



Dartboard

Quarterly Newsletter of Dog Agility Racing Team

January 2012

Happy New Year – some Dog Math

A farmer is wondering how many sheep are in his field, so he asks his sheepdog to count them. The dog runs into the field, counts them, and then runs back to his master.

“So,” says the farmer. “How many sheep were there?”

“40,” replies the dog.

“How can there be 40?” exclaims the farmer. “I only bought 38!”

“I know,” says the dog. “But I rounded them up.”

Membership dues

It's time to send in 2012 membership applications and dues. The membership application can be downloaded from the 'Membership' page of the DART website: www.dartagility.org. Send it to Tracy Lovelis (address is on application) with your dues...\$20 individual membership, \$30 family membership. DART Points (that you earn from working at trials) can be used to pay your dues. **Dues deadline:** end of February. If your membership has lapsed, please re-apply.

2012 Cynosport World Games to be Held in the Denver CO Area

From the USDAA website with DARTBoard editor italicized comments for clarity:

For 2012, a competitor only needs to qualify in one tournament to participate in the event. (In 2011, a competitor had to qualify in two tournaments.) There are no space limitations in 2012 and USDAA is pleased to be able to accommodate everyone in whichever tournament they may qualify.

The number of qualifying scores per tournament has not changed. A minimum of two qualifications is required for Grand Prix / Performance Grand Prix, and a minimum of two qualifications is required for Steeplechase / Speed Jumping. One qualification is required in the Dog Agility Master Team, or Versatility Pairs, tournament as previously announced. A competitor may **only** compete in one program, Championship or Performance, at the event. The criteria for establishing eligibility for a program are unchanged. The 2012 Veterans Showcase will use the same format as the 2011 event, except in 2012 the current Veterans Class jump heights will be used.

2012 Cynosport World Games to be Held in the Denver CO Area continued

In looking ahead to Cynosport® 2012, USDAA will be seeking to shorten the event by at least one full day overall, returning to a four and one-half day event like USDAA had in Scottsdale in 2009. In a quick look at the 2009 schedule, there were some 1,000 competitors entered, and aside from a single warm-up class on Wednesday, all tournament classes were held on four days, Thursday through Sunday. The unlimited space in Commerce City, CO opens the door to be more efficient with scheduling as well.

USDAA has secured the week of September 26-30, 2012, for its 2012 Cynosport® championship event in Commerce City, Colorado. This is a change from the previously announced mid-October dates.

With erratic weather patterns moving across the country over the past few weeks (*during Oct 2011*), concern developed that weather might not be ideal for next year's championships. By moving the event two weeks earlier, USDAA feels much more comfortable about having good weather for the event, while still avoiding the summer embargo on flying dogs," said Andy Hartman, USDAA vice president.

With a 50% increase in the number of regionals for 2012 (*see more info in the New Business section of Dec 2011 Meeting notes*), this should provide more opportunity for competitors to earn byes into the semifinal rounds in the individual tournaments, thereby reducing the demand for quarterfinals at Cynosport® 2012. The class schedule for the event is being revisited to determine if a reordering of classes may enable them to further shorten the length of the event. At a minimum, USDAA will be seeking to schedule all quarterfinals on Thursday for those who were unable to earn a bye at a regional. Still, depending on entry numbers, a team/pairs class may be held on Thursday as well, perhaps in the afternoon. This may result in many competitors not needing to be present until Thursday afternoon. This should be of particular interest to those who may have a conflict on Wednesday with the observance of Yom Kippur.

Questions regarding breed specific legislation in the region have been raised. Said USDAA president Kenneth Tatsch, "We are equally concerned about the application of breed specific legislation and its exemption provisions, but we have been assured that we can work within the confines of the exemption to ensure that all of our competitors have the opportunity to compete. We are now tasked with setting out specifics on how this will work."

Notably, this is the first canine event hosted at the sports complex in Commerce City. The acceptance of a dog event, combined with the exemption in the ordinance, opens the door to present dogs of all shapes and sizes in a favorable light through participation in recreational sports. Hotels in the area have also opened their doors without restriction. This is clearly an opportunity to make a statement to the community on how to promote responsible pet ownership.

The Denver area provides good access to much of North America and overseas, and the sports complex is a flexible facility for an outdoor event, providing well-groomed natural turf as well as high quality artificial turf. Hotel information for the 2012 USDAA Cynosport World Games will be posted by February.

Cynosports World Games Qualifying Dates: August 19, 2011 through September 3, 2012.

December 2011 Meeting notes

2012 Board:

Welcome to the 2012 board! Thank you all for continuing to volunteer your time and energies putting on trials and all that goes into making a successful trial. The following board members were voted in during the Dec 2011 meeting:

President: Scott Lovelis
Vice President: Gary Jones
Treasurer: Teresa Rodney
Secretary: Leslie Rudy

Membership: Tracy Lovelis
Newsletter: Shelley Permann
Librarian: Lisa Jones
Member-at-large: Lisa Dewey

Old Business:

- Library:

Latest version of CleanRun is available for reading, contact Lisa Jones. Two new training DVDs, Linda Mecklenburg Balancing Cues & Jen Pinder Sizzling Seesaws will be added to the library at the January meeting.

