



Our president's message

Another year has come and gone for agility and flyball enthusiasts. Once again it was an awesome year!

The AAC Nationals were held in Sussex and it was a HUGE success. Everyone is still talking about the excellent venue, the friendly Maritime hospitality and some very good runs by our fantastic dogs. The CORE Committee deserves all of the kudos!! Many of our FAME members donated their time and effort into making the 2008 Nationals an event to remember!

The regular agility year was very rewarding for our members as well.

Lots of titles and memorable runs for everyone!

Thank you to the Agility Committee and the Trial Chairs for making our two HUGE agility trials successful.

The flyball season this year was a little shorter than usual but that didn't stop the dogs and handlers from enjoying every tournament.

Every one of our flyball dogs reached goals this year and we have many new titles and milestones to celebrate.

We also have two dogs who are the top dogs of their breed. Darby is now the

Number One Irish Setter in North America and Niska is the Number One Mini American Eskimo.

Thank you to the Flyball committee, the tournament directors and the teams captains for making this possible!

Plans are well underway for Summer 2009. FAME may be hosting three agility trials as well as the Regionals and two flyball tournaments. We will be busy!!

Happy winter season everyone!!

Sheryl Deacon
FAME president

In the flyball lane

Now that the flyball season is over, it is time to look back on the past year and also forward to 2009. What went well? What didn't go so well? Did we reach our goals? Did we have fun?

As the year progressed, we have noted some areas where we feel the dogs and people can improve to the betterment of the club and the teams. Some of the problems we encountered can be addressed by going back to a few foundation issues. The flyball committee will be posting a list of dogs, their times and areas where we feel members can work on.

Do not take this personally as we are only pointing out issues which have caused teams/dogs problems. The list is not complete... please feel free to give additional suggestions to the committee and we can address them. The committee feels we need to work on the issues which caused teams problems, if we don't address them it will not matter what team we put together we won't be successful. We want all our dogs to be successful and their handlers to enjoy the game and the camaraderie. The committee will continue to put teams together as per the club's goals.

One issue that we remind everyone about is that individuals must realize that the Team Captains are

doing what is best for the team, please respect that! It may not be your goal at that particular tournament but over the year it will work out. It is a team sport and everyone must look at it that way. It can be a thankless job, so be nice to your captains!

FAME and our members had a good flyball season. We were competitive in our divisions and I think everyone had a good time on and off the lanes. We would encourage members to attend practices to work on areas that they want to improve. Feel free to make it known what you want to work on and we will all work to help you out. The benefit of a team!!

As always, feel free to contact any member of the committee with your ideas, opinions and suggestions.

Thanks for a fun season!

Your Flyball Committee,

Lynette, Cy and Carl

In the agility field

There will be 3 trials for FAME plus hosting the NB/PEI Regionals scheduled for the 2009 season. Dates are as follows:

- May 30/31 @ Irishtown Community Center Ballfield, chaired by Darr and Shirley, judged by Roger Pierre Cote
- June 20/21@ same location, chaired by Heather assisted by the committee, judged by Shelley Price
- June 27/28 (Regionals)@ same location, chaired by the agility committee, judge pending ...hopefully Billy McLean
- August 8/9, @ Annette and Frank's Shediac River home, chaired by Annette and Carl, judged by Cindy Sweeney.

A new trial secretary

Heather McInnis has graciously accepted the challenge of being the trial secretary for all 4 events.....It has been decided that this will be a paying position from now on, due to the very high demands on the time and responsibility requirement to do the job. The agility committee and previously experienced people from FAME are requested to advise and coach Heather in this transition. A club
Tues. March 3rd 6:30 – 8:30
practise
Thursday March 5th beginner's class only 6:30 – 8:30
Sat. March 7th 9am -12 noon (**note the time change...horse clinic is in the afternoon**)

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lap top computer has been purchased for the purpose of doing this very important job. Thank you Heather for being willing to take this on. We will be there for you for sure.

