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# THE MERRIMAC MONITOR

For people who love dogs and the dogs who train them  
MERRIMAC DOG TRAINING CLUB, INC.

P. O. Box 1685  
Training Building: 723-8141  
Newport News, Virginia 23601  
15 Newsome Pl., Hampton 23661  
Visit us at [www.merrimacdogs.com](http://www.merrimacdogs.com)

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**NEXT MEETING**  
8 September, 2008  
7:30 PM

**NEXT  
REGISTRATION**  
Saturday, 9 August  
1 till 4 PM  
Thursday 21 August  
6 till 8 PM

**NEXT SESSION**  
Monday, August 25 – Monday, October 20

**President:** Candy Stephens  
**V President:** Jackie Spencer  
**Treasurer:** Jean Conroy  
**Recording Secretary:** Penny Garwood  
**Correspondence Secretary:** Helen Noles

**Board of Directors**  
Marilyn Sanders  
Sherry Bryant  
Sharon Knapp  
Mary Ommundsen  
Greg Boeshaar  
Gwen Gore

MAY TIME AND MEMORIES BRING YOU  
COMFORT AND HELP TO HEAL YOUR HEARTACHE

Jackie Spencer lost two of her Yorkies  
"Elle" her oldest and "Andrew"

Lynne Harley's cat "Shredder"

Hearts & Flowers administrator  
**Marylen Melton**  
[bassetk9@verizon.net](mailto:bassetk9@verizon.net)

MDTC Member  
Information Change

Erika Bebout

[erika.bebout@gmail.com](mailto:erika.bebout@gmail.com)

**Key Monitor** - Carla Bright: Eligible  
members may request a building key  
from Carla Bright via her **NEW** email  
at [Chbright9@aol.com](mailto:Chbright9@aol.com)

# *Seminar with Pat Miller*

Dates August 23,& 24, 2008

Lunch and morning snack provided both days.

## **Saturday**

### **Morning:**

**Body Talk:** Our social structures are similar, but our body languages are very different. Discover how to send the right messages to your dogs, and how to use body talk to your best advantage for training and relationship purposes.

**How Dogs Think and Learn:** What's going on inside those canine brains? How *do* dogs think and learn? Perhaps surprisingly to some, not so differently from the way *we* do. This seminar helps you make sense of the sometimes confusing world of operant and classical conditioning, and more.  
*(This is an important foundation for the afternoon)*

### **Afternoon:**

**Positive Solutions for Aggression and Other Behavior Problems:** Apply the principles of behavior and learning to resolve problem behaviors without the use of force. It's easier than you think...!

**Cost: \$100.00 MDTC Members: \$60.00**

**Early bird special: Register before July 15<sup>th</sup> for just \$80.00**

## **Sunday: Working workshop**

**Clicking for Competition:** Use clicker training to refine your dog's performance for the Rally or Obedience arena – add points and half-points to your scores by shaping straighter sits and fronts, tighter finishes, faster recalls and better attitudes

12 working participants and unlimited auditors

Cost: \$150.00 after July 15th

\$100.00 MDTC Members.

\$120.00 early bird registration if received before July 15th.

Auditors: \$60.00

For more information Contact

DeWaun Countryman

[corgibeagle@aol.com](mailto:corgibeagle@aol.com)

49 Otsego Drive

Newport News VA 23602

# MDTC Christmas Party

Hampton Elk's Lodge  
95 Tide Mill Lane

December 7, 2008

5:00 - 8:00 PM

(Open Bar 4:30 - 5:30)

**Cost: Free to all Members in Good Standing**  
**\$13 for all other members and non-members**

## Menu

Baked Chicken, Top Round (sliced), Baked Potato, Broccoli,  
String Beans, Rolls, Tea & Coffee and Desert

Please remember to Mark the date now  
and start saving those auction  
items!!!

## **THANK YOU**



To all my Merrimac friends, THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all the cards and flowers you sent after my recent surgery. I was absolutely overwhelmed with all of your thoughtfulness and caring. We know we have friends at Merrimac, but the quantity of cards and flowers were truly astounding! You all really helped cheer me up. Thank you so much.  
Emily Boeshaar

*My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can.  
That's almost \$21.00 in dog money. -Joe Weinstein*

## Coming Events

I have been working on setting up a new official e-mail group. It is through yahoogroups. It is for members only, and it will be moderated. It is not a chat list, but an announcement list. This list will give members access to membership roster, by-laws, standing rules, committee chairpersons list. Official memos will be published this way. In the next couple of weeks, if I have your correct e-mail address, you will receive a notice that you have been added to, or are invited to join MDTC announcements. That e-mail will also give you the option to accept or decline joining the list. Multiple members of the board are moderators, so it should be kept reasonably up to date.

