



Top Dog

News about agility in Prince George

written by David Greenberg

April, 2011

This issue has trial results, events to mark on your calendars, and not much else.

Past Events.

Since the last newsletter we have had two events: our Winter Play Day at Rosenol's Equestrian Centre and our annual March trial at the Agriplex.

We had enough people and dogs out in February to make the arena rental worthwhile and I think a lot of us were quite glad to get our dogs out running again. We ran a few standard and gambler courses and took the time to work through any training kinks that popped up.

From every imaginable viewpoint our March trial was a

great success. We had good weather, the travelers had good road conditions, we had lots of volunteer help and the club made money. Jeanne Shaw and Nina Durante provided interesting and challenging courses. Even without a dog to run, Glen was there to manage the course building. The arena was groomed, the bathrooms worked, the heat was on and the local spectator crowd was there, so the SPCA made some money too. We had an excellent pot-luck lunch followed by a splendid Chinese Food dinner. There were lots of great runs, many Qs and some significant titles earned.

June and Benson: 3 Qs and EXG Silver

Mike and Dazzle: 6 Qs and MCDC, ExSt Silver and Silver

Sheldon and Able: 3 Qs

Roxanne and Cynder: 2 Qs

Roger and Biscuit: 2 Qs

Joy and Chase: 1 Q

Maria and Teigs: 6 Qs

Kim and Bounce: 2 Qs

Pat and Spryte: 1 Q

Donna and Rayne: 1 Q

Dirk and Rex: 3 Qs

Al and Bud: 1 Q

Shauney and Cruise: 3 Qs and MADC

Shauney and Hush: 2 Qs

Michelle K and Zap: 3 Qs

Michelle M. and Rook: 6 Qs, MSDC and EXJ Bronze

June and Beaumont: 1 Q

Laverne and Meg: 1 Q and AGDC
David and Ziva: 6 Qs and MADC, MSDC and ATChC
Dorothy and Jenna: 1 Q
Jeanne and Naia: 2 Qs
Christy and Sadie: 1 Q
Naomi and Dylis: 2 Qs
Randy and Chase: 1 Q
Marilou and Angel: 4 Qs and ADC
Jan and Dizzy: 2 Qs
Roger and Risk: 3 Qs and SGDC
Michelle K. and Halo: 1 Q
Roger and Spy: 1 Q
Laura R. and d'Lyla: 3 Qs
Karen and Coco Crisp: 2 Qs and SGDC
Erin and Ruger: 3 Qs
Maria and Strutt: 8 Qs, MSDC, EXG Bronze and ATChC
Kim and Synge: 3 Qs and AGDC
Kim and Stryder: 3 Qs
Erin and Winchester: 2 Qs
Alyssa and Envy: 1 Q and SGDC
Diana and Morgan: 1 Q

Al and Peggy: 1 Q
Kim and Bryn: 2 Qs
Donna and Warjac: 1 Q
Michelle M. and Pepper 1 Q
Mike and Shenia: 1 Q and ExSt Bronze
Darren and Quinn: 2 Qs
Joy and Hannah: 1 Q
Naomi and Tegwen 1 Q
Dirk and Jack: 2 Qs
Kim A. and Fia: 3 Qs
Karen and Kiri: 1 Q and ADC
David and Cassie: 3 Qs
Congratulations to all, especially Ziva and Strutt for their ATChC titles and Dazzle for her Silver!

Coming Events

Top Dog and Clear Sailing are bringing up "Joy and Vaughn" for a workshop April 30 and May 1. The entry deadline has passed; if you are still interested you might check with Laura or Denise to see if there are still spots available. I am hoping to learn some exercises to help develop focus between me and my dogs.

May 14 is the day we return to Masich Place to put on a demonstration for the people walking in the 24 hour Relay for

Cancer. You do not need to be a Top Dog member or an advanced team to participate. Al will bring the equipment and I will plan a layout for the obstacles. This will be a terrific opportunity to get the dogs running on grass before Regionals and before the rest of the competition season. The people walking to help find a cure for cancer also appreciate the entertainment. Even young dogs are welcome to come and have bit of fun.

