



The Scramble

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Contributions to The Scramble:

Contributions are due on:

March 15 (for April issue)

June 15 (for July issue)

September 15 (for October issue)

December 20 (for January issue)

Send them to:

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You can also drop information into The Scramble Box located on the training info table on Thursday nights in Franklin Park!

WCAC UKC Trial Held November 6&7, 2004

Windy City Agility Club does it again! Our November UKC trial was, as usual, a success. However, without the help of countless members and friends, it wouldn't even be a trial.

First a huge thank you to our trial secretary, Nancy Reyes, for managing to get us computerized and running despite having huge technical problems with the software, including having to go home and get her home computer and printer when the laptop refused to cooperate! Next thanks go to Chris Eastwood and Anna Ogawa, our trial co-chairs. They kept the trial running smoothly, filled in whenever needed, made sure there were plenty of workers, and Anna even took lunch orders! The workers were out in force, and a thank you to Sue Brennan, Ginny Cwynar, Lynn Cwynar, Kim DeBenedictis, Marianne Fieseler, Marian Gabriel, Barbara Glombowski, Paul Glombowski, Joanna Glombowski, Synoma Hays, Gail Kalina, Barbara Kline, Ceil Kline, Kate Krakowski, Sonja Lund, Loretta and Joe Marchese, Vicky MacKay, Kris, Tony, and Anthony Montagano, Cheryl Pyrek, Gonzalo Reyes, Sue Rubins, Nancy Saia, Aliss South, Tom Woepse, and Donna and Jeff Wykowski. Apologies if anyone was missed, but trust us, you were appreciated at the trial!

Without the help of these people, and more, we couldn't do what we do. WCAC is run by volunteers, and depends on you, the members, for its very existence.

Hat's off to you all!

Board of Directors

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Announcing New Class Fees for 2005

On December 3, the Windy City Agility Club Board of Directors voted to increase our class fees by \$5.00, beginning with the 2nd session of 2005.

The new fees will be:

First Dog: \$50 for Members, \$70 for Non-Members

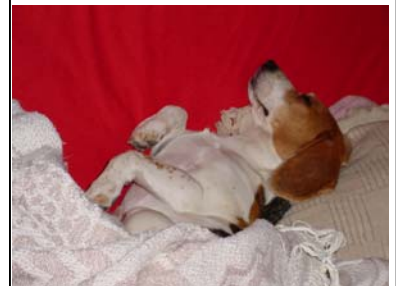
Additional Dogs: \$25 each

Guest Training: \$9 for Members, per dog,

\$12 for Non-Members, per dog

These fees are still almost 1/2 of the average agility training fee! If you have any questions, please contact any of the Board members listed on this page.

After a tough day of torturing Min Pins and PoodleX's.....



..... a girl has to get her beauty sleep!

Wags & Brags

“Rerun” Krynski completed his AKC MACH2 agility title on September 18. This makes Rerun the 1st MACH2 Smooth Fox Terrier! Rerun also earned his TC from the German Shepherd Club of America. This is the temperament test they offer.



U-ACH Gina



U-AGI Coco

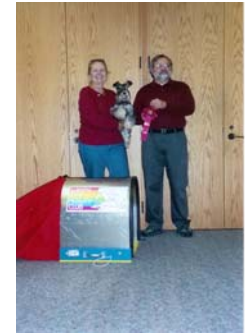


“Shainy” Krynski finished her OAJ title on Sept. 18, too! Shainy also earned her USDAA AD title on August 21. Shainy also completed her AKC AXJ title in 3 consecutive runs!

“Gidget” Krynski finished her Teacup Agility TG1 title in July 2004. Gidget also debuted in AKC Novice Preferred, and finished her NAP title on December 11!



U-ACHX Dino



U-ACH Skeeter

The DeBenedictis canine pack has been busy these last few months. “Dino” won High in Div. 1 and High in Trial at Windy City’s July trial. He earned his U-ATCH on 8/15, with a High in Trial out of AGII! In September, at the Piece of Cake UKC trial, he won back-to-back High in Trials, also out of AGII. Dino also earned his CL3-F title in CPE on 8/15/04. “Bamm Bamm” has been kickin’ fuzzy butt in CPE, running in the 4” Veterans division. He qualified in all his classes and earned his CL3-S and CL4-H titles on 9/5/04!

