



TOPLINES

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe"

—St. Augustine

TOPLINES

November/
December 2010

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Martha's Christmas Miracle



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Officers 2010

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Secretary: Donna Giles



Martha was sitting in her living room watching television this Christmas Eve, alone as she had been for the last five years. All of her children had married and moved to the four corners of the nation. Her youngest, a surgery resident at the Vet School across the state had planned on coming home, but had been assigned to work the emergency clinic and couldn't find a replacement. Martha told herself that having Sally working to help the sick and injured animals this Christmas Eve was worth being alone, besides, Sally would be driving over for Christmas dinner the next afternoon.

All the animals had been fed and now were safely in either the kennel building or lazily laying around the house. Martha had to stop to think how many dogs she had at her house this Christmas, she sighed when she realized there were 16. She did rescue and the number of dogs was always changing with some dogs being adopted, and new abandoned dogs coming in. Feeling overwhelmed by the number of dogs she had and all the dogs still left in shelters to die because there was no room for them in rescue, Martha seriously wondered if she should stop

working rescue. If she didn't have all these dogs, she could have flown to any of her other children's homes for the holidays to be with family. Besides, the heart-break of seeing each dog in such need was beginning to really weigh on her. Tonight she had a new dog, brought home that day. Martha didn't really plan on adding another dog but on her way home from the store she saw a dog lying on the side of the road. Certain the dog was dead, Martha stopped, to pick up the body and take it home for a burial. As she got closer, she recognized the shell of an Alaskan Malamute, the breed she rescued. Covered by cuts and festering wounds, what fur was left was matted and filthy, it was so skinny that laying there you could see each rib and it's hipbones were the widest part of his body. With tears in her eyes, mourning for what once had been a majestic animal now reduced to almost a skeleton she reached down to give the poor dog one last pat on the head. 'Oh, you poor boy, what a way to end your life. Well, at least I can name you and give you a decent farewell.' As her tears fell on the dog's head,

one eye slowly opened and the tail gave a single wag.

'You're alive! Everything will be OK now, I'll take you home and you will have a soft bed and food tonight.' She said, tears streaming down her face, this time from happiness. The rest of the afternoon was spent cleaning the dog's wounds and making sure he was able to eat and drink water. Martha set up the large run in the kennel building for him. A soft blanket and a thick foam pad was to be his bed, fresh water and food beside him. Papers for his 'necessary functions' were placed at the far end of the run. He lay there watching every move she made.

Martha left the dog resting on his bed, somewhat surprised at the reaction of the rest of the dogs in the kennel. Pandemonium usually broke out with all the other dogs wooing and barking when a new dog was brought in, tonight all the other dogs just stood and silently watched as Martha cared for the new dog. Thankful the other dogs were not disturbing the new boy, Martha went to the house to finish preparations for tomorrow's dinner.

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MSEM Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11, 2010



Coral Gables Restaurant

2838 E. Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI
Ph. (517)337-1311

**Dinner, Business Meeting, Election of Officers,
Presentation of Awards, & Christmas Party with
Gift Exchange and Games!**

Be ready to play
"Schnauzer Bingo"!!



For the Gift Ex-
change bring a
wrapped gift
marked for a lady
or man. Limit \$10



Dinner at 4:00 pm.

Open Menu

Business Meeting and Party to follow!

As Always, Guests are Welcome!!

E-mail or call

Karin Jaeger by December 8th to let her know that you are coming
(karinjaeger@voyager.net) (517-351-0412)

Directions: Take I-96 to Exit 110 (Okemos Rd.) Go North on Okemos Rd. to M-43 (Grand River Ave.) Businesses on that corner include: Bennigan's Restaurant, Marathon Gas Station, BP/Amoco Station. Turn Left on to M-43 (Grand River). After the bridge over the railroad tracks, there is a traffic light at Park Lake Rd. and another at Northwind Dr. (there's a Farmer Jack's on the southwest corner of the intersection). **Coral Gables** entrance is the 4th on the right following this light (after Tom's Party Store, a Hollywood Video & the new Oriental Market). If you get to the Brookfield Shell gas station, you've gone too far.

2010 Calendar of Important Events



NOVEMBER 30

MSCM Membership **EXPIRES TODAY** if dues are unpaid!