We will set up the equipment around 8:00 am and start playing right after the opening ceremonies. We will stay until we run out of steam.

BC Regionals are in Abbotsford on the May long weekend. Even if you are not competing you might consider going to watch to to volunteer.

After that, we have our spring trial the weekend of June 11/12 out at Henke's Farm. Our judges will be Cathy Nesbitt from Kelowna and Roxanne Ziefflie from 100 Mile House. The entry forms are available now on our web site or from me.

Our spring training schedule is on hold until we see if the snow ever really melts.

Our Mid Summer trial is July 30/31 at Henke's Farm. Brenda Witt and Brigitte Hole are the judges.

Our last trial of the year is at the agriplex and it will be the weekend of November 5/6 with Donna Holmgren and Lee-Ann Carr judging.

We have scheduled General Meetings for the Saturday evenings of our next two trials. At the June 11 meeting we expect to discuss ways to involve more members in the tasks around putting on trials and keeping up the facilities.

We also plan to participate in the PGX again this year. We hope to have our appearance be a bit more showy this year; we would like to have something that resembles the Super Dogs. We will need to know fairly far in advance which teams are going to participate so that we can get the parking/gate passes and so we can rehearse our agility show.

Classes:

Al and June are teaching a second set of beginner classes now. Al has also undertaken some professional development which will enhance the scope of his courses. The dogs in these classes show some real potential and I look forward to seeing many of them in competition in the future.

Equipment:

At the March trial we polled the members regarding the use of our rubberized equipment. For the most part the membership


would like to see the new pieces used regularly, not just for trials. The impact of this decision has two major concerns. Firstly, the grumpy old men who look after the equipment will try to get wheels on the contact equipment so it can be safely and easily moved. Secondly, it is up to each individual handler to ensure that their own dogs get opportunities to experience both the rubber and the old fashioned grit covered versions, especially if both types will be encountered at trials. Currently, if a handler enters only Top Dog trials and the championships, rubber is all they will see. However, both Pawsitive Steps and Clear Sailing have non-rubber contacts so handlers are warned to try to train their dogs on both types.

The other major equipment issue facing the club is the trailer. The one we have is not adequate for the job and a proper sized new trailer represents a considerable cost to the club. We have some fund raising options to consider and I expect this to be an important topic at the next General Meeting which is the Saturday evening of our June trial.

Directors:

A crisis has been averted thanks to Melissa Woolrich who has volunteered to be our new treasurer. The executive held a brief meeting at the March trial and voted to appoint her to that position. However, we are not out of the woods quite yet. June West, our membership director has now resigned her position. The reason for her quitting is a matter of time and distance. June and Dave are moving to Enderby and the commute to PG would be a little taxing. So, now we are hoping to find another person to step up and step in.

We wish June and Dave well and we want them to know they will be missed. You need to know that June has done a tremendous amount of good for our club and her absence will cause a huge void in our operations. When you go to the centre and see all of the nice photos on the wall, it is June we can thank for them. If the place is nice and clean and well stocked with supplies it is often June who did that. June looks after our membership list, the keys to the centre, coffee and snacks at our trials, Q prizes and so much more. She has also



taught us all the value of a
good “call-off” Good bye June
and we wish you all the best.

We may try to rush the season a
bit by setting up the equipment
in a different part of the field at
the farm. The paddock is still
buried in snow but the part of
the field to the north east
(where we park and exercise
the dogs) is mostly clear. The
footing will be neither level nor
flat but it will be usable. We
will let you know. We would
like to have a practice session
on Saturday, May 7 if possible
and we would like to help
those going to Regionals to
train during the next week.

Please remember that Top Dog
is your club (if you are a
member) and it will thrive on
your involvement. Your input
to the newsletter is most
welcome. Please feel free to
send photos, opinions,
suggestions, brags,
information, web links or
anything else you would like to
share with the group.

By the way, if you are no longer
a member and you still have a
key to the centre, please return
it. We have a few keys out that
should not be.