Clinics offered by Annette

We have a golden opportunity this winter to get in on some new and exciting techniques by way of Annette. She has been to two Susan Garret camps already and will be going to a skills camp in Dec. In Ontario and a handling camp in Florida in early Jan. Our committee has agreed that it would be of great value to request that Annette offer to teach these new techniques and skills to our FAME members in a clinic style setup, on certain dates throughout the winter months. This will be a tremendous opportunity for all of us to hone our skills and advance to a new level. Annette will be purchasing for FAME, Susan's new 2 x 2 Weave Pole training video while she is at one of the camps.

Agility practice schedule

Here is the practice schedule for the rest of the winter:
Tues. March 10th 6:30 – 8:30
practise
Thursday March 12th beginner's class only 6:30 -8:30
Sat. March 14th 12:30 – 3:30
practise

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In the agility field (continued from previous page)

Tues. March 17th 6:30 -8:30
practise
Thurs. March 19th beginner's class
only 6:30 – 8:30
Sat. March 21st...no practise, horse
clinic scheduled
Tues. March 24th 6:30-8:30
practise
Thurs. March 26th beginner's class
only 6:30 – 8:30
Sat. March 28th Annette's clinic all
day
Tues. March 31st 6:30 – 8:30
practise
Thurs. April 2nd PRACTISE @ 6:30
-8:30 (if classes are finished)
Sat. April 4th NO PRACTISE, HORSE
CLINIC....NEW from last schedule)
Tues. April 7th 6:30 – 8:30 practise
Thursday April 9th practise 6:30 -
8:30
Sat. April 11th no practise
Annette's clinic all day
Tues. April 14th 6:30 – 8:30
practise
Thurs. April 16th practise 6:30 –
8:30 practise
Sat. April 18th no practise, horse
clinic
Tues. April 21 6:30 – 8:30 practise
Thurs. April 23rd practise 6:30-8:30
Sat. April 25th 12:30 – 3:30
practise but FAME's flyball
tournament is on as well
Tues. April 28th 6:30 – 8:30
practise
Thur. April 30th 6:30 – 8:30
practise
Sat. May 2ndhopefully move
the equipment back to the field at
Darr's? Weather?

I think that's all the dates... please
mark your calendars so that you
can keep it all straight...

Official practice time for this summer

One change is to make an official
practice time schedule for FAME
members. The field would be open
for daytime practices for people
who cannot make the practice
night specifically, but the official
practice night will be organized,
hosted and setup by the
committee members.

Equipment update

Our beloved Sully had broken
through a plank on FAME's dogwalk
in September. Thankfully with no
injury to himself. Thanks to Mike
Ling for repairing it good as new.
We will be looking at repairing the
A-Frame in the next season....it is
getting worn and tattered in spots
again.

Also, our new chute has arrived
from Chute-4 qz... it accidently got
given to the wrong person at the
Nationals, but the error has been
corrected without incident.
That's it for now...see you at the
barn this winter.... Wear your long
-john's...LOL!

*Submitted by Darr on behalf of the
agility committee: Heather,
Annette, Shirley and Darr*

Tag, you're it!

By Robin-Ann Young

My first encounter with a FAME member was in 2004 at the AAC National Agility Championships in Montreal, just 20 minutes from my home at the time. I was competing with Shelby, the eldest of my two Shelties. By 2004 I was many years into a relationship with an ex-pat New Brunswicker and was beginning to discover that Maritimers tend to be homing pigeons...

Anyway, back to the Nationals. I spotted a gang wearing yellow T-shirts with funny boats on them and approached the tallest guy in the group. I briefly explained that I was probably going to be forced to move to Moncton and asked what the agility scene down there was like. Carl sardonically lifted one eyebrow (actually, I'm not really sure Carl can lift one eyebrow but it sounds good) and said something like "And who would be forcing you into this terrible fate?" I could tell I was off to a really good start.

