



# THE CHATTERBOXER

*Celebrating 60 years of commitment to the breed*

February 2005

Member, American Boxer Club

## In This Issue

Meeting Minutes .....	2
Contemplations .....	3
Treasurer's Report .....	4
Boxer Shorts.....	5
Election Results .....	6
Member Birthdays .....	6
New Member Application.....	7 & 10
The Next Generation .....	8-9
What Price Popularity?	
2004 Show Report .....	9
Show Wins .....	11
Announcements .....	12
Meeting Schedule.....	12

## February Events

Groundhog Day .....	2
Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras.....	8
Ash Wednesday.....	9
Valentine's Day.....	14
Westminster.....	14-15
President's Day .....	21
Full Moon .....	24

**Our next meeting is  
Tuesday, February 1, 2005  
Family Buggy Restaurant, Livonia  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Frequent Flyer Program for Pets

Long known for providing award-winning service to passengers, Midwest Airlines today announced a way to reward pets that travel with their owners. The Midwest Airlines Premier Pet Program, the first of its kind in the United States, awards pets one free roundtrip flight after flying with their owners on three paid roundtrip flights or six paid one-way flights.\* Additionally, "human" members of the airline's frequent flyer program, Midwest Miles, may earn a free trip for their pets by redeeming 15,000 miles.

"Many customers choose Midwest Airlines when traveling with their pets, knowing that our approach to serving customers also applies to their four-legged family members," said Timothy E. Hoeksema, chairman and chief executive officer. "Our customers travel with their pets to dog and cat shows, to second homes, and on pleasure and business trips just because they enjoy their company. We decided it was high time we threw a bone to our best customers—and their best friends—for their loyalty to Midwest Airlines with a frequent flyer program just for pets."

Susan Kerwin-Hagen, coordinator of the Premier Pet Program and a trainer of show dogs, says Midwest makes an extra effort to reassure passengers traveling with pets. "To lessen any anxiety, pets are allowed to check in with their owners at airport ticket counters, and pets are the last to be loaded and the first to be unloaded from the plane," said Kerwin-Hagen. "We also have a special passenger notification tag attached to the kennel. After the pet is loaded, a portion of the tag is detached and given to flight attendant who personally delivers it to the pet's owner in the cabin."

The American Kennel Club has commended Midwest Airlines for taking an important step in expanding its service for pet owners and recognizing dog owners' needs. "By rewarding owners who fly with their pets, Midwest Airlines will help alleviate many travel concerns for these individuals," said Stephanie Lane, director of Canine Legislation for the American Kennel Club. "The Premier Pet Program's flexibility will allow countless AKC constituents—including dog owners, show exhibitors, breeders and sportsmen -- who travel even just a few times a year—to take advantage of its benefits."

Midwest Airlines features jet service throughout the United States, including Milwaukee's most daily nonstop flights and best schedule to major destinations. Skyway Airlines, Inc.—its wholly owned subsidiary -- operates as Midwest Connect, which offers connections to Midwest Airlines as well as point-to-point service between select markets on regional jet and turboprop aircraft. Together, the airlines offer service to 50 cities. More information is available at [www.midwestairlines.com](http://www.midwestairlines.com).

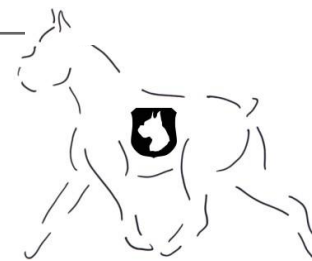
\* Pet owners have 36 months to accumulate the three paid roundtrips or six paid one-way trips needed to earn a free roundtrip for their pet—a \$150 value. Any person or pet living at the same address can combine their trips, a great advantage for owners who may have more than one dog or cat. Pets are accepted only on Midwest Airlines Boeing 717 and MD-80 aircraft, and Midwest Connect Beech 1900 airplanes. The Premier Pet Program applies only to owners and pets that travel together on the same flight; it does not apply to pets shipped as cargo or service animals.

February 2005

## CONTEmpLATIONS

*By contrast with history, evolution is an unconscious process. Another, and perhaps a better way of putting it would be to say that evolution is a natural process, history a human one....*

*~Owen Barfield*



2005 is shaping up to be an important year in the evolution of the Boxer community. Last year, as you know, the membership passed revisions to the Code of Ethics and the Standard, and those revisions should become official this year. (The Code of Ethics changes are actually already effective, but a new document is being drafted which will incorporate those changes.)

