



April 2004

The Scramble

Volume 15, No. 1

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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Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
or e-mail: klevr-k9@comcast.net.

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

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Full House For November Trial *by Gail Kalina, November 2003 Trial Secretary*

Once again our UKC Agility Trials packed the house. The 300 entries filled quickly and we had waiting lists. The new UKC All-Stars competition has really boosted entries for the trials. We had 20 of the top 50 All-Stars competing at our trial (incl. WCAC dogs: Susan Eastwoods Lea, Sonja Lund's Skeeter and Marian Gabriel's Ginny). The judges, Carolyn Dostal and Joe Reese did a fine job, as did our club members who helped set courses, worked ring crew/clean up crew, score table and sold raffle tickets, and make sure everyone had a good time.

It's always exciting to have our members earn their titles at our trial. Among the new titles were Nancy Saia's Sheba, Barb Krynski's Rerun and Nikki, Kim DeBenedictis and Dino, Loretta Marchese and Maggie, Synoma Hayes and Basil, and me and Dakota! Chris Eastwood's Abby decided to wait until Smack Dab's trial in Dec. to get those final seven points for his UACH!!!!

I would like to thank Karen Meyers and

Thank You, Vicky MacKay!

Lest we forget, we would like to thank Vicky MacKay for her efforts in the production of The Scramble over the years. Vicky stepped forward at a time when we were, um, scrambling for an editor despite a heavy workload and numerous activities outside of Windy City Agility Club. She deserves a huge round of applause!



Chris Eastwood for co-chairing the trials and organizing the workers, stocking up on refreshments and purchasing the judge's gifts. Thanks to Cheryl and Terri Pyrek for ordering all the toys and ribbons for the winners. The winners had a fun time picking out just the right toys for their dogs. A great big thank you to the scoretable workers for another job well done—Pat Hussey, Barb Krynski, Kim DeBenedictis, Nancy Reyes, Synoma Hayes, Karen Meyers, and Aliss South (also for doing the 7 am check in both days!). Thanks to Kris Montagano for working as the Gate Steward. Sonja—once again, your raffle was outstanding!

Our next trial weekend is July 24 and 24, 2004. The judges will be Will Southard and Deb Richey. Entry forms will be mailed in April. I hope some of our new members will enter their dogs. If you're not sure, just talk with any of the instructors on Thursday night. I am sure they will be glad to help you get information about UKC registration and filling out the entry forms.

Instructors Meeting Planned

An **Instructor's Meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 22 at Franklin Park at 7:30 pm. **All current instructors and assistants are strongly urged to attend**, and anyone who would like to learn to assist is also encouraged to attend. Sorry, no dogs at this meeting, but we will have pizza!

Please call Nancy Reyes at 773-860-0126 or my4dogs@ameritech.net to confirm your attendance (so we know how much pizza to get), or for more information.

Wags & Brags

Mary Ann Imburgia and Australian Shepherd, Michael, reported their success at Smack-Dab's January 31, UKC Trials. In Trial 1, Michael received a first place in AG-I and AG-II with perfect scores, and also HIGH IN TRIAL COMBINED SCORES ribbon. He also received two more perfect scores and a first and second place in AG-I and AG-II in Trial 2, respectively. Michael needs one more AG-II leg to qualify for the U-ACH!



Barb Krynski's Smooth Fox Terrier, Rerun, had a very successful day at the November trial, and he earned his UACH, as did Barb's Min-Pin Nikki.



Gail Kalina's Norwegian Buhund, Dakota, won First Place in Novice Obedience at the Buhund Specialty and is excited about finally being able to compete in AKC performance events.

Susan & Chris Eastwood's Lea just received a certificate indicating that she placed 15th nationwide on the UKC AG-III 2003 All-Stars list and has received an invitation to compete in the UKC Nationals in June! Oh, and she's also, as of 3/3, No. 1 on the UKC AG-III Agility All-Stars list for 2004! Not bad for a rescue dog that "nobody wanted!"

