Obedience Titles**

AKC titles can only be earned at AKC-licensed or member club trials. The novice title must be earned before the open title, and the open title must be earned before the exhibitor can enter the utility class.

- Companion Dog (CD) – this title is awarded when the dog has been certified by three different judges as receiving qualifying scores in Novice classes at three licensed or member obedience trials.
- Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) – this title is awarded after the dog has been certified by three different judges as receiving qualifying scores in Open classes at three licensed trials.
- Utility Dog (UD) – this title is awarded after the dog has been certified by three different judges as receiving qualifying scores in utility classes at three licensed trials.
- Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) – Dogs with UD titles must earn qualifying scores in both Open B and Utility B at 10 trials.
- Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) – Dogs must win 100 points and a first-place in Utility B and Open B, plus a third first-place win in either class under three different judges.
- National Obedience Champion (NOC) – This prestigious title is awarded by the AKC annually to the dog that wins the AKC National Obedience Invitational, a by-invitation-only trial. To be invited, a dog must be ranked in the top 25 dogs in the country by number of OTCH points or ranked in the top three of their respective breed by OTCH points.

## **Information About Obedience Trials**

The AKC offers a wide variety of resources to assist everyone. Contact the AKC at 919-233-9767 or email [OrderDesk@akc.org](mailto:OrderDesk@akc.org) to inquire about additional resources. Our club has several members who are actively involved in Obedience (and many title-holders!) and are more than willing to educate other members or help them get started in this great sport.

# **Rally 101 – Good Start for Beginners**

Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by a judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of 10-20 designated stations. Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions about the next exercise to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience and perfect “heel position” is not required.

Handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. The main objective of rally is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport of rally at all times and under all conditions.

## **Am I Eligible?**

Eligibility is the same as discussed in the Agility section above.

## **Rally Signs**

The signs may be any color and they include descriptions as well as directional arrows of exercises. Signs are numbered to make it easy to find the next station when navigating the course.

All signs are placed to the handler's right side. The signs are large enough to be easily recognized when going through a course. The exercises designated on the signs will be performed in close proximity to the sign itself, either in front, back of, or beside the sign.



Typical Rally signs

### Role of the Judge

The judge must arrive one hour before judging in order to set up the course for the class. Judges are open to questions that the handlers may have regarding the course during the walk-through period. They must post a copy of the course at ringside so that the exhibitors know what to expect and where to go once they are in the ring. The judge must evaluate the performance of each exercise and the sense of teamwork between the dog and handler. The orders “Are you ready?” and “Forward” are given to each handler who enters the ring.

### Levels of Competition

There are three levels of competition in Rally –

**Rally Novice** - This is the first level for those just getting started in competition. In this class the dogs earns the (RN) title.

- All exercises are performed with the dog on leash.
- There is a requirement of 10-15 stations to complete with no more than five stationary exercises.
- The exercises performed vary from turning 360 degrees to changing paces during the course.
- Exhibitors at this level may clap their hands and pat their legs through the course.

**Rally Advanced** - this is the second level, which includes more difficult exercises throughout the course. In this class the dogs earns the (RA) title.

- All exercises are performed off-leash.
- There is a requirement of 12-17 stations with no more than seven stationary exercises.
- Exercises include a jump as well as calling your dog to the front of you instead of to a heel position.

**Rally Excellent** – this third and highest level of Rally is the most challenging. In this class the dog earns the (RE) title.

- Exercises are performed off-leash except for the honor exercise.
- There is a requirement of 15-20 stations, with no more than seven stationary exercises.
- There are two jumps at the excellent level and one “Honor” exercise. An honor exercise demonstrates that your dog can sit or lay quietly in the ring while another dog and handler go through their performance.
- Handlers are only allowed to encourage their dogs verbally. Physical encouragement is not allowed at this level.
- The Excellent-level exercises include backing up three steps while the dog stays in the heel position and a moving stand while the handler walks around the dog.