- Nov 12-13, 2011 USDAA Trial:

Many competitors loved the new "site" at Santa Fe Dam! The most common compliments -- "love how quiet it is", "love the shade" -- pretty terrific given Scott had to do his best superman imitation Saturday morning finding an alternate site! Goes to show, if you want things confused—add a bureaucracy to it! In this case, LA County Parks and Recreation decided to plant trees smack in the middle of "our" field space during the week prior to the trial. Not a pleasant surprise for DART or the park management. Ah well -- even with the copious amounts of goose poop (ewww), excellent courses were put up by Becky Dean (Masters) and Courtney Moore (Starters/Advanced), resulting in many Qs and a good time for all. Special shout-outs and thanks to Jesse's teenager gang, once again working tirelessly during the trial and helping to re-load the truck in record time. Big thanks to Happy Dog club member Sandy Scott for her excellent "on-the-job" training with the boys and working their schedules and availability for the rest of us ☺

- Equipment:

Re-skimming Contacts:

We'll have all new or newly re-skinned contacts by Springtime!!! Great for the dogs longevity, little tougher on the humans moving them ;) Prior to Southwestern Regional (April 2012), DART will have purchased the following: DWS -- 2 rubberized USDAA type, plus 1 set of AKC downplanks; A-Frames -- 2 rubberized, aluminum skinned A-Frames; Seesaws -- 2 rubberized USDAA type, plus 1 AKC plank; Collapsed Tunnel barrel -- 1 rubberized USDAA chute skin; and Table -- 1 rubberized table skin.

Other Equipment Purchases:

In the continuing interest of dog safety, DART has also purchased 2 Max200 breakaway tires – much safer for the dogs and the staple for the dog agility in the future. As this editor's young dog can attest, thank doG for the breakaway! We'll also be picking up another tunnel as one of BRAND NEW ones died at the November trial – think Scott's quote went something like "d*mn border collies".... 🤔

Equipment Changes aka SALE!

Offsetting the purchases will be the SALE of existing contacts, available for pickup at the March Santa Fe Dam trial. These contacts will include 3 A-Frames, 3 DWs, 2 Teeters, and a few sets of weavepoles (non-24 inch spacing, perfectly good for training) and miscellaneous jumps. All club members have first "dibs" on purchases – a benefit of membership! Possible silent auction at the trial – stayed tuned for details.

New Business:

The Southwestern Regional is Coming!!!

Exciting news! DART, with support from the West Valley Dog Sports (WVDS) and Dog Agility Sport Handlers (DASH) clubs will be hosting the FIRST 2012 Regional of the year. Finally, a chance to qualify regionally in California before the last qualifying weekend. Woohoo –this year is the 25th anniversary of USDAA and is a very special nationals and Cynosports World Games that will be held in the Denver metro area. A shorter drive, and an opportunity for early qualifying – excellent!

Details:

- Trial entries to close on/about 4 Apr 2012
- Freedom Park available at 1 pm, Thurs, 19 Apr 2012 for equipment set-up
- 4 competitor rotations – 3 Mas rings, 1 Starter/Adv. Using 4 groups with 3 Mas rings will have 1 Mas/Team group "down" each rotation, minimizing conflicts
- Friday GP/PGP and Steeplechase/PSJ WILL count towards Regional (on Sat/Sun) qual requirements
- Rubberized contacts each ring; DASH providing 2 rings of equipment
- Sat. night BBQ; John Harvey (yum!!)
- Hospitality: Leslie Rudy / Linda Smith / Sandy Scott trifecta volunteering!
- Vendor Contact: Shari Hoots
- Regional "swag"; T. Lovelis to research
 - o design incorporating sunset/mt/beach, participating clubs, and USDAA logos
 - o sales t-shirts
 - o polyester drawstring backpacks (competitor giveaway) and
 - o ~12 oz plastic cups (competitor giveaway) similar to 2011 NW Regional
 - This would help to encourage competitors to follow the "no [visible] alcohol" rule within the park (no evidence in hand or residue left behind in trashcans)
- DART worker compensation update
- Workers:
 - o WVDS may sponsor / host workers for one ring Friday, two rings Sat/Sun
 - o Jesse's gang committed, number TBD (*update – Jesse may be able to provide 10!*)
- Worker's Raffle: Julie Sandoval & Deb Davidson-Harpur

DART Member focus — a chance to get to know the DART dog pack:

Scott Lovelis, "Merlin":

So we were a three Aussie family in 2001. There was a DART trial at Santa Fe Dam in March, and Laurie Zurborg was there with this little Aussie rescue that needed a home. As is at a typical DART show, I was running all over putting out various fires and kept having people comment about going over to Laurie's set-up and "seeing my next dog". I ignored it for a while and then Laurie brought him over on leash to say "Hi", then said that she had to get her dog out to run and would I hold the dog while she ran (a thinly veiled ruse, I'm sure). I stood with him for a little while then put him back in her set-up and kept at my duties. A few people looked at him, including T-Rod, and everyone thought he was way cute. He was 5 months old and had already been through two homes that couldn't handle an energetic Aussie, and was now in foster care. We took another look at him, liked his coloring, and thought he was too damn cute to pass up.