These truly are ground-breaking changes, and have already had some positive effects on the attitudes of many breeders, owners, and exhibitors. I already know of a handful of uncropped puppies who will be hitting the ring early this year, in anticipation of the AKC approval of the standard. Breeders who have traditionally ostracized white puppies are now agreeing to sign litter registrations for whites sired by their stud dogs.

We've also seen an increase in the number of Boxers imported to this country in the past few years, most notably from the UK, to bring in 'fresh bloodlines' to North America, and several offspring of these UK/NA crosses should be entering show rings across the continent in 2005. As these pups become more widespread, expect to see more imports, and more crosses, as breeders attempt an evolution of type toward that of the moderate British dogs.

The ChatterBoxer itself is evolving, with electronic delivery to those who have chosen it beginning next month. The format will be changing somewhat as well—some of that can be seen in this issue—as I attempt to continue providing articles and information that will be of benefit to you. This month's issue is shorter than usual, for various reasons—rest assured that my intention is to return to the longer issues, with more content.

You probably noticed a slight change to the Club logo this year. 2005 marks the 60th Anniversary of incorporation of the Michigan Boxer Club. (In reality the Club is probably even older—the ABC history actually has the club formed in November 1939—but we weren't incorporated in the state of Michigan until May 11, 1945.) MBC is one of the oldest regional clubs in the country, and we remain one of the largest. I've included the text from the Club History webpage here for those who haven't read it.

It is quite an accomplishment for a club to remain so cohesive for so long, and a membership that is open to evolution has to be given the credit for that. Our Club has been home to many successful, dedicated, and enthusiastic Boxer people, both in the past and present, and the next 60 years look promising!

The Michigan Boxer Club was founded in 1945 by the Charter Members, R.P. Valtier, Klockes, Daniels, Schellig, Hydes, and Lagans. Mr Valtier was the first President. Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Schellig owned Ch Felicia of Amerikeim and Ch Jando's Exotic Lady. The Schelligs also owned Ch Brace of Briannole, who was the first American-Bred Boxer to go Best in Show All Breed in 1940. In addition, he sired 6 Champions and 8 Producers. He was an important dog for the breed, being one of Ch Lustig V Dom's first American-Bred Champions. Mr. D. R. Lagan was the first Vice President; the Lagans owned Ch Siegelinda of Laganhof. The Klockes owned Ch Alva V.C. Edleqweishobe and Ch Aurelious of Kesthal. The C. Hydes' owned Ch Gayborne of Briannole and Ch Aria of Gayborne. Dr. Daniels was the most prominent of the Charter Members and lasted the longest in the breed. He owned Ch Kavalier of Mazelaine, Ch Bubbling Over of Lilac Hedge, Ch Capri Est Gypsy Girl and the famous Mazelaine's Kapellmeister, still the leading non-champion sire in the breed with 34 Champions.

The group that followed the Charter members had the most influence on the Club during the heyday of the breed during the 1950s. The Chas Williams, the Ray Norsworthys, Hugo Krave, the Don Starkweathers, the Peter Castros, the Gene Haupt's and many others kept the shows humming with good Boxers. The Starkweather's Rainey Lane Kennels won the ABC award for producing the most Champions several times in the late 50's.

The first record we have of the first separate Michigan Specialty was in 1951, where Nellie Anderson awarded Ch Keppy-L of May Will, owned by Chas. and Mae Williams, Best of Breed. Keppy was out of the Williams' first litter and put May-Will and the sire Kapellmeister on the map. Four from that first litter finished, and May-Will's Miss Raheba produced 9 Champions from three litters. The Williams had a strong influence on the Club. Charlie served in a variety of offices through the years and is still a member.

Our Fall Specialties, with entries from the 80s to 118, throughout

the 50's were a highlight in the Mid-West. Such Boxer greats as John P. Wagner, Phil Marsh, Mary Cousins, Lena Ludwig, Harry Sangster and Hugo Krave judged these shows.

The 1960s brought another generation of members to the front; the Connollys, Steeles, Sortors, Heises, Nutkins, Hollingers, Raders, and Tunstills, to name a few, with the Williams and Norsworthys providing continuity to the Club. The 70s brought new members who contributed greatly; the Richard Johnsons, Oversbys, Starks and Dulings became mainstays in the Club.