**Rally Advanced Excellent** - Any dog that has completed is (RE) title may choose to go on to further competition in rally to earn the (RAE) title. The rally advanced excellent title is earned when a dog and handler team compete and earn qualifying scores in both the advanced and excellent classes at the same trial ten times. The level of difficulty is not increased in either class, but practice and hard work surely pay off when this title is earned.

### **Qualifying Performance**

A qualifying performance indicates that the dog has performed the required exercises according to the AKC rally regulations. Each performance is timed, but times are used only in the event of ties for a placement.

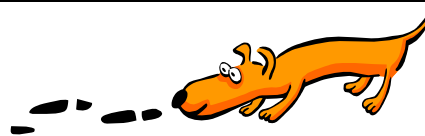
### **Qualifying Score**

All dogs and handlers begin with a perfect 100. A dog and handler team is awarded a qualifying score if it retains at least 70 points after the course has been completed. Each time you and your dog earn at least 70 points a qualifying score is earned toward a title. Once you and your dog earn three qualifying scores under two different judges, your dog will have earned a rally title!

### **Information About Rally Trials**

The AKC offers a wide variety of resources to assist everyone, whether you are new to the sport or want to know how to set up your own rally trial. Contact the AKC at 919-233-9767 or email [OrderDesk@akc.org](mailto:OrderDesk@akc.org) to inquire about additional resources.

## **Tracking and Earthdog**



### **Tracking**

Tracking tests award the titles Tracking Dog, Tracking Dog Excellent, and Variable Surface Tracking. A dog who earns all three titles is designated a Champion Tracker. Even older dogs can use their sense of smell to follow a trail, and handlers love the thrill of watching their trackers put this unique instinct to work.

Tracking, as defined by the AKC, is a vigorous non-competitive outdoor sport that demonstrates a willingness and enjoyment by the dog of his work. It is judged on a pass/fail basis based on the dogs ability to find the scent and follow it to its end. This sport is unique in that the dog naturally knows how to track – the challenge is learning to read your dog, to trust them and follow confidently behind them when they are committed to a track, or help organize and encourage them when a scent is momentarily lost.

Tests are open to all breeds of dogs and eligibility is the same as for other AKC recognized events except conformation. Tracking with MSs is sometimes frustrating as their natural desire to chase critters and go to ground can test your skills and patience.

The AKC offers three levels of tracking.

- Tracking Dog (TD) – dog must follow a track approximately 450-500 yards long with 3-5 changes of direction with scent 30 minutes to two hours old.
- Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) – dog must follow a scent 3-5 hours old on a track 800-100 yards long including 5-7 changes of direction. It also has obstacles, cross tracks and other articles along the path.
- Variable Surface Tracking (VST) – incorporates urban life into the course, including asphalt, concrete, grass and buildings.

## Earth Dog

Miniature schnauzers became eligible to compete with other small terriers and dachshunds in this sport effective June, 1996. Earthdog tests are a non-competitive program beginning with a basic introduction to den work and quarry, and progressing through steps that require the dog to demonstrate its capability of following game to ground and work its quarry.

These timed tests are designed to help evaluate a dog's natural abilities, using a pass/fail scoring system. The AKC requires two legs in Junior Earthdog, three in Senior Earthdog, and four in Master Earthdog. The dog must be able to get through a 9"x 9" wooden liner which is buried underground and over a scent trail that leads to caged rats.

Requirements for the various levels get increasingly difficult. The Junior test provides a tunnel of about 30 feet in length with three 90 degree turns. The dog has 30 seconds in which to reach the quarry and he must work at it for one full minute. Working the quarry is defined as digging, barking, lunging or biting at the quarry. Senior and Master titles require more difficult work, including adding a false tunnel and removing the quarry and requiring the handler to get the dog out of the tunnel and under control. In the Masters run, a constriction point is added in the tunnel.

## Events Calendar



**September - Club Picnic, Sept. 19 (Sunday) at 1 pm** – the annual Club Picnic, to be held at the home of Debi and Martin Durst. Please RSVP to [schnauzerpups@comcast.net](mailto:schnauzerpups@comcast.net) and let Debi know how many dogs and people will attend. Please bring lawn chairs, crate(s) for your MS, or at least a leash, and water for your dog. Entrée of pork and beef will be provided, but please bring drinks and a favorite dish to share.

