



Top Dog Agility, Obedience and Flyball Dog Association Prince George, British Columbia

Newsletter for October, 2007
Written by David Greenberg

Hi folks,

It has been a busy summer and fall and soon we will come to the season's wind up event: our November Top Dog Agility Trial! Our dogs have been practicing up at Henke's farm and have competed in Prince George, Kamloops, Quesnel and Ontario.

At the farm we had open practices every Saturday, Wednesday night challenges courtesy of Mike Shortland, a couple of Thursday Games nights and regular Rally-O classes held by Linda Williams. We also had sanctioned agility and Rally-O trials August 4-6.

Down the road at Kim Collin's place there were three single event trials: one gamblers, one team relay and one steeplechase.

There were trials at Robert's Roost held by Pawsitive steps and Clear Sailing. I will list below all of the available results.

We had planned a demonstration at the Reid Lake Fall fair; however we just could not get enough teams to go out there. On the other hand, nearly half the dogs in the club put on a great show at the PG-X and we sure hope to return there next year. Thanks to Gys Koops for getting that success going!

Some of our teams sharpened their skills by attending Kim's agility camps at Robert's Roost and I know some competed at trials in Kamloops.

We were represented well in Ontario by Mike Shortland and Dazzle who performed in "top dog" fashion at the AAC Nationals. Daz was 15th in round one of Steeplechase and 13th in round two. They had a clean round in the Standard 2 course and finished 70th overall. Well done Mike and Daz!

Also, in July there was an AAC judge's clinic held in Prince George. Several out of town candidates came, some to be certified as new judges and others to upgrade from starters/advanced to masters. From Prince George we had Rob Struthers and Shannon Mercer upgrading to masters and Donna Holmgren and I starting as new judges. The clinic involved an intense weekend of lectures and practical work plus a written and oral exam. Following these tests came a course design exam. The final step toward becoming a judge is a practical exam involving judging an entire trial. Rob did this at a P.A.C. trial and Donna will likely finish hers at the March Top Dog Trial. At the November trial I will be doing the starters/advanced courses as my practical exam and Shannon will be doing the masters. Shannon will also judge some of the advanced rounds.

In September the SPCA held its annual Paws for a Cause walk. This year we did not put on a demo. We did come out on top again in terms of fund raising. The amount was \$2,325 and team members were Sandra Morrison, Shauney Denis, Melanie Cailleaux, Loretta Olund, Lynn Koops and Linda Williams.

Classes at Top Dog continue. Currently basic obedience, Rally Obedience

Agility Basics and Agility Handling are being offered.

Coming Events:

October 21....Rally O fun match at Pawsitive Steps
November 3 & 4....Top Dog trial at the Agriplex
November 6/7....Dr. Gail Jewell (Chiropractic Vet) will be at Pawsitive Steps. Call for an appointment
November 10/11....Rally-O trial 5 Star Dog Training in Kamloops
November 11.... Agility Fun match at Pawsitive Steps
November 18.... Rally O fun Match at Pawsitive Steps
November 18....Annual General Meeting at Top Dog Centre
November 24/25....Rally-O trial at Pawsitive Steps
December 8....Christmas Party
December 29/30....Rally-O trial at Pawsitive Steps

At the Farm:

Things have quieted and the Porta-potty is now gone; however, I believe you can still train up there. We have had a quite a good summer up there with training sessions, trials, fun matches, bbqs. I think once the equipment is taken to the next trial and then on to the barn at the exhibition grounds we will be letting Al and Anne have their place back. We certainly all look forward to playing in the field again next spring!

Transitions:

Sadly I have two canine deaths to report. At camp this July Shannon's border collie Bo-Peep took ill, collapsed and was rushed to the hospital but she was unable to recover. In September, Dirk Blok's golden retriever Tye was

euthanized after battling pneumonia and heart problems. Tye was a dog that inspired us all. He began his agility career at twelve years old and was one of the very few veteran starters dogs. He ran with joy and it was a pleasure to watch him compete. Also, just before Susan MacIntyre left for Saskatoon she had to have Morgan euthanized. On a brighter note there are a couple of new puppies to welcome. Shannon has a lovely white faced B.C. named Jorja and Michelle Klein has a cute little fox terrier pup named Halo.

Another sad note: I think many of you know Linda Barton; she has been to Prince George on several occasions to judge Rally Obedience events, she was an organizer for the 2007 Nationals and she competes in both rally and agility with her Australian shepherds. On September 2 this year there was a car crash on the road outside of her house in Wilmont Township in Ontario. Her husband, Tom Walker went out to assist the victims. While he was out on the road a volunteer firefighter who was rushing to help struck Tom with his car. Tom was killed in the accident. We are all saddened by this news and we wish Linda well as she tried to cope with her loss.

AGM: At the upcoming AGM we will, as always be selecting our executive. Last year some board members were elected, others appointed. This has to do with eligibility to run for positions. Here is the make-up of the current board:
Gys Koops- President (appointed)
Rob Waterston-Vice President
Val Carlson- Treasurer
Lynn Koops-Secretary
Charlie Laferriere- Membership Director (appointed)

Kristine Taylor- Agility Director
Linda Williams- Obedience and Flyball Director (appointed)
Mike Shortland- Public Relations Director

It is our hope that these board members will agree to stay on and continue with the fine job they are doing. If other members are interested in running for any of these positions, please let me know. I will be asking around, especially at the November trial.