DECEMBER 8

Reservations due today for the Christmas Banquet. Call Karin (517-351-0412) or email (karinjaeger@voyager.net)

DECEMBER 11

MSCM Christmas Banquet & Awards-Coral Gables Restaurant, East Lansing 4:00 p.m. (Details on page 3)



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!

Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves. ~Eric Sevareid



Continued from page 1

Later that evening Martha went down to the kennel to check on the new boy and feed the other dogs. As she walked in the door the new boy shakily stood to greet her. As she was straightening up the kennel after feeding and exercising the dogs, she saw her microchip reader. 'Well, this will be a waste of time' she thought as she ran the reader over the dog's body.

BEEPI! The reader had located a chip! Writing the number down, she hurried to the house to call the chip registry and report the found dog. As she suspected on Christmas Eve, all she got was a machine.

Very late that night, the phone rang. Martha answered and a strange voice was on the other end. 'Did you find a dog with a microchip?' 'Yes, are you the registry needing more information?' Martha asked. 'No, the registry called us and told us you found our dog!' and then the man broke down crying. After composing himself, he continued. 'The dog you found is BISS AM/CAN/INT CH Wasilla's Ice Sculpture, WPD, WTD, WLD, TT, CGC but to us he is our heart, the love of our life, Icy. Three years ago Icy was stolen from his exercise area in our back yard. We did everything we could think of to find him, but lately we had almost given up hope of ever seeing him again. This is a miracle. We are leaving now to come pick him up. We are about 14 hours from you so we will see you and Icy in the morning.'

Martha was crying, indeed it was a miracle! And the new dog now had a name, his own name and his people were coming for him. What a wonderful Christmas gift.

Martha hurried down to the kennel to let Icy know that his humans had been found and they were on their way to take him home. As Martha walked up to Icy's kennel he stood to greet her, 'Icy, yes, I know your name and I have spoken to your people. They're coming to take you home.' As she was talking to Icy, she heard the old clock in the building strike midnight.

Much to her amazement, Icy said 'Thank you.'

Martha thought, now I am sure I have been around dogs too long, I could swear I heard Icy speak.

Icy continued 'Martha, yes I am talking to you in human language, you see, at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Day, all animals can speak. Let me tell you what happened to me today.'

'I have been kept in a dark barn for a long time by some very mean people who beat me and often forgot to feed me. Two days ago I found a loose board on the barn and was able to escape. I walked as fast as I could, looking for my people, or at least for some kind person to feed me and give me a warm place to sleep before I died. I was in the middle of a big field when I couldn't walk or even crawl any more, I laid down, knowing I was about to cross to the Rainbow Bridge. As I stepped onto the Bridge, an Angel came towards me.'

'Icy,' the Angel said 'If you agree, He has a job for you before cross the Bridge. There is a very kind human who needs you today to restore her spirit.'

'Of course I agreed to help a human -- that is what Malamutes do. The Angel picked up my body and carried it to the side of a road and laid it down. The next thing I

remember is you were scratching my ear and talking to me and your tears were falling on my face. You have cared for me this day.'

Martha heard a chorus of voices all about her. To her amazement she was surrounded not only by her dogs, but dogs she had rescued and sent on to forever homes, all voicing stories how Martha had cared for them and restored them to health and loved them, thanking her for her love.

The first Malamute Martha had rescued many years ago stepped to the front of the gathering and said, 'Martha, you took us in to your home, cared for us, healed us both in body and spirit then, even though it broke your heart, sent us on to our new forever families. This gave us a life we would never have had without you. Others of us here, never were adopted and lived out our lives with you, loved and cared for as if we were your own dogs. In our hearts we are your dogs. Thank you.'

Then one small mixed breed puppy stepped forward from the back and said, 'Miss Martha, you never held me nor fed me, you see I am speaking for all the shelter dogs and cats gathered here for which you did all you could. We understand that you can't save us all, but you read our shelter stories, knowing we would cross the Bridge without knowing a home of our own, and you cried for us. We thank you for that. You see, we knew you cared and loved us, too.

And that love helped us as we crossed. We thank you and all the other Rescuers for that small act of love.'