Debi and Martin Durst  
6546 Middleway Pike  
Kearneysville, WV 25430  
304 725-6794

**October - MVMSC Specialty - Oct. 16 (Saturday) approx. 11 am** (exact time to be announced a week in advance) – held at the Howard County, MD fair grounds. The club will provide a lunch after the show for all exhibitors, club members and guests. A raffle will also be take place during the lunch.

**November** – Date, location and activity TBD.

**December** – Holiday party, date and location TBD.

# American Miniature Schnauzer News



## Notes from the AMSC –

The “big one”, the Montgomery Country, PA shows will be held October 7-9, culminating the third national specialty of the year on October 9, held in conjunction with the Montgomery County show. Show site is the community college campus in Blue Bell, Pa. Show starts at 8 am with Sweepstakes and ends with the Best of Breed champion. The famed Morris-Essex show will be held on October 6 in New Jersey. This show is held only once every five years and is a prestigious show with an enviable history.

Talks are in progress to hold the 2013 spring National Specialty in conjunction with the Standard and Giant schnauzer nationals at the new Purina show facility near St. Louis, MO. Although not final, this would be a great venue and opportunity to meet our fellow schnauzer fanciers. The date will be either May or June, 2013.

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## Meeting Minutes Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club Sunday, March 21, 2010

Meeting convened at 2:20 PM. Present were 8 members.

### President's Report

The club extends a Thank You to Sue Faber for setting up the meeting place for today, Best Friends Pet Care in Gaithersburg. Arrangements for the Specialty in Timonium the weekend of April 23 were discussed. BJ will set up tables on Thursday and Rich will get the trophies, etc. and man the MS table for visitor questions. The October Specialty on Oct. 16 was also discussed. Trophies have already been ordered. The trophies for the supported entry for the Hatboro show (part of the Montgomery County weekend) have also been ordered. The club will be providing 5 trophies (Best of Breed, Best Opposite, Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, and Best of Winners). The club will receive money back from the Hatboro club for this effort, thus the net cost to the club should be very little. It will also be a great opportunity to spotlight our club at the most prestigious and largest gathering of MS dogs and people. Trophies have been ordered from Connie Krohn, a MS breeder, handler and artist from Canada, who has provided trophies for the national club.

**Secretary Report - none**

### Treasurer's Report

Income of \$315 for the trophy fund. Expenses of \$13.70 general and \$222.80 for trophies for specialties. Bank of America balance is \$7,363.45, comprised of \$619.41 trophy, \$1,227.50 rescue, and \$5,516.54 in the general fund.

### Unfinished Business

BJ prepared new membership packages (greatly improved) and sent them to three new members. Trophies for the Catonsville show (April 23) have been taken care of through donated items from our membership. Thank you Joan Huber and Alma Contrino. Trophies for the Oct. Specialty have also been taken care of by using trophies remaining from our Specialty last year as well as ordering throws with the club's logo. The domain name for our website was renewed.

## **Committee Reports – none**

### **New Business**

Activities- Our next meetings are

- April 18 at Sniffers Doggie Depot in Gaithersburg
- May 16 at Best Friends Pet Care with our annual Puppy Match. We will allow entries up to 2 years old.
- June 13 picnic at Karen and Jim Walden's house.

A motion was made for adjournment after "Donation Dog" where members get to brag about their dogs. Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM.

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### **Meeting Minutes Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club Sunday, April 18, 2010**

The meeting at Sniffers Doggie Depot was called to order at 3 pm by Rich Edwards, President. There were 8 members present.

#### **President's Report**

Rich Edwards led discussion about our next meeting, the Puppy Match set for May 16. To try to build up attendance and interest in the puppy match, the flyer will be sent out within the next week, emphasizing the educational angle for the match. The judge for the match will be Sharon Edwards. B. J. Arczynski suggested that we line up 3 dogs who have finished and present them at the puppy match as strong examples of the breed, with discussion about what traits and characteristics judges look for in conformation of a championship dog. Our June meeting will be a picnic to be held at Karin Walden's home on Sunday June 13.

