

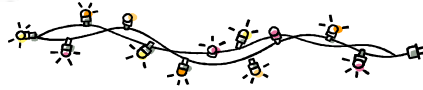


# Indy Dog & Disc Club Newsletter

Where having FUN is more important than winning!

December, 2013 Vol. 3

[www.indydoganddisc.com](http://www.indydoganddisc.com)



♪ *Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but our memories are so delightful, and as long as you toss me a bone, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...* ♪

With freezing temperatures and snow outside, it's somewhat hard to remember the past summer of disc fun and just how hot it was, but this issue will give a quick recap of the past events as well as give you a heads up on the year ahead! Enjoy!

**First of all, it's that time of year to vote for next year's IDDC board.** All IDDC members are encouraged to attend our next meeting which will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Lucky Dog Retreat (5990 E 71st St, Indianapolis) to vote for our next crew. There are open positions as well for the 2014 board, and we'd love to have some new faces with fresh ideas tossing their hats in the ring. We are looking for a president, vice president, merchandise director, demo/show director, sponsorship director, and one director at large. Board meetings are usually painless (we are firm believers in treats & positive reinforcement) and occur no more than once a month. Come join the fun!

**Events are being set for 2014!** Add the following to your calendars...

**Jan 18th, 1:00 p.m. - Annual Howliday Party** - Held at Marion County Fairgrounds (not to be confused with the Indiana State Fairgrounds) Bring your dogs and a dish to share (Chip, that means your pumpkin roll), as well as a sense of fun as we look back on 2013!

**February 15th, 3:00 – 6:00 Indoor play date** at Alpha K9 University (10201 Hague Rd, Fishers) Get ready for the Pupsicle and meet potential new members – invite your friends.

**February 23rd, Pupsicle at Alpha K9 University!** Watch our website as details are confirmed about registration and starting times, but make sure not to miss our first competition of the year. Held indoors so you freeze only for potty breaks, the Pupsicle is a great way to dust off those Frisbees that have been sitting in the back of the closet during the winter months. We are adding a new event, the 4/20. Can you do a freestyle routine with only 4 discs and 20

## 2013 IDDC Board

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Virginia DeRolf

*Past President*  
Rick Kimball

seconds? And by the way, you're not allowed to pick up the discs off the floor if they drop! Let's just see how good our dogs are at handing them back to us. FYI, Alpha K9 has a dock-diving pool and offers boarding and daycare. Because of this, Alpha K9 is required by its insurance to have all dogs on the premise to show proof of vaccinations including Bordatella (titers will also work) and a fecal test. If you plan on bringing your dogs, bring your paperwork for these requirements.

See below for IDDC's other competitions and check the website, [www.indydoganddisc.com](http://www.indydoganddisc.com) for more info. Online registration is encouraged and fees can be paid over PayPal.

Event	Location	2014 Date	Format
Pupsicle	Fishers, IN	February 23rd	Pupsicle
<u>Gretchen Invitational</u>	Kokomo, IN	May 17-18th	Quadruped / UFO
<u>Indiana Disc Dog Classic</u>	Fishers, IN	June 28-29th	UFO Major / IN State Champ
<u>Skyhoundz NC Regional</u>	New Castle, IN	July 19-20th	Skyhoundz NC Regional
<u>Itty Bitty Disc Competition</u>	Frankfort, IN	July 26th	Fun!
<u>Indiana Fall Series</u>	Fishers, IN	Sept 13th	Sept 27th, Oct 11th and Oct 25th

### Looking Back on 2013.....

**The Indiana Disc Dog Classic/UFO Major** in June was one hot (and wet!) event. The Fishers Freedom Festival always draws a great crowd as people celebrate the upcoming 4th of July with vendors, food, and different family activities, and our competition situated in the middle of it all usually attracts a good crowd and sometimes new participants. Jill Best, IDDC's new promotions director, was able to get Fox 59 News to come interview IDDC for a little promo spot to run a few days before the big event. This year we had over 30 human competitors, including newbies and walk-ups, and the show continued even during the downpour that sent a lot of spectators running for cover. One walk-up was a 10 year old girl who decided to try a freestyle routine on the spot. She obviously was new to the game, but that didn't stop her from taking home the crowd pleaser award. The top overall Open team from Saturday's UFO Major was Andrew Han and Solar, and Sunday's Classic Open winner was Canadian Jenelle Miller and Karu. The top Intermediate Freestyle teams from that weekend were Tim Hartsock and Jewels (Saturday), Jill Best and Logan (Sunday). Novice winners from the weekend included Virginia DeRolf and Franklin (Saturday Toss & Catch), and Stacy Simison and Jetta (Sunday Freestyle). For more detailed results, check out IDDC's webpage cores under the "results" tab.



