
The **CAT**alyst

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CAT Team Holiday Party
Wilsonville Holiday Inn Ballroom
December 16, 2007 5:30PM

Come join your fellow club members at the annual Holiday Party! Come join us for good food, talk, and fun. Gift exchange will happen again so keep your eyes out for those great dog gifts, please limit to \$10.00 each.

Reservations are required by December 1, 2007. So please fill out the form below and make check out to: Columbia Agility Team
CAT Team Holiday Party
c/o Janelle, 8344 SW Mohawk St, Tualatin OR 97062

Name: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____
Phone _____

Please fill in amount of people next to menu choice:

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Maple Salmon _____
Spanikopita(vegetarian) _____
Children's meal (Spaghetti & Meatballs) _____

Each comes with a salad and your choice of dressing.

Member price \$ 5.00
Non-Member price \$10.00
Children's meal Free
Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check payable to: Columbia Agility Team

Milestones

We will be having a slide show at the Club Holiday Party. Please send your milestone events with pictures to Barbara at agilek9s@gmail.com:
First Title in Agility
New Dog or Family Addition
Dog to be remembered
Big Title in Agility
National Achievements

Also, any photos for the "during dinner" slide show are always welcome. The slide shows (other than the during dinner one) will be available online after the party!

News and Views from the President

Fall has arrived and along with it comes the last trial of the year, the **USDAA Black CAT**. However, there is much to look forward to after that. Agility League fun will begin and CAT's Holiday Party will wind up the end of a very fun filled and successful year. Information on these events can be found in the Catalyst.

Thanks to the efforts of Pam Brown, the club picnic in August was a great success. The leftovers from the picnic served the workers the next day. I was on vacation but heard from those who attended the trial and those attending the picnic that they had a good time. Your club paid for all the members' meals.

New lightweight wing jumps and regular jumps are now being used and it makes course-set-up and storing easier. Those faithful members who do set-up and tear downs, do you remember when we had to change the bar cups after each venue to set-up for the next trial? Thankfully, that is no longer necessary.

The end of the year brings us to the Holiday Party and the club's awards recognizing members' contributions and achievements. You have the opportunity to nominate those whom you see as deserving these honors. Please email their names and why you are nominating them to me or another board member. Here is a list and explanation of the awards.

Top Kitten Award – A novice handler who in this past year has demonstrated successful skills and good sportsmanship.

Top Cat Award – An advanced handler who in the past year has demonstrated successful skills and good sportsmanship.

CAT Member of the Year – A member who has been an exemplary working club member.

Sportsmanship Award – A handler at any level who has demonstrated good sportsmanship with their dog as well as others.

Our Clean Run magazine arrived and much to our surprise and delight we found 5 CAT members' and their dogs in the he article on those competing with rescue dogs. Pictured are: **Ginger** who belongs to **Tara Choate**, **Harley** who lives with **Cheri Kanaan**, **Beep** run by **Bonnie Johnson**, **Cookie** handled by **Carol Seller** and, **Zorro** owned by **Mary Lynn Marden**. The whole Johnson family, Bonnie, Meagan and Zach Johnson are mentioned in the article. They have rescued a total of six dogs.

Hope to see you running and/or working at the Black Cat. I will be there on Sunday and will bring CAT decals for those needing one for the car.

Marilyn Watson
CAT President

2008 Trial Chairs:

February 08: NADAC Trial: Karin McAlister

April 08: CPE: Pamela Brown & Julie Jone

June 08: USDAA Trial: Barbara Persson

August 08: CPE: Cheryl Huffman

September 08: NADAC: Barbara Stone

October 08: USDAA: Tara Choate

NW Agility League Starting Soon

This year, CAT will be starting the 2007 League at the end of October, first of November. Sign ups began at the August General Meeting and have continued on-line at CAT's web site.

Some of the sites are nearly full while some have room for more teams. The organization starts with two experienced Club members forming a team. The other two members are drawn at the October General Meeting from a pool of members who want to be on a team.

