



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

# A Summer of Fun!

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When we packed away our equipment for the fall we said goodbye to a long and wonderful agility season. I have been looking at my calendar and it tells me we had some sort of activity nearly every weekend since May. In this issue of the Top Dog news I will review our season and set the stage for our near future.

We began our outdoor season in May with our annual appearance at the 24 hour relay for Cancer research. For many of us this was our first time outdoors and our only tune up before regionals in Campbell River. Then we had our June agility trial at Henke's farm with Donna and Nikki as our judges. That was followed by the Pawsitive Steps trial with Rob Struthers and Nina Durante keeping us both challenged and entertained. We also had a work party out at the farm to put fencing along the ground so small dogs cannot escape. July began with the Clear Sailing trial in Quesnel with

Rob judging along with Kirsten Locke. After that many handlers went back to Robert's Roost for the Pawsitive Steps Puppy Camp, Agility trial and Masters camp. We also had a fun match on the 12 of July. The dog days of August found us busy with our own Top Dog trial, a demo at the PGX, a trial in 100 Mile House and another fun match. The Top Dog trial was judged by Christine Woodley and Sherry Taylor. Although entries for that trial came in very late giving us cause to worry, in the end we had plenty of dogs, we made some money and we had a great time. We had a delicious barbeque dinner followed by Mike's special good time games. He had three games with prizes and cheering and lots of fun. First was the hot dog eating contest. Dogs were challenged to eat pieces of wieners floating in bowls of water. I think Shenia and Dazzle both won; perhaps Mike has been feeding them in water all year. The pet tricks

contest was won by Alyssa Crannis and her cute little Katie. They had an entire routine of nifty tricks. Finally there was a tension filled, closely contested frisbee catching contest. In the end my girl Cassie edged out Al and Bud for the prize. Thanks a lot to Mike for putting this event on. Later in the month many of us went to 100 Mile house to join the Cariboo Agility Club for their first ever trial. They did a very good job indeed. The trial was well organized, it ran on time and everyone enjoyed the courses Sherry Taylor and Nan Cowen presented. The venue was great and we all had a good time there. On the weekend of August 22 Top Dog had a fun match while I was in Nanaimo attending a judge's clinic in an attempt to upgrade to the masters level. The clinic was very informative and helpful albeit overshadowed by the exams that loomed at the close of the course. On the Sunday I took and passed the written and oral exams. Since then have also passed the course

design exam. All that remains now is the practical exam which will occur at our November trial. Also in August we put on a demonstration at the PG-X. We had lots of spectators and we have been invited back again for next year. In fact next year we may



get two days. We hope to put on more than just a practice for people to watch. We are thinking of



something along the lines of the Super Dog competition with some head to racing with Top Dog teams racing against dogs from the Cariboo and Kamloops. In September many of us went to Quesnel again for the

Clear Sailing trial. I had the privilege of judging along with Renee Hughes. Now it is just about time to end our agility summer. We have one more fun trial and then we are done until our November indoor trial. I am going to list for you the trial results. Please bear in mind that I am only telling you the Qs and titles. This does not reflect all of the great yet slightly imperfect runs that did not earn ribbons and it does not convey the good times and training accomplishments

that were not marked by victories.

**Pawsitive Steps, June 20/21:**

- June and Benson 2 Qs and EXG Bronze and VBA
- Mike and Dazzle 5 Qs
- Sheldon and Able 2 Qs
- Roger and Biscuit 1 Q
- Kim and Peak 3 Qs and Bronze
- Kim and Bounce 2 Qs
- Pat and Spryte 3 Qs
- Donna and Rayn 5 Qs and MADC



- Shauney and Cruise 2 Qs and ADC
- Michelle and Zap 1 Q
- Laura and Applejack 1 Q
- Ken and Blitz 8 Qs and MGDC and ATChC
- Michelle and Rook 4 Qs and AADC

Angel and Sunny 2 Qs and ADC  
 Angel and Vicki 2 Qs  
 June and Beaumont 1 Q  
 David and Ziva 3 Qs  
 Jane and Scooter Jones 1 Q  
 Shannon and Jorja 1 Q  
 Kim and Bryn 5 Qs and EXJ Gold  
 and EXSC Silver  
 Denise and Christie 3 Qs  
 Donna and Warjac 2 Qs and EXSc  
 Bronze  
 Michelle and Pepper 2 Qs  
 Shannon and Marty 1 Q  
 Jane and Maxie Jones 7 Qs and  
 EXG Bronze  
 Kim and Sierra 1 Q  
 Joy and Jannah 3 Qs  
 Roger and Zeus 4 Qs  
 Erin and Nestle 3 Qs and AADC  
 Michelle and Cue 1 Q and MADC  
 Shannon and Cai 2 Qs  
 Diana and Mason 1 Q  
 David and Cassie 8 Qs

