



Top Dog

News about agility in Prince George

December 2009

Past Events

This issue will give you the results of the last agility trials of the 2009 season including the 5 Star trial in Kamloops, the Cariboo Agility trial in 100 Mile House and our own November trial.

A.G.M

We had our Annual General Meeting on November 15. Read all about it.



Coming Events

We have trials, fun matches, social events and more planned!

Letter from Finland



Laura and Applejack and d'Lyla are alive and well in Northern Europe.

News from AAC

If you are a member you should consider voting. If you are not, you should consider joining.

Other Dog News



Past Events

When I left off I had given you the trial results for our summer competitions up until the end of August. Now I can tell you the dogs that Qed and dogs that titled at the fall events.

First let's look at the results from the labor day weekend trial in Kamloops:

Joy and Chase: five Qs

Kim and Peak: 5 Qs

Kim and Bounce: 5 Qs and ATChC

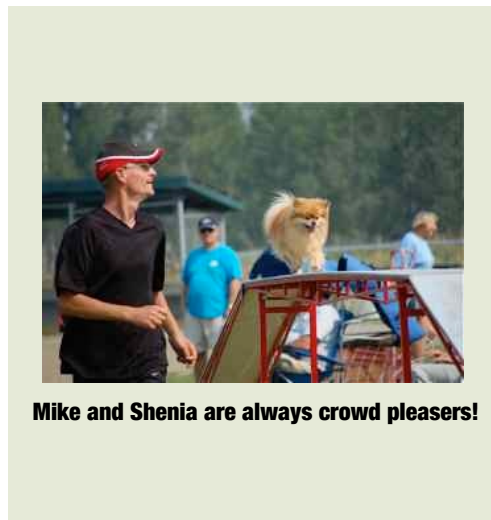
Pat and Spryte: 2 Qs and MSCDC

Denise and Keeper: 2 Qs

Barb and Sabra: 1 Q

Shannon and Toque: 2 Qs

Laura N. and Chime: 1 Q



Mike and Shenia are always crowd pleasers!

Naomi and Dylis 1 Q

Laura R. and d'Lyla 2 Qs

Kim and Bryn: 5 Qs

Denise and Christie: 4 Qs

Shannon and Marti: 4 Qs

Kim and Sierra 1 Q

Joy and Hannah: 2 Qs

Naomi and Tegwen 6 Qs

Shannon and Cai: 3 Qs.

Clear Sailing trial in Quesnel, September 12/13:

June and Benson: 4 Qs

Mike and Dazzle: 4 Qs

Sheldon and Able 1 Q

Roxanne and Cynder: 3 Qs

Joy and Chase 3 Qs and VBA, EXS Bronze, EXSt Bronze and Bronze

Maria and Teigs: 7 Qs

Robbi and Nova 2 Qs

Donna and Ryan 1 Q and EXG Bronze

Dirk and Rex: 2 Qs



Shauney and Cruise 2 Qs

Shauney and Hush 3 Qs and ADC

Denise and Enzo: 1 Q

Denise and Keeper 1 Q

Nancy and Geordie 2 Qs

Laura N. and Chime 2 Qs and AGDC

Laverne and Meg: 3 Qs

Dorothy and Jenna 1 Q

Georgina and Remmy 1 Q

Laura R. and d'Lyla: 2 Qs

Kay and Scot: 5 Qs

Glen and Alee: 5 Qs

Denise and Christie: 5 Qs

Patti and Splash 1 Q

Donna and Warjac 1 Q

Karen and Belle 1 Q

Joy and Hannah: 1 Q

Erin and Nestle: 1 Q

Rosemary and Tessy: 2 Qs

Dirk and Jack: 1 Q

Laura N. and Parker: 1 Q

Patti and Sadie: 2 Qs

Karen and Roch: 2 Qs

Karen and Kiri 1 Q

Diana and Mason 3 Qs and AGDC

In November we all met at the Agriplex once more for our annual end-of-the-season trial. For this trial Joanie Leigh Elliot came up to help by judging and by being the mentor/examiner for me. This was the final stage of the four part exam process needed to certify me as a Masters judge. Since I did

indeed pass the exam I can now judge all levels of AAC competition. Here are the results of the trial:

Erin and Twig: 3 Qs and SGDC

June and Benson: 3 Qs

Mike and Dazzle: 5 Qs and EXJ BRonze and EXS Bronze

Sheldon and Able: 2 Qs

Roxanne and Cynder: 7 Qs

Roger and Biscuit: 1 Q

Joy and Chase: 6 Qs

Maria and Teigs: 8 Qs

Katherine and Baxter: 1 Q

Kim and Peak: 6 Qs and EXJ Bronze and VBA

Kim and Bounce: 4 Qs

Pat and Spryte: 4 Qs

Donna and Rayn 3 Qs and MSCDC

Dirk and Rex: 2 Qs and MSDC

Al and Bud: 5 Qs

Shauney and Cruise: 1 Q and AADC

Michelle K. and Zap: 3 Qs and EXJ Bronze

Barb and Sabra: 1 Q

Barb and Pepper 2 Qs

Ken and Blitz 1 Q

Michelle M. and Rook: 2 Qs

Angel and Sunny 3 Qs

June and Beaumont: 4 Qs and SGDC

David and Ziva: 2 Qs

Susan and Harley: 1 Q

Georgina and Remmy: 3 Qs and ADC and SGDC

Naomi and Dylis 2 Qs

Marilou and Angel: 3 Qs

Maureen and Keesa: 2 Qs

Roger and Risk: 2 Qs

Michelle and Halo: 3 Qs

Roger and Spy: 3 Qs

Karen and Coco Crisp 3 Qs

Kim and Bryn: 4 Qs

Glen and Alee 3 Qs

Rob and Timber: 4 Qs

Donna and Warjac: 1 Q

Michelle M. and Pepper: 2 Qs

Mike and Fozzi: 2 Qs*

Rob and Sierra: 3 Qs

Joy and Hannah: 5 Qs and Bronze and ExSt Bronze

Roger and Zeus: 3 Qs

Erin and Nestle: 1 Q

Naomi and Tegwen: 7 Qs

Dirk and Jack 1 Q and EXJ Bronze

Maureen and Mr.: 3 Qs and EXJ Bronze

Karen and Roch: 4 Qs and AGDC and MJDC

Christy and Denver: 1 Q

Diana and Mason: 5 Qs and AADC

David and Cassie 2 Qs.

News from Finland

Laura Radridge has taken Applejack and d'Lyla on an agility sabbatical to Finland for this school year. She expects to be back to join us in Abbotsford for Regionals. She has sent us a report

via email and I am including it here for all of you:

Hi Guys,

Well we're here, and after a long wait on the waiting list, I've finally gotten into an Agility club so we can participate in Finnish Agility. You need to be a club member and have a license in order to go to trials here. It is all very official: They scan the dogs to make sure the microchips match the Finnish assoc. number which has to align with your club number. But you also need to present your Breeder registration number in order to get the competitor licence to begin with. The funny thing is, after all that, they never bothered to measure the height of the dog when the judge signed her passport. Whew... well we did it and we finally got to go.

I've been practicing once a week with 'my club' who all do that weird one-handed style where blind crosses are must, and they even have this one move I call the "rodeo trick" where the handler stands unmoving between two jumps (180 style) and the dog runs around behind the handler

to jump the second jump whilst the handler moves their only hand, that seems to cue everything, in an above-the-head circular motion resembling a cowboy throwing a lasso. Holey moley it's funny to watch. I seriously ordered a Greg Derrett handling video from England after that just to clear my head.

It is all so feak'n competitive here: In order to advance to the next levels you must not only Q three times, but you have to place in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd against the other dogs as well. There is no ATCh for the hardworking backyard dog over here.

