

# Durango Agility Dogs Newsletter

"Teetering on the Edge"

First Quarter 2005

**IN MEMORY OF "TINKER"**  
**FEBRUARY 1999 - DECEMBER 15, 2004**



You came to me shy & chubby, from a life that was, well, quite crummy. But Sadie and I quickly made you our buddy.

In agility you were a star, and we were going far; but God needs little furry Angels too, and too soon for us he chose you.

I know that you are close and that again we all shall meet April, Silkie, Summer and "the Tink" Why? Because you sent us Pete!

Cindy Shelton



## UPCOMING TRIAL LINKS:

NADAC: [www.nadac.com](http://www.nadac.com)

USDAA: [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com)

AKC: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)



## Letter from the President

Hi All,

Well, winter has certainly kept us from having access to agility equipment! I know that some of us are still trying to trial without much opportunity to train. I know we will all be happy when the snow is gone and we get to pull equipment out again.

At our next meeting in February, we will be installing the new officers for the club for this next year. I hope to see you all there.

Enjoy this newsletter,  
Lynne

## Meet your Members:

Interview of Diane Allen, Moab, UT (**D.A.**)  
by Lynne Fickett (**L.F.**)

**L.F.:** Tell us what you do for a living.

**D.A.:** I am Chief of Interpretation at Arches National Park ("interpretation" in this case does not mean translating foreign languages; we're what most people think of as "naturalists.") I supervise the folks that staff the visitor center, lead guided walks, present campfire programs, as well as all the non-personal services we offer such as publications, wayside exhibits, orientation programs, etc.

**L.F.:** How long have you had dogs.... and tell us about them. How long have you been doing agility?

**D.A.:** As a child, I grabbed onto every stray dog that wandered thru the neighborhood (which was fairly rural) in Florida, and begged my parents to keep them. We had a series of mutts, one Boxer, and one Border Collie mix. I had my first own dog in college, a Norwegian Elkhound, who was a great hiking and cross-country skiing partner.

About my current dogs: I adopted Sophie, my border collie mix, when she was about 4 months old. I didn't know much about training, and didn't do a lot right with her from the beginning. I discovered agility when she was about two years old, and decided I'd like to try it. The nearest lessons were just south of Grand Junction, about 2.5 hours away. I took an eight-week course, one of which was cancelled after about 20 minutes, when it poured rain and the field became a mud bog. So much for *that* five hour drive!

We learned the basics, and soon thereafter entered our first NADAC trial near Prescott, AZ. Sophie qualified and took first place in both jumpers runs, and would have probably been first in standard....except she really didn't know how to weave at that point! We didn't enter Gamblers, because I had no idea how to play it. She did fairly well for a year or two, and gradually seemed to lose interest. She got slower and slower, and more deliberate, and I didn't really know what to do to jazz her up. At 8.5 years, she's semi-retired now, but loves to "practice" now and then for a few minutes at a time.

Then I adopted Cisco, a malamute/shepherd/something else mix, who was then 3

## PAST TRIAL & SHOW RESULTS:

(These are trial results from last year that were submitted for the Newsletter. Please send your 2005 trial results to Marilyn Reed.)

### ALBUQUERQUE, NM 10/31/2004 SWAT NADAC/ASCA

**Lynne Fickett with Maddie:**  
Q Elite Regular

**with Sizzle:**  
Q x 2 Elite Veterans Regular  
Q Elite Veterans Jumpers

**Marilyn Reed with Abby:**  
Q x 2 Novice Regulars

### Terry-All Kennel Club agility trial in Brighton, CO - Sept 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2004

**Maxine Pierce with Rover**  
1<sup>st</sup> in Open JWW  
3<sup>rd</sup> in Open Standard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Open JWW  
This finished his Open JWW Title

### Weimaraner Club of Albuquerque agility Trial in Rio Rancho, NM Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 2004

**Maxine Pierce with Rover**  
3<sup>rd</sup> in Open Standard  
2<sup>nd</sup> in Excellent A – JWW

Rover got the following AKC titles  
Novice Standard  
Novice JWW (Jumpers with weaves)  
Open JWW

### Australian Shepherd Nationals, Paso Robles, CA (Nov. 20-23 2004)

**Lynne Fickett with Chase:**  
Altered Premier Champion  
(conformation) 2 out of 3 days

**with Sizzle:**  
Agility Finals (Veteran)  
Elite Veterans Jumpers 7th Place  
Elite Veterans Regular 6th Place  
Finished 9th Overall Agility Veteran

**with Maddie:**  
Q Agility in Elite Regular  
Q Elite Jumpers  
Altered Reserve Winners Bitch  
(conformation) 2 out of 3 days

years old, from a friend who left the area. He's now 10 years old, and is still the happiest dog around, and loves attention and food, so training him was fairly easy! He absolutely loves agility, even though he's not very fast or consistent. He has a hard time with weave poles, though he's even done six on a gamble a couple of times! He has quite the fan club - everyone loves watching him get into his gallop around a course, even off-course.

The latest addition to the pack is Lucy, an honest-to-goodness Border Collie. She belonged to a man from Moab who died; the family couldn't keep her and she found her way to me a couple months later. She was almost four at the time; I can't imagine this dog living her life without doing agility! She absolutely loves it, remembers every site we've ever been to and starting jumping around and whining whenever we make the last turn on a road into a site. She was incredibly easy to train, and of course because of that, I trained some things not quite right. She loves NADAC best, where she can run full-out and get away from me at some distance!

