



Top Dog

News about agility in Prince George

written by David Greenberg

February, 2011

This issue has trial results, events to mark on your calendars, news about new puppies and more.....!

Past Events.

This past December we combined our Annual General Meeting with our Christmas party and held the whole big affair down at the First Avenue Training Centre. We discussed important issue for the club such as membership fees and other charges, updating our bylaws and the use of our facilities. We also elected a new board of directors:

President..... Rob Struthers

Vice President and obedience director.....Al Henke

Secretary..... Katherine Rockwell

Membership DirectorJune West

Agility Director..... David Greenberg.

You will notice that no one is listed as our treasurer. Rob Watterston considered the position but eventually decided to decline. So, as of now we have no treasurer and we really need to have one. We are thankful to Joy for the job she has done and we appreciate that she has stayed on to do the books in the interim; however, we really need to find someone who will do this job. Anybody???? Anybody????

There are a few other areas of our operations which require more involvement of the members. We need more people to volunteer to do clean-up at the 1st Avenue centre. We need to form some committees to address specific issues. We looking for members of a trial committee. The trial committee would share the responsibilities for hosting our trials. Currently, hosting trials is

our club's major mandate. Trial committee members would take on tasks such as obtaining Q prizes, volunteer prizes, and food for judges, preparing the volunteer sign-up sheet, arranging for food services for the trials and getting advanced publicity.

We are also hoping to form a committee to investigate the possibility of purchasing a new equipment trailer. That committee would likely need to develop a fund-raising strategy for the trailer.

We are also seeking opinions from the membership regarding the use of our new rubberized contact equipment. We might want to set it out for the summer and use it for practices as well as for trials or we may wish to reserve it for trials only. If we use it for practices it might wear out sooner, the dogs might get too used to rubberized equipment only and it would be harder to move since it is not

wheel-mounted. On the other hand we did spend a lot of money on equipment and it might not be worth it to use it only nine days a year. We would like to know your thoughts.

So, likely at the March trial some of us will be coming around seeking opinions on some of these matters; be prepared!

Coming Events

February 26 is our winter play day out at Rosenol's. We will start at 9:00. You can come out earlier to help set up equipment and to set up your own stuff. We will have several Masters Standard courses to run and we are prepared to construct simplified versions for people with less advanced dogs. We can also play gamblers on the same equipment. Handlers will be free to run the courses, run partial courses, train obstacles, or just play with their dogs. Food, treats and collars are all allowed. The cost is \$20 for one dog, \$30 for 2 dogs, \$40 for many dogs. A couple of people have told me they can come for part of the day. If that is the case, you can just pay a small donation; you do not need to pay for a whole day.

March 12/13 is our next AAC sanctioned trial. I am attaching an entry form to this newsletter and they should also be available at our website: topdogpg.com.

At that trial we would like to take the opportunity to train anyone who is interested in learning how to be a bar setter, gate steward, timer or scribe. We are asking for experienced dog handlers to volunteer to mentor any newcomers (including spouses and friends of handlers).

At the trial we will have our customary pot luck lunches. Saturday night we hope to have a catered dinner in the meeting room upstairs. We can relax, eat and review the day. I expect that several people will have video taped or photographed the runs so perhaps we can set up a screen and watch the day's highlights.

If you wish to take advantage of the member's discount be sure you have renewed your Top Dog membership. You may also wish to consider joining or renewing a membership in the AAC, especially if you might get an ATChC this year.

Please remember that Top Dog and Clear Sailing are bringing up Joy and Vaughn for a workshop April 30 and May 1. Bring your entry form to the February or March events or mail them to Laura directly.

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.

BC Regionals are being held in the same place as last year in Abbotsford. They will run on the long weekend in May. So, we have moved our spring trial to June 11/12. If you plan to go, it is time to reserve a motel room or camping spot as there are other major events happening in the Fraser Valley that weekend.

We hope to have some regional prep training sessions during the first couple of weeks in May. When we can start will, of course, depend on the field conditions.

Our Web Site:

Soon we hope to get all of forms on our web site as well as a copy of the club by-laws.

Transitions:

Sadly, I must report that Sandra Morrison lost Maggie late in 2010 and early this year Abby also died.

Happily, I can also tell you about some new puppies. Sandra has gotten a new Border Collie named Davie. Michelle and Roger have a Border Collie named Zara. Jeanne Shaw and Lee-Ann Carr also have new BC pups.

Use of the Centre:

Please be reminded that the training centre is to be used for training and it should be used by

paid up members. Please sign the calendar when you use the facility, and be sure you turn off the lights, turn down the heat and lock the doors and leave the place neat and clean. Thanks.