“Taz” and Jill Hillock attended their first Teacup Agility trial, and Taz did great! He got 2 First Place ribbons! Great job, especially since Taz is 13 years old!

“Teddy” Cwynar finished his NA & NAJ titles on 12/11!

The WCAC November UKC trial was a huge success for many of our members! The amount of titles earned have GOT TO be a record!

Saturday’s Accomplishments: “Maggie” Marchese—U-ACH, “Lea” Eastwood—High In Division 2, Trial 1, “Lou” Eastwood—1st AGII legs, 1st & 2nd placements, “Dino” DeBenedictis—High in Div. 1 and High in Trial, Trial 1, “Shira” MacKay—AGI, “Rerun” Krynski—High in Div. 2, Trial 2, “Nikki” Krynski—High in Div. 1 and High in Trial, Trial 2

Sunday’s Accomplishments: “Skeeter” Lund—U-ACH, “Nikki” Krynski—U-ACHX, “Gina” Saia—High in Div. 1, High in Trial and U-ACH, “Coco” Saia—AGI, “Dino” DeBenedictis—U-ACHX, “Lou” Eastwood—AGII, “Corky” Witkowski—First show ever, first leg ever in AGI, “Chassis” Montagano—High in Div. 2, “Tova” MacKay—U-ACHX, U-AGII “Teddy” Cwynar

I’m sure I missed some titles and accomplishments, so send ‘em in and you’ll have your (and your dog’s) name in print in the next issue.

“Retief” South earned his UAGII title in November, too. According to Aliss, it wasn’t pretty but he qualified, in spite of having decided that the tire was a portal to an alternate universe and should be avoided in spite of his teammate’s pleading. He also provided comic relief when he popped out of the weaves, sat down, scratched his ear for what seemed like an eternity, got up, finished the weaves & completed the course. Dogs keep us humble, don’t they?



U-AGI U-AGII Lou



U-AGI U-AGII Teddy



U-ACHX Nikki



U-AGI Shira

A Very Special Brag *by Vicky MacKay*

Three months after recovering from near fatal surgery for bloat, Tova achieved her UACHX title at the Windy City Agility Club on November 6 and 7, 2004. Tova needed three out of the five legs required in Agility III, the highest level of UKC agility competition. She qualified three out of four runs with two 3rd places and one 4th place. To achieve this title in UKC, a dog and handler team cannot incur any major faults on course, and must work together at a distance of six feet from the box or table, and the weave poles, plus run two or three obstacles in sequence only on their right side (right restricted). Only those close to Tova know that she lost her spleen and 80% of her stomach on August 4, 2004 due to necrosis caused by gastric torsion. She also had a laminectomy in her lower back four years ago because she ruptured a disc while running and turning in deep snow. She is living proof that miracles do happen, and her continued zest for life at the age of 8 years, is a lesson to us all. Bravo, Tova!



Hounds for the Holidays *by Lynn Cwynar*

The pressure was on when Teddy entered the Hounds for the Holidays agility trials.

At the Rand Park agility trial (9/25 & 9/26), which was his first AKC competition, he took first place in JWW on Saturday and first place in Standard on Sunday. Not bad for his first time out!

In mid November he competed at WAGS and did fine in Standard, taking 2nd place. But while getting ready to go back to compete on Sunday, he had a seizure. He was in no shape to compete. So the day after Thanksgiving, we went back to Indiana. Being late in the day and being one of the last dogs to run, he managed to get his 2nd JWW leg, taking 2nd place.