The IKC Show on 2-19 thru 2/21 was a huge success

for a number of Windy City members:

Tom Woepse's Min Pin, Jester, got his MX on with a 2nd place.

Anthony Montagano and BC, Chassis, finished her AX. As a side note, Chassis finished all nine legs, Nov. to Exc. with first place runs!

Vicky MacKay and 7 y/o GSD rescue, Tova, went 5 for 6, finishing her Novice Agility Preferred and Novice JWW Preferred titles, with 3-1st places and 1-3rd place.

Nancy Saia and Mini Poodle, Gina, took 1st place in Novice A Std and JWW, creating their own version of a double Q.

Nancy Reyes and American Eskimo, Bandit, earned his Open Agility Title, and Labrador, Kaizer, in his first AKC trial, ran a beautiful course (no weave poles, but....) and stayed with her until the end. Good boy, Kaizer!

Mary Ann Imburgia and Michael received quality scores in 3 out of 4 runs, with a first place in Open Standard and third place in Open Jumpers with Weaves.

2/21 was also a first for Barb & Rerun. Rerun was in a run-off for First Place in Exc. B Standard! Yes, there were 2 dogs with the exact same times! Rerun won! The weekend was a first in another way for Nikki, who went 6 for 6 and placed in every run.

Rand Park DTC's Obedience Trials also had a few successes for our members. Nancy Saia's Gina was on a roll, and qualified both days in Novice A. Kim DeBenedictis' Dino also qualified both days, and won High Papillon in Trial on Sunday. The Montagano's also had some success with BC, Bogie, qualifying in Novice.

Fun Match Scheduled

Nancy Reyes is organizing a UKC style agility fun-match on Thursday, June 17. The match will be judged and scored, and handled much like a real trial. We know some members would like to try competing, but might be a bit intimidated by those "super charged" dogs seen in competition. Perhaps you think your dog isn't ready to compete, or you're not sure about the rules of competition. A fun-match is a perfect opportunity to see what your dog can do. Windy City Bucks will be accepted. More information will be sent to members but if you would like to contact Nancy Reyes in advance, call her at 773-860-0126.



Brace agility? Leave it to **Rusty & Trudy Meyers** to come up with a new style! Thanks for sending us this adorable shot, Karen.

Nice Dog, But *By Barb Krynski*

This past weekend at the International Kennel Club show I was able to watch dozens of (mainly) Novice and Open level handlers that were getting upset with their dogs while on course, when the poor dogs had no idea what they were supposed to do. I KNEW the course and most of the time couldn't figure out where the heck the handler was going and where they wanted their dogs to go! Handlers running backwards with arms flung out from their sides, big sweeping motions that sent their dogs off course, and late commands/signals were the biggest offenses. The poor dogs were doing their best to interpret a foreign language that was screwed up even more by nervous handlers. Nice dogs, too.....

Remember that most of an agility team that is on the course is HUMAN, and the dogs will do their best to accommodate us. But if we can't get our acts together, how can we expect our dogs to read our minds???? The only way they can understand us is for us to give clear and concise signals and teach the dogs what they mean. Repetition is what teaches a dog to "read" your signals and body language and teaches you how to "say" what you mean. You, as a handler, need to perform a move 100's of times with and without your dog in order for it to become second nature to both of you. Only then can your dog begin to understand what the heck you're saying! Consistency and timing are keys to running agility

successfully. Ever watch a dog that runs a serpentine seemingly by himself? That's because he and his human have probably done 100 of them and the dog immediately recognizes what is being done as soon as he sees the first jump and the handler gets into position. Pinwheels are another easy to recognize sequence for dogs that have handlers that practice it. Front crosses, rear crosses, blind crosses – NONE of these are natural and all must be taught and practiced in order to achieve that smooth, fluid dance that is so awesome on a course.

Also, during competition, when you leave the ring with your dog make sure that dog thinks that was the best, most awesome, spectacular run even if YOU SCREWED IT UP! Don't just leash him up and wander away while berating yourself for a mistake. The poor beast just did what you told him to do, and if you can't get it right at least recognize that he did!

