



Top Dog

News about agility in Prince George

written by David Greenberg

September, 2011

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Since the last newsletter we have had a fun trial and two AAC Sanctioned trials. We had several of our central BC teams compete at the Nationals in Barrie, Ontario as well.

Because Regionals were held on the May long weekend we had our May trial in June. Cathy Nesbitt came from Kelowna to judge. Roxanne Ziefflie was scheduled to come to our trial but her dog Eve had other plans for that weekend so Rob Struthers filled in and judged her courses. In the past I have listed the dogs who earned "Qs" at our trials; however this time I am only telling you about the titles earned. If you want to see

who got Qs please use your computer to go to:

<http://www.aactrialresults.com/tr/trialresults2011611192582.html>

I am not reporting all of the Qs because I think that if you care about the Qs you can look them up yourself, and reporting Qs does not allow for the celebration of brilliant runs that were just one obstacle short of perfection.

At our June trial these titles were earned:

Roger and Biscuit: EXS Bronze

Maria and Teigs: EXS Silver

Al and Bud: EXG Bronze

Naomi and Dylis: MJDC

Roger and Risk: ADC

Michelle and Halo: SGDC and AADC

Roger and Spy: SGDC

Denise and Jake: SGDC

Maria and Strutt: Bronze and ExSt Bronze

David and Cassie: MCDC and EXG Silver

Mike and Dazzle: EXSc Silver

We had our August long weekend trial in July (go figure). It was called the "Almost August Trial" but it should have been "Monsoon Madness." It was the first Top Dog trial in my memory that was held in less than perfect weather.

The field became so wet it was almost like having underwater dog races. When the conditions got too bad the judges decided to stop the Saturday runs early so we did not get to run the three Jumpers 1 events. Anyone who was signed up for those runs and who has paid for them is invited to take a credit for a run at the next trial.

Sunday saw some better conditions and we were able to

complete that day's schedule. Big thanks go to our judges: Brenda Witt from 100 Mile House and Brigitte Hole from Mission. They put up with pretty miserable conditions.

Because of the weather we had to cancel Mike's Fun Games, the Top Dog general meeting and the post agility barbecue. We also caused a fair bit of damage to the field by driving our vehicles over the softening turf. Poor Anne! Luckily the grass is coming back and the ruts are filling in. The club is buying some gravel to help with the field repairs.

If you want to see the list of Qs for our summer trial please go to:

<http://www.aactrialresults.com/tr/trialresults2011611192582.html>

Here are the titles:

Sheldon and Able: EXG Bronze

Dirk and Rex: MSCDC

Shauney and Cruise: EXJ Bronze

Angel and Sunny: AGDC

Randy and Chase: ADC

Roger and Spy: MGDC

Leslie and Summit: ADC

The results from the Clear Sailing trial in Quesnel are at:

<http://www.aactrialresults.com/tr/trialresults2011611192582.html>

The titles:

Marc and Jasper: MGDC and MSDC and ATChC and EXS Bronze

Sheldon and Able: EXSc Bronze

Maria and Teigs: EXG Silver and VSA

Dirk and Rex: MJDC and ATChC

Denise and Keeper: MJDC

David and Ziva: EXG Bronze

Paula and Quick: AGDC and MSDC

Maria and Strutt: EXJ Bronze and VBA

Michelle and Pepper: EXS Bronze and VBA

Naomi and Tegwen: EXG Silver

Catherine and Jiggysy: EXJ Bronze

The URL for the Pawsitive Steps trial is:

<http://www.aactrialresults.com/tr/trialresults2011715208845.html>

Titles:

Donna and Rayn: Bronze and EXSt Bronze

Clair and Toby: MGDC

Marianne and Chappy: ADC

Jeanne and Naia: ADC

Naomi and Dylis: MGDC

Victoria and Engage: SGDC

Maria and Strutt: EXS Bronze

Jane and Cody: ExSt Bronze

Donna and Jetta: EXJ Silver

Lelahni and Taxi: MJDC

The trial results for the Cariboo Agility trial are not posted yet; however, it must be noted that Al and Bud got their ATChC at that trial.

Nationals:

We had a small but highly talented crew coming from central BC.

Maria and Strutt finished 11th with a score of 499.76

Mike and Dazzle were 25th with 443.35 points

Laura and d'Lyla were 41st with 392.01

Naomi and Tegwen made the podium finishing 3rd with 490.43

Maria and Teigs were 8th with 454.40 points

Transitions:

It is with sadness that I tell you that Laura Norie's Ella died recently. She was, in every respect, a great dog.

On the brighter side there are several new puppies to report.

Marc and Tracy have a new Border Collie named Diesel. Kim Anderson also has a new BC named Lyric. Katherine got a yellow lab from Erin named Amber.

A Celebration

In honor of her dog Abby who died last year, Sandra Morrison has donated an award for the handler showing the most enthusiasm for the sport at our spring trials. This was the first year for this award and it went to Sheri Grantham. Sheri will receive, courtesy of Sandra, a free trial entry. Congratulations, Sheri and thank you so much, Sandra!

Trailer:

At the last general meeting approval was granted for the club to obtain a new equipment trailer. Al purchased the trailer and he and Glen have been working hard to customize it so it will easily carry our trial equipment. They have also had the club logo placed on the sides of the trailer. It looks great and is a vast improvement. Now we need to go about paying for it.

The Top Dog executive has decided to add an additional charge of \$1.00 per run at our sanctioned trials over the next two years with that money earmarked for the trailer. This charge will be reflected in the fee schedule starting in November.