So up to Wisconsin we went. Having 2 legs in each, he did himself proud by taking a 1st in Standard and getting his NA title. Bad handling caused him an off course in JWW. We bundled ourselves off to the Sharaton for the night, indulging in a steak for his victory, and went promptly to sleep. Later that night, a dog barked in the hallway, Teddy ran to the door to defend us, and had a seizure. After getting him settled

down, we went back to sleep only to be awakened by the delivery of the newspaper. Teddy, always on alert, went to tell the delivery person off and promptly had another seizure. Oh, poor boy. Oh, what to do? We sleep in, miss his first Open Standard run, and decided to try the afternoon JWW run.

Oh, to praise the Rand Park agility people there for support. Kim DeBenedictis promptly offered Rescue Remedy. Barb Krynski and Tom Woepse offered suggestions about running him. Judy Shortino and Anne Fisher offered the ragged handler sympathy and support. There was a massage therapist at the trial and after some convincing, Teddy settled down for a 20 minute massage. With barely time to walk the course, and with the Rand Parkers looking on, Teddy ran. And run he did, a little slowly but good enough to take 2nd place and get his NAJ title. It is amazing how they know when they dog good. They puff up and their hearing goes away! But, thanks to all.

Lynn Cwynar and Theodore Boyd Brown, NA, NAJ

A Big Brag for a Little Dog... *by her human, Barb Krynski*

Saturday, October 16 started out just like any other day in agility, but a little colder than I or my Min Pins prefer.... I was at the K9 Athletes trial just to have fun, since the only run that counted was Nikki's and that was in Snooker. We were, once again, combined with the 16" division, so that left us with little hope of winning. You see, all Nikki needed for her Agility Dog Championship (ADCH) was a Super Q

It was an awesome course, made for a little bitty dog like Nikki. No weave poles and no teeter, which was rare in a Masters level Snooker course. It also utilized a serpentine as the 7 pt. obstacle, and we LOVE serpentines! Nikki ran her heart out! I actually managed to keep my head on my shoulders, and remember to call those commands in time (and call the correct ones, too....), and she never took a misstep or even thought about a bobble. As I came off that course, I just knew THIS WAS THE RUN!

When I confirmed that we had, indeed, not only Super Q'd but WON the class, I just couldn't believe it.

Nikki is now known as ADCH MACH U-ACHX Marla Pooch, CD, EAC, OJC, OGC. From scared rescue dog to multiple venue agility champion..... I am so incredibly proud of my brave little dog!

What Are All Those Letters? The Mystery is Revealed!

Have you ever wondered what the heck all those letters that you see in front of and behind a dogs name actually mean? Well, I'll try to explain the agility alphabet. The following is a list of venues and titles, listed (within each venue) from the lowest title to some of the higher titles. Hopefully that will help clear up the mystery!

UKC - United Kennel Club (www.ukcdogs.org)

U-AGI Agility I* U-AGII Agility II* U-ACH Agility Champion*
 U-ACHX Agility Champion Excellent*

AKC - American Kennel Club (www.akc.org)

NA	Novice Agility	NAJ	Novice Agility Jumpers	NAP/NJP	Novice Preferred
OA	Open Agility	OAJ	Open Agility Jumpers	OAP/OJP	Open Preferred
AX	Agility Excellent	AXJ	Agility Excellent Jumper	AXP/AJP	Excellent Preferred
MX	Master Excellen	MXJ	Master Excellent Jumper	MXP/MJP	Master Excellent Preferred

MACH Master Agility Champion* (this title can go on indefinitely, with a MACH2, MACH3, etc.)

USDA - United States Dog Agility Association (www.usdaa.com)

AD	Agility Dog	AAD	Advanced Agility Dog	MAD	Master Agility Dog
GM	Gamblers Master	JM	Jumpers Master	SM	Snooker Master
RM	Relay Master				

ADCH Agility Dog Champion*

LAA Lifetime Achievement (These are categorized as Bronze, Gold and Platinum and can apply to any of the games)

PI/PII/PIII These titles are the Performance equivalent of the Championship titles. There is no Performance Champion, but the challenges in the runs are the same except for no spread jumps and jumping 1 height lower than in Championship.

