



# Indy Dog & Disc Club Newsletter

August, 2014 Vol. 2

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

*(Special thanks to Marshall Smith for providing the photographs for this newsletter. You're the best!)*

The summer ain't over yet, but it is winding down to a close. But before you start cleaning out your gear, make sure to mark your calendar for a couple more events in Indiana:

August 9th is the **Canine Cavalcade/Bajure' Memorial Competition** at Canal Park in Delphi hosted by Bill Marion. This is always a fun event. In addition to the regular toss-n-fetch and freestyle formats, Bill has some rockin' games that will test your disc aim and precision, along with your sense of humor as you try to toss your disc through a suspended hoop, hoping your dog can catch it on the other side. Registration starts at 9:30 with the first toss at 10:30. Check out his website [www.k9-cavalcade.webs.com](http://www.k9-cavalcade.webs.com) for more information.

On Sunday, September 14, IDDC starts its Fall Series with a new venue – **The Updog Challenge!** Updog is a new canine sport, just started in 2014, and IDDC wants to get in on the action. Updog combines fun disc games (think Skyhounds Disdogathon) and agility for all playing levels. As in agility where you progress through different levels over subsequent meets, your Updog "points" are tracked so it is a personal challenge as well as friendly competition between competitors at each event. Instructors from the Updog Challenge Team will be coming in to help IDDC get the first meet started and show us the ropes. The first event will be at West Park in Carmel, registration at 8:00 and games starting at 9:00. Since this is a new sport to everyone, there will be info and practice runs starting August 17. Check out the IDDC website, [www.inydoganddisc.com](http://www.inydoganddisc.com), for more information. This is a great sport for dogs and people of all playing abilities, so hope to see a bunch of you there!

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Christie Campbell & Star Spangled  
Banner

It certainly has been a great summer for disc playing. The weather has been awesome (ok, so there was some rain) but we've been able to avoid the 95+ degree temperatures of 2013 where events had to be shortened because of the heat. The **Indiana Disc Dog Classic** at the Fishers Freedom Festival on June 28-29 was a bit wet and muggy (if you ever wonder what it's like to play in a rain forest, that weekend was a close approximation) but it didn't stop the 31 pro teams from five different states, some as far as Colorado, from strutting

their stuff in style. Saturday was the UFO Major, and Gary Duke and Chris Sexton flew in to judge and share their expertise. Founded in 2000, the UFO literally has events all over the world. Points are accumulated by competitors which enable the top teams to play in the World, European, and North American Finals at the end of the year. Watching the teams on Saturday was awe-inspiring to say the least. Andrew Han and his dogs Solar and Psy took the top two spots in the Open Combined, but not without a fierce battle from Christie Campbell and Star Spangled Banner. Watching Kevin Eroskey and Merlin from Georgia bring in 36.5 points in the Toss & Catch round was like watching a fine-tuned machine in efficiency and speed.



Andrew Han & Solar

Sunday was the **Ashley Whippet Invitational**. The top four teams from that day would qualify for the World Finals in Illinois at the end of August. What a great year for that honor, as this is the 40th anniversary of the birth of our beloved sport. Ashley Whippet (named so for his color and after the character Ashley Wilkes in *Gone With the Wind*) made his promotional debut when he and his owner, Alex Stein, jumped the fence at a Dodgers game and proceeded to display Ashley's amazing speed and jumping ability to the point the game was stopped and the crowd was mesmerized and enthralled. Alex was subsequently arrested and fined, but not before his passion ignited others to join him and get the ball rolling with the first official toss and fetch competition held the next year. 40 years later the crowd was wowed at Fishers Freedom Festival to see players like Andrew Han (and Psy), Nate Bednar (and Rizzo), Jeff Duff (and Sasha), and Rick Rawerda (and Riff Raff) compete and win those top four spots. People attending the Festival stopped to watch and cheer and talked about it afterward. It was also to see some of the new moves and routines that newly minted pro players were bringing to the field. Jill Best recently moved up from intermediate, but her successful foot toss to Logan had the judges roaring in approval, as well as cheers from the teams on the sidelines.



Jill Best's foot toss to Logan



Tracy Custer

**Skyhoundz and Disc Dogathon** was held July 19 and 20 in New Castle, and we couldn't have asked for better weather! Some said it was the best it's ever been – moderate temperatures and hardly a breeze, perfect for catching that plastic! And the competitors that came from all over, including Texas and Italy were tearing it up out there. I personally had a great time watching the top three competitors in Freestyle - Chuck Middleton, Lawrence Frederick, and Tracy Custer - battle it out, and wondered how the judges managed it all. The top two spots earned Lawrence and Chuck a trip to the World Championships in Tennessee in September. On a side note, it was also great to hear about Lawrence's rescue work. He takes dogs without much hope, trains them, and turns them into stars. His careful training and love of them was clearly evident on the field as you watched how he interacted with each one.