Aside from our Michigan activities, the Club has contributed our talent to the American Boxer Club. Hugo Krave was our first ABC Director in 1955. He was responsible for the ABC Regional concept, being the first Chairman at Marion, Ohio in 1958. This was the first ABC held west of the Hudson River. The Regional was co-sponsored by MBC and Ohio Boxer Club. Our members did well, with the Haupt's Ch EuBet's Editor going BOS and Porter's EuBet's Typcutter going BW. Hugo Krave became President of the ABC for 1959 and 1960, another first as all past Presidents had been from the east. Hugo was also the first MBC member to judge the ABC, in 1957. Ray Norsworthy was our first member ABC Regional Director in 1969, as in the past we had been represented by someone from the east. Ray also co-chaired the first two Regionals at Marion, Ohio, and Charles Williams chaired the Regional at Monroe in 1972. John Connolly has served on the ABC Board from 1981 thru 1985 and 1989 thru 1995, serving as President in 1985, 1993 through 1995. In recent years, Tom Duling has twice served as Regional Director.

The Club currently has 84 members and is very healthy. The Michigan Boxer Club was the first Club to donate to the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, giving \$2000 in memory of Jeanne & Ted Tunstill, for research to improve Boxer health. While many of our members work hard for the club, a special tribute must be paid to Tom Duling, Dave & Marilyn Stark, Dick & Joan Johnson, and Terry Agle for their many years of doing the "hard" work.

February 2005

## BOXER SHORTS

### Genine DeMaso, Debut Boxers



#### To My DOGS, ON VALENTINE'S DAY:

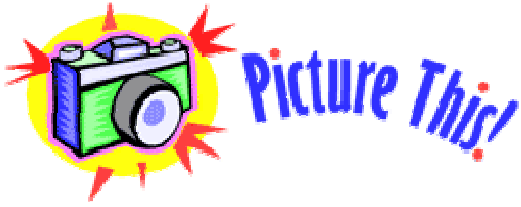
How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...

1. I love thee agreeably -  
enough to let your stinky doghide on the bed after a run through damp leaves, mud and slug infested gardens.
2. I love thee steadfastly - enough to devote a year to raising you from a wobbly speck into a strong healthy adult (who promptly attempts to seize control).
3. I love thee passionately -  
despite your repeated efforts to probe my ears, eyes and mouth with the same tongue you use for various other atrocities.
4. I love thee well -  
despite the amazing odors you produce.
5. I love thee deeply -  
though you use me as a napkin at every opportunity.
6. I love thee madly -  
despite the various bodily functions you have performed at inappropriate moments - in inappropriate places.
7. I love thee constantly -  
despite the dog "bladder curfew" I have lived by for many years.
8. I love thee truly -  
despite the "doggie landmines" hidden in the grass.



9. I love thee absolutely -  
because you never (well, hardly ever) hog the remote control.
10. I love thee gratefully -  
because you stay by my side (or on my side).
11. I love thee devotedly -  
more than clean carpeting, clothing, furniture, floors or walls.
12. I love thee bravely -  
enough to battle the indomitable flea on your behalf.
13. I love thee monetarily -  
enough to put the vet's children through college.
14. I love thee openly -  
I will bear any embarrassment for your furry sake.
15. I love thee totally -  
more than free time, excess cash or a predictable life.

## OFA/CHF “Photo Op”



The OFA is pleased to add the ability to display a digital photograph on each dog's OFA web page.

The fee for this service is \$10, of which **100% of the revenues collected** will be donated to the AKC Canine Health Foundation's Endowment Fund. Furthermore, **every dollar donated will be matched** by the AKC through the end of 2005.

What a great way to proudly display your dog, its health screening results, and support canine health research in the process!

Details can be found at <http://www.offa.org/Likeness.html>

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## Officer Elections

At the December meeting of the Michigan Boxer Club, elections for Officers and Board of Directors for 2005 took place. Following are the results of those elections. Congratulations to all, and we look forward to another exciting year in the MBC!

OFFICERS	
<b>President</b>	Joan Johnson
<b>Vice President</b>	Alan Dorfman
<b>Secretary</b>	Jennifer Walker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mary Lou Bumpus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Charlie Beauchamp
Joanna Dorfman
Dick Johnson
Virginia Johnson
Marilyn Stark

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## Member Birthdays

The Michigan Boxer Club would like to send good wishes to the following Club members who are celebrating a birthday in February:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Luella Steele	February 1
Doug Johnson	February 15
Virginia Johnson	February 15
Diane Beauchamp	February 16

Also, belated good wishes—along with my apologies—to those members who celebrated a birthday in January:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Terry Geeck	January 5
Debbie Petri	January 8
Laura McKarge	January 17
Nancy Baeten	January 18
Merry Ridings	January 20



## The Price of Popularity: Popular Sires and Population Genetics

by C.A. Sharp

Consider the hypothetical case of Old Blue, Malthound extraordinaire. Blue was perfect: Sound, healthy and smart. On week days he retrieved malt balls from dawn to dusk. On weekends he sparkled in malt field and obedience trials as well as conformation shows, there he baited to--you guessed it--malt balls.