Second Hand Smoke... If you are both a smoker and a dog lover take heed: There have been a number of scientific

papers recently that have reported the significant health threat second-hand smoke poses to pets. Second-hand smoke has been associated with oral cancer and lymphoma in cats, lung and nasal cancer in dogs, as well as lung cancer in birds. A recent study conducted at Colorado State University shows that there is a higher incidence of nasal tumors in dogs living in a home with second-hand smoke compared to dogs living in a smoke free environment. The increased incidence was specifically found among the long nosed breed of dogs. Shorter or medium nosed dogs showed higher rates for lung cancer.

Results:

When listing trial results, I have mentioned the handler/dog teams from Prince George. I have not listed the complete trial results, for those you can go to the AAC website and find the trial results page. I have not restricted the reporting to Top Dog members. I also think it is important to note that even though it is Qs and titles that are printed the true results of any trial cannot be expressed in this kind of reporting. Naming the ribbon winners does not tell us about the excellent but less than perfect runs we had. It does not say how much fun we had or what we learned or who we met. When we consider the results of a trial we must remember the help we got from fellow handlers, the good food we ate, the volunteer jobs we did. We need to mention the joy we brought to the people in the stands and the families that love the dogs with whom we play. True trial results are very much more than prizes, rankings and accolades. The unlisted results are the important ones.

Pawsitive Steps Team Relay Trial: Carolyn Gerrie and Wren teamed with Michelle Klein and Zap for a starters Q. This gave Wren her SGDC title.

Clear Sailing July Trial:

Mike Shortland and Daz....Master Gambler, Advanced Team, two rounds of Master Snooker and Steeplechase.

Joy Miller and Chase....Advanced snooker, Advanced Team Relay and Masters Jumpers.

Maria James and Teigs...Advanced Snooker, Advanced Team Relay and two rounds of Masters Jumpers which gave them their MJDC title.

Kim Collins and Peak...Advanced Gamblers.

Kim Collins and Bounce...Advanced Snooker and Masters Gamblers.

Donna Holmgren and Rayn...Starters Snooker, Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase.

Al Henke and Bud...Starters Snooker, Starters Jumpers, Advanced Gamblers, Steeplechase.

Carolyn Gerrie and Wren...Advanced Gamblers, Advanced Snooker. Michelle Klein and Zap...Starters Snooker, Advanced Gamblers and SGDC Title.

Pat Krebs and Gibson...Masters Gamblers and Masters Team Relay.

Kim Collins and Bryn... Two rounds of Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker and two rounds of Steeplechase.

Glen McNab and Alee...Masters Snooker, Masters Team Relay, Masters Jumpers and Steeplechase.

Denise Mclean and Christie...Masters Jumpers, two rounds of Masters Gamblers, two rounds of Masters Snooker and Steeplechase.

Donna Holmgren and Warjac...Steeplechase

Shannon Mercer and Marty...Masters Jumpers.

Mike Shortland and Shenia...Masters Jumpers.

Carolyn Gerrie and Levi...Masters Jumpers, Masters Snooker and Steeplechase.

Joy Miller and Hannah...Masters Jumpers, Masters Snooker and Steeplechase.

Roger Ryf and Zeus...Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers and the SMGDC title.

Judi Dowson and Da Vinci...Starters Snooker.

Chris Buker and Zoom...Masters Snooker.

Shannon Mercer and Cai...Advanced Jumpers, Advanced Team, Masters Gamblers, two rounds of Masters Snooker, Steeplechase and two titles: SAGDC and SMSDC.

Diana Spelay and Mason...Advanced Snooker.

Pawsitive Steps Steeplechase Trial

Mike Shortland and Daz...Two rounds of Steeplechase.

Denise McLean and Christie...Two rounds of Steeplechase.

Donna Holmgren and Warjac...Steeplechase

Shannon Mercer and Marti...Steeplechase

Joy Miller and Hannah...Two rounds of Steeplechase.

Pawsitive Steps July 27th Trial

Mike Shortland and Daz...Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase

Sheldon Pineo and Able...Masters Standard

Joy Miller and Chase...

Masters Gamblers

Maria James and Teigs...Two rounds of Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase

Kim Collins and Peak...Three Rounds of Starters Standard , Advanced Jumpers and SADC Title.

Kim Collins and Bounce...Starters Standard, two rounds of Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase plus ADC title and MGDC title.

Pat Krebs and Spryte...Two rounds of Starters Standard.

Donna Holmgren and Rayn...Two rounds of Starters Standard and ADC title.

Dirk Blok and Rex...Two rounds of Masters Gamblers.

Carolyn Gerrie and Wren...Advanced Gamblers.

Michelle Klein and Zap...Starters Standard and two rounds of Advanced Jumpers.

Shannon Mercer and Toque...Starters Gamblers.

