



SUNSHINE OBEDIENCE SCHOOL

PRESENTS

Are You Really Ready?

WITH

Marion Crain

September 12-13, 2026

This seminar will focus on the pragmatic aspects of training and showing to prepare handlers and dogs to be fully “ring ready.” It will cover:

- How to use food, jackpots and toys in training to get ring carryover, and how NOT to!
- Blending motivational games and tricks with formal exercises
 - Developing leadership and attention while building drive
- How rules in pet life intersect with showing and performance training
- Shifting responsibility from handler to dog for exercise performance (especially heeling, retrieves, and go outs)
- Where and when to train; how often, time of day, small space or large?
 - Using gating, walls and backgrounds
 - Structuring your training sessions at each level
- Setting long-term and short-term goals and managing expectations
 - Planning a show schedule - where to show, how often?
 - Preparing for a big event
 - Proofing - when, how much, what kind?
 - Run throughs
 - Warm-ups
 - Handling in the ring, from ring entrance to exit
- Your eyes - where to look? (Heeling, fronts, finishes, signals, go outs)
 - Ring handling strategies for dogs that struggle with focus (e.g. on signals, finding go out, gloves)
 - Ring handling for dogs that stress up, or down
 - Transitions between exercises
 - Giving back to your dog in the ring, connecting in the ring
 - How to use a rent-a-ring at a show
 - What to do in the ring when mistakes happen
 - Using fix and gos in the ring
 - What, if anything, to do between shows on a show weekend
- Cross-training and showing in multiple venues: advantages, disadvantages, and common pitfalls
 - Living with, training, and showing multiple dogs

Marion started training dogs as a 4-H'er, and has been competing in AKC obedience ever since. She has trained Shelties, Keeshonden, and Border, and has lived, trained and shown widely across the country, including NY, CA, OH, WV, NC, and MO. Her achievements include:

- 13 OTCH/UDX dogs (6 Border Collies, 7 Keeshonden)
- Seven 200 scores (Sheltie, 2 Border Collies, 3 Keeshonden)
- Multiple tournament placements (AKC Classic, AKC NOC Group placements, and more)
- Over 500 HIT's and 400 HC's; over 4000 OTCH points
- Keeshond ranked # 1 all breeds for 2021, Front & Finish Delaney System (open & utility placements)
- Five Herding CHs, nine Conformation CHs, two GCH, and two RACH's



Registration:

A limit of 16 working spots and 16 auditing spots are available. These are reserved only with full payment and a completed registration form.

Working Teams:

Each working team is limited to two dogs per day and one dog per exercise/floor session.

Aggressive Dogs:

Dogs with propensities for aggression towards people or other dogs may NOT attend this seminar, or take private lessons.

Videotaping of the workshop is NOT permitted. Private lessons may be videotaped.

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO SUNSHINE OBEDIENCE SCHOOL (Checks may be post-dated to 9/1/26) No refunds after 6/1/26 unless someone from the wait list can take your spot.

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SUNSHINE OBEDIENCE SCHOOL PRESENTS: KEEPING THE CONNECTION

Registration Form

Checks should be made payable to:
Sunshine Obedience School

NAME:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:	
PHONE:	E-MAIL:
DOG'S NAME:	BREED:

☐ 2-DAY WORKING SPOT-\$300.00	☐ 2-DAY AUDITING SPOT-\$150.00
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