



Top Dog

News about agility in Prince George

written by David Greenberg

June, 2011

This month we are just full of good news! We have a whole season of fun events ahead of us.

Past Events:

At the end of April Top Dog and Clear Sailing teamed up to present a workshop with Joy and Vaughn Henderson. The Clear Sailing people really did the work and we thank them for bringing Joy and Vaughn up to Prince George. Although the seminar was more relevant to those who show their dogs or who enter obedience competitions, those of us who are primarily agility people did learn about maintaining focus with our dogs and also about weight training for conditioning.

We had a very good turn out for our annual appearance at Masich Place. Our demonstration there provides those people walking to help raise money for cancer

research with some entertainment . It was also a chance for our dogs to practice on grass early in the season. It turned out to be an excellent opportunity for dogs to learn to work with distractions! It was a good chance for those going to Regionals to practice. Big thanks go to Al for bringing the equipment.

We had a very small contingent at the BC/Yukon Regional Championships this year. Those who did go did very well and we all had a great time. I am listing the results below.

Maria and Strutt: 2nd place, 517.36 points

Michelle and Zap: 6th place, 477.09 points

Michelle and Halo: 19th, 407.93 points

Roger and Spy: 17th, 439.26 points.

David and Ziva: 24th, 409.62 points

Michelle and Risk: 40th, 268.52 points

Alyssa and Envy: 49th, 198 points

Mike and Dazzle: 5th place, 526.39 points

Laura and d'Lyla: 9th place, 433.50 points

Dirk and Rex: 19th place, 245 points

David and Cassie: 8th place, 473.46 points

Pat and Spryte: 26th place, 369.96 points

Naomi and Tegwen: 2nd place, 463.39 points

Mike and Shenja: 9th place, 332.89 points

Dirk and Jack: 5th place, 475.98 points

Roger and Biscuit: 4th place, 522.77 points

Roxanne and Cynder: 9th place, 470.35 points

Coming Events:

Our next big event is our Spring Trial. It is June 11/12 out at Henke's. If you have not yet gotten your registration in, you might consider doing that. Bring your entry forms to Peter at Quackers or leave them in the mailboxes at Top Dog or Pawsitive Steps. Please do not mail them now because they may get caught in a postal service disruption.

Entries for the Clear Sailing trial might also be hung up in the mail so you might consider bringing your entry forms to the Top Dog trial and handing them to Laura.

On Saturday we will likely start around 9:00. If we do get all of the starters dogs ready early then we shall try to start earlier. We are going Starters to Masters both days. After the trial on Saturday we will have a Top Dog General meeting and then our usual barbeque dinner.

At the meeting we will discuss plans for raising money to buy a new equipment trailer. We need to find a new Membership Director and we need to find an incentive plan to ensure that the 1st Avenue centre gets cleaned. There are, I am sure, other issues too. For the dinner please bring something to share and your own main course.

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.

This year when we go to the PGX we will need to know well in advance who is attending because we need to get entrance and parking passes with names on them. We are hoping to have a rehearsed and choreographed show this time.

Next week we will plan the fun trials for the season and I will let you know the schedule. We are hoping to have one per month.

There is a special city council committee looking into the issue of providing off leash areas. They are seeking opinions and they are meeting with dog owners to discuss the matter.

If this is something important to you, you can attend an open house at the Bob Harkins branch of the library Wednesday, June 8 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Other Open houses:

Tuesday, June 14, 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Ginter's Meadow

Thursday, June 16, 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Knights of Columbus Hall,

Monday, June 20, 5:00 til 8:00 pm Nechako Branch of the library,

Tuesday, June 21, 4:00 til 7:00 pm Moore's Meadow at the Foothills parking lot.

Tomorrow, (Thursday, June 9) we hope to have a good turn out at the paddock. We want a work crew to rake leaves, mow the lawn and wack the weeds, and make everything nice for the trial.

The new paddock gate is installed and the equipment is out and ready to use. We have some trainers already using the field. Here is a list of people who are "paid-up" paddock users:

Dirk Blok

Randy Garton

David Greenberg

Al Henke

Michelle Klein and Roger Ryf

Tom Hollis and Michelle Makelke

Glen McNab

Dawn and Dan McNamara

Joy Miller

Sandra Morrison

Maria Orr

Mike Shortland

Diane Julsrud.

If you too want to train at the paddock you must be a Top Dog member, you must pay your paddock fees, you must be a

handler with at least some experience (this will be defined soon) and you must agree to obey the paddock rules.