**Clear Sailing, July 3/4**  
 Erin and Twig 6 Qs  
 June and Benson 5 Qs and EXJ  
 Bronze  
 Mike and Dazzle 6 Qs  
 Sheldon and Able 2 Qs  
 Roger and Biscuit 2 Qs and MGDC  
 Joy and Chase 3 Qs  
 Maria and Teigs 7 Qs and EXG  
 Bronze  
 Robbi and Nova 3 Qs and MSDC  
 Kim and Peak 1 Q  
 Kim and Bounce 1 Q  
 Kay and Trip 4 Qs  
 Al and Bud 1 Q and AGDC  
 Shaune and Cruise 3 Qs  
 Shaune and Hush 2 Qs  
 Michelle and Zap 3 Qs  
 Linda and River 1 Q  
 Laura R. and Applejack 2 Qs  
 Laura N. and Chime 2 Qs  
 Ken and Blitz 7 Qs

Angel and Sunny 1 Q  
 Angel and Vicki 2 Qs  
 Janice and Marco 3 Qs  
 David and Ziva 3 Qs  
 Georgina and Remmy 1 Q  
 Naomi and Dylis 1  
 Q  
 Denise and Jake 1 Q  
 Kim and Bryn 3 Qs  
 Kay and Scot 5 Qs  
 Glen and Alee 4 Qs  
 Karen and Rob Roy 1 Q and SGDC  
 Denise and Christie 5 Qs  
 Karen and Belle 2 Qs and AGDC  
 June and Docker 1 Q  
 Kim and Sierra 1 Q  
 Joy and Hannah 3 Qs  
 Roger and Zeus 3 Qs  
 Penny and Amigo 2 Qs  
 Erin and Nestle 3 Qs and MSDC  
 Rosemary and Tessy 1 Q  
 Naomi and Tegwen 3 Qs and EXJ  
 Silver  
 Laura N. and Parker 1 Q  
 Karen and Roch 2 Qs  
 Christy and Denver 1 Q  
 Diana and Mason 4 Qs  
 David and Cassie 9 Qs and EXG  
 Bronze

**Pawsitive Steps July 18/19**  
 Erin and Twig 1 Q  
 June and Benson 3 Qs  
 Mike and Dazzle 5 Qs  
 Marc and Jasper 2 Qs  
 Sheldon and Able 5 Qs and  
 MSCDC  
 Roger and Biscuit 2 Qs and MJDC  
 and ATChC  
 Sylvie and Dizzy 5 Qs  
 Joy and Chase 7 Qs and EXJ  
 Bronze  
 Maria and Teigs 5 Qs  
 Myrna and Dax 2 Qs  
 Robbi and Nova 1 Q and MJDC  
 Kim C. and Peak 4 Qs

Pat and Spryte 1 Q  
 Donna and Rayn 6 Qs  
 Kay and Trip 4 Qs and AGDC  
 Dirk and Rex 3 Qs and AGDC  
 France and Satchmo 2 Qs  
 Shaune and Cruise 3 Qs  
 Shaune and Hush 1 Q  
 Sandi and Remus 1 Q  
 Michelle and Zap 2 Qs  
 Hildi and Roux 1 Q  
 Debbie and Kali 1 Q  
 Barb and Sabra 1 Q  
 Laura and Applejack 1 Q  
 Nancy and Geordie 1 Q  
 Ken and Blitz 3 Qs and ExSt  
 Bronze and Bronze  
 Angel and Sunny 2 Qs  
 Linda and Lucas 6 Qs and MSDC  
 Linda and Zach 3 Qs  
 Carli and Ryka 1 Q  
 Sandy and Grady 1 Q  
 David and Ziva 4 Qs and ADC and  
 AGDC  
 Jennifer and Lucy 1 Q  
 Jeanne and Naia 1 Q  
 Jane and Scooter Jones 1 Q  
 Jan and Ruby 2 Qs  
 Patricia and Fleet 2 Qs  
 Kim A. and Spring 4 Qs  
 Kim C. and Bryn 7 Qs  
 Kay and Scott 1 Q  
 Deborah and Molly 5 Qs  
 Donna and Warjac 5 Qs  
 Jane and Maxie Jones 6 Qs and  
 EXSc Bronze  
 Paula and Kelly 2 Qs  
 Kim and Sierra 1 Q  
 Roger and Zeus 2 Qs and EXJ  
 Bronze and VBA  
 Erin and Nestle 1 Q