Pat Krebs and Gibson...Masters Gamblers.

Kim Collins and Bryn...Two rounds of Masters Standard, two rounds of Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase.

Donna Holmgren and Warjac...Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase.
Shannon Mercer and Marty....Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers and Steeplechase.

Mike Shortland and Shenia...Masters Standard.

Carolyn Gerrie and Levi...Masters Standard and SMADC title.

Roger Ryf and Zeus...Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers.

Michelle Klein and Cue...Advanced Standard.

Dirk Blok and Jack...Masters Jumpers

Shannon Mercer and Cai...Steeplechase

Pawsitive Steps Gamblers Trial

Mike Shortland and Daz...Masters Gamblers

Joy Miller and Chase...Masters Gamblers

Kim Collins and Bryn...Masters Gamblers

Top Dog Agility Trial

June West and Benson...Masters Jumpers and Masters Snooker.

Mike Shortland and Daz...Steeplechase.

Joy Miller and Chase...Advanced Standard and Masters Gamblers.

Maria James and Teigs...two rounds of Advanced Snooker, Advanced Team Relay,

Three rounds of Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers, Masters Gamblers.

Kim Collins and Peak...Advanced Standard and Advanced Snooker.

Kim Collins and Bounce...Steeplechase.

Pat Krebs and Spryte...Starters Standard, Starters Snooker and Steeplechase, plus SSGDC and SADC titles.

Donna Holmgren and Rayn...Starters Snooker, Advanced Standard and Masters Gamblers

Dirk Blok and Rex...Advanced Team Relay.

Carolyn Gerrie and Wren...Starters Standard and Advanced Gamblers.

Michelle Klein and Zap...Advanced Snooker.

Denise McLean and Keeper...Starters Standard.

Kim Collins and Bryn... Masters Standard, Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker and Masters Team Relay.

Glen McNab and Alee...Master Snooker, Masters Team Relay and Steeplechase.

Denise McLean and Christie...Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker and Steeplechase

Rob Waterston and Timber...Masters Standard, Masters Snooker, Masters Jumpers

Masters Team Relay, Steeplechase and VMADC title.

Donna Holmgren and Warjac...Steeplechase

Sandra Morrison and Abbey...Advanced Jumpers.

Carolyn Gerrie and Levi...Masters Team Relay and VMTRDC title plus

...VATChC!

Kim Collins and Sierra...Advanced Standard and Steeplechase and AADC title.

Joy Miller and Hannah...Advanced Standard and Masters Team

Mike Shortland and Rusty...Advanced Snooker

Michelle Klein and Cue...Two rounds of Advanced Standard and AADC title.

Judi Dowson and Da Vinci...Starters Standard and ADC title.

Dirk Blok and Jack...Advanced Standard.

Chris Buker and Zoom...Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker and Steeplechase.

Maureen Parsons and Mr. Too...Masters Snooker.\
Val Sadler and MacGyver...Advanced Standard and Steeplechase.
Diana Spelay and Mason...Starters Standard and ADC title.

Well folks, that was a powerful lot of Qs and titles earned this summer! Congratulations to all of you. We certainly have some great handlers and dogs here. Special congratulations go to Carolyn and Levi on their championship. We all know it is a long, hard journey to that peak and we are glad to see all the time, effort and funds that went into the quest were rewarded.

Naomi Packer and her corgi Tegwin also gained their ATChC this summer; congratulations to you too!

Championships: It is official, the 2008 AAC national championships will be held in Sussex, New Brunswick. As for the BC/Yukon games, there is no word yet.

Top Dog November Trial: Once again Mike has gotten us some great sponsorship. He has another brilliant poster and we can expect to hear radio ads soon. We look forward to a good turn out of agility teams. We seem to get a good crowd of spectators for our fall trial and we always have a great lunch! I hope to see you all there!

Pictures: You may have noticed there are no photos in this newsletter. There are several reasons. My camera is not feeling well lately so I cannot really take good agility pictures. Also, since Cassie has been injured I have not been to any trials. So, if someone sends me pictures, next newsletter will have some! On the plus side, since there are no pictures I think the newsletter can safely be emailed.

Cali: About a year ago Jeanette and I adopted a deeply troubled abused dog that had been rescued from a puppy mill in California. I think you all know how badly that scenario went; Cali escaped and ran off and despite a massive search effort on the part of the agility

community we have yet to find her. Although it is quite possible she perished in the cold harsh winter last year we prefer to think that she as adapted a feral life or has found a new home. We may never know. You may be interested to learn that man who caused Cali such misery, who kept her chained, uncared for, malnourished, flea and lice ridden and treated entirely inhumanly did not fare so well either. Arthur Warren had his dogs seized, his ranch shut down and was held in jail in lieu of one million dollars bail and charged with multiple felonies. In August this year Arthur Warren died. I do not know the details. Perhaps prison life was harsh for him. Maybe he became a romantic target for some big strong dog-loving prisoner and he died of AIDS. I do not know. Perhaps some day the Art Warrens and Michael Vicks of the world will disappear and there will be no more need for dog rescues. Until then, a big thank you goes out to everyone who is helping to make things better for our best friends.