Classes:

We are back in the dog training business! Al and June, on a volunteer basis have been holding basic pre-agility lessons on Sunday afternoons since the start of January. There are eight dogs enrolled and they are all doing well. I hope to be able to tell you about more classes in the future! We know that people who are interested in being competitive in agility will be well advised to train with our good neighbors at Pawsitive Steps. We think there is a need for agility training for recreational participants, people who just want to get out and have fun with their dogs on the equipment. We advise any of our students who may wish to become more seriously involved with agility training that they will likely end up training next door and that in most cases they will have to start that program at the very beginning.

Results:

We have had one trial since the last newsletter. That was our second annual January one day trial. This year it was decided, in the interest of efficiency to have just one local judge and to run only jumpers and steeplechase. We

welcome feedback; was that a good format?

We did end up with a nasty day weather wise and to make things more difficult the washrooms in the arena flooded and we had to trudge through cold and snow to go over to the Kin Centre to use the facilities. Still, everyone was cheerful and I think a good time was had. Handlers were great about volunteering and we had lots of help. There were a lot of qualifying runs and I will list them below. For more complete results you can go to: <http://www.aactrialresults.com/tr/trialresults2011116192582.html>

Kim Anderson and Fia.... 2 Qs
June and Benson.... 2 Qs
Marc and Jasper.... 4 Qs
Sheldon and Able.... 3 Qs
Roger and Biscuit.... 1 Q
Joy and Chase..... 2 Qs
Kim Collins and Peak.... 2 Qs and EXSc Bronze
Pat and Spryte... 1 Q
Al and Bud..... 2 Qs and EXJ Bronze
Shauney and Cruise..... 4 Qs
Shauney and Hush.... 3 Qs and MJDC
Michelle Klein and Zap... 1 Q
Denise and Keeper.... 2 Qs
Barb and Pepper... 3 Qs

Michelle Makelke and Rook ... 3 Qs

Angel and Sunny... 3 Qs

June and Beaumont... 1 Q

Sheldon and Roxi... 1 Q

Roger and Risk... 1 Q

Michelle Klein and Halo... 2 Qs

Roger and Spy... 2 Qs

Denise and Jake... 1 Q

Barb and Josie... 1 Q

Kim Collins and Synge... 2 Qs

Alyssa and Envy... 1 Q

Kim Collins and Bryn... 2 Qa

Denise and Christie... 3 Qs and EXJ Silver and EXSc Silver and VSA

Joy and Hannah... 2 Qs.

News from AAC:

Nationals this year will be held August 4-7 this year in Oro, Ontario. My guess is that a lot fewer of us will travel there than last year when so many Prince George teams went to Calgary. The good news is that Bernadette may be bidding on the 2012 championships in Nanaimo.

There are a couple of rule changes about which to be aware. The first set deals with Challenge:

1. If the dog runs clean and under the SCT set by the fastest clean run in that height category, the dog will earn a Challenge Q, which can be applied to the

AAC Challenge titles or to any post-ATChC titles, as part of the required standard legs.

2. If the dog runs clean and under the target time, but not under the SCT as set by the fastest clean run in that height category, the dog will earn a masters standard Q, which can be applied to their MADC and ATChC titles, as well as post-ATChC titles, as part of the required standard legs.

Also, only 5 Qs are needed for a Challenge title now, not 10.

Gamblers: Once the whistle or horn has gone the gamble line becomes "alive." Handlers may not cross that line even if the dog has yet to take the first obstacle. If the handler is on the gamble side of the line when the signal goes they must cross to the other side immediately. In other words, you may not take your dog to the first obstacle and leave them there and then go back across the line.

If you are interested in AAC merchandise like T shirts, jackets etc. there is currently a half price sale. You check that out at the AAC website.

Action Plan:

Okay, you have now more or less finished this newsletter. Now it is time for an action plan. Here are some suggestions:

1. Plan to come out to play next weekend at Rosenol's.

2. Fill out entry form for the Top Dog March trial and get to Peter at Quackers.
3. Fill out entry form for the Joy and Vaughn workshop and get it to Laura.
4. Commit to joining the clean-up committee, Trial committee, or equipment committee.
5. Renew or begin your Top Dog Membership.
6. Reserve a place to stay in Abbotsford if you are going to Regionals.
7. Find your favorite recipe to cook for the potluck lunches at the March trial.
8. Send us some feedback: do you have an opinion about how are new contact equipment should be used? Are you willing to mentor new trial volunteers or would you like to be trained for trial jobs? Do you have an opinion about what kind of food we should have at our next trial? Would you like to see Top Dog bring in an outside expert to present a seminar? Do you have a brag, an announcement, a photo to share?