Lawrence & Jodi Frederick

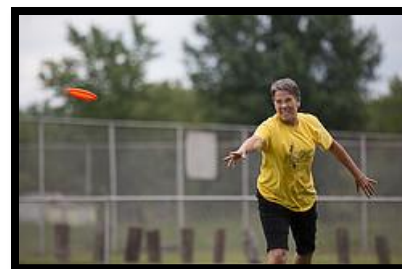


Bailey Hartsock & Lucy Lou



Last weekend was the **Itty Bitty** in Frankfort, Indiana. If you are wondering what the Itty Bitty means, think WIENER DOG!!! The whole town celebrates that day, and they invite IDDC to join in. It's also a great venue for the newbie players as the competition is only toss and fetch, with free-style demos if you want to participate. This year the added bonus was a petting zoo that was moved next to the playing field at the last minute. I think if you can keep your dog playing Frisbee while a goat and a chicken are next door, you deserve a trophy, even if he doesn't catch anything. More than one dog decided to go sniffing a few feathers that day!

**Speaking of toss and fetch**, it seems fairly simple at first. Stand behind the line, throw the disc to your dog, dog catches said disc and returns it to you. Repeat this as often as you can in the next 60 seconds to get as many points as possible. Right? Well.....that's a good place to start, but getting as many points as possible in extremely tight competitions involves a bit more, to say the least! If you watch the competitions, you can see where those handlers (and dogs) who are extremely proficient at this part of the game have an edge over other competitors. One of the experts in this area is Mark Gose, whose disc not only sails out smooth, even, and FAR, but his dogs have a great return. Mark has been helping out some of the IDDC members, and below is some of the tips he shared with us that you might find helpful if you are needing work in this area.



Robin Herman

- 1) Get your practice discs, and keep them bite-free and just for you. Mark said he invested in 30 discs that he keeps in a special bag. His dogs will never touch them, and when not in use, he stores them out of the sun (i.e. – not in a car) so they don't warp.
- 2) Practice a LOT and WITHOUT your dog. He heads out to a field with his dog-free discs and marks out a comfortable distance. (Beginners might want to start with 10 or 20 yards.) Throw your 30+ discs in a row, paying attention to each throw and analyzing what went right and wrong. Once you can reach the short distance accurately and with a smooth delivery, increase the distance.
- 3) When you add your dog to the practice session, make it as much like a competition as possible. There's nothing wrong with throwing to your dog for fun in the back yard, but your practice sessions need to be more regulated. Mark walks Colt out on a leash, makes him sit, and even nods to an imaginary line judge before sending him around his legs. The only thing he does differently is setting his timer for 90 seconds instead of the usual 60. He doesn't want Colt to anticipate the end of the time and slow down, and this helps keep him going full throttle for 60 seconds. When the 90 seconds is up, Mark likes to reward him with his favorite tug or toss. At competitions Colt also gets a treat in the tent which not only rewards him but gives him energy to last the day.
- 4) Finally, when in a competition, keep your mind focused on your throwing and not on your dog. If you have trained him, he'll know what to do, and his job will be easier if you concentrate on your job of placing that disc in the best spot possible for him to catch it. It really is a team effort, and part of being a team is letting go and trusting your teammate!

There is a lot more to the toss & fetch than can be included in a newsletter, but hopefully these are a few hints that you can add to your practice sessions that just might give you those extra points and a more competitive edge!



**Saying goodbye** to our canine companions is never easy, and it was especially hard on Don and Alice this year when they lost Lily so shortly after Shelby and so quickly after she was diagnosed with cancer. Here is a tribute to this special gal.



Lily at 3 months

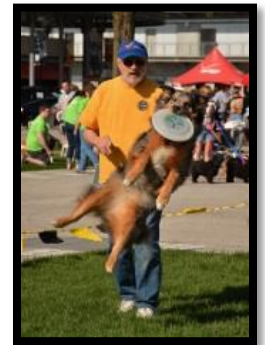
*When we first saw this sweet girl at Animal Care & Control while volunteering in November, 2003, she was just a little 3 month old ball of fur. We hadn't planned on getting a second dog again and would stay with just one, (Shelby), because we felt that was all the high energy we could handle after retiring. But*

*we couldn't resist that look and immediately fell in love with her. As luck would have it, they hit it off great together and it turned out that she was even higher energy than Shelby. They loved to play together and even food was not an issue between them. And like her protege, she eventually became a great partner in disc play and competition. She loved the game so much that she still wanted to play almost to the end, even though her body wouldn't let her. If I tossed it directly to her she would still catch it. She just couldn't go after it anymore. Her second passion was as a Hospital Therapy Dog, which she also loved doing. She brought a warm feeling to all the lives she touched in that capacity.*

*She's been gone two months now and we have another pup to take care of and play with but we still miss her enormously. Even the hospital staff says how much they miss seeing her. She was such an integral part of our family, as I am sure everyone reading this can relate to. – Don Lang*



Lily at Skyhoundz 2013



Don & Lily - Mutt Strutt 2014

That's about all for now. IDDC would like to wish Bailey Hartsock & Lucy, and Robin Herman and Nano, good luck at the Skyhounds World Championships in September as they both qualified in the micro-dog division. Go MICRO DOGS! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Series in September!



"Instead of getting neutered, can you just give me a lecture on abstinence?"