NADAC - North American Dog Agility Council (www.nadac.com)

NAC	Novice Agility Certificate	NJC	Novice Jumpers Cert.	NGC	Novice Gamblers Cert.
OAC	Open Agility Certificate	OJC	Open Jumpers Cert.	OGC	Open Gamblers Cert.
EAC	Elite Agility Certificate	EJC	Elite Jumpers Cert.	EGC	Elite Gamblers Cert.

NATCH Agility Champion*

There are also various Superior, etc. titles for each level but too many to list.

CPE - Canine Performance Events (www.k9cpe.com)

Honestly, there are so many titles and levels that it's best to go to their website and check 'em out there.

TDAA - Teacup Dog Agility Association (www.dogagility.org)

TBAD	Teacup Beginner Agile Dog	TIAD	Teacup Intermediate Agility Dog		
TSAD	Teacup Superior Agile Dog				
TG1	Teacup Games 1	TG2	Teacup Games 2	TG3	Teacup Games 3

TACH Teacup Agile Dog Champion*

*All Champion titles are placed in front of a dog's name, and all levels of UKC titles are also in front of the dog's name.

Hopefully this clears up some of the mystery. Next time you see an alphabet soup surrounding a dog's name, or hear someone proudly announcing that new title, you'll know exactly what they're talking about!

Who Cares What it Costs? By Paul Rasmussen

I am the captain of our agility team, since I have opposable thumbs.

He is the athlete, the star of our team, responsible for all our great runs.

I get the map and go over it with him, deciding how to stay out of his way. He learns the course quickly, laps at his water, and asks to come out and play. I taught him this game, but now it is his. He brings me along to pay fees. He expects little of me; to drive the van safely, to be keeper of the cheese. I try to be honest, to not be deceptive, to hold up my end of the team. He is the foundation; what it's all about. He's the coffee to my cream.

Secret Agility Dog Conversation

as overheard by Chris Eastwood

I'm continually amazed, but never really surprised, at the level of communication and intelligence that goes on with (all) our fur-kids, so I'm sure you can relate to the following: I am absolutely convinced, by way of repeated examples, that Abby and Lea often discuss options for weekend trial performances that go something like this:

Abby: "OK, so if I blow the weave poles today, you can take the dive on the table, right?"

Lea: "Got it. Now, tomorrow, I'll pop out on pole number 11 (watch his facial expression when I get that far and dump it..... I'm telling you, it's worth the wait in the car) and then you can sniff around the table and act like you've never seen it before.... That must drive him crazy! What a hoot!!!"

Abby: "Cool, and the really great part is that, after aggravating (Abby-vating) the heck out of him and taking up all day doing it, he still gives us cookies! Man, it's a dog's life all right! Next week you get to pick first what to mess up."

Lea: "We've been doing pretty well on down contacts lately, maybe we can BOTH fly-off on the same day.... That'll give him something to wonder 'what am I doing wrong' about."

Then, there's the weave poles....

Abby and Lea seem to take the attitude: "AKC or UKC spacing.... whatever..... I still don't see why 10 poles aren't just as cool as 12, but if I MUST do all of them, I'll do them when I want to, thank you, and not just because you're drilling me with your eyes... \$20.00 per missed pole.... why, that's just silly!!!..... oh, and by the way,.... I don't know the alphabet (yet), so don't keep muttering 'NQ NQ NQ' under your breath after each run. I don't know what that means, and it makes me nervous....."

Our class has begun; our height will be next. It is time for a walk and a pee. We take care of business and return to our crate. He yawns to try to calm me. Our course fills my head, but he's kept his clear, so we have a chance for a Q. We get closer and closer to the time we must start. I feel like I have to pee, too. Our turn has come. We approach the line. The timer says, "You may go." We start side-by-side (he likes it that way), and soon we are into the flow. Our speed increases as we dance through the course, until it feels like we're flying! We finish clean and elated as he jumps into my arms.

But why are my eyes crying?