The board is looking for ideas to help bring club members together as a cohesive group. We need input, so a suggestion box will soon appear. The only guidelines are that suggestions be positive and signed.

Also, many members go way above and beyond the 10 hours required to earn a key. Should there be extra perks for the additional work? If so, what are some reasonable incentives/rewards that could be given for that additional effort. Again, if you have ideas pass them along to a board member - or drop them in the suggestion box when it makes its appearance.

We have a good club - let's all work together to make it a GREAT one.

President,  
Candy Stephens

### **For Our Instructors**

I would like to thank the following instructors who have volunteered for Session 4: Shirley Meyers, Helen Noles, Debbie Cross, Jim Swimme, Diane Payne, Gayle Petrick, Candy Stevens, John Taylor, Jonnie Hargrove, Leslie Wemhoff, Susie Knox, Kasha Winston, Sharon Owens, Paula Dayton, Meg Postema, Shirley Tinker, and Jackie Spencer.

Without these instructors taking not only their time but their knowledge and helping students, we could not have the building. If you are an instructor or would like to be an instructor and have a certain idea for a class, please let me know. Our building is empty Monday afternoon and evening, all day and night Wednesday and Friday - and most weekends. Also, if you are instructing a class and need more time than the usual 50 minutes, let me know and we can add some more time. Many of our classes in the mornings, with mostly members, can run over and we can easily work out times. Evening classes are pretty much set because of time constraints, but Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening is open for any classes. With all the empty times in the building, all the classes should be able to have plenty of time. If you haven't instructed lately or would like to co-instruct with somebody, please let me know. Co-instructing has worked out great - it doesn't commit you to a full 7 weeks and if you have a situation where you cannot get to the building, the other instructor can handle the class. For new instructors it gives you a chance to take a class and not feel overwhelmed. It also gives the class two perspectives on training. Remember if you instruct two classes every year, you get \$100 toward seminars.

Please remember, if you are an instructor, to remind your students that it is their responsibility to keep their dogs from being a nuisance to other dogs and people. Excessive barking, dogs running off leash, and aggressive or overly friendly dogs need to be managed properly. We are a training club and are here to help our students, but teaching proper management of a dog with issues should be the most important lesson. If anyone has questions or problems with any of these issues or would like to learn more about proper management, please contact me.

Again, much gratitude to all our instructors –  
Mary Ann Mullen

# ***PROFOUND***

**Maggie Hayes'** little red huntress, Miss Trip, finished her Junior Hunter (JH) up in Elkton, MD on 7/19. Her last water mark was a live flyer and she brought her bird back in such grand style that the judge said he'd be honored to hunt with her and the gallery stood and applauded. Be still my heart. To top it all off, the very next day, Trip worked a 200 and went High in Match out of Open B at the Stafford Kennel Club's UKC match. I just might keep the little wench! : )

## **Hello Members,**

Please let us know if you have any suggestions, questions, or problems. Our email is: [dmcairns@verizon.net](mailto:dmcairns@verizon.net). If anyone would like to join the e-mail group just drop us a line with your full name and the e-mail you want to use. This will help greatly with keeping mailing costs down for the club. ***Please remember to send in your "Braggs" and information with your FULL name.*** The last day for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.  
Newsletter Administrators, Donna & Dawn

## **Prospective Members Introduction...Aug 08**

**Kevin Spring** I'm from Philadelphia, PA. I was in the US Navy from 1993 to 1997 and have been in the US Air Force since April 2001. I'm married with two children. We have one cat, two eleven-month old kittens, and our seven-month-old German Shepherd pup named Nara Simba Devi. I've loved dogs my entire life, but due to my family always moving, we never owned any pets. But, of all the dogs I've ever met and played with as a child, the ones who obeyed their owner's every command "first time, every time" were the ones I respected the most. I want Nara to be one of those dogs! That's why I've enrolled her in the MDTC Basic Obedience class, and will get her involved in every class possible that MDTC offers. I am currently researching and looking to get Nara a lifelong playmate for companionship and backyard fun. I narrowed down the list to either a Siberian Husky or an Alaskan Malamute, and now have my heart set on the Husky! That Husky will also be deeply involved in MDTC classes when he is able.

When nature calls please answer, and scoop the poop – inside as well as outside

## **Signs you love your Dog**

~ You have your dog's picture on your office desk (but no one else's).

Next General Membership Meeting:  
8 September, 2008 - 7:30 PM  
Bring a chair! See you there!