I ran into Carl, and Gwen, a year later at the K9 Kapers trial in Saint John while I was on vacation. Carl was friendly enough, but Gwen stared coolly at me with those piercing blue eyes as she tried to figure out who this exotic stranger was that was trying to pick up her husband. Actually, I wasn't, and I doubt she was thinking that, but for literary effect, let's just say that that's what happened. Later, Gwen and I would bond over war stories

of running agility with Ryde and Logan... surely they were littermates in a previous life.

Flash forward to August 2006 and sure enough, Tim (the homing pigeon in my life) had convinced me to make the move. But I insisted on having one last winter in my beloved *belle province*, to allow me to get used to the idea and to do a farewell tour of all the



Robin-Ann with her furkids: Fanny (a.k.a. Wile E. Coyote) is sitting on the left, Shelby is in the middle and Logan (Mr. Big) is lying down on the right.

Tag, you're it (continued)

agility trials in Quebec and eastern Ontario that I had become accustomed to doing each year. It was during this time that I struck up an e-mail friendship with Andrea Donovan. She was buying a pup (Zedd) from my friend Nathalie Labelle, who used to teach agility with me at Guides Canins. Small world! Let me tell you, those notes from Andrea really helped to put me at ease. The East Coast was starting to look a little less scary, Gwen's icy stare notwithstanding.

On June 1, 2007, Tim and I made the long drive east in two separate cars. By then our Sheltie family had grown to three, well, two and a half, since Fanny is clearly part coyote... Tim initially wanted to have Logan with him in his car and I thought, how sweet, he wants some canine company. I quickly figured out he didn't believe I'd veer right when we hit Rivière-du-Loup. He was planning on holding Logan hostage!!

Two days later my dogs and I attended our first FAME agility trial. To say we were a huge flop would be an understatement. Shelby had spent our first night in New Brunswick doing diarrhea all over Tim's sister's house (we still didn't have our own place) and the two younger dogs were beyond hyper. They all gave me the big "dew claw" (as we called it in Quebec) on course. What's more, I hadn't given any thought as to a tent of

my own—in Quebec, I always shared with friends, but here I was alone. So with a front-row view of the agility ring, my three darling dogs thrashed around their X-pen and did what Shelties do best—barked like maniacs. Three days later I had my own tent.

Now, 18 months later, I am firmly ensconced in the Maritime agility community. My girl Fanny, almost four now, has competed in several trials and is proving she can hold her own—when she's not dashing out of the ring to give spectators a piece of her mind. Five-year-old Logan—a Border Collie wannabe whose speed and intensity rival the best that Borders can dish out—and I have found the instruction we need to begin succeeding in the ring, and received much-appreciated encouragement from many FAME members. (For the last time Sheryl, we will not be taking up flyball.) And my soon-to-be-14-year-old Shelby earned his Silver Award of Merit at PEI's first-ever agility trial, with my old friend and former fellow agility instructor Claude Boisvert judging. "Dog" willing, Shelby will still be competing next spring.

At this past summer's tremendously well-organized AAC National Agility Championships (here-here to Darr and the gang!), I was proud to show my friends from Ontario and Quebec that agility, and an amazing agility

Tag, you're it (continued)

spirit, is thriving here in Moncton and all over the Maritimes. I want to thank everyone at FAME for being so welcoming to me and my noisy gang and for making us feel so at home. For we are indeed home. Now I'll pass the "tag" torch on to a newish FAME member whose dog is strutting her stuff on the agility field and in the flyball lane: Janice Cormier!

Our condolences

We wish to offer our condolences to Pat Edmonds who lost her mother this summer and to Shirley Dingley who lost her father last October. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Farewell to Best Friends

A former four-legged FAME member, Steele (Boldligo "Steele" Magnolia", passed away peacefully last November at the age of 14 and a half. Our condolences to Cheryl Steadman for the lost of her girl.

Thank you!