Everybody had a good reason to breed to Blue, so everybody did. His descendants trotted in his paw-prints on down through their generations.

Blue died full of years and full of honor. But what people didn't know was that Old Blue, good as he was, carried a few bad genes. They didn't affect him, nor the vast majority of his immediate descendants. To complicate the matter further, some of those bad genes were linked to genes for important Malthound traits.

A few Malthounds with problems started showing up. They seemed isolated, so everyone assumed it was "just one of those things." A few declared them "no big deal." Those individuals usually had affected dogs. All in all, folks carried on as usual.

Time passed. More problem dogs turned up. People made a point not to mention the problems to others because everyone knows the stud owner always blames the bitch for the bad tings and takes credit for the good. Stud owners knew it best to keep quiet so as not to borrow trouble. Overall, nobody did anything to get to the bottom of the problems, because if they were really significant, everybody would be talking about it, right?

Years passed. Old Blue had long since moldered in his grave. By now, everyone was having problems, from big ones like cataracts, epilepsy or thyroid disease to less specific things like poor-keepers, lack of mothering ability and short life-span. "Where can I go to get away from this?" breeders wondered. The answer was nowhere.

People became angry. "The responsible parties should be punished!" Breeders who felt their programs might be implicated stonewalled. Some quietly decided to shoot, shovel and shut-up. A few brave souls stood up and admitted their dogs had a problem and were hounded out of the breed.

The war raged on, with owners, breeders and rescue workers flinging accusations at each other. Meanwhile everybody carried on as always. After another decade or two the entire Malthound breed collapsed under the weight of its accumulated genetic debris and went extinct.

This drastic little fable is an exaggeration--but not much of one. Here's similar, though less drastic, example from real life: There once was a Quarter Horse stallion named Impressive. The name fit. He sired many foals who also exhibited his desired traits. But when they and their descendants were bred to each other, those offspring sometimes died. Impressive had been the carrier of a lethal single-gene recessive trait. No one knew it was there until they started in-breeding on him. The situation of a single sire having this kind of drastic genetic effect on a breed became known as the "Impressive Syndrome."

Many species and breeds of domestic animals, including dogs, have suffered "Impressive Syndromes" of their own. But cases like that of Impressive are only the tip of the iceberg. A single-gene recessive becomes obvious in just a few generations. But what about more complex traits?

This is not to say that those popular sires we so admire are bad breeding prospects. Their many excellent traits should be utilized, but even the best of them has genes for negative traits.

The problem is not the popular sires, but how we use them. For a century or more, in-breeding has been the name of the game. (For the purposes of this article, "in-breeding" refers to the breeding of dogs related to each other and therefore includes line-breeding.) By breeding related individuals, a breeder increased his odds of producing dogs homozygous for the traits he wanted. Homozygous individuals are much more likely to produce those traits in the next generation.

When a male exhibits a number of positive traits and then proves his ability to produce those traits he may become a popular sire, one that is used by almost everyone breeding during his lifetime, and maybe beyond, thanks to frozen semen.

Since the offspring and grand-offspring and so on are good, breeders start breeding them to each other. If the results continue to be good, additional back-crosses may be made for generations. Sometimes a sire will be so heavily used that, decades hence, breeders may not even be aware of how closely bred their animals are because the dog no longer appears on their pedigrees.

This is the case in Australian Shepherds. Most show-line Aussies trace back, repeatedly, to one or both of two full brothers: Wildhagen's Dutchman of Flintridge and Fieldmaster of Flintridge. These, products of a program of inbreeding, were quality individuals and top-producing sires. They are largely responsible for the over-all quality and uniformity we see in the breed ring today--a uniformity that did not exist before their birth nearly three decades ago.

Working lines have also seen prominent sires, but performance traits are far more complex, genetically and because of the significant impact of environment. They are therefore harder to fix. Performance breeders will in-breed, but are more likely to stress behavioral traits and general soundness than pedigree and conformational minutiae. The best working sires rarely become as ubiquitous as the best show-line sires.

Not every popular sire becomes so because of his ability to produce quality offspring. Some have won major events or are owned by individuals with a knack for promotion. Such dogs may prove to be wash-outs once their get is old enough to evaluate. But a lot of breeders have been using the animal for the few years it takes to figure that out, the damage may already have been done.

Use of even the best popular sires, by its very nature, limits the frequency of some genes in the breed gene pool while simultaneously increasing the frequency of others. Since sons and grandsons of popular sires tend to become popular sires the trend continues, resulting in further decrease and even extinction of some

February 2005

genes while others become homozygous throughout the breed. Some of these traits will be positive, but not all of them.

