



NAWATA

North American Working Airedale Association

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Reorganization of NAWATA

Here are the minutes from the NAWATA reorganization meeting. Please read through them and if you have any questions contact one of us. What NAWATA CRITICALLY needs is more participation! We are ready to accept membership dues and we are ready to accept data for the breed registry. The requirements for each will be on the NAWATA web site (www.airedale-nawata.org). Please pass this information along to all of your working ADT friends.

NAWATA Reorganization Meeting Minutes March 30, 2002

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. Eastern time. Those present: Maugh Vail, Fran Peck, Stew Tardiff, Yvonne Rauch, Julie Brown, Jean Seibert (and Zana Curley via AOL with Maugh).



We accepted the Breed Registry as listed in the Agenda Talking Points document. There was discussion about what we would accept for the Breed Suitability Test (BST). We are still working on the Breed Suitability Test (BST) requirements. The breed registry and membership databases are complete. We will include the FCI and KFT type titles (SchH & IPO), SAR certifications, AKC, UKC, & CKC obedience & agility titles, as well as their registrations in the breed registry. We are also researching the FCI & KFT hunt titles.

Officers: Maugh Vail, President; Stewart Tardiff, Vice-President; Fran Peck, Secretary; Sherri Glass will remain as Treasurer for the time being, but would eventually like to transfer that position to someone else.

Additionally, we have regional coordinators: Yvonne

Jean Seibert, MW coordinator; Zana Curley, SE coordinator. The board members are regional coordinators of their areas.

We approved restructuring the dues to \$25 annually instead of \$50 every two years to facilitate paperwork and renewals. A new membership application will be placed on the web site (<http://www.airedale-nawata.org>). Additionally, we removed the requirement for a NAWATA sponsor. The membership is too dispersed to make that easy or effective. Included in the dues are a membership card, scorebook, newsletter, and the dues also go to pay our dues to the American Working Dog Federation (AWDF).

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**"IF YOU HAVEN'T
ALREADY DONE SO,
RENEW YOUR NAWATA
MEMBERSHIP, TODAY !**

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Zana Curley

**The board members
are regional coordina-
tors of their areas.**

Hello everyone,

I am very excited about the plans for re-organizing and revitalizing NAWATA. One of the things we plan to do is broaden our scope and offer services to people working their Airedales that other organizations do not have. We feel we have identified two basic areas and plan to focus on these. The first is the need for documentation of the Working Airedale. Fran has set up a database to track working titles along with pedigree information. The second area is an awards system for those who achieve milestones with their dogs in their line of work. This is similar to the sportsmans medals given in the dog-sports organizations, except that dog handlers will be able to earn points by whatever work they do.

Furthermore we are opening up the scope of NAWATA to serve the interests of all people who work Airedales, whether they are AKC, Schutzhund or just plain work. We are making efforts especially to serve the needs of those who obtain hunting or SAR titles or certifications and who obtain non-AKC agility and obedience titles.

We want to encourage NAWATA members from different regions to hold regional events - workshops, seminars or just picnics and fun! Get out there with your Airedale, do some work and have fun!

All over the world the number of people who actually do work with their Airedales is on the wane. We wish to see this trend reversed.

*Thanks,
Maugh*



AireBrag

"Jazzaire's Georgio Armani, CD, OA, NAJ, AG.I "Branagan"

Handled by Yvonne Michalak, Branagan finished his AKC Open Agility Title at the Western Lakes Trial in Williamsville, N.Y. on April 20th. He did it in style, capturing 1st place in the 24" jump height! There were 10 dogs entered in this Class, and only 3 qualified, so we are very proud of his effort."

Deborah Nicewonger & Buddy Iron Heart, aka Buddy

NA =Novice Agility

NAJ =Novice Agility Jumpers

both of the agility titles in Columbia SC, April 6 & 7, 2002 held by the Greater Columbia Obedience Club



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Breed registry administration fee is \$15. Breed registry requirements and applications will be placed on the web site, as will newsletters, other NAWATA organizational materials, etc.

Additionally, there was discussion about incorporating the ATCA hunt group in the reorganization. Contacts are being made and discussions are being entered into with ATCA regarding the hunt titles and their participation.

