



Newsletter for January 2009
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Happy New Year to everyone in Top Dog!
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Past Events: Since the last newsletter we have had a fun match, a sanctioned trial, our AGM, our Christmas Party, a birthday party and more cold and snow than we really required.

At the end of October we had a Halloween Fun Match at the Agriplex. Some dogs and handlers wore costumes and everyone had a good time. Our hours available were few so we really hustled to get through two levels of Standard, Steeplechase and a special non-traditional gamble game. We had hoped to run Jumpers as well but we just could not fit it in. Still it was a good warm up event for our annual November indoor trial. We had a lot of “Qs” especially in the gamble game. We were in such a rush we never even got to hand out Q prizes!

November 1 and 2 saw us gathered early in the morning at the Agriplex to set up for the weekend’s AAC trial. Shannon Mercer, Donna Holmgren and I were the judges. Kris ordered Pizza for the Saturday night feed. We had many Qs and titles including four AtchCs, two bronze and a silver level. I will list all of these below:

June West and Benson	8 Qs and MSCDC
Mike Shortland and Dazzle	2 Qs
Sharon Burke and Phoenix	1 Q
Mark Bernat and Jasper	5 Qs and MSCDC and MADC
Sheldon Pineo and Able	5 Qs
Roger Ryf and Bicult	1 Q
Joy Miller and Chase	8 Qs, MSDC, MADC, AtchC*
Maria James and Teigs	6 Qs and Silver
Robbie Holm and Nova	4 Qs and AADC
Kim Collins and Peak	7 Qs and MSDC, MJDC, and ATChC
Kim Collins and Bounce	5 Qs and MADC, MSDC, MTRDC
Pat Krebs and Spryte	5 Qs and MTRDC
Donna Holmgren and Rayn	2 Qs
Dirk Blok and Rex	7 Qs and MTRDC
Al Henke and Bud	2 Qs
Carolyn Gerrie and Wren	1 Q and AGDC
Shauney Dennis and Cruise	3 Qs and SGDC

Michelle Klein and Zap	2 Qs and MGDC and MTRDC
Denise McLean and Keeper	3 Qs and AADC
Laura Radridge and Applejack	3 Qs and ADC
Shannon Mercer and Toque	2 Qs
Laura Norie and Chime	2 Qs
Ken Sharp and Blitz	5 Qs
Michelle Makelke and Rook	3 Qs and SGDC
Angel Dumoulin and Sunny	3 Qs and SGDC
David Greenberg and Ziva	3 Qs
Kim Collins and Bryn	8 Qs
Karen Steward and Rob Roy	2 Qs and ADC
Denise McLean and Christie	4 Qs
Rob Waterston and Timber	3 Qs
Michelle Makelke and Pepper	2 Qs
Karen Steward and Belle	2 Qs
Lorna Bertram and Rayla	4 Qs and Bronze
Mike Shortland and Shenja	2 Qs and MTRDC
Carolyn Gerrie and Levi	1 Q
Kim Collins and Sierra	3 Qs
Joy Miller and Hannah	3Qs
Roger Ryf and Zeus	1 Q and MTRDC and ATChC
Denise McLean and Sunshine	2 Qs and MSDC
Michelle Klein and Cue	2 Qs
Naomi Packer and Tegwen	4 Qs
Dirk Blok and Jack	3 Qs and MSDC and MTRDC
Cris Buker and Zoom	5 Qs and MSDC
Maureen Parsons and Mr. Too	1 Q
Shannon Mercer and Cai	1 Q and MSCDC
Diana Spelay and Mason	3 Qs
David Greenberg and Cassie	8 Qs and MTRDC and ATChC and Bronze

* Chase did not get his ribbon or his picture taken because he met the AtChC requirements after the rule changes came into effect. Congratulations Joy and Chase! Congratulations to the other new Agility Champions: Peak, Zeus and Cassie!

Al Henke put the “Old” in “Grumpy Old Man” this November. Al and Anne hosted a 65th birthday party for the old guy. There was a lot of good food and many of Al’s friends came out to wish him well.