#### **Secretary's Report**

Minutes of the last general meeting on March 21 were read and approved by the Secretary, Lois McCormick.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Income since last report: Trophy Fund \$140.00, brag box \$5.00

Expenses: Donation to Best Friends for use of their facility \$50.00, snacks for Columbia Terrier \$11.17.

Balance total:\$7,302.28, comprised of \$1,227.50 rescue, \$644.41 trophy, and \$5,430.37 general fund.

## **Committee Reports – None**

### **Unfinished Business**

There was discussion about how to improve attendance at club meetings. The belief is that club membership includes responsibility to attend meetings. We want to increase members' attendance by making our meetings of value and interest to members. The suggestion was made that we might again survey members to learn what they most want to have for the content of meetings. Some possible topics and activities are: games, obedience, rally, social play for dogs, grooming, conformation, health information. Day and time set for meetings may also be a significant barrier to attendance for some people.

There was follow-up discussion on the possibility of developing a brochure to advertise the club. Sharon has samples of brochures used by other clubs which could likely be modified and tailored to our club and printed locally at moderate expense.

## **New Business**

Discussion about meeting attendance led to a suggestion that the club survey members to ascertain their interests and opinions about club activities. The survey should be mailed out via USPS, with a SASE enclosed for reply. Sharon Edwards volunteered to develop such a survey, which would be sent to the Secretary for mailing to members.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 pm.

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## **Meeting Minutes Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club Sunday, June 13, 2010**

The meeting was convened at 2:45 pm by Rich Edwards, President. There were 10 members, 3 associate members and 2 guests present. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Club annual picnic and puppy match at Jim and Karin Walden's home.

### **President's Report**

Rich Edwards welcomed members and two guests, Randy and Paula Tibbs, and expressed the club's appreciation to the Walden's for hosting the picnic. He reviewed the results of our specialty show held in April at the Columbia Terrier Club show. There were not many dogs entered this year, and no Sweepstakes was held. Our Fall Specialty show will be held this year on Saturday, October 16, in conjunction with the Catonsville Kennel Club Show at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

Rich led discussion about going out to the membership with a questionnaire to gauge reasons for lack of attendance at club meetings and to gauge interest in various types of activities. Sharon Edwards has developed a questionnaire and read it to the members in attendance. Some suggestions were offered; there was discussion about programs, location, day and time of meetings as possible significant reasons for light attendance. Sharon will review the questionnaire and make changes before sending it out.

### **Secretary's Report**

Lois McCormick read the minutes of the last general meeting held on April 18; they were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Income since the last meeting included \$25 for the Trophy fund.

### **Committee Reports - none**

### **Unfinished Business – none**

## **New Business**

Rich Edwards proposed making several changes to the bylaws. Discussion followed on these proposed changes. First, a proposal was made to change our by-laws to specify a minimum of 4 general meetings each year as opposed to 8 meetings per year currently specified in the bylaws. Likewise, it was proposed to change the minimum number of Board meetings each year to 4 (currently set at 6). The second suggested change was to raise the expenditure limit before general membership approval is required from \$100 to \$250. A third suggested change was to remove the term limit on the Club office of President. Currently the by-laws state that no one may hold the office of President for more than two consecutive terms. Discussion on these proposed by-law changes followed. A motion was made and seconded to pursue making these by-law changes; the motion was passed without dissent.

