



# TOPLINES

## Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan



### TOPLINES

May/June  
2016

### Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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## Falcons and Dogs Put to Work as Vineyard Guardians

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Falcons and dogs are being used as vineyard guardians to keep pesky starlings and other birds from devouring valuable wine grapes during harvest. Two workshops held at Sonoma County Farm Bureau in recent months introduced growers to the idea of using falcons and small dogs as alternatives to netting, noisemakers, flags or poison to deal with the avian pests that descend in droves in many Sonoma County vineyards when grapes approach peak ripeness. The problem with noisemakers and mylar strips is they are effective for a short time and then birds become habituated to these devices and ignore them. Netting is effective but costly and time-consuming to put on and take off the vines. Poison bates for the invading birds are problematic because of their residual impacts on the food chain. Increasingly, growers, particularly, in western Sonoma County, are using falcons to keep hungry birds out of the vineyards. And at least one Sonoma County vineyard owner is using her small, hard-working terriers to patrol the vineyards to scare off the birds, annually saving \$3,000 in netting costs at the Santa Rosa vineyard.

"For the last seven seasons, we have successfully used dogs to keep starlings and cedar wax wings from eating the grapes in our vineyards," said Anna Hansen, who with her husband Fred operates a 62-acre vineyard at the corner of Guerneville and Willowside Roads. The vineyard is in area where bird pressure is high. Hansen said once grapes start to turn color and ripen, she runs the dogs, all English Hunt Terriers, through the vineyards 30 minutes each morning and evening. The dogs leave their scent in the vineyards. Because the vine rows obscure the birds' view, they don't know if the dogs are in the vineyard or not. It works. "The birds can smell the dogs but can't see them so they assume they are there and stay away," said Hansen. For a number of years now, said Craig Marston, owner of The Falcon Co., based in Petaluma, falcons have been used in vineyards as well as fruit orchards and berry farms on the West Coast to keep birds from eating crops. Falcons also are being used at landfills, airports and military ba-

ses to keep the decks cleared of seagulls and other birds that cause trouble. Marston said with their keen eyesight, speed and good hunting skills, falcons have become a preferred method of aviation management for some wine grape growers including Sonoma County Farm Bureau member William Petersen of Sebastopol. Falcons were used this year in Petersen's vineyard to great success. "The vineyard did not lose a grape to starlings," said Marston. The Gallo family also uses falcons to fend off birds at their Stony Point Vineyard near the Washoe House between Cotati and Petaluma. The falcons save vineyard manager Trini Amador from the tremendous cost of netting the hillside vineyards. Marston said using falcons is a green solution because the trained birds of prey don't kill the birds invading the vineyards. The mere presence of the flying falcons sends the invading scavengers to other vine-

#### Officers 2016

- President: Mark Jaeger
- Vice Pres.: Margo Heiden
- Secretary: Donna Giles
- Treasurer: Sue Schauer



**Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan**  
**June 25, 2016**

**Shiro Restaurant and Sushi Bar**

<http://shiro-restaurant.com/>

In the Historic Rogers Mansion

43180 West 9 Mile Rd

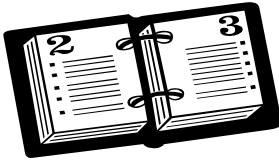
Novi, MI 48375

(3 ½ miles from show sight)



Dinner at 6:30 pm. (private dining room) meeting to follow  
ONE CHECK is required for our group – so bring change !  
RSVP to the Lynn Baitinger (otchmx@comcast.net or text 248-390-4900)  
by June 24

**AS ALWAYS, GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!**



## 2016 Calendar of Important Events

**JUNE 25-**

Dinner meeting at Shiro Restaurant and Sushi Bar, in Novi, after the DKC show (details on Page 3)

**JULY 29-**

MSCM Agility Trial, Dexter, MI

**August 27-**

Meeting at Joanne Forster's, Elkton

**SEPTEMBER 230-**

MSCM Fall Specialty Show-Monroe, MI-Monroe County Fairgrounds

**OCTOBER 7-9-**

Montgomery County Weekend-Pennsylvania

**OCTOBER 16-**

Meeting at Sue Quinn's House in Ma-comb

**DECEMBER 10-**

MSCM Christmas Banquet & Awards Coral Gables Restaurant, East Lansing, MI



**REMINDER FOR THE TRIAL!!**

Members should bring raffle and silent auction items to the June meeting. These items will be used to prepare for our annual raffle/ auction at the July agility trial. Already prepared baskets are desired but not necessary. Individual items will also be accepted. Silent auction items should be designated as such with an opening bid attached. Items should be new or "like new" and in clean, good condition. Extra baskets or containers are also needed.