For seven weeks, teams set aside a couple of hours weekly, to compete at their chosen site in one Standard Agility run and one game. The cost is \$24 for the 7 weeks. This works out to less than \$1.72 per run and is a lot of fun. There will be prizes for approximately 1/3 of the teams finishing with the highest accumulated scores.

It is also an opportunity to socialize with other Club members and have a couple of runs in a relatively short time.

If you don't feel you are ready to be on a team, we offer For Exhibition Only (FEO) for individuals, on a space available basis, at each site. To find out more and register for this event, go to www.AgileCAT.org and click on 2007 Agility League. There is a descriptive letter, registration form, rules and eventually all the courses will be available at this site. If you happen to have a "woops" run just remember, the lowest score for each team is tossed out and will not count.

Congratulations For CAT Members

From **Karla Forte**: As folks have probably heard by now, Mike achieved his ADCh title at the WAG trial August 12, 2007. The Second is that Mike Achieved his CDX title At the German Shepherd Trial.

From **Pat Weinkauf**: Hooray for Quinn and Will...My goal for Quinn was to get into the ribbons since he is now 8 years of age and was running in the Elite level (not vet's). Ribbons were awarded for the top 8th places in his class. On Sunday morning going into the semi-final run we were in 6th position. I became nervous and overly cautious and we had an off course; most of the other dogs were clean so we dropped considerably in standings. However, we came home with two third place ribbons in team relay and a sixth place on Saturday in regular. Not bad for my big old boy. This was Quinn's last trial at 20 plus inches, he will move to vet's and we can start working on his 4th NATCh.

Will ran in games only and brought home a 1st place in Touch-N-Go and a 4th place in Weavers. He also Q'd in Tunnelers but did not place. When the annual Top Ten Awards were presented I learned that Will is number 8 in Weavers in his class. Quite a surprise and very fun to pick up his medal.

From **Lynda King**: Hello everyone from beautiful downtown Gillette, Wy.! I had to write to tell you all that my little guy Robby won SECOND overall in the 12" skilled division!!! I'm so proud of him. He had some spectacular clean runs, even when he ran at 10 PM one night.

On the first two days we ran 2 rounds of jumpers, touch n go, weavers, and touch in go. In these rounds, all the dogs entered in a jump height ran together, i.e. all 12 inch dogs whether they were elite, pre-elite, skilled or whatever competed against each other. Robby won one round of tunnelers, and one round of weavers, was third in the other tunnelers round, and was 8th in the other weavers round. He even placed 8th in one round of jumpers. AMAZING.

The top ten awards were handed out during the champs, and Robby was in the top ten of all skilled dogs (all levels, all jump heights) in the country in all 6 classes. He placed SECOND of all skilled dogs in the country in regular! I am sooo proud of him...

From **Bonnie Johnson**: Zach and his rescue Jack Russell, Nub, earned their Agility Dog title at the NW USDAA Regional. Bonnie (me) and my awesome rescue Border Collie, MadMax, earned his C-ATCh title in June. He is now ADCh, NATCh, C-ATCh Maximum Overdrive!

From **Venita Quella**: I don't usually brag but can't help it on this one. At the Red Hot Rovers USDAA trial this past weekend Keeper and I finished his ADCh on Scott Bartley's Jumpers course and came in 2nd place .6 seconds behind Jenny and Wade Robertson. Darn Wade just couldn't let me have a win and an ADCh!!!

Anyway, I went out to help build it and as I'm seeing it come together I kept thinking "This is a Keeper course!!!"