I went to a fun trial 2 weeks ago and they had two events: One for "amateurs" (those not competing on their big teams heading for Nationals), and one for those "professionals". I entered both. :) d'Lyla placed first for the "amateurs" and even then they had a big podium ceremony with prizes etc... how funny! She did really well in the professional course as well, but bought a tunnel instead of the tire, so sadly we did not get to swell up our heads with that one.

More on the Finnish agility tire: It is this RedGreen-worthy piece of hard duck-taped masterpiece that hangs from chains with absolutely no give or bounce. I thought they were joking, but this was in both rings as the official competition tire. (See pic. 002 for reference). Today was our first official trial, and d'Lyla was having an awesome standard run, but went under the "tire" instead of jumping through it. I honestly believe she didn't even see it as a tire. Or maybe she looked at the glam rock - style craftsmanship and said 'no thanks' to that. On our second run she also ducked the tire, so I made her go back and jump it. We had already blown that run because she thought this big castle-looking wall jump was a table, and jumped onto it and balanced there just long enough to realize that wasn't a table, before she jumped off. She should've known it wasn't a table, because their table has this electronic box underneath it that beeps like a time bomb 5 times before the long beep that means "go". I guess Finnish judges don't like counting to 5.

That's the other funny thing: They only have Standard and Jumpers here. And they only have 3 jump heights: Mini, Medi, & Maxi. So after you go through the scanning and paperwork process, and your fingerprints show no prior criminal records, you are free to leave and come back for your scheduled walk-through times. All the level 1 dogs ran back to back in the rings, so there is no waiting for course building, height changes, or "masters dogs" etc... and despite the fact that there were over 150 dogs (303 runs) in level 1 alone, we were in and out of there in under 2 hours. And best of all: No ring crewing because those jobs are filled by volunteers brought in by the host club for that sole purpose. The downside: 150 barking dogs with 150 squeaky toys waiting outside your ring causing commotion because no one bring crates in with them - as they are not staying long. Holy chaos, but good experience for d'Lyla (I guess). Also, the jump heights are somewhat random: For example a maxi dog (d'Lyla) has to jump anywhere from 55cm to 65 cm on a given run. The height (as well as the width in a double) is set by

the judge when they design the course. The tire, however, stays at a formidable 65cm no matter what the course is set at. There are also no 'specials' or 'vets' classes ... I'm not complaining, just stating the facts.

It was pretty funny to walk around for the judges briefings - when I had no idea what they were saying... and I'm usually such a good listener!

Seeing all the various dog breeds that compete here was fun too. The Croatian Sheepdog is Finland's trendy answer to the border collie, and the Hungarian Mudi (yes that's a dog) is the smaller counterpart, and also very popular.

Anyway, that's how it's going so far. Still having fun (I hope I'm still normal when I come home) :p

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Coming Events:

Clean-up Parties: Over the past years we have been paying to have the centre cleaned regularly. We now feel we cannot afford to do this. We will try to have cleaning parties once or twice per month. We usually will do this on Saturdays. We have already had a couple of sessions and there is a

calendar at the centre waiting for signatures.

January 17 is our next trial. Entry forms are on the web site or you can ask me to email you a copy.

February 7, Top Dog is holding a CARO Rally-O trial at Pawsitive Steps.

Mike has booked Rosinol Equestrian Centre for a fun match on Feb 13.

Our March trial will be held at the Agriplex on March 6 & 7.

If things go well at Rosinol in February, we will return for another session in April.

In May we have some plans under consideration. On May we will return to Masich Place for our usual appearance at the 24-hour relay for Cancer. We also hope to have regular trial on May 15/16.

Kim is planning a Pawsitive Steps trial June 5/6 and then the next weekend is the Regional Championship Event.