Merlin was a good fit into our household. He is very loving, stable and is good to everyone that meets him. He was a bit distracted in the agility ring, so it took a long time for us as a team to get in sync. He wound up achieving all his legs for an ADCH, but could not buy a Standard leg for his MAD. If he didn't pop a weave, he would blow a contact or drop a bar or look at something briefly as he went past an obstacle. If I micro-managed him to avoid all those things to run clean, he then would finish over course time. Finally in January 2008 he got both Standard Q's at Good Dog in Arizona, and that put an end to his dry spell. We started Q'ing consistently and achieved the standard legs he needed, as well as one Gamblers and that final Super Q in Snooker at Happy Dog in May. He likes doing agility, but absolutely LOVES dock diving and lure coursing. He liked herding sheep the two times he's been tested, but money and time has kept us at doing agility.

He acts very much like a cat sometimes. If you try to love him or get him to cuddle, he'll wiggle away and crawl under the couch or the bed. Other times when you don't want him, he'll climb all over you and start kissing you and won't take no for an answer. So he wants attention on HIS terms. He watches things in the sky, so he keeps the helicopters and low flying aircraft out of the backyard, and especially the blimps!!! Since we got him, he always has to have a toy in his mouth. If you are trying to work him on equipment and take away his toy, he will circle the yard and find another. His canine teeth are actually squared-off from the abrasion of toys and tennis balls that he carries around.

I am VERY glad we got Merlin. He has been a great little dog and tries his best for me on the agility field. He's not put together the greatest, and tends to lope like a dingo, but he gets the job done and always seems to smile about it with his little nubby going 100 miles an hour.

2012 Upcoming DART meetings & Show Schedule:

- **Jan 14** DART board and general meeting at the Lovelis home, 5 pm start time
- **March 17-18** USDAA trial, Chaffey College, utility (upper) field, Rancho Cucamonga CA or Santa Fe Dam, Irwindale CA. Full slate of titling classes (dbl Mas Jumpers) plus GP and Steeplechase will be offered. Candy Gaiser (mas) and TBD Starters/Adv judging.
- **April 20-22** USDAA Southwestern Regional: 3 day trial, Freedom Park, Camarillo, CA. Friday Steeplechase/PSJ and Grand Prix/PGP qualifying scores can count for Regional qualification on Sat & Sun. 4 Masters rotations with 3 Masters rings, 1 Starters/Advanced ring. DAM/PVP tournament along with Regional GP/PGP and SC/PSJ included. Full slate of classes offered. Tom Kula, Frank Holik confirmed for judging, another Masters judge in the works, Starters/Advanced judge TBD.
- **May 12-13** AKC trial, Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga CA. T2B, Standard, and JWW classes offered. Mixed breed to be included. D. Warren, judging, limited entries.

2012 consolidated USDAA SoCal+ calendar:

- Jan 7-8, 2012 – new Happy Dog, Moorpark
- Jan 14-15, 2012 – ACSD, Bonita (Chula Vista)
- Jan 28-29, 2012 – DrivenDogs, Camarillo
- Feb 11-12, 2012 – new Happy Dog, Moorpark
- Feb 25-26, 2012 – WVDS, Pomona
- Mar 2-4, 2012 – CPAC, Fillmore (including Friday only team tourney)
- Mar 17-18, 2012 – DART, Rancho Cucamonga
- Mar 23-25, 2012 – new Happy Dog, Moorpark
- Apr 7-8, 2012 – DASH, Costa Mesa
- Apr 14-15, 2012 – new Happy Dog, Moorpark (tourney ONLY)
- Apr 20-22, 2012 – Southwestern Regional, DART, Camarillo
- Apr 28-29, 2012 – CPAC, Fillmore (including team tourney + Masters titling)
- May 5-6, 2012 – DrivenDogs, Somis
- May 12-13, 2012 – IFCS World Championships, Ft Worth TX – first time in the US!
- May 26-28, 2012 – Happy Dog, Moorpark
- June 2-3, 2012 – DrivenDogs, Camarillo
- July 6-8, 2012 – Happy Dog, Moorpark (Independence Day is celebrated mid-week this year)
- July 27-28, 2012 – DrivenDogs, Camarillo

.... 2012 USDAA nationals qualifying period cutoff: Sep 3, 2012

Comments: Shelley Permann, Newsletter editor, agilecardis@yahoo.com