Our little Christmas fundraiser for the Moncton SPCA during FAME's Christmas party raised 245\$ in December. The shelter also received a leash and some doggy bones. Thank you everyone for your

contribution! The puppies at the shelter will enjoy having a new x-pen to play in!

Reminder for Annette's Agility Clinic

Annette Duguay will be offering a series of agility clinics in the winter of 2009.

Where: Whispering Winds Horse Arena, Homestead Road (near Magnetic Hill, Moncton)

What and when: Clinic 1 and 2 where in January and February.

Clinic 3 - Performance Team Level 3, Saturday March 28, 2009

Clinic 4 - Strategy Practices, Saturday April 11, 2009

Registration: FAME members get first option for registration. If the clinic is not filled by FAME members by the deadline date, non-FAME members will be added in order to fill the clinic.

Cost: One day clinic is \$125. All 4 clinics' cost is \$425.

More info: 532-8735 (Annette) or 576-9668 (Kathy)

What a good dog!



*Photo of Darby by Jules Comeau,
www.kaleanophoto.com*

Once again, FAME members ended their agility or flyball season with many titles. Congratulations to everyone who reached a milestone last summer.

Congratulation to Pat Edmonds as Darby (Sweetbrier's First Choice Darby) is now ranked the number one Irish Setter in NAFA. Last summer, Darby surpassed the previous top Irish Setter, Sampson, who had accumulated 32 378 points. Reaching first place had been Pat's long time dream for her girl and many flyballers were cheering for them from the sideline during that special race. Of course, all FAME members celebrated at the campground with Pat that weekend! As Sampson is no longer active in flyball, Darby is well on her way to become the first Irish Setter to reach 40,000 points. Pat is really looking forward to that milestone as Darby's name will be forever be linked to the first 40,000 points for her breed. There are 32 Irish Setters

registered with NAFA and only two have surpassed 30,000 points. Reaching 40,000 points will be quite an accomplishment!



The other flyball dog in the Edmonds household, Riser, received her Flyball Grand Champion title (30,000 points) last August. Riser Red River is ranked number 8th in all the American Cocker Spaniels playing flyball with NAFA.

What a good dog (continued)!

Shirley Dingley was really happy when her boy Willie received the last Q needed for his Bronze Award of Merit last summer. Way to go Willie!

Congratulations to Robin-Ann Young and her dogs for many accomplishments last summer. Shelby (pictured below coming out of the tunnel) received her Silver Award of Merit, Logan (pictured below going over a jump) received his Advanced Agility Dog of Canada, while Fanny earned her Starters Games Dog of Canada. Good work guys!



What a good dog (continued)!



A few FAME members travelled to Montréal for a flyball tournament last December and, among all the dogs that participated in the event, Shadow was chosen for the "Secret Weapon Award". Richard Landry and Shadow were noticed by the tournament organizing committee who

said they were impressed by a sheltie that could run 4,30 seconds. They also said that Shadow is a great dog to watch in the ring and that he and Richard make a good working pair. God job Richard and Shadow!

Thank you Jules Comeau for Shadow's picture (www.kaleanophoto.com)

Congratulations to Stewey, Nathalie LeBlanc and Kevin Arseneau's Border Collie, who received his Flyball Dog Champion Gold Award last July. Way to go Stewey!



What a good dog (continued)!

Congratulations to Mary Wilt and her two dogs who had a great agility season! Tango received his Starters Game title while Tammy received her Rally title in Novice A. Congratulations!!

Some of our club members have recently started to compete in Rally. Barb Clarke and her Nova Scotia Duck Toller Retriever, Rusty (picture on the right), received their Rally Novice title. Also, congratulations to Sheryl Deacon and her two dogs, Remi and Glory (picture below right), who all got their Rally Novice Titles. In flyball, Remi (picture below left) reached 20,000 points this summer and he received his Onyx title. Good job!

**Pictures of Rusty and Remi courtesy of Jules Comeau (www.kaleanophoto.com)*



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