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Rosemary and Tessy 1 Q	Denise and Jake 1 Q	Diane and Kiwi 1 Q
Dirk and Jack 1 Q	Glen and Alee 6 Qs	Hildi and Roux 2 Qs and AADC
Chris and Zoom 1 Q	Denise and Christie 2 Qs and	Laura R. and Applejack 3 Qs and
Kim A. and Fia 3 Qs	EXG Silver	AADC
Deborah and Britt 5 Qs	Donna and Warjac 2 Qs and	Laura N. 3 Qs and ADC
Cheryl and Cori 2 Qs	MADC and ATChC	Tina and Nestor 2 Qs
David and Cassie 7 Qs and ExSt	Joy and hannah 4 Qs	Myrna and Tag 3 Qs
Silver and Silver	Roger and Zeus 3 Qs	June and Beaumont 5 Qs and
Top Dog Trial, August 8 and 9.	Erin and Nestle 1 Q	ADC
Judges were Christine Woodley	Naomi and Tegwen 4 Qs and	Donna and Coal 1 Q
and Sherry Taylor.	EXG Bronze	Laverne and Meg 5 Qs and ADC
Erin and Twig 1 Q	Dirk and Jack 2 Qs and MADC	Liana and Colby 2 Qs
June and Benson 6 Qs	Diana and Mason 1 Q	Carli and Ryka 1 Q
Mike and Dazzle 6 Qs and EXG	David and Cassie 8 Qs and EXsc	Maureen and Tag 1 Q
Silver	Bronze	David and Ziva 2 Qs
Sheldon and Able 1 Q	<b>Cariboo Agility Trial, August</b>	Lorraine and Badger 1 Q
Roxanne and Cynder 2 Qs and	<b>29/30 in 100 Mile House.</b> This	Valerie and Pete 1 Q and ADC
EXS Bronze	was their very first trial and they	Val and Nikki 1 Q and SGDC
Roger and Biscuit 2 Qs	did a wonderful job. It was a	Roger and Roo 1 Q and ADC
Joy and Chase 3 Qs	great trial in every way. It was	Jaqueline and Arnie 4 Qs and
Maria and Teigs 6 Qs	well run, on time, in a fine place	ADC
Katherine and Baxter 2 Qs	and with good weather. We all	Georgina and Remmy 2 Qs
Robbie and Nova 2 Qs	had fun! Judges were Sherry	Doris and Mikey 1 Q
Pat and Spryte 3 Qs and MSDC	Taylor and Nan Cowin.	Naomi and Dylis 2 Qs and
and MJDC	June and Benson 5 Qs	SGDC
Donna and Rayn 4 Qs and	Mike and Dazzle 2 Qs	Mary and Kara 1 Q
MSDC and ATChC	Laurel and Beanie 1 Q	Yvonne and Denim 2 Qs
Dirk and Rex 4 Qs	Roxanne and Cynder 6 Qs	Val and Seamus 1 Q
Al and Bud 2 Qs	Joy and Chase 1 Q	Carli and Jade 1 Q
Shauney and Hush 1 Q and	Vivian and Taz 2 Qs	Anna and Sam-Wow 3 Qs
SGDC	Myrna and Dax 1 Q	Laura R. and d'Lyla 5 Qs
Naomi and Alfie 1 Q	Nan and Annie 2 Qs	Karen and Coco Crisp 2Qs
Michelle and Zap 1 Q	Lisa and Marshall 1 Q	Glen and Alee 4 Qs
Barb and Pepper 2 Qs	Donna and Rayn 2 Qs	Belinda and Kosmo 1 Q
Angel and Sunny 1 Q	Katherine and Chloe 2 Qs	Donna and Warjac 2 Qs
June and Beaumont 2 Qs	Belinda and Tigger 2 Qs	Jan and Picasso 2 Qs
Laverne and Meg 2 Qs	Cathy and Sassy 2Qs and ADC	Anna and Zeena 1 Q
Naomi and Dylis 2 Qs	Naomi and Alphie 2 Qs and ADC	Joy and Hannah 1 Q
Laura and d'Lyla 4 Qs	Phil and Sanka 1 Q	

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Penny and Amigo 5 Qs and ExSt  
Silver and Silver

Naomi and Tegwen 1 Q

Belinda and Indy-Anna 4 Qs

Mary and Brie 1 Q and MADC

David and Cassie 6 Qs

Dianne and Taz 1 Q

So, congratulations to all of the Q winners and all of the title gainers. A special big cheer goes to the dogs who earned their AtchC:

Blitz, Biscuit, Rayn and Warjac.