**L.F.:** Share your accomplishments with your gang. And, share your biggest agility moment.

**D.A.:** We've managed to acquire a wall full of titles and a basket full of ribbons. I think the biggest accomplishment with each dog has been establishing a really fun outlet for their energy – each of which is different. Lucy has by far the “biggest” accomplishments, title-wise, including several “firsts” in Utah; but to see Cisco having fun is worth that whole basket full of ribbons.

Our biggest moment was probably earning the first NATCH in Utah. We did it in Golden, CO under judge Matt McCarter, on the proverbial last gamble leg. It was such an easy gamble, I couldn't believe we wouldn't get it, but ya never know. Lucy did keep her end of the bargain by keeping that last bar up! Getting her ADCH in USDAA in Phoenix was a bit less exciting, in that because of the rule change, it took about a day to find someone who could confirm that we had indeed earned it!

We also had a bit of a nerve-racking experience at our first NADAC Championships (2003 in Calgary). We had made it into the finals, which was plenty exciting enough, even though we were in 6<sup>th</sup> place out of nine; but then we watched dog after dog incur faults, and ended up in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the final round. There was some question throughout the awards presentation whether we'd ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, but turned out to be 4<sup>th</sup> – which was more than enough for me!

**L.F.:** Who has been your biggest influence in agility?

**D.A.:** Of professional folks, I'd have to say Stacy Peardot-Goudy. I love watching her run her dogs, and only wish I could be as cool and collected as she is! Her teaching techniques are wonderful, and she's always upbeat about our attempts. A good DAD friend convinced me that I actually need to practice and try new things, and tries to help me to quit flailing my arms around! She has forced me to practice more than I ever would have by myself, and I cannot say how much I appreciate that.

**L.F.:** What is your favorite agility venue?

**D.A.:** [Venue – organization or site? I'll answer both...]

Organization: NADAC is the venue in which we have had most success, and therefore I'd have to say it's my favorite! I think it allows the dogs to have more fun and really get moving. USDAA and AKC do provide challenges – which we need to work on more. Since Cisco can't play AKC, it's probably my least favorite.

Site: Lynnleigh Farms in Salt Lake City (Sandy, actually) is the most wonderful sites I've been to. The grass surface is great to run on, the shade is most welcome, and it's easy to get to.

**AKC TITLING INFORMATION:**  
(Provided by Christine Sapa)

**Regular Titling Classes:**

Novice Agility  
Novice Jumpers With Weaves Classes  
Standard Agility Class  
Jumpers With Weaves Class  
Open Agility Class  
Open Jumpers With Weaves Class  
Agility Excellent "A" Class  
Excellent Jumpers With Weaves "A" Class  
Master Agility Excellent "B" Class  
Master Excellent Jumpers With Weaves "B" Class  
Master Agility Champion Title

**Height Divisions:**

Section 3. Height Divisions, Wickets, Measurement. Dogs may only be entered in one jump height division per day for all classes. The following jump height divisions shall be used in all trial classes:  
8 Inches: For dogs 10 inches and under at the withers.  
12 Inches: For dogs 14 inches and under at the withers.  
16 Inches: For dogs 18 inches and under at the withers.  
20 Inches: For dogs 22 inches and under at the withers.  
24 Inches: For dogs over 22 inches at the withers.

**Just what do those abbreviations for titles awarded (won) at AKC trials stand for?**

Novice Agility (**NA**)  
Novice Jumpers w/ Weaves (**NAJ**)  
Open Agility (**OA**)  
Open JWW (**OAJ**)  
Agility Excellent (**AX**)  
Excellent JWW (**AXJ**)  
Master Agility Excellent (**MX**)  
Master Excellent JWW (**MXJ**)  
Master Agility Champion (**MACH**)  
(JWW stands for Jumpers with Weaves)



Of course, I also love having NADAC trials in the Old Spanish Trail Arena in Moab – just because it's in Moab!

**L.F.:** What do you hope is next for you in life and in agility?

**D.A.:** I just want to spend quality time with my dogs, who are all aging (some more gracefully than others!). We go for short hikes around Moab and we know all the good walks en route to our favorite agility trials elsewhere. We hope to hit the snow this winter too!

I hope to keep competing with Lucy for quite awhile. Most folks can't believe she is nearing 9 years of age! I just want to keep her sound and in good health. I'll be moving her to Vets in NADAC and Performance in USDAA soon. She certainly doesn't need the extra time, but lower jumps will suit her just fine, and the lower A-frame in USDAA seems necessary to preserve her shoulders. (If we can get those last few legs in AKC for her MX and MXJ, that might be the end of AKC for us!)

If there's a new puppy in my future, it won't be until I retire, which is a few years off!

Diane and the Moab mutts:



ADCH O-NATCH Lucy, AX, AXJ, S-EAC, S-EJC, S-EGC, Versatility NATCH, and best friend of all Cisco, P2, S-OAC, S-OGC, OJC and best howler Sophie, AD, NJ, OA, OAC, OJC, NGC, and best couch potato/rabbit chaser.

**Newbie News**

**By Christine Sapa**

AKC, USDAA, and NADAC all have just enough differences to make it often very confusing for a new agility competitor.

There is not enough room to list all the regulations and scoring involved in a trial in this newsletter. The best way to try to understand all this is to actually go to the individual organization's trials in person. Be sure to bring a listing of the different class divisions and events, so you know just what it is you are watching.

You can also go to each organizations web site and print the rules, regulations and scoring methods and study them. I am listing below the links to those individual sites:

**AKC:** [www.akc.org/rules/agility.cfm](http://www.akc.org/rules/agility.cfm)

**NASCA:** [www.nadac.com/rules.htm](http://www.nadac.com/rules.htm)

**USDAA:** <http://www.usdaa.com/rulesReg.cfm>