A Star is Born! By Synoma Hays (Basil's Manager)

"Basil" Hays is a star! Over the WCAC UKC trial weekend, Basil not only ran agility, but played a part in a play! He played the part of "Cheeky" in Anything Goes. Basil got carried around a lot by a lot of people, had to walk around in a life jacket (not his favorite piece of clothing), and was supposedly thrown in the swimming pool in a scene, so he finished off the show soaking wet! He was very good and patient about it all, but he got a little spoiled—wanting attention ALL the time, because he got it from the theater people. The following is his bio from the play bill:

Basil is tail-wagging happy to be making his "official" theater debut. He was the understudy for his unspayed sister, Saffron, who was "indisposed" for some performances of "Guys and Dolls". Basil is active in many venues of dog agility and recently completed his Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title in obedience. He has an interest in hunting and is trying his paw at tracking, field trials, and Earthdog. He's proud to be following in his moms' footsteps (Synoma & Roxilana) in the theater. He'd like to dedicate this performance to his sister, Spice, who recently passed over the Rainbow Bridge.

When I Am Old.....

I shall wear Turquoise and soft gray sweatshirts... and a bandana over my silver hair..... and I shall spend my Social Security Checks on Sweet Wine and My Dogs..... and sit in my house on my well-worn chair and listen to my dog's breathing.

I will sneak out in the middle of a warm Summer night and take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow... and when people come to call, I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs... and talk of them and about them...

The Ones so Beloved of the Past and the Ones so Beloved of Today....

I still will work hard cleaning after them and mopping and feeding them and whispering their names in a soft, loving way... I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat, like a jewel and I will be an embarrassment to all... and my family... who have not yet found the peace in being free to have dogs as your Best Friends....

These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall.. and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep, to greet you as if you are a God.

With warm eyes full of adoring love and hope that you will stay and hug their big, strong necks... and kiss their dear sweet heads... and whisper to them of your love and the beautiful pleasure of their very special company....

I look in the Mirror... and see I am getting old.... this is the kind of woman I am... and have always been. Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me, accept me for who I am, my dogs appreciate my presence in their lives... when I am old this will be important to me... you will understand when you are old.... and if you have dogs to love too.

- Author Unknown

Something Other Than Dogs!

Dean Koontz has done it again! His newest book, *The Taking*, features our friends, the dogs! After his previous book, *One Door Away From Heaven*, I already had a soft spot for his books based on his portrayal of dogs as truly Man's Best Friend, and now he does it again. I found myself reading with a pounding heart and sweaty palms, something I haven't done since before Stephen King went commercial. I would recommend this book to those who not only love a good scary book, but to those who are lucky enough to be loved by a dog.



Who is that guy?????

The Games We Play

So, what are we all talking about when we refer to **Snooker**, **Jumpers**, **Jumpers with Weaves**, and **Gamblers**, **Tunnelers**, **Weavers**, and **Touch 'n Go** in agility? They're all "games" played in different venues. I'll try and give a brief description of what is involved in each game.

In **AKC agility**, there are 2 types of runs: **Standard** and **Jumpers with Weaves**. Titles are offered in each one. **Standard** agility consists of a numbered course with jumps, tunnels, chute, weave poles, dog walk, a-frame, teeter, and table. It's scored as time plus faults. In other words, you have to have a minimum score of 85 to qualify after your faults are subtracted from your total score. **Jumpers with Weaves** consists of a numbered course of jumps, tunnels/chute and weave poles. This is scored the same basic way as Standard agility.

USDAA offers **Standard**, **Jumpers**, **Gamblers**, **Snooker** and **Pairs Relay**. **Standard** and **Jumpers** are basically the same as AKC but no weave poles in **Jumpers**.

Gamblers actually consists of 2 parts – the opening and the closing or "Gamble". In the opening portion the obstacles are assigned a number value (1, 3, or 5 points). You must accumulate 20, 24, or 28 points in the opening, depending on your level, running a course of your own design. This is where a handler learns to strategize in a way that is most suitable for them and their dog's skills. When your opening time is up a whistle is blown. That means you must go on to the second part – the dreaded Gamble. As you send your dog to the first obstacle in the Gamble sequence you must be careful not to cross the Gamble line. It's a piece of tape on the ground that you cannot cross if you want credit for the Gamble. If your dog performs the Gamble in the allotted time, you get a Q! If not, it's still a ton of fun watching handlers perform all kinds of contortions and antics trying to get their dogs to move away from them!