Do you have to practice something hundreds of times in order to have fun with your dog doing agility? Absolutely not, but don't get mad at your dog or yourself if a run goes wrong if you don't practice. Of course you can just come out to class and just have some fun with your dog or enter trials for the camaraderie, fresh air, sunshine, and shopping. But remember that you can't dance the dance if you don't know the steps!

Awards Fund Raiser Update *By Gail Kalina*

Our summer garage sale brought in \$140 to offset the cost of the prizes we award at our trials. We will be collecting usable items again for a late Spring sale. If you have anything to donate, please call Gail Kalina at 847-724-2776 or bring it to class on Thursday. Gail can pick up and store large items. Thanks again to those who donated.

New Members

WCAC welcomes our new members:

Nancy Boi and Cody (GSDX)

Diane Connelly and Shaina (Sheltie)

Kathy Holdren (Shelties)

Joan Lester and Nita (Golden Ret/Lab X)

Sue Sarran and Quincy (Std. Poodle)

Tamara Witbeck and Molly (BCX)

Jerry Wolfe and Daisey (American Cocker Spaniel)

Jeremy Brick and Gemini & Jig (Australian Shepherds)



Looking for Love?

Giddy is a 2 y/o male terrier mix who is smart, cute, loveable, and did I mention cute? He's currently in a foster home where he is learning basic obedience and house manners, and is being introduced to some agility. He is neutered, housebroken and crate trained, and up to date on all his vaccinations. All he needs is a forever home to make his life complete. For more information, contact Nedra Jansen at nedra.jansen@us.sneider-el.



Just look at that cute face!

Dog Haiku *submitted by Paul Glombowski, author unknown*

I love my master;
Thus I perfume myself with
This long-rotten squirrel.

I lie belly-up
In the sunshine, happier
Than you ever will be

Today I sniffed
Many dog behinds— I celebrate
By kissing your face

I sound the alarm!
Paper boy come to kill us all
Look! Look! Look! Look! Look!

I sound the alarm!
Garbage man— come to kill us all
Look! Look! Look! Look! Look!

I lift my leg and
Whiz on each bush. Hello, Spot-
Sniff this and weep

How do I love thee?
The ways are numberless as
My hairs on the rug

My human is home!
I am so ecstatic
I have made a puddle

I hate my choke chain
Look, world, they strangle me!
Ack, Ack, Ack, Ack, Ack

Sleeping here, my chin
On your foot— no greater bliss-
Well, maybe catching rats

Look in my eyes and
Deny it. No human could
Love you as much as I do

The cat is not all
Bad— she fills her litter box
With Tootsie Rolls

Dig under the fence—why?
Because it's there.
Because it's there. Because
it's there.

I am your best friend,
Now; always, and especially
When you are eating

My owners' mood is romantic
I lie near their feet.
I fart a big one.



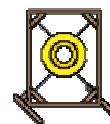
Thank You, Trial Helpers *by Gail Kalina*

“It takes a village....” Or rather, a hard working group of WCAC members to put on a trial. Many thanks to everyone for their help at the November trials:

Steve Schwarz	Synoma Hayes
Marion Gabriel	Sonja Lund
Sue Rubin	Kris Montagano
Barb Pische	Barb Krynski
Nancy Reyes	Gonzalo Reyes
Kim DeBenedictis	Joan Lester
Karen Meyers	Tom Woepse
Aliss South	Kate Krakowski
Galen South	Tamara Witbeck
Chris Eastwood	Susan Eastwood
Barb Glombowski	Paul Glombowski

Roger Saia
Nancy Saia
Diane Connelly
Cheryl Pyrek
Terri Pyrek
Karen Taylor
Pat Hussey
Gail Kalina

A Bit of History *by Lou Bogart*



Windy City was officially incorporated in July of 1990. Prior to that time, for over a year, classes were privately offered in Rogers Park, then Evanston and also Forest Park (Altenheim). Dennis Damon used his personal funds to have the first entire set of equipment built. The specs were provided by the NCDA, later known as Trans-NCDA, and finally, UKC Agility.