# MSCM Agility Trial

**Friday, July 29, 2016**

*Canine Sports & Recreation Center  
Dexter, MI*

Member volunteers needed! If you can't make it to the trial, volunteer to make food to feed the workers!



## The Whelping Box

**No litters to announce at this time**

**The quality of your litter should not only be evaluated by the best in the litter ....but by the least. If you are breeding quality animals, even your pets should be good examples of the breed!**

Continued from page 1

yards not protected by netting or falcons. "The falcons just have to fly in the air above the vineyards and the starlings and other birds go somewhere else," said Mars-ton, who is state and federally licensed for bird abatement. Hansen, the vineyard owner using dogs, said even her husband was skeptical of what the dogs were doing but after three seasons he became a believer when the bird damage was greatly minimized without the use of netting.

Hansen said the dogs are a breed from England where they are used on farms to hunt vermin. She said there is an American breed, called the Teddy Roosevelt Terrier that offers promise for bird management in vineyards. She is looking into acquiring a Roosevelt Terrier to test their skills. She said the dogs must be trained that the vineyard is their territory and it is their job to keep out the flying pests. "It's a lot of fun having these dogs and watching them work their vineyard," said Hansen.

"And the dogs are great alternative to netting and the poisons bates that can leave toxic residues in our food chain."



# MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

## TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February  
March-April  
May-June  
July-August  
September-October  
November-December

Editor - Joanne Forster

We're on the Web!

[www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org](http://www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org)

## PerformanCe



Orner

### Teaching Your Dog To Perform A Stay

I have always been terrible at teaching a stay. Consequently, I have never had much of a start line stay for agility. A friend shared the following technique with me, which I am using to train my current puppy. It makes sense to me and appears to be working. I may actually have a start line stay with this dog.

The Three D's of a Stay: Duration, Distance and Distraction

Duration refers to the length of time you expect your dog to remain in a stay position. Holding a position requires some muscle strength and concentration, so you should work on building up duration slowly, especially at first. Teaching a sit stay first works the best for most dogs. Distance comes into play when you start to leave your dog in a stay and move away from him. Distractions are the last variable to add. Whenever you introduce or increase one of the Ds,

The objective of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan is to advance the principals and scientific practices in the breeding of purebred Miniature Schnauzers: foster co-operation between breeder, owner, and veterinarian; encourage the exchange of information and experience among the club members and between show-giving clubs; to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows and matches; and to encourage the adherence to the high standards of conduct and to the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.



the other two Ds should be simplified at first.

**Building Duration With Treat Streaming**  
You should build duration very gradually, first two seconds, then three and so on. To get this started, a process called treat streaming works very well. To begin with you'll be providing the dog with a "stream" of rewards for remaining in the correct position. The rewards will be so close together that it shouldn't occur to your dog to move. Then, imperceptibly, you'll begin moving the rewards apart a little. First give a treat every second or two, then three, then four or five seconds between treats. If your dog gets up, lure him back into the correct position and treat at shorter intervals for a while. As soon as you are able to space out to five second gaps between treats without the dog moving, you should establish a release cue.

**The Release Cue**

First, choose the word you will use to release your dog from a stay. Popular words to use include "OK", "Free", "Release" and "Break". At the end of each "stream" of four or five treats, give the release cue and throw a treat away from you so your dog leaves his position to go and get it. If the dog breaks his position before the release cue, he should not get any reward and you should make the exercise easier for a while. Try to do this training in a quiet

place.