Top Dog AGM: On November 15 we met at the 1st Avenue center for our annual general meeting. We discussed the future of the club in terms of classes, events, finances and membership. We are looking into ways to use the paddock at the Henke farm at a lower cost; the main issue being the porta-potty service. We elected a new executive board. The club officers now are:

President: Mike Shortland

Vice President: Peter Dumoulin

Secretary: Katherine Rockwell

Treasurer: Joy Miller

Obedience Director: Angel Dumoulin

Membership Director: June West

Agility Director: David Greenberg

For those of you who may have missed the meeting here is the agility report:

Agility Report November 15, 2009

AAC : Since our last AGM there have been significant changes in our parent organization. There have been at least three sets of rule changes. Team Relay was removed from the championship stream and subsequently changed to a Masters level only event. AAC Challenge was added and the Challenge rules have already been altered, the chute was shortened, and a whole host of post AtchC awards were launched. Weave pole spacing is also going to change. There are new rules regarding touching dogs during snooker and gamblers. Fees for trials and judges have been changed. Financial statements, On Course, and new rule books are all on the missing persons list.

There is currently an election underway. Members of the AAC should have been mailed a ballot allowing them to vote for the regional director plus president, vice president and secretary. There is also a mammoth sized referendum dealing with a number of issues, some significant, some trivial.

Equipment: Al, Glenn and Rob have continued to look after our equipment. This year they had the chutes shortened, resurfaced the contact equipment, fix one tunnel and replaced another. Wheels were put on all of the contact equipment making moving those things quite easy and we now have all the contacts here at the center. We got new stop watches and new electronic whistles. For next year the guys are working on meeting the requirement for 24 inch spacing after September 1.

Practice: Many of us used the 1st avenue site during the off season and the paddock during the summer months. We rented a large horse arena for each Sunday in April in hopes of getting prepared for regionals last year; however, the surface was not conducive to running and attendance for these sessions was disappointing.

Fun Matches: We had four fun matches last summer. The format and fee structure varied. They seemed to be well enjoyed and were worth doing.

Trials: We began our season last year with our indoor trial at the agriplex in March. We had Jeanne Shaw and Tanya Schell as our judges. Then as an experiment we tried having a June trial. It went well and people had fun; however that trial and the Pawsitive Steps trial in June and the Clear Sailing July trial were all low in attendance. In June our judges were Nikki Gurr and Donna Holmgren. In August we brought up Christine Woodley and Sherry Taylor to judge. We ended our season with

our November indoor trial. Joanie Leigh Elliot came up to judge and to mentor me as I took my practical judging exam. At our trials we had between nine and twelve runs per weekend. We have stopped running team relay.

Demonstrations: We put on demonstrations for the public at the annual 24 hour relay for cancer research, Paws for a Cause, a pre-school, an old folks home and the PGX.

Championships: We sent 18 dogs to the Regionals in Campbell River. Most qualified for Nationals and 7 had places on the podium. After that Joy and Chase and Mike and Dazzle and Shenia competed at the Nationals in Ottawa.

Titles: Our dogs have done so well. Here is a list of dogs who earned titles this year(forgive any errors or omissions please):

Benson: EXS Bronze, Bronze, EXST Bronze, EXG Bronze, VBA, EXJ Bronze

Dazzle: MJDC, ATChC, Bronze, EXSt Bronze, EXSc Bronze, VBA, EXG Silver

Biscuit: MADC, MGDC, MJDC, ATChC
Teigs: EXS Bronze, VBA, EXG Bronze

Peak: ExSt Bronze, Bronze
Bud: ADC, AGDC
Blitz: MADC, MSDC, MSCDC, MGDC, ATChC, Bronze, EXSt Bronze
EXJ Bronze