Icy looked at Martha and told her, 'It is getting late and you will have many people here tomorrow to celebrate Christmas. And you have your rescue work to continue. Our time to be able to talk to you is growing short, but always remember what happened tonight. What you do for the animals is a gift to us and to Him, the Father of us all. Each of us, animals of every species, needs people like you. Please keep on helping. You are doing the work of Angels.'

At that point all of the dogs in unison said 'Thank You,' and their voices blended into a joyous howl which echoed from the heavens to the ends of the earth.

Humbly offered as a Christmas Gift to all who love animals.

Christmas 2007

Bilinda Marshall 2007

What You Shouldn't Get Your Dog For Christmas

1. A CD of cats meowing popular Christmas Songs.
2. A chew toy with the head already gnawed off by his canine brother who chewed his way into the gift box around the 15th of the month.
3. A chew toy shaped like a shoe which he is immediately going to confuse with the right sneaker of your favorite pair.
4. Central air conditioning for his Dogloo when you're still using individual wall units that are barely up to cooling a small close-size area in your house.
5. Anything Garfield.
6. A remote control for the refrigerator door.
7. A knitted pink sweater that makes your macho Schnauzer look like a poodle.
8. A deluxe pre-packaged treat-filled Christmas stocking that's large enough for you to use as a sleeping bag.
9. Doggie antlers when your near-sighted hunting relatives will be spending the holidays with you.
10. A stuffed toy dog with an angel's halo as a hint as to what he has to do to get more presents next year.
11. A doggie door between you and the suspicious butcher next door.
12. An audition for a diet dog food commercial where they feed him so much
13. A piece of jewelry featuring a ceramic dog of his breed for you to wear.
14. His own Internet Pet Supplies credit card.
15. A cat.



Show Calendar

Obedience & Rally

Closes 1-7-11

Jan. 20,21,22,23 Obed. & Rally
Livonia & Oakland Cty KC
Novi, MI
Closes 1-5-11

Jan. 28,29,30
Weimaraner Club
Dexter, MI
Closes 1-12-11

Feb. 25,26 Rally 26,27 Obed
Sportsmens DTC
Warren, MI
Closes 2-9-11

Feb. 12,13
Ann Arbor DTC
Dexter, MI
Closes 1-28

Agility

Jan. 7,8,9
Canine Combustion
Dexter, MI
Closes 12-17

Feb. 19,20
Canine Combustion
Dexter, MI
Closes 2-9-11

Jan. 21,22,23
GWP Club
Dexter, MI

Feb. 25,26,27
Capital City
Dexter, MI
Closes 2-9-11

Conformation

Dec. 3-5 Ingham County KC,
East Lansing, MI, Closed

Dec. 16-19 Crown Classic in
Cleveland Ohio, Closes 12-01

Conformation, Obedience, &
Rally



Mail to:
Lynn Baitinger
5400 Orion Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306-2549

MSCM TROPHY DONATION FORM

Amount-_____ Check Number_____

Donor's Name-_____

Address-_____

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

We're on the Web!

www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org

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.



THANK GOODNESS FOR DOGS

I have so much to be thankful for. I have wonderful friends and family, good food on the table and a roof over my head.

I'm thankful for kind strangers, good neighbors and the beauty of nature.

But most of all, I am thankful for dogs.

I am thankful for the wake-up call of a cold, wet nose and for snuggling to keep warm on chilly nights I am blessed by the fur that is permanently embedded in everything I own and the stray dog hairs that make their way into my lunch

I am grateful for having a third of the bed to sleep on
For getting to use half of the covers
For the tail that wags and the nose that sniffs
For the eyes that gaze longingly at my dinner plate and for the jaws that destroy all squeakers, but never harm people

I'm beholden to the "tic, tic, tic" sound of paws on the floor reminding me that a nail trim is due and the forgiveness after the dreaded task is done
I appreciate the barking that tells me a stranger is at the door and even the barking that warns of potential danger from squirrels and pedestrians

For endless games of fetch, Frisbee and tug-o-war
For kibble-scented kisses and funky smelling feet
and for coming when called (usually)
for all this, I am glad

For the excited greeting upon my return, even if I've only been gone for a minute
The sheer glee of puppies to the patience and wisdom of seniors and the unconditional love and affection, especially on my darkest days
For making me feel as if I am the

most special, I am thankful to my dog.

Author Unknown