Columbia Cup Winners

Best in Trial:

Large Dog: Mike Bruce and Jule
Small Dog: Cynthia Stowell and Moon

Best In Novice:

Large Dog: Dana Stillenger and Tess
Small Dog: Karen Loomis and Gizmo

Best in Veterans:

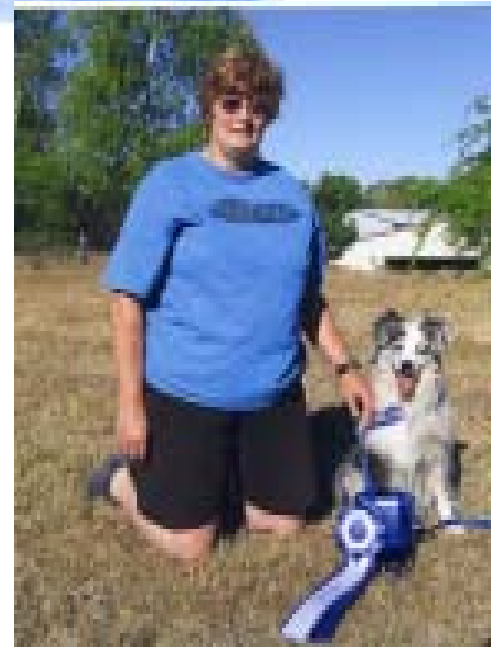
Large Dog: Shari Arita and Luna
Small Dog: Kim Wikof and Pinot

Columbia Cup First and Second Excellent



Small Dogs

Moon
and
Leo
with
Cindy Stowell



Congratulations to all the CAT members who excelled and to all those who competed and enjoyed their runs!

NADAC Championships, 2007

The NADAC Championships were held in the Cam-Plex situated just outside of Gillette Wyoming. This is the second year in which the event was held at this site. Adjoining the arena is a very large room for concessions, vendors and crating. Just outside of the many doors there is a large grassy area for the dogs and handlers to warm up and unwind after their runs. Across a parking lot there is RV space and facilities for about 90 rigs and a small camping area.

We arrived on Tuesday morning to set up our booth; the crating area was opened at noon. There was quite a rush while the competitors claimed their space for the next five days. The nimble footed Pacific Northwest group was able to secure their favorite location and soon were set up and mingling with old friends and new. Situated nearby were long tables with the doggy gift bags. This year we found very nice tote bags with our dogs name tags and loaded with "goodies" and items from the local Chamber Of Commerce. After a briefing from Sharon Nelson regarding rules and regulations of the Cam-Plex we picked up our bags and thus were registered for the event. No one was allowed into the arena until Wednesday morning.

On Wednesday morning at 7:00 am the fun began with the US and the Canadian National Anthems. Several of the competitors brought musical instruments and lead by Paul Kirk, our oldest competitor at 80 years, we officially opened the 2007 Championships.

Everyone who has been to previous events knows that the days will be long and grueling and this year was no exception; this is a one ring event. The first two days we ran Jumpers, Weavers, Touch-N-Go, Tunnelers and Hoopers which is a strategy game similar to snooker but without jumps.

I really like that the arena is set for the comfort and safety of the dogs waiting their turn. The dogs enter through the first gate and follow along the far wall of the arena through a series of walkways, which are screened from the ring action with fabric covered gates. As the dogs and handlers proceed through the walkways they find a warm up area with jumps and

maybe weave poles, depending on the game they are about to play. The start/finish lines are set so the dogs cannot see the dog ahead as that team finishes, more screening blocks the dogs view. There are workers along the pathway who encourage each team, and take your treats/toys just prior to entering the last "room" in the walkway. Even my crazed dog, Will, was able to remain more calm and I really appreciated the time and space to get connected with my team mate. Once the start line is reached you simply leave when the clock for the dog ahead of your team stops.

Friday through Sunday the regular and team events are run. Each team begins with 150 points each day; your "score" for that day is time plus faults deducted from your beginning points. The scores are posted very quickly with the top 8 dogs in each class awarded ribbons. The exception would be if the class was very small in which case there might be 4 to 6 ribbon winners per class. On Thursday morning the regular runs begin. The course is the same for all classes so there is no time spent resetting courses for any of the regular runs. In past years, the courses might have up to 42 obstacles with the pre-elite and vet's finishing at maybe 23 to 30 obstacles. This year due to there being 50 more dogs allowed to enter and adding the Super Stakes and Skilled classes the courses were not as long. The exception to this was on Saturday when there were actually two courses set with a finish line tunnel followed by a start line tunnel into the next course. The reason was to speed up the day's runs as we were falling behind schedule. The two courses were scored individually with two sets of electronic timers. The next dog could be started as soon as the dog ahead had crossed into course number two, safely behind the screens. It was announced that all Elite and Super Stakes competitors would be required to run both courses. During the walk through it was decided that anyone over 60 years would not be allowed to run the double course, there was good natured protests from Paul Kirk and myself as we had walked both courses and prepared our selves for this feat. We ran the first course then ran the second after the last Elite team had finished.