Discussion was then held about our upcoming October Specialty. The suggestion was made to specify in the by-laws an express expenditure limit by the Board for the costs of our Specialty event. The costs would include facility rental for our luncheon as well as the cost of food and supplies. (Costs vary from year to year, depending on the type of event planned; a general estimate is \$1,000.) Setting an upper limit in the by-laws would provide some flexibility for planning of the event, and would eliminate the need each year for the Board to seek membership approval of expenditures. (Expenditures would consistently exceed the proposed higher general expenditure limit of \$250.) After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to set the special expenditure limit for the Specialty only at \$1,200. The motion passed 9-1.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting, which was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

## **Bragging Rights**



*Due to the number of shows, Beard 'n Brow only reports wins of club members' dogs at Westminster, Eukanuba, and AMSC Nationals. For MVMSC Specialties results for BOB, BOS, Winners Dog and Bitch, Best of Winners, and Sweeps are posted.*

### **Westminster Kennel Club – New York City, NY Feb. 2010**

Best of Breed: Earthsong Remedy for the Blues

Best Opposite Sex: Lonestar's Wicked Good

### **AMSC Spring National Roving Specialty - Palm Beach, FL March 2010**

Best of Breed: Lonestar's Wicked Good

Best Opposite Sex: Earthsong Remedy for the Blues

### **MVMSC Specialty - Timonium, MD April 2010**

Best of Breed: Earthsong Remedy for the Blues

Best Opposite Sex: Shazzam of Oz Something Else

Best of Winners: Bella's Gentle Persuader

Winners Dog: Bella's Gentle Persuader

Winners Bitch: Shazzam of Oz Something Else

(No Sweeps entries)

## **American Kennel Club News**

### **New Conformation Title Offered**

A new title, Grand Champion, was introduced in May at AKC conformation events. The title is available to champions of record who continue to show and accumulate points. Competition for the new title is judged during the Best of Breed competition at all-breed, group, and specialty shows. Grand Champion points are awarded at the judge's discretion, to the following placements: Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Select Dog, and Select Bitch. The select dog and bitch are champions that are recognized as the top quality of their sex after Best of Breed and Opposite Sex have been awarded. The Grand Champion points are calculated using the same AKC point schedule used for championship points. Once an animal has accumulated 25 points (with two majors) the dog/bitch has earned the title of

Grand Champion. The animal's registered name will then be preceded by "GCH" for Grand Champion vs "CH" for Champion. The first ten dogs/bitches in each AKC-recognized breed are awarded a medallion by the AKC for this honor.

### **AKC Canine Partners program enhancement**

In January, the AKC Board voted to enhance the AKC Canine Partners program to allow mixed breed dog owners to list their dogs and participate in AKC Agility, Obedience and Rally events beginning April 1, 2010.

While each club's participation in this program is voluntary, clubs may now choose to allow mixed breed participation at the performance events listed above. Mixed breeds will compete in the same classes and earn the same titles as their purebred counterparts.

This decision was made following a lengthy discussion and review of feedback from dog owners, clubs and fanciers. This positive step forward for AKC and dog owners enables us to share our passion for dogs and our commitment to responsible dog ownership with an even greater audience. All you need to do is enroll your dog in the Canine Partners program to start enjoying the fun. To enroll your dog in the program, go to [www.akccaninepartners.org](http://www.akccaninepartners.org) to apply online or print out a mail-in application. Call 919 816-3749 to talk to a well-trained human if you have any questions. The AKC Canine Partners program is open to spayed/neutered mixed breed dogs, purebred dogs not eligible for AKC registration, or dogs not currently enrolled in the AKC Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL).

## **Canine Health Corner**



Topics in this issue: **Food Allergies: Doing a Home Food Trial**  
**Zylitol Warning**

Allergies are a common cause of itchy skin in dogs, and miniature schnauzers are no exception. Unfortunately flea allergies, inhaled allergies, and allergies to foods all create similar symptoms. Though a specific skin pattern may make a veterinarian suspect one allergy over another, this difference is far from diagnostic. In most cases, a physical exam cannot differentiate these three allergic reactions.

Making a food-allergy diagnosis is particularly difficult. Blood tests – measuring antibodies against food ingredients, are available but are considered inaccurate. This leaves only one practical solution – a food trial.

The concept behind a food trial is to feed your dog food ingredients he has never eaten before. In theory, if he has never been exposed to them, he couldn't possibly have an allergy against them. Identifying a suitable diet for a food trial can be challenging. Lamb is not a good choice because it is a common ingredient in many dog foods. Duck is too close to chicken, which is also a common food component. Commercial hypoallergenic foods include unique ingredients such as fish, venison and kangaroo. Owners can also make their own food. Homemade diets are made with a limited number of ingredients and do not contain the additives found in commercial food that can trigger allergies.