Some time in 1989 we were approached by Ken Tatsch, owner of USDAA, about doing an agility demo at a major obedience event, the Gaines Classic, at the Odeum in the fall of that year.

Members of the group (students..... there was no club yet) built some major pieces of equipment to USDAA specs, and we did the demo. We invited anyone/everyone from anywhere to participate...some members of the newly formed Milwaukee Dog Training Club came down and joined in the demo.

The involvement with USDAA led to our group presenting their first Midwest regional competition at the IKC Show in the spring of 1990. That's when we realized the need to reinvent ourselves as a non-profit club.

More to come in the following issues!

Member's News

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Kathy Holdren, who is recovering from back surgery.

Loretta Marchese and Maggie welcomed new Sheltie pup Brandy into their hearts.

Kathy Holdren and Puder & Ringer welcomed Nell, also a Sheltie pup.

Our sympathy to Susan Frankel on the loss of her Tara. On a happier note, our congratulations on her adoption of Fritz, a 4 y/o Wire Fox Terrier. We hope to see them back at training soon.

Cheryl Pyrek and Terri Pyrek have officially welcomed Cocker Spaniel, Jake, into their home. Jake knew he was home, as did everyone else, but it just took a while for Cheryl & Terri to realize it. Foster Failure strikes again!

From Your Dog

I am your dog, and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear.

I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise. It always seems like you are running here and running there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life.

Look down at me now, while you sit there reading. See the way my dark brown eyes look at yours? They are slightly cloudy now. That comes with age.

The gray hairs are beginning to ring my soft muzzle. You smile at me; I see love in our eyes. What do you see in mine? Do you see a spirit? A soul inside, who loves you as no other could in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrong doing for just a simple moment of your time? That is all I ask. To slow down, if even for a few minutes, to be with me.

So many times you have been saddened by the words you read, of others of my kind passing. Sometimes we die young and oh, so quickly, sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat. Sometimes, we age so slowly before your eyes that you may not even seem to know until the very end, when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract clouded eyes. Still the love is always there, even when we must take that long sleep, to run free in a distant land. I may not be here tomorrow; I may not be here next week. Someday you will shed the water from your eyes, that humans have

when deep grief fills their souls, and you will be angry at yourself that you did not have "one more day" with me.

Because I love you so, your sorrow touches my spirit and grieves me. We have NOW, together. So come, sit down here next to me on the floor, and look deep into my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard and deep enough we will talk, you and I, heart to heart. Come to me not as "alpha" or as "trainer" or even "Mom or Dad," come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deep into one another's eyes and talk. I may tell you something about the fun of chasing a tennis ball, or I may tell you something profound about myself, or even life in general. You decided to have me in your life because you wanted a soul to share such things with. Someone very different from you, and here I am.

I am a dog, but I am alive. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel in the difference of our spirits and souls. I do not think of you as a "dog on two feet" - I know what you are and who you are. You are human, in all your quirkiness, and I love you still. Now, come sit with me, on the floor. Enter my world, and let time slow down if only for 15 minutes. Look deep into my eyes, and whisper into my ears. Speak with your heart, with your joy, and I will know your true self. We may not have tomorrow, but we do have today, and life is oh so very short. So please—come sit with me now and let us share these precious moments we have together.

Love, on behalf of canines, everywhere, Your Dog

Recommended Reading

Do you have canine collectibles? Are they valuable? Check out *Living with Dogs: Collecting and Traditions at Home and Afield* by Larry & Carol Sheehan and Kathryn Precourt or *Flea Market Fidos* by Barri Leiner and Marie Moss.

Gardeners might be interested in *Dog Friendly Gardens, Garden Friendly Dogs* by Cheryl Smith. Suggestions for dog hardy plants and agility equipment storage ideas are included.

A Family Tradition

The Windy City trials have become a tradition for one family. When each of the Dagley Siberian Huskies is ready to compete, they always do their first trial at Windy City Agility Club!



Can't you count any quieter, I'm trying to take a nap!