Further, NAWATA's AWDF affiliation and AWDF's FCI affiliation status were discussed. Fran stated that she was in contact with the new president of AWDF, Mike Caputo, regarding the status of AWDF score-books, AWDF's FCI affiliation, and AWDF's strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 Eastern time.

The World Trade Center and SAR

By Jean Seibert

Unit IV – Safety and Security, page 1, of my USAR Technical Search Specialist manual states, “Search and rescue is one of the most dangerous types of emergency response activities that can be performed. It exposes the team members to many hazards that they have little training and virtually no experience to combat.” INTF-1 is just off of the bus with no idea of what we were going encounter. As collapsed Building 7 loomed before us with the refuse from the collapse being sprawled six feet high across the street, it was obvious we had met the enemy.

Upon deployment to Building 7, my responsibility was to work with the search cameras behind the K9's in areas where any focused barking, which indicated a live find had been made. The working pair would enter in through a void and allow the collapsed building to swallow them up as fractions of INTF-1 and I stood and watched. It was not a cakewalk for them. The building next to the one we were working in was on fire and falling into where the handlers and dogs were. On the outside everyone listened for radio communication from the handlers while watching the building fire and falling debris. Although outside forces and gravity had brought this building down to where it was at the time, it appeared to be capable of more compression. Both dogs working Building 7 had shown interest in generally the same area. It was believed to have been a person caught in the collapse who may have been making a final sweep through the area to make sure all personal were evacuated. Due to the severity of the collapse it would have been a small miracle to have expected a live find. The tangle of steel, wires, insulation and other shattered objects made for an impervious barrier. Both dogs working this area were cross-trained in cadaver and did not give live find alerts.

Once the redundancy with a second dog had been performed I was called in to put my equipment to use. Just like the certification testing the handlers stated, “I believe the dog is alerting here.” From that I took my cue and tried to find the best possible way into the smaller voids with the equipment and locate the body. I worked for some time in the area the dogs had made an indication of a possible human remains recovery but was then told along with the rest of INTF-1 to leave the area due to its unstable condition.

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Gunshyness – How to Train Through It

By Fran Peck

I was asked recently about how to work a dog through a gun shyness problem to get her ready for the Schutzhund (Versatility Dog) “B”, the traffic secure companion dog title. This particular gun shyness problem was brought about by a negative experience (negative fireworks experience), rather than because of a temperament problem. The handler was initially talking about saturating the dog with gunfire to get them used to it. I recommended the following alternative and I have outlined my response to the handler below on how I work through a gun-shy problem with this type of dog.

First, enlist the help of a helper who works the gun. I use a 22 starter pistol, you don't need or want something really loud. Go out to the field and send the helper to the other side - the type of distance you want to start this is approximately you at home plate on a baseball field and the helper WAY out in the out field. You work your dog in obedience light and happy with treats or toy - whichever you usually use. After you have been out there and worked, oh, 10-15 minutes or so, the helper fires 2 shots in rapid succession. Ignore your dog's response - keep heeling. If she alerts, use whatever heel command you normally use. Be careful not to use heavy heeling corrections. You don't want to increase her anxiety level. If she stays in position, praise her, but not lavishly. Keep it matter of fact. This is a work session. Do another few minutes (maybe 5 more) and end it and play and head out. That is all you do for that session. What you want to do is to gradually get the helper closer with the shots without the dog negatively reacting. The dog must focus on the task, not on the gunfire. To really do this and expedite it, I have worked it 3 times a week at different fields. You do not want the dog to associate the shots with any one particular field. When the dog is doing fine with the heeling and the shots, move your helper back out into the outfield and work on the shots while your dog is on a down stay. The dog is corrected and put back in the down if he breaks, and two more shots are fired. If he maintains position, end it and play. Gradually work this so the helper is closer and closer.



The dog only has to deal with 4 shots in a trial and the helper firing the shots is maybe 30-40 feet away. Generally they are not really close. I like this method over saturation because I can control more carefully the shots and the dog's reaction. Additionally, with saturation, i.e., a lot of shots in a session, there is no stress relief. The dog gets anxious and the shots just keep coming. If the dog learns that it only has to tolerate 4 shots - 2 while heeling while it is safe with you, and 2 on a down stay meaning the dog can't move because it is a stay – the stress and anxiety level generally goes down. Also, if the dog is REALLY freaky and a chow hound and if you use treats in training anyway, you can hold a piece of treat (hot dog, etc) in the left hand and have the dog nibbling it while the gunshots go off to distract the dog. I only use this in extreme cases though. Ultimately, I really don't want the dog distracted, rather I want the dog to focus on the commands at the time of the shots and not on the gun shots themselves.