We are also selling display space on the trailer. Handlers can have their canine agility partners immortalized by sending a photo of their dog or dogs to Al along with a cheque for \$75. Al will get the photo printed including the dogs' names and have it mounted permanently on the trailer. What a

great way to celebrate your wonderful doggie athletes and to support the club. Also, companies can have their logo on the trailer for \$275. Contact Al for more details.

Al will be attempting to sell our old trailer so if you are interested in it be aware that the sale will be coming up shortly.

Coming Events:

Our next event promises to be the greatest, not to be missed happening of the entire season. On Sunday, September 25 we will have our grand end-of-the-season wind-up fun trial.

We shall start the day with a very special culinary experience. We are featuring "Breakfast With the President!" The Top Dog president, Rob Struthers will be there bright and early to cook a free pancake breakfast! You just must come to this. After that we will have the fun trial. We hope to be able to run some of the courses from this year's nationals plus some nice easy runs for the beginner dogs. It will be another admission by donation trial so just pay what you think it is worth to you. Last time we did this most people paid around \$10 per dog.

In the afternoon when we have tired of having fun we will pack away all of the equipment and batten down the sheds.

We will end the day with a grand BBQ. Top Dog will provide

hamburgers for a mere \$2.00 each and if everyone brings some party food to go with the burgers we will have a splendid time! You do not have to sign up; however, if you let me know you are coming it will help with planning the day.

A reminder that Clear Sailing has a trial on September 17 and 18. If you have not yet entered, do so very soon.

Our last AAC trial of the year is at the Agriplex, November 5 and 6. The entry form will be out soon. This will be the second greatest event of the year. Our fall trial is always a good one. The field conditions are bound to be better than at our last trial. Donna Holmgren and Lee Ann Carr are our judges.

We plan to have the Top Dog AGM at the agriplex on the Saturday. So, this is actually your official notice of the meeting. We will meet upstairs after the last event and before our Chinese Dinner. Last year we had a super dinner and I am looking forward to another fine meal.

Please be thinking of any agenda items you may have for this meeting. We will be holding elections for the Board of Directors and every position is available. We really need some new people to step up and be on the board.

Writing this last bit reminds me to introduce you to our new Membership Director, Melanie Cailleaux. Thanks go to Melanie

for taking over for June West who left us for warmer parts of the province.

I am sure you all know about the very trying and difficult situation that Erin and Tim Lynes found themselves in this spring. An unfortunate chain of events led to the flooding of the Cottonwood River and eventually, just like Arthur Dent's house in The Hitchhikers Guide, the government bulldozed their house leaving them homeless. At our May trial, thanks to many of you, we raised a bit of money to help out a little bit. Here is a brief quote from Erin's thank you letter:

Yesterday I received a very generous surprise in the mail from the Top Dog club from the June trial. I was not expecting this but want to thank everyone for their support through our crazy time, from this donation, which is very helpful right now, to all of your kind words of support and encouragement, and I know there were many of you also writing letters and emails and speaking out on our behalf.

This support is overwhelming and we are very grateful!

Classes:

Last spring the club ran some introductory agility classes which were very well received. Al was our instructor and June assisted. We had two levels of instruction; one was for very young beginner dogs and one for slightly more experienced dogs. We plan to run these classes again starting in

early October. The first classes will be Sunday, October 9. Classes will run for 8 sessions. They will be held each Sunday except for November 6, which is our agility trial date. Classes will be \$88 for Top Dog members and \$96 for non-members. Again, Al will be the instructor and I will assist and perhaps some other experience handlers will help also. The class for new dogs will start at 12:45 and the class for dogs who have had classes with us before will begin at 2:00. Classes will cover foundation skills such as basic obedience, crate games, impulse control, shaping behavior as well as an introduction to agility obstacles, and basic handling maneuvers. For more information, please contact Al. His email address is: elanhenke@yahoo.ca. Space in the classes is limited so potential students are advised to contact Al soon.

The Training Centre:

Over the years more keys to the centre have been signed out than have been returned, so security is becoming a concern. During the rest of this month we will be having the locks at the centre changed. If you currently are a key holder you will need to get a new key. We will let you know when the changeover will take place. Another issue with the centre is keeping it clean. Later this year we will develop a cleaning schedule. Members with keys who use the centre will be expected to take turns cleaning. Thank you to Sheldon Young for taking over the management of our Web Site.

Trial Dates:

For those of you who like to plan ahead, here are our proposed trial dates for next year:

January 14..... Our one day winter trial at the PG Agriplex. Judges will be David Greenberg and Donna Holmgren.

March 10 and 11....We return to the Agriplex for a two day indoor trial. Judges are Patti Wilson and Roger Perron.

May 19 and 20.... Outdoor trial at Henke's Farm. Judges are Darcy Bennett and Tracy Mallinson

June 8,9, 10..... BC/Yukon Regionals in Nanaimo

Nationals: August 3,4 and 5 in Nanaimo

August 18/19.... Outdoor trial at Henke's. Judges TBA

November (10/11 or 3/4) we need to see what dates we can get from the Horse Society. Indoors at the Agriplex. Judges Roxanne Ziefflie and Nina Durante

Finally: there is still time to vote for Tracey's Duncan. Duncan is dog # 7 in the poll and he is falling behind dog # 17. You can vote every day until next Thursday. Please forward this to all of your friends. To vote go to:

http://k9kelp.com/the-next-k9-kelp-star/#pd_a_5265749.