NADAC Championships, 2007

(cont)

This year was the first time NADAC has offered Super Stakes. The teams entered in this event were expected to handle from boxes or from behind lines with the dog working up to 50 feet from the handler. I think a lot more handlers wished they had signed up for Super Stakes, myself being one of them.

Some of the teams struggled but we saw some amazing runs from teams that are accustomed to this style of handling. The bleachers were usually full during Super stakes!

The team runs were held in the evening/ night with some exciting relays set up and of course the always popular "batter's up". Some ran dogs in more than one level and wore layers of different team shirts and became adept at pulling off one team "color" and getting their next dog ready.

The Pacific Northwest was well represented with two Cat members, three from WAG and many for the Seattle area clubs.

From Portland we saw Amanda Gross with Hope running in Super Stakes and Cindi Gross with Keen in vets. California had the largest number of competitors in Gillette this year with some amazing teams!

There were many NADAC judges working and running their dogs; it was fun to see them run, as most of them have distance skills which are awe inspiring.

Judges are in place around the ring and in the stands for each run, one judge for each piece of contact equipment with a head set to communicate with the scribes.

This year there was no "yellow" on the contacts, simply a white tape across and over the edge of the board. The equipment has the rubber matting which was black, and most judges seemed to feel that determining if the dog was in the contact zone was much easier, especially when many of the dogs have running contacts.

It was impressive to see so many senior handlers and dogs. The oldest competitor was Paul Kirk and his amazing Renzo.

This team competed at the Elite level, not in veterans. The actually finished in 5th place on Saturday. Paul was leading the anthems first thing in the morning and running his dog late in the day.

There were many double digit dogs with a special category of ribbons for them. As is tradition in NADAC the largest trophy is in the Junior Handler Division.

Another favorite

team was from Las Vegas with the handler working from her specially designed three wheel cart along side her poodle, Petunia.

They had an amazing clean run in regular on Saturday! And I cannot forget Lefty the deaf bull terrier and his amazing handler Debbie... what a great team.

NADAC Champs is all about fun, one day there was live music and impromptu dancing in the crating crating/vendor building at 7:30 in the morning followed by many amazing team "dances" on the courses. We are looking forward to next year and hopefully, Super Stakes!

Submitted by Pat Weinkauff, Quinn & Will



NW Competitors Brought Along Special Dog Photo Mural

CATBucks Redemption Policy Approved: May, 2007

Columbia Agility Team (CAT) policy for issuing and redeeming CAT Bucks: The following guidelines were reviewed and approved during the Board of Director's May meeting. No monetary change may be given when using a CAT Buck coupon.

CAT Bucks of \$2.50 may be redeemed towards a lunch meal or Raffle at a CAT Agility Trial, or used for up to 10% for a CAT sponsored Agility Trial entry, a CAT sponsored Agility Seminar or CAT Barn Time. Unless authorized by the Board of Directors, the CAT Treasurer is the only person authorized to print CAT Bucks. CAT Bucks are good for up to four years after the date of printing and CAT Bucks over \$2.50 must be signed by issuer.

CAT Bucks of large denominations can be used as in the past. CAT reserves the right to declare CAT Bucks non-redeemable at any time. A Board approved form will be used for CAT Bucks.

The objectives of the Columbia Agility Team:

- A. Support the sport of dog agility.
- B. Educate the members and the public about the sport of dog agility.
- C. Conduct training classes and informal and formal events associated with dog agility.
- D. Protect and advance the interests of dog agility by encouraging sportsmanlike competition and responsible dog ownership.