Combinations such as potato or fish and sweet potato are easy to put together at home. Prescription diets are also available. They contain modified protein, which is broken down so it is too small to be

recognized by the immune system. Though not considered as effective as homemade diets, they are better than many other commercial diets.

When conducting your food trial, your MS can be fed only the new diet. This means you cannot offer treats, including flavored heartworm medications. It is ok to offer a treat made of an ingredient in his diet. If he is eating potatoes, then a small piece of boiled potato is fine. Yams are another alternative, as are small pieces of baked vegetables. If pills must be hidden, then a spoonful of canned pumpkin is usually allowable.

The new diet must be fed for a minimum of 8 weeks. If you are lucky, your MS's itch will lessen within a few days. In many dogs, however, a positive effect will not be evident for a few weeks. If the new diet eliminates your dog's itch, you need to put the dog back on his original food. If the dog has a food allergy, then the itch will return. As soon as the dog reacts, discontinue the old food and go back on the test diet. You can then begin to add other ingredients to his diet, one at a time, to see if he can tolerate them. Over time, you will know what your dog can tolerate and what he can and cannot be fed.

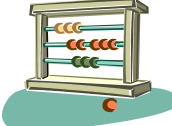
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### Zylitol Warning

Zylitol is a common sugar substitute used in a variety of items today. It seems to be everywhere – sugarless gum, toothpaste, medications, vitamins, candy, baked goods, mints, and puddings. While harmless to humans, it can be lethal to dogs. Once ingested, there is a window of just 15-30 minutes before it reaches the bloodstream. As little as one-and-a-half sticks of a sugarless gum can be fatal to a small breed such as the miniature schnauzer.

Zylitol causes a rapid release of insulin, which in turn causes a dangerous drop in blood sugar. The resulting hypoglycemia causes weakness, lethargy, loss of coordination, collapse, and seizures. If you suspect your MS has ingested zylitol, take him to your vet ASAP. Don't call your vet before leaving home – call the office from your cell phone on the way to the office so no time is lost. Time is of the essence, as most dogs that die are not treated right away.

What can you do to prevent this? Read labels, keep items containing zylitol out of reach and help get the word out. Many dog owners are not aware of the horrific consequences of this human-safe chemical on our furry friends.


<b>By the Numbers</b>

14<sup>th</sup>

Position of popularity of the MS among all breeds in **1999** based on AKC registrations

11<sup>th</sup>

Position of popularity of the MS among all breeds in **2004** based on AKC registrations

11<sup>th</sup>

Position of popularity of the MS among all breeds in **2009** based on AKC registrations

What was the #1 breed in popularity in these years? Which breeds have lost or gained in popularity? Go to the AKC website to find out: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## At the Shows



## The Year in Review

### Conformation New Champions

CH. Blythewood Dazzling Perfection, bred and owned by Joan Huber

CH. Cam-Ron's Let Freedom Ring, bred and owned by Carol Meitzler

Lonestar's Legend Of the West (Maverick), bred and owned by Rich and Sharon Edwards

## Photo Gallery

Photos from our picnic and puppy match at Jim and Karin Walden's home in June.

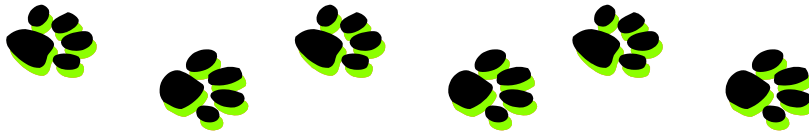


**Don't forget our next Club meeting and Picnic**

**When: [Sunday, September 19, 1 pm](#)**

**Where: Home of Debi and Martin Durst  
(see address inside)**

**All Dogs and Humans Welcome  
Join Us for the Picnic and Schnauzer Play Time**



**Beard 'n Brows**

Newsletter of the Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club  
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