**Reduce The Treat Stream**

Next, reduce the number of treats you give your dog before you give the release cue. You are still attempting roughly a 25 second stay, but with fewer treats, spaced more widely apart. Over time, your dog should be doing a reliable 25 second stay with no treats during the stay. The treat you give after the release word is the reward.

**Adding Duration**

At this point, you can start to lengthen the amount of time you ask your dog to stay. A one year old dog should be able to sit and stay for three or four minutes without too much difficulty. Just be patient and take your time getting there.

**Adding Distance and Distractions**

Up to this point, you have been training in a quiet atmosphere and remaining close to your dog through the process. Now, you can start moving away from your dog and asking him to perform a stay in a more distracting environment. Just remember to add the other Ds one at a time, and go back to active treat streaming at first.

Have fun teaching those stays!



## Braggs

**Kaia, Sercatep's Blue By You AX, AXJ, RATO, RN**, competed at Minipalooza March 30th thru April 3rd where she earned her first Novice F.A.S.T. leg with a score of 73 out of 80 and first place, her first "QQ", the first 2 legs on her B.N. title with a tie for first place and her Rally Novice title with a fourth place and a tie for first place. Kaia also earned the AMSC Total Dog award with qualifying scores in 3 of the 5 offered events. So proud of how incredibly smart and talented this dog is, in so many ways! She is a joy to have in my life.

**U-Ch. Mythago's Royal Blue RATI**, "Kayce", completed his Canadian Championship at the Kent Kennel Club shows April 15th thru 17th, going Best Bred By Exhibitor in Group, Best of Breed 2 days followed by 2 group 3 placements. Kayce is currently ranked as the number 6 Mini Schnauzer in Canada. So thrilled to call him mine!

Lisa Martin



### New Champion ! Loneacre Caught Lookin'

Finished in style by going BOB from the classes for a 4 pt major at the Saginaw valley KC show on April 10, 2016 under Judge Cindy Vogels.

Spring and I had a fabulous time at Minipalooza! She was best veteran in sweeps and three time BOS veteran in sweeps. Had a QQQ in agility, a master Q in barn hunt AND earned her novice rally title there including a class win. She was also one of 20 that was awarded the Total Dog medal. Im so very proud of her. She is now:

**CH MACH Loneacre's Spring Fling RN MXB MJS RATS**

Beth Santure



### Obedience & Rally 2016

July 8-10 Obed/Rally  
Ann Arbor KC  
Monroe, MI  
Closes 6-22

July 16-17 Obed  
Holland/Battle Creek KC  
Marshall, MI  
Closes 6-29

Aug. 13-14 Obed/Rally  
Obed. TC of Greater Lansing  
Lansing, MI  
Closes 7-27

Aug. 20-21 Obed & Rally  
St. Joe Valley Agility Club  
Buchanan, MI  
Closes 8-3

Sept. 2-4 Obed & Rally  
Marquette KC  
Marquette, MI  
Closes 8-17

### Agility

July 2-3  
MI Boxer Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 6-18

July 8-10  
Central MI Agility Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 6-24

July 15-17  
AADTC  
Whitmore Lake, MI  
Closes 7-1

July 21-24  
Southern MI Weimaraner Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 7-7

July 29  
MSCM  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 7-15

July 30-31  
GWP Club  
Dexter, MI

## Show Calendar

Closes 7-15

Aug. 6-7  
Capital City Club  
Williamston, MI  
Closes 7-23  
OUTDOORS

Aug. 13-14  
MI Boxer Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 7-29

Aug. 19-21  
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 8-5

Sept. 3-4  
Central MI Agility Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 8-19

### Conformation

July 8-10  
Ann Arbor KC  
Monroe, MI  
Closes 6-22

July 15-17  
Holland, MI KC, Battle Creek KC  
Marshall, MI  
Closes 6-29

August 5-7  
Sturgis KC, Berrien KC  
Marshall, MI  
Closes 7-20

August 20 & 21  
Macomb kennel Club  
Davisburg, MI  
Closes 8-03

September 2-4  
Marquette KC  
Marquette, MI  
Closes 8-17

September 3  
Jaxon KC  
Jackson, MI  
Closes 8-17