Jenelle Miller & Karu.  
Photo by Marshall Smith



(Left) Onlookers brave the rain, as well as Jill Best & Logan (Right)  
Photos by Marshall Smith



**The Skyhoundz North Regional Qualifier and Discathon held in New Castle** in July held more of the same hot and wet weather, and even more teams competing. On Saturday, the top three qualifiers in the open division were Andrew Han and Solar, Tracy Custer and Siren, and Mark Farogoi and Riley. Matt Bilderback and Bazooka and Sharon Anderson and Bling were the top two qualifiers in the micro dog division, and they qualified again with Bazooka in the pairs division along with Jordan Bybee and Bailey Hartsock with Rambler. In Sunday's DiscDogATHon, the top Overall Expert was Jeff Sheetz and Killian, Intermediate Overall was Jill Best and Logan, and best Novice Overall went to Connie Passenjna and Midge.



Left & Center – the top two pairs qualifiers, Right – our youngest competitor for the weekend!  
Photos by Marshall Smith

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**IDDC added two new events this year – the Itty Bitty** held in Frankfort, Indiana on July 27 as part of the town's Hotdog (i.e. wiener!) Festival. The competition was friendly, if not amusing as the wind insisted on blowing the discs every which way except for the desired path. But IDDC is planning on being there again in 2014 so be sure to join the fun if you missed the first round in 2013.

And thanks to the hard work of Jill Best, another event will now be a regular addition to IDDC's season. **The Indiana Fall Series** is a nice variation on IDDC's play dates. Held at Holland Park in Fishers over four different fall weekends, it encouraged newcomers to join in some friendly competition with some fun doggy toys awarded to the canine winners. Different toss and fetch rounds as well as games loosely based on SkyHoundz format (but added a pumpkin!) made for lot of smiles and goofy actions. The last weekend included a costume competition. Best overall costume went to a new face to IDDC- Valeria Janowski-Human brought out her wicked witch side with her flying monkey, Oscar. Rick Kimball brought skunk roadkill Dugan for the scariest costume, and the funniest went to Daisy and Tulip team as Thing 1 and Thing 2. IDDC hopes some of the new faces seen at the Fall Series will become regulars for the upcoming season. Thanks, Jill, for all your hard work!



Photo by Julie Rhea

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## Shelby – by IDDC’s President Don Lang



This puppy came into my life in June, 1999. Just a little white and black speckled ball of fur and excitement. We named her Shelby. We bonded almost instantly and she wanted to have all my attention, which she did get a lot of. As she grew her favorite game was fetch with a tennis ball and she was tireless. As she got a little older I wondered if she might like to play with a “saucer” so I bought a rope and canvas toss disc and tried it out. She thought it was even better than a ball and after chasing it for a few throws, started catching it and trying to shake it apart and play “keep-a-way” from me. I didn’t like that game so I tied a piece of clothesline to her collar and after calling her, I would reel her in. After a couple days of doing that, I tried her without the rope and she brought it right back and laid it at my feet. She was very smart and picked things up quickly.

Then one day we read in the newspaper that someone was holding a disc dog event downtown in University Park and we decided to go watch it. I know now that it was a Skyhoundz Regional but had no knowledge at the time. Well, as we sat on the ground outside the flags, every time a disc would come down the field, it was all I could do to hold her back. She wanted to leap the flags and go after it. Everyone around us had a good laugh about it. So, after the event was over I had to inquire who these people were and how do I get connected to this.

