

Tails Up Agility Club

Bi-Monthly Newsletter Volume I, Number 1

Hi Tails Up Agility Club members! As the club's Membership Coordinator, I thought it would be cool to try and resurrect the club newsletter so we can all keep up with agility/dog news as well as with each another. There are several items I am planning to include the newsletter:

- A "Doggie Doings" column with important, interesting, or just funny dog news.
- A getting to know you column about a different member each month
- A calendar of upcoming agility trials and events in MD, NC, and VA
- A Brag section listing club member achievements.

If you have some ideas about a column or feature for the newsletter, please share your ideas with me. And keep me informed about news you want

to share with the club, such as interesting events you are participating in or brags about your dog's recent accomplishments.

Finally, we are always looking for new club members so if you know of anyone who is interested in agility (or other dog sports) please have them contact me at scott.casino@verizon.net.

Doggie Doings

The club recently **purchased 10 pairs of sandbags** from Affordable Agility's clearance sale. We will add the sandbags to our current inventory of 62 usable sandbags. Current thinking is to occasionally purchase new sandbags to replace ones that are no longer usable which will help spread out the cost over time.

Friends of Chesapeake Animal Services is hosting a Dining To Donate benefit at the Appleby's by Grassfield High School in Chesapeake every Thursday night in April. Appleby's will donate 20% of your lunch/dinner check towards the construction of a new city animal shelter. You must bring their flyer with you to get the donation made; to print one out, go to friendsofchesapeakeanimalservices.org.

Whole Dog Journal published an informative article in their recent April 2009 issue about **pet health insurance**. The article covers topics such as what insurance options are available, describes companies offering insurance services, questions you should ask when you are determining what insurance to get, and tips for dealing with the costs of veterinary care. With the increasing costs of veterinary care, our club being performance dog oriented, and several of us having dogs with injury problems, this might be an interesting subject for discussion at an upcoming club meeting.

Upcoming Club Meetings & Locations

April 8 at 6pm: Club practice at the Family Dog Club
May:
June:
July (date TBD): Club summer picnic @ the Parsons'

Our **Fall Trial has been confirmed** by the NADAC office. It will be Oct. 16-18. (FYI, when a club hosts a trial, they "own" that weekend on the NADAC calendar. Clubs are discouraged from hosting trials within 300 miles of each other and there are a lot of trials in MD & NC. Due to these issues, it is difficult to switch our Trial to a different weekend.)

TUAC Member Profile

Member Name: Brandy Walters, Club President

Owned by (your dogs): Whisper & Angel

Age: 22 **Member Since:** 03/12/03 (since the club started)

Occupation: ODU student, dog sitter, and substitute teacher for Chesapeake Public Schools

Other Dog Activities or Sports You Are Involved In: I've been thinking about doing therapy work with Whisper, but I can't seem to find the time!

Why Do You Play Agility? I wanted to do agility since I saw it on TV when Animal Planet had those competitions that had agility games (they weren't actually trials). I thought Roy Boy would be awesome at it, and it looked like the most fun thing I had ever seen! When I found out I could do agility right here in the area, I was ecstatic. I made my mom turn around on Kempsville (back before the u-turn was legal!) because I SWORE I saw an a-frame. She thought I was crazy, but that's what it was. Like the rest of you, once I got started, I was hooked!

Where Do You Play Agility? (training sites, trials you like, venues) I haven't had a lot of time for training this semester, but when I do, I go to Rita's if I need equipment, but I do a lot of "ground work" at home. I have one jump, and that provides LOTS of training for all of Angel's issues!! We're working on those start lines right now...

What Do You Want to Accomplish in Agility? My ultimate goal would be to go to the nationals. I used to want to be on TV, but they never televise the little dogs... silly border collies. With Whisper, that dream probably could have been a very attainable reality. With Angel, my goal is to be able to take her to a trial and have her not freak out!

Weirdest/Coollest/Most Embarrassing Thing You've Ever Done/Seen at an Agility Trial? Well, the dumbest thing I've ever done is to not read the numbers correctly and walk the course wrong and then get NQ'd for a beautiful run! One more reason I'm an English major... One of the funnier things I've seen was at an AKC trial at Merrimac. A Jack Russell ran across the ring in the middle of its run and grabbed the pants leg of the judge and started "killing" it for no apparent reason. That reminds me of a certain tri-colored sheltie who takes offense to judges... =)

Favorite Trial? Why? I enjoy our trials immensely, mostly because of the fun atmosphere. I do enjoy AKC trials, but it's a lot more competitive (which may be why I like it!)