The owners of Old Blue, the Malthound in the opening fable, and those who owned his most immediate descendants had no idea what was happening under their noses. They were delighted to have superior studs and even more delighted to breed them to as many good bitches as possible.

Dog breeding and promoting is an expensive proposition. One usually winds up in the hole. But owning a popular sire can change that. The situation looks like a winner for everyone--the stud owner finds his financial burden reduced while breeders far and wide get to partake of his dog's golden genes.

No one breeding dogs wants to produce sick dogs. A small minority are callous and short-sighted enough to shrug genetic problems off as the price you pay to get winners, but even they do their best to avoid letting it come to general attention.

We need a total re-thinking of how we utilize stud animals. No single dog, no matter how superior, should dominate the gene pool of its breed. Owners of such sires should give serious con-

sideration to limiting how often that dog is used, annually, through its lifetime and on into the future, if frozen semen is stored. The stud owner should also look not only at the quality of the bitches being presented, but their pedigrees. How much will the level of inbreeding be increased by a particular mating?

The bitch owner also needs to think twice about popular sires. If you breed to the stud of the moment and everyone else is doing the same, where will you go when it comes time to make an out-cross?

Finally, the attitude toward genetic disease itself has to change. It must cease being everyone's dirty little secret. It must cease being a brick with which we bludgeon those with the honesty to admit it happened to them. It must become a topic of open, reasoned discussion so owner of stud and bitch alike can make informed breeding decisions. Unless breeders and owners re-think their long-term goals and how they react to hereditary problems, the situation will only get worse.

*C.A. Sharp is editor of the "Double Helix Network News". This article, appeared in Vol. IV, No. 3 (Summer 1998). It may be reprinted providing it is not altered and appropriate credit is given.*

## Show Wins

### Golden Glove's Uppercut—"Dillon"

**Owners:** Tom & Judy DeWolff, Golden Gloves Boxers

**Breeder:** Hali Bartels

**Handler:** Tom DeWolff

By Ch. Golden Glove's A Cut Above x  
Maisye's Amazing Grace

### Winners Dog—1 point

Ingham County Kennel Club - 11/29/04  
Judge - Dr. Gerald Penta

**Please Mail, Fax or E-Mail Show Wins and Litter Announcements to:**

**Jennifer Walker**  
**28423 Kendallwood Drive**  
**Farmington Hills, MI 48334**

**Phone: 248-489-1963**

**Fax: 248-489-1720**

**secretary@michiganboxerclub.com**

**I can't print them if I don't get them!!**

## Dues Reminder

Just a reminder that MBC dues for 2005 must be **received** (not postmarked) on or before our first meeting on February 1, 2005. After February 1, a \$10 late fee will be required to renew your membership, as stated in the MBC Constitution. The \$10 late fee can be paid up to March 31, 2005. After March 31, members who have not paid yearly dues must apply for new membership.

Remember, we have had a change in Officers - membership dues should now be mailed to:

Mary Lou Bumpus, Treasurer  
Michigan Boxer Club  
7784 Wild Wings Court  
Brighton, MI 48116  
810-231-1416

## 2005 Meeting Schedule

*Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, at 7:00 p.m. The Library is located on Five Mile Road, 1/4 mile east of Farmington Road. Notice of "TBD" meeting locations will be sent to all members by mail prior to the meeting date.*

### February 1, 2005—Family Buggy Restaurant

Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Corner of Plymouth & Middlebelt Roads in Livonia

March 1, 2005

April 5, 2005

May 3, 2005

June 7, 2005

### July 8, 2005—Monroe County Fairgrounds

Our July meeting will follow our Summer Specialty Show

August 2, 2005

September 6, 2005

### September 30, 2005—Monroe County Fairgrounds

Our October Meeting will follow our Fall Specialty Show

November 1, 2005

Location TBD

December 6, 2005

Location TBD

Annual Awards Dinner

## Michigan Boxer Club

### 2005 Officers

#### President

Joan Johnson  
31081 Westfield  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-427-9781

#### Vice President

Alan Dorfman  
35965 Scone  
Livonia, MI. 48154  
734-464-3927

#### Secretary

Jennifer Walker  
28423 Kendallwood  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
248-489-1963

#### Treasurer

Mary Lou Bumpus  
7784 Wild Wings Court  
Brighton, MI 48116  
810-231-1416

[www.michiganboxerclub.com](http://www.michiganboxerclub.com)

### 2005 Board of Directors

Charlie Beauchamp  
586-776-4283

Joanna Dorfman  
734-464-3927

Virginia Johnson  
734-461-2816

Dick Johnson  
734-427-9781

Marilyn Stark  
734-422-0205