Pepper: MADC
Hannah: EXJ Bronze, MSCDC, Bronze

Mr. Too: MADC
Able: EXS Bronze, MSCDC

Rayn: MJDC, MADC,MSDC, ATChC
 Rex: EXG Bronze, AGDC
 Soleil: SGDC
 Rook: ADC, AADC
 Zeus: Bronze, EXS Bronze, EXJ Bronze
 Cassie: EXS Bronze, VBA, EXG Bronze, VBA, Silver, EXSt Silver, EXSc Bronze
 Cruise: ADC
 Hush: SGDC
 Sunny: ADC,
 Bryn: EXJ Gold, EXSc Silver
 Warjac: EXSc Bronze, MADC, ATChC
 Cue: MADC
 Nova: MSDC, MJDC
 Chase: EXJ Bronze, Bronze
 Ziva: ADC, AGDC
 Spryte: MSDC, MJDC, MSCDC
 Alee: EXSc Bronze
 Christie: EXG Silver
 Jack: MADC, Bronze
 Beaumont: ADC
 Bounce: MJDC, ATChC

Classes: We began the year with an agility instructor and some classes running at the centre; however, after a bit of controversy the agility classes program ground to a halt. We are now at the point where we need to address the issue of holding agility classes.

Future Trials: We have a trial arranged for Saturday, January 17 from 6:00 am til 6:00 pm at the Agriplex. Because it is a one day trial we are using only local judges. So that all of us can have a chance to run our dogs too, we are having three judges: Donna, Rob and me. We will each do four or five courses. We are having 2 rounds each of Standard and Jumpers plus one steeplechase. March 6/7 is our next full two day trial. Jeanne Shaw will return. She will be doing her exam and France Jackson will be the other judge/mentor. In May we may try to run a joint trial with Pawsitive Steps. This would be a fund raiser for the Regional Handlers. We expect to use all four local judges who will donate their fees and all proceeds would go to the travel fund.

We have no set dates yet for the end of the season; I am looking at September 18/19 outdoors and November 6/7 indoors. We will most likely be bringing in judges for those trials to avoid overuse of the local judges.

Fees: Currently our fees are in line other clubs. Most charge around \$13 per run. We may need to adjust our fees, either by raising the cost per run or by returning the \$1.00 per run allocated to the Nationals Travel Fund to Top Dog.

David Greenberg

Christmas Party:

We decide that this year, instead of having two parties for the city's agility community we would combine with Pawsitive Steps to have one grand Christmas Party. So we all gathered next door at Kim and Rob's place. We had a lot of people, we ate wonderful food, watched slides and videos and played games.

Some Web Links:

If you want to see chipmunk agility go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yei-2YoOE2A>

Here is a seminar you might want to look into: Great News AVID presents Stacy Peardot-Goudy coming for the first time to Victoria BC in February 19, 20 and 21st 2010 for info on Stacy go to <http://www.avidagility.com/Seminars.html> we have a few auditing spots


left:

if you are interested email or would like further info

france@avidagility.com

Here is the advanced publicity for Noah's Rescue. This is the group that led the animal rescue in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina

Noah's Wish Disaster Response Training
 BECOME PART OF A SKILLED AND PROFESSIONAL ANIMAL DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM



Exciting information on:

- Animal Sheltering
- Search & Rescue Techniques
- Infectious Animal Shelter Diseases
- Pocket Pets & Reptiles
- Safety in the Disaster Environment
- Disaster Information on Hurricanes or Earthquakes
- Volunteer Information
- Animal Intake Process
- Disaster Psychology
- Separate Track for Returning Volunteers on Generators, Vehicle Safety & Blood Borne Pathogens
- And a whole lot more!

Come—Campout with the class for a whole weekend and see how this realistic training simulates what disaster response is all about!

For more information about Noah's Wish or this exciting training visit www.noahswish.info or call: 916-939-9474

New Volunteers = \$125
 Returning Volunteer, Student or Senior (62+) = \$85

Pre-registration is required and space is limited! Visit www.noahswish.info to sign up before it's too late!

**June 5th-6th
 500 North Star Rd.
 Quesnel, British Columbia**

More News:

The Doggie Hotel is now open at Henke's place. For information go to:

www.thedoggyhotel.com

Congratulations to Rob Struthers who is now the AAC director representing BC and the Yukon. We are very pleased and proud of Rob! Congratulations also to Ken Sharp and Blitz who have made the Canadian National Agility Team and will represent us in Britain next May in the World Championships!