Snooker is also divided into 2 parts – opening and closing. The goal is to accumulate enough points in the opening sequence that when added to the closing sequence you get enough to qualify (and in Masters, win). In Snooker, there is a course that consists of 7 numerical obstacles and 3 or 4 additional "red" jumps. In the opening, you must perform 1 red, and a numbered obstacle, a different red, another numbered obstacle, then a different red and another numbered obstacle. The fourth remaining "red" is usually optional for extra points. After performing the reds and numbered obstacles to accumulate points in the opening you and your dog must run the course the way it's numbered. Sounds easy, right? Hah! It's a game of speed, accuracy, and strategy. The Starters and Advanced levels require 1 Q in Snooker to earn either your AD (Agility Dog) or AAD (Advanced Agility Dog) title. In Masters, you need 1 qualifying score to count toward

your MAD (Master Agility Dog) title but you need 3 Super Q's plus 2 regular Q's to get your ADCH (Agility Dog Champion) title. A Super Q is awarded to the top qualifying 15% of each height class. At an average show there are 1 to 3 out of a class of at least 5 and up to 30 dogs! In essence you must BEAT ALL THE OTHER DOGS! This game requires additional skills in strategy and accuracy not needed in the average Standard and Jumpers runs. Dogs must be able to work very closely with handlers (as opposed to Gamblers) and be able to run past obstacles (sometimes across an entire course), thread between tight obstacles, and be able to focus very closely on the handler. This is a game that looks totally illogical from the sidelines unless you know what it's all about! It's sometimes totally illogical even if you do know what it's all about....

Pairs Relay courses are divided into 2 halves and each of 2 dog and handler teams are required to run 1 half. It's very fast and lots of fun. Just don't drop or forget to pass the baton! It's also hysterical when the first dog joins the second dog & handler team to run the other half of the course, too. Of course it's always funnier when you're watching and not the team running.

NADAC offers some games that are unique to that venue. **Standard** and **Gamblers** are combined in 1 run. You basically run a numbered course, but within that course is a Gamble. You can either choose to attempt the Gamble, thereby making the course a Gamblers course, or skip the Gamble, which means it's a Standard course. They also offer **Jumpers**, which is the same as USDAA's version. **Weavers** is just that—weaving, weaving, and more weaving! The course consists of multiple sets of weave poles and tunnels, and you run the numbered course. **Tunnelers** is a blast, since there are only tunnels and some jumps! The dogs who love tunnels go absolutely loopy after about a half dozen of them! **Touch 'n Go** is all about contact obstacles.

CPE, **TDAA**, and **JFF** offer an even bigger variety of games. There are no games that are run consistently enough to describe in an article!

So are the games clear as mud? That's how it seems to most of the Starters folks when they first begin to play. However, the games all get easier and clearer as you practice. At least the next time you attend a trial in any of these venues you'll know what the heck those crazy people out there are really trying to do!

Class Schedule and Upcoming Events

- **THURSDAY EVENING INDOOR CLASSES**

Session 1: January 6, 2005—February 17, 2005

Session 2: March 3, 2005—April 14, 2005

Session 3: April 28, 2005—June 9, 2005

Class Times: Beginner—6:45 to 7:30 pm, Intermediate I—7:40 to 8:25 pm, Advanced—8:35—9:20 pm, Intermediate II—9:20 to 10:05 pm at the Centre at North Park, 10040 W. Addison, Franklin Park

- **WCAC BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings are usually held monthly at the Centre at North Park. Members are always welcome. No dogs, please! For more information, call 630-415-3022 or ask any Board member, or visit our website at www.windycityagility.org.

**Windy City Agility Club
c/o Barb Krynski
2403 Robin Lane
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008**