A few weeks later we got together in Ellenberger Park with Ron King and Mark Gose and a couple others that I can’t recall, to get some instruction on how to play this sport. With a little practice and the right kind of discs we started going to IDDC’s events, although I don’t think it was officially a club yet at that time. We had a lot of fun and met some really friendly and helpful people all the time. She seemed to be having as much fun as I was. Our problem was, I was never a very consistent thrower so at most events we had one T & F round and wouldn’t make the cut so it was a long day and little play. So after years of this I finally decided to work on a freestyle routine with her. Our yard is rather small so our neighbor said we could use his back yard, which is quite a bit larger. We practiced quite a bit but I never felt we knew what we were doing well enough to get out in front of others. Then in 2006 we were doing a show on the lawn of the Indiana State Museum and Ron and a couple others talked me into doing freestyle. I got out there and surprisingly it went real well. After that I was hooked and we also got more play time at events. Shelby may not have been a great disc dog but she was a great dog in my eyes.

Then, as life goes, she grew old and developed health problems. First it was a partially paralyzed larynx and she would not be able to breathe at times and I would have to do mouth to nose resuscitation. Then as more time went by she started losing the use of her right rear leg. The vet said it was a problem with the nerves in her spine. As that progressed, I devised an aid with a large elastic band to that leg to help her bring it back forward. Eventually the other leg started going also and she could only take a step or two before collapsing. I didn’t mind raising her back up but it really left her no dignity at this point and so we made the decision to let her cross over the Rainbow Bridge to a better place.

She is missed greatly and will never be forgotten by us. - Don & Alice Lang

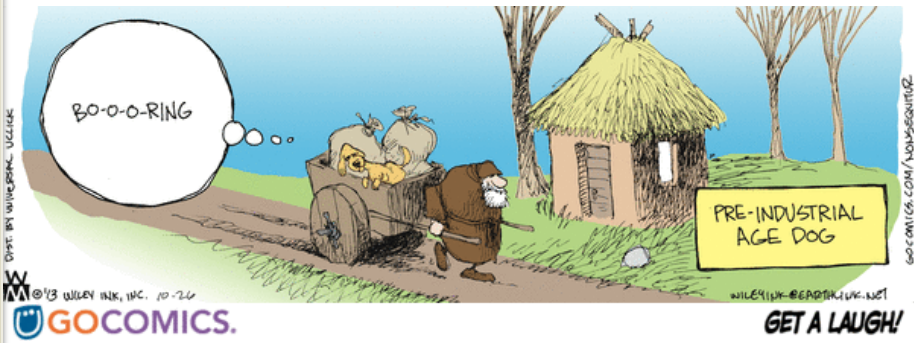
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Book Review of *Pukka's Promise – The Quest for Longer-Lived Dogs* by Ted Kerasote, author of *Merle's Door*

Always on the look-out for a good dog book, *Pukka's Promise* turned out to be a fascinating and thought-provoking read. The author, deeply saddened after burying his beloved dog Merle, vows to give his new puppy, Pukka, (which means 'first-class' in Hindi) the longest, healthiest life possible. He explores how we feed, vaccinate, and train our dogs, and with the backing of scientific studies, shows how some of our long-established practices may in reality not be the best choices, especially in light of the increasing rates of cancer in dogs. He certainly got me thinking about some of the decisions I have made for my own dogs, and I will be having a long discussion with my vet at the next yearly visit. Kerasote's strong bond with Pukka is clearly evident throughout the book, and you can tell he tries to see things from a dog's point of view. He even takes on a dog's posturing, such as play-bowing and growling, to communicate with Pukka when human words and gestures fail. Kerasote works and plays daily with Pukka to make sure he is well-mannered, but he also realizes Pukka's independence and respects his doggy opinions. For example, he gives him choices in his food and toys, and he isn't quick to rescue Pukka when he has a scuffle, but allows him to work it out on his own to help build his confidence. It was an enjoyable book to read. I don't agree with everything he said, but it is definitely worth your time if you have a canine companion. Published in 2013 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing, I found "Pukka's Promise" at my local library.

*Congrats to IDDC member Robin Herman and her dogs Abbey & Nano at the Skyhounds World Championships in TN. Abbey took 2nd in Masters Distance & Accuracy and Nano placed 3rd in Micro Dog Extreme Distance. Way to go, Robin!*



*Letter from Daisy & Tulip*

*That's about all for now – we're settling down for the night waiting to attack Santa as he comes down the chimney. We wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season. Can't wait to see you at the Howliday Party!*