What's New

As part of the reorganization and the breed registry, NAWATA is recognizing titles for the breed registry and listing them on NAWATA pedigrees.

These include:

For American Working Dog: AKC, CKC, UKC Companion Dog (CD), Companion Dog Excellent (CDX), Utility (UD), Tracking (TD), Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX), and Variable Surface Tracking (VST); Novice Agility (NA), Open Agility (OA), and Agility Excellent (AX) to Master Agility Excellent (MX), Jumpers with Weaves Novice (NAJ), Open (OAJ), and Excellent (MXJ), which leads to the supreme title of Master Agility Champion (MACH). Additionally, FCI, AKC, CKC, and KFT championships will be recognized.

Search and Rescue: SAR titles from recognized state, national or international (FCI) organizations will be recognized.

For Schutzhund working dogs: Schutzhund: BH, SchH1 (VPG1), SchH2 (VPG2) & SchH3 (VPG3), OB1, OB2, OB3, TR1, TR2, TR3, AD, FH1, FH2, FCI titles: IPO 1, IPO 2, IPO 3

For Hunting: the Junior Hunter - Flushing (JHF) certificate, the Senior Hunter - Flushing (SHF), the Master Hunter - Flushing (MHF) titles, the Junior Hunter - Retriever (JHR) certificate, Senior Hunter - Retriever (SHR), Master Hunter - Retriever (MHR), the Junior Hunter - fur (JHFur) title, the Senior Hunter - Fur (SHFur), and Master Hunter - Fur (MHFur). A dog that qualifies in all three basic tests receives the title Junior Hunter - Versatile (JHV), SHV and MHV titles. Additionally, NAWATA recognizes UKC hunt titles (<http://www.ukcdogs.com/events.html>).

If there are other titles that you feel should be included, please contact us (Maugh aire911@aol.com or Fran frances_peck@yahoo.com).

What is the Breed Registry?

NAWATA offers to all North American Airedales and owners a Breed Registry. The Registry Committee will ultimately work on presenting the NAWATA Registry for FCI acceptance. The goal is to maintain a respected Breed Registry using recognized guidelines for documentation. Each dog submitted to the Registry is carefully researched before documentation is issued.

To register a dog, submit the following:

- 1) NAWATA breed registration application.
- 2) A copy of the AKC, CKC, UKC recognized registration.
- 3) A pedigree is optional, but preferred, to register a dog. With the pedigree, we can include the parents, grandparents, etc in the database, which will allow working lines to be researched for breeding and working potential.
- 4) Copies of hip certification (if available).
- 5) Copy of the dog's scorebook showing titles and breed survey results (if available).
- 6) Proof of parent's titles must accompany the application if their titles are to be included in the registration.
- 7) Tattoo or microchip number if the dog has one.
- 8) Application fee of \$15 and registration form.

Playing "Search" Games In the House or In a Small Yard

By Karen Clouston

One doesn't need a large yard to practice search games. In fact, one doesn't need a yard at all...you could work in your house if you wanted. You can do the following inside or outside.

Put your dog on a sit-stay, or a down-stay, or tether them to something secure (or have someone hold the leash). Take their very favorite toy, and tease them a bit with it. You can play tug of war or play keep away. If the dog isn't totally interested in playing tug, that is ok. Just make sure you don't shove the toy in their face or otherwise try to force them to play. Tease, don't force. It has to be fun. Take a couple of steps away from the dog, and wave the toy. ("What have I got??? Do you want it?? Are you ready???").

Run out a few feet or yards, but stay in plain sight) and plunk the toy down on the ground with the dog watching you. Stay excited! Run back to Job, unclip the leash, and say, "Let's get it!!" or "Go find it!" or anything you want...just keep your voice excited. Let the dog run ahead of you to get the toy, but go with him. Cheer loud and crazy when he "finds" it, and start running backward to get him to run back to you. When he catches you, play tug of war, pat him, tell him how amazing he is, but don't immediately take the toy from him. Let him enjoy his moment with praise before you take the toy. If he gives it to you