Favorite Agility Game? Why? I like Tunnelers because it's so fast and the dogs love it, but I really like the handling challenges of Jumpers, especially in AKC

Best Agility Training Tip or Advice You've Ever Heard? "Never show anger towards your dog on course. You are the one who taught him his job. Leave the ring smiling, reward the dog for the job he did, put the dog away. Then ask a better handler than yourself if it was your fault or the dogs'. It IS more than a game, but not worth losing your morals over!" -Nancy Gyes

Something funny or interesting about you that most members don't know about you. Usually my answer to this question is that I train dogs in agility, but I don't think you all would be impressed by that! Hmm... something interesting.. I do find it ironic that my favorite breed is a sheltie, but there was time when I said I'd never want one because of all the hair. I have since found out that I enjoy brushing dogs just for something fun to do. I know, I'm weird. You're not telling me anything the voices in my head haven't already told me!! =)

Calendar of Upcoming Agility Trials & Events

When putting together this calendar, I tried to use the following criteria.

- Events taking place during the next 3 months
- NADAC and CPE trials in Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland
- AKC & UKC trials within 2 hours of Tidewater
- Agility events (like clinics, run throughs and seminars) also within 2 hours

You can also find out about other agility trials and download premiums at www.agilityevents.net. Let me know if there is anything you would like to be listed.

Date	Venue	Sponsoring Club	Location
4/4-5	NADAC	Carolina Canine & Pet Performance	Chapel Hill, NC
4/4-5	AKC	Merrimac Dog TC	Gloucester, VA
4/11-12	NADAC	Breakaway Action Dogs	Frederick, MD
4/11-12	AKC	Hampton Road Obedience TC	Gloucester, VA
4/17-19	AKC	Central Virginia Agility Club	Chesterfield, VA
4/25-26	NADAC	Canines in Action	Millersville, MD
5/2-3	UKC	Tidewater Dog Performance Club	Chesapeake, VA
5/8-9	CPE	Wiggle Butts	Mebane, NC
5/9-10	AKC	Belroi Agility Club	Gloucester, VA
5/15-16	CPE	Teamworks	Youngsville, NC
5/16-17	NADAC	Periland Agility	Knoxville, MD
5/16-17	AKC	Gloucester Kennel Club	Gloucester, VA
5/23-24	NADAC	PAWZAZZ	Ellicott City, MD
5/30-31	CPE	Periland Agility	Knoxville, MD
6/13-14	NADAC	Artful Dodgers	Westminster, MD
6/27-28	NADAC	Tailwaggers Agility	Westminster, MD
6/27-28	NADAC	Teamworks	Youngsville, NC

Doggie Brags! Congratulations Everyone!!

Be sure to let me know what accomplishments—agility or otherwise—your dog(s) have earned. Apologies for any mistakes; it's not easy to cross-reference points on the NADAC website with Qs from the February trial.

- *Chelsea* qualified in 12 out of 12 runs at our February trial on the way to earning Novice titles in Regular, Jumpers, Touch'n-Go, Chances, & Hoopers.

Other achievements at our trial:

- *Harley* and *Erin*: Novice Weavers & Jumpers
- *Pennee* got her Open Regular title.
- *Maggie* got her Novice Jumpers.
- *Grace* earned Open Tunnelers.

- *Angel* earned first ever Qs in Regular, Tunnelers, and Touch'n-Go
- *Emily Lu* earned Open Weavers & Hoopers, and Elite Regular, Jumpers & Tunnelers at our trial. *Billy Bob* earned a Novice Tunnelers and *Ellie Mae* got Open Jumpers & Tunnelers.
- *Summer* earned her Novice Versatility Award (Novice titles in all 6 classes) at CVAC's March NADAC trial.

Hookups

Selling or looking for dog/agility stuff? Looking for someone to share a ride to or lodging at an upcoming agility event? List it here!

Scott & Diana will be at the following trials: C2P2 (NADAC, Saturday only), CIA (NADAC, Sunday only), Wiggle Butts & Teamworks CPE trials. We can't take anyone with us—unless you can hold onto the roof!—but would love to hang out with any club members who are going.

Be on the lookout for deals on a canopy that the club can buy to provide shelter to course stewards during a trial or at other club events. A recent ad had a sales price of a new 10' X 10' canopy at \$100. I believe a better deal can be found. Let Patty or Scott know if you find a better price!