The last Saturday in November was the evening we held our Christmas Party. There were some other events going on then and we had very few people in attendance. Without Kris there we had no games to play; however, Veronica Shortland entertained us with a very fine professional slide show of the year’s performances by our dogs. We actually had more people out to the Annual General Meeting, so I guess for Top Dog people a meeting is more fun than a party any day! Go figure! At the AGM we elected a new Board of Directors. Gys Koop remains as our president. Peter Dumoulin is our new Vice President. Rob Waterston has stepped down after many years; however, he will remain as our equipment man. Angel Dumoulin is the Obedience director. June West is

the Membership Director, Val Carlson remains as the treasurer, Lynn Koop is still the secretary and I am now the Agility Director. The executive meets at the training centre at 7:00 on the first Thursday of each month. All members are welcome to come to these meetings. At the December meeting we voted to get a new sign made for the front window of the centre. We also purchased a "Kinderpuppy" training program for our instructors to use. We agreed to work in concert with the SPCA when we rent the Agriplex for agility trials. Because we rent the place for the entire weekend we thought it would be a good idea to have the barn used on the Saturday evenings of trial weekends. Our relationship with the horse people will go better if they see dogs active during the time they are prevented from riding. So the SPCA shall plan some fund raising events that will be held in the horse barn after our first day of agility during the March and November trials. In return, when they publicize their events they will mention that the function will occur "right after the Top Dog trial."

In addition to Top Dog events this fall, at Pawsitive Steps Kim held two fun trials: standard runs in December and gamblers in January. Jumpers is coming up in February. Kim also had a very well attended Christmas party. The food was to die for, Rob showed us another great slide show, there were awards and prizes and a holey board tournament.

Coming Events: I am hoping to have some fun trials throughout the agility season. I am aiming for about one match per month. I really hope we can do something during the first part of May so that we can all get our dogs out on grass before the BC/Yukon Regionals which come early this year: May 15/16/17. Also, Angel and I want to run a special Agility/Rally-O combo event some time. However, what I really want to discuss with you all right now is our schedule of AAC trials. After consulting with other handlers I decided it was time for Top Dog to go from three trials per year to four; we hope to have one for each season. So, like we have done in the past, we are having an outdoor summer trial in August, an indoor fall trial in November, an indoor winter trial in March and now we are adding an outdoor spring trial in June. It seems to me that handlers in more populated areas of Canada get to go to many more trials than we do giving them more chances for Qs, titles and competitive experience. It also occurs to me that it is less expensive to attend local trials than distant ones so having one more local trial will be a benefit to most of us.

The difficulty is the agility calendar becomes compressed during the good weather. What we end up with is a Pawsitive Steps trial in Quesnel in May followed by Top Dog and Pawsitive Steps in June and then Clear Sailing in early July. There is some concern that there may be too many trials in too short a time during the late spring. I think that ideally we would have a trial per month; however, October, December, January, February and April are tricky months for holding trials. So I like to think of the spring and summer trials as including the off month trials presented on a delayed basis. I sent out an email asking for opinions about this and you will not be surprised to know that I got very few responses. So the result is that all three clubs are going ahead with all of the planned trials. We are hoping that most handlers will try to attend most if not all the trials and that we are not harming each other with the scheduling of the trials. So, I am giving you fair lead time to make your plans and save your allowances and be ready for a very busy 2009 season!

Our March Trial is the 14/15. We have two judges coming from out of town: Jeanne Shaw is travelling from Nelson to judge the starters and advanced courses and

Tania Schell from Duncan will do the Masters. I have dropped the Team Relay (see rule changes below) and so we will have three rounds of Standard plus two rounds of each of the other games. We will have our usual potluck lunches and I hope to arrange a low-key, low budget catered dinner for Saturday night. Thanks go to Kim and Rob who are hosting Jean during her stay and Peter and Angel and the Carmel Inn who are looking after Tania. I have already sent out entry forms. If you did not get one in your email, please contact me. I basically copied the form from last March including the fee schedule. I think our fees are in line with what other clubs charge. We will discuss fees at the next executive meeting, meanwhile please feel free to let me know your opinion.

June 6/7 we will be back out at Henke's farm for our outdoor trial. The courses will be much the same; perhaps we will add a third jumpers class. Our judges will be Donna Holmgren doing the Starters and Nicki Gurr will have the Advanced and Masters.

By August the guidelines for the new AAC Challenge courses will be out and so we will have our debut runs of these. Our judges both come from the Fraser Valley: Sherry Taylor and Christine Woodley.

The November trial is in the planning stages. I am hoping to get myself to a Masters Judge's clinic this summer and if I do, I would like to use our fall trial as my practical test trial. So that is a "wait and see." If no other club in the province holds a judge's clinic, perhaps Top Dog will consider it. Are there any Top Dog people out there interested in taking the clinic?