Also a round of applause goes to the dogs who earned medal levels:

Peak--Bronze

Blitz--Bronze

Cassie --Silver

Amigo--Silver.

In addition to all of these sanctioned trials we had several fun matches over the summer. We also did demonstrations at the cancer walk, a pre school, an old folks home, the SPCA Paws for a Cause and the PGX.

Some of us went out on a sunny Sunday to pull Tansy weed in in effort to help save the Mud River ecosystem and to raise some funds for the regional handlers. We also gathered for a memorial service for our friend Tony Hayne.

We got new neighbors during this summer too. Kim and Rob moved their Pawsitive Steps operation right next door to us on 1st Avenue. Welcome neighbors!

Many of us helped move stuff, mostly those dang heavy floor mats during the hottest part of the summer. Now the place is looking nice and the neighborhood is that much better. We hope to be sharing facilities with Pawsitive Steps over the coming years.

### COMING EVENTS

On October 3 we had a little fun match. We ran a jumpers courser, a steeplechase and then had some high speed head to racing. At the end of the session we loaded up all of the equipment. Some is on the trailer, ready for our next trial. Some is bound for the 1st avenue center. I see little possibility of a Halloween fun match this year.

On Sunday, October 18 there will be a meeting of "regional Handlers." This will be at 12:30 at Pawsitive Steps.

On Sunday, October 25 there will be a Rally-O fun match from 1:00 until 4:00 at Pawsitive Steps.

Our next scheduled event is our annual November trial at the Prince George Agriplex.

This will be November 7 and 8. Times will be announced later but I suspect we will besetting up around 7:00 with the first dog on the line at 8:00. The entry forms have been sent out and I will also attach one to this newsletter. Joy will soon be putting it on the web site too. Now, if you got a very early version it may say that there is a "snooker 2" on Sunday. This is wrong. We are having nine runs; five on Saturday and four on Sunday. You can sign up for

individual runs or take a 9 run or 7 run package. I will be judging some of the runs for my Masters Practical Exam and Joanie Leigh Elliott will be judging the bulk of the runs.

We will have our usual pot-luck lunches both days and I will arrange for a catered dinner for Saturday night like we have done before. The dinner will be catered by J & M, the folks who brought us delicious Greek food last March. This time we shall have Lasagna, perogies, meatballs, chicken wings, oven roasted potatoes, salads, buns and dessert. At least some of the lasagna will be vegetarian.

We really hope to see a lot of you come out for this trial. It usually is our big event of the year.

Sunday, November 15 at 4:00 at the training center will be our Annual General Meeting. Please plan to attend. Please bring a chair and a snack to share. Elections will be the main event. We will need some new people on the executive. Val Carlson has told us that she will not be returning as treasurer so we really need someone to take on this position. If you are interested in any position: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, obedience director, publicity director, agility director, membership director, please let Kim or Donna know.

We were planning to have our usual Christmas party at the end of November at St. Michael's church; however, the rates have been raised and so we are not going there. So, we have decided to join with Kim at Pawsitive Steps in having a joint Christmas

party. This will be the night of December 12 or 19. Now you will only have to cook once, only miss one hockey game and only tie up one busy night in the Christmas season.

We are having a one day AAC sanctioned trial on Sunday, January 17. We have the Agriplex booked from 6:00 am til 6:00 pm and we may need to use the whole twelve hours. Donna Holmgren will judge the starters runs and Rob Struthers and I will split the advanced and masters courses. We will run two Standards, two jumpers and a Steeplechase.

March 6 and 7 will be the next trial after the January event. We are bringing in Jeanne Shaw from Nelson and France Jackson from Saanich.

We have nothing planned for April at this time. In May we hope to go in with Pawsitive Steps and Cariboo Agility on a jointly run trial. This trial will

be a fund raiser for the Regional Handlers and we hope to have it in 100 Mile House on May 15/16.

Kim plans to have a trial on the June 5/6 weekend as a way to prepare for Regionals. Regionals are scheduled for June 11, 12 and 13 in Abbotsford.



Then, on the June 26/27 weekend Denise and the Ministry of Agriculture will be bringing in Temple Grandin to speak here.

The Clear Sailing trial in Quesnel will be held July 10th and 11th. After that many agility

handlers will be going to Kim's agility camps and trial.

We have not yet picked a date for our summer trial. It could be held July 31/August 1 or August 14/15 or September 4/5 or September 17 and 18.

**OTHER NEWS**

Angel has started up new obedience classes including a junior handler's class with seven kids enrolled. We may have future members yet!

One of our long time members, Linda Raven and her

dog Callie are moving to Bowser Bay on Vancouver Island. We wish them well.

More rule changes from AAC have been announced. 1. In the opening sequence of gamblers and snooker:

... if a competitor gently touches the dog, on purpose, during the run, (they want to encourage or gently direct the dog physically or reward



the dog physically), the judge will call to the scribe "FEO"; the run will instantly become an FEO run; the competitor may continue with the run; the judge will keep judging as appropriate for the game.

NOTE: After the judge has designated the run a FEO non-competitive run, the team can continue the game, until either time expires, or they are whistled off for faults in the closing sequence.

2. At any time during gamblers or snooker:

if a handler maneuvers through, goes over, or under equipment; that action be deemed "unsportsmanlike behaviour", and the team be whistled off the course, by the judge, resulting in D for dismissal; points accumulated become null, no Q earned.

#### SOME SAD NEWS TO REPORT

Actually I will let Tom Taylor tell you in his own words:

Today at 11:45 we had to let go of Northern Lights All Ways Faithful (Faith). She had a stroke she couldn't come back from, (we knew one would

eventually come). She and I had some alone play time on Saturday that was very satisfying for both of us. She was 14 years and 4 months old. She was very strong to the end. An agility judge once said about her performance on the course, "when she's good she's great. When she's bad, she's spectacular!" She went to the Canadian nationals for agility twice and always had more fun than any other dog. The kids said their goodbye's last night. The last thing she saw was Kristine and I and a tennis ball. With any luck she has my other best friend Paul throwing it for her. Super T. Rufus will never be forgotten. She was the best dog I've ever known.

**Northern Lights All  
Ways Faithful  
June 2, 95 to Sept 22,  
09**



### Fees and Costs for Agility Trials

One thing I hope we can discuss at the AGM is entry fees.

Currently it costs between \$10 and \$13.50 per run to enter our trials. We are among the lowest cost clubs in BC. Do you wonder where that money goes?

We have fixed costs and per-run costs. When we have met those obligations the rest goes to the club to be used to maintain equipment and pay other club expenses.

Fixed costs include facility rental, porta-potty rental, food, transportation and accommodations for judges, volunteer prizes, judges' gifts, printing, kitchen items. Per run costs are: \$1.25 per run for the AAC, \$1.50 per run for the judge, \$1.00 per run for our Nationals Fund. In addition, if a dog qualifies and the handler takes ribbons and a Q prize that can be another one to four dollars.

So, when a club member enters for \$10 and has a successful run there can be as little as three or four dollars left

for paying the fixed expenses. On the other hand if a non-member enters for \$13.50 and does not Q, we have nearly \$10 left over.

So, it turns out that when we have between 300 and 500 runs in a weekend we are in pretty good shape to meet our expenses and make some money. However, if the trial is too small we have a potential problem. We can try to limit expenses by cutting back or eliminating Q prizes, volunteer gifts, judge gifts and food for judges; however, we run the risk of making our trials less joyous than they currently are. We can try to increase revenue by raising entry fees or increasing attendance. Lastly we can just be happy with things as they are. Talk among yourselves.

I think that sometime soon, perhaps at the AGM, we have some issues to discuss. We need to figure out if we can continue to afford to keep our training centre. We need to come to an understanding about what our direction will be

regarding classes, and we need to set realistic entry fees for trials and fun matches.



IN CONCLUSION

We had a great summer of learning, training, and competing. Now we are nearly set for our cold weather dog activities. Please remember to enter our November and January trials. Please plan to come to the AGM. Please consider serving on the executive.

If you are coming to the November trial, remember we will have potluck for both

lunches. If you expect to stay for dinner on Saturday night, please let me know. Dinner will be \$16. There will be raffle items so bring some extra money with you, too! You should also know that elections for the Board of Directors of AAC are coming up soon. Rob Struthers is running for the BC/Yukon regional director and I know

he would appreciate our support.

You should also know that our very own Ken Sharp and Blitz have been named to the Canadian Agility Team competing at the World Championship in Britain next May. Way to go Ken and Blitz!