**Did you know that WCAC has a website?
Check it out!**

www.windycityagility.org

AHHH.... That Feels Good *by Nancy Reyes, pictures by Gail Kalina*



This is what most of the four legged attendees were feeling at Windy City's TTouch seminar on Thursday, February 26, 2004. TTouch is a method based on circular movements of the fingers and hand all over the body. TTouch activates the function of cells, helps change undesirable habits or behavior and most importantly, helps establish a deeper connection between humans and animals. A certified TTouch

practitioner, Mickey Schwartz's presentation was fun, interactive and provided some beneficial tips for pet dogs and performance dogs alike. Mickey also, explained how we can use TTouch in agility to



calm dogs before they run. All the attendees received "hands on" training several different touches and practiced those touches on their dogs; which from the looks on their furry little faces was very well received. Some of our more active four legged participants were more relaxed and peaceful by the end of the seminar. The goal of the seminar was to help deepen our relationships with our dogs and develop a better understanding and communication between our two species. Thank you to all who took the time to attend our seminar.



Remember *by Mary Beam, Submitted by Vicky MacKay*

It is truly sad when people forget that agility is about love of the dog. You are very lucky, Mary Mersereau, to have been in agility so long and not seen behaviors out of more people who blame their dog for their own errors. I have seen a number of them, though none as vocal as this lady you tell us about. Much of what I see comes from people who are coming from "old line traditional" obedience. They believe that the dog makes mistakes deliberately to spite them. I've heard the comment "he does it on purpose" many times.

In my classes I tell the story of a dog who made lots of "mistakes". At first, in his agility career, he could do no wrong. He was fast, accurate, responded to his handler as if he were an extension of herself.

Then, one day during practice, he slipped in the weaves and dropped a bar. He dropped a bar at his next trial.

Then, he peed as he came down the A-Frame. His handler loved him and had been taking him to the vet for treatments, thinking he had twisted his back when he slipped in the weaves. She was quite upset when he peed, but noticed that he seemed very surprised when he realized that there was pee on the A-frame.

He went to the vet had more treatments, a physical, some test run and nothing was found.

At the next trial he crashed a triple, something that he had never done. He normally jumped 6 inches higher than his jump height of 16".

The owner received suggestions on how to "teach the dog a lesson" so he would not drop bars. She declined.

Now he became distracted on the course. Stopping in his runs and not responding to his handler. He even sat down in the middle of the a and refused run. Three weeks later, he slipped again. It was in the kitchen. On a rug. When he got up, he was limping. Two days later he was completely paralyzed.

I will shorten the story here, but it was later discovered that this dog was dropping bars and even peed on the a-frame because he had NO FEELING in his back feet and could no longer feel his balder. In short, this dog ran agility, even Q'd and placed, and couldn't feel anything! He was paralyzed 6 weeks the first time and over 2 1/2 months the second time.

I own this dog. He is the delight of my heart. He almost died from this paralysis. The second time should have taken his life, but he had more heart than most people and he survived what has killed many other dogs.

He came back and runs agility. He can do no wrong and I dare any student to correct their dog in my presence. Few have the courage to even consider it.

Best Wishes,

Mary Beam and The Foxes

Class Schedule and Upcoming Events

- THURSDAY EVENING INDOOR CLASSES

Session 2: March 4—April 15

Session 3: April 20—June 8

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 MEETING Friday, April 6 at 7:30 pm

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

- UKC FUN MATCH Thursday, June 17, starts at 6:30 pm

Not sure if you're ready to compete? Try our Fun Match to learn more about UKC Agility Competition. Just like the real thing! Judged, timed and scored, but a lot less pressure. Take a test run before our UKC July Trials. Watch for more details, or contact Nancy Reyes at my4dogs@ameritech.net or 773-860-0126.

- FOUR UKC TRIALS Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25.

Two trials each day at the Centre at North Park (pre-registration required). For more information contact co-trial secretary's: Nancy Reyes at 773-860-0126/ e-mail my4dogs@ameritech.net or Gail Kalina at 847-724-2776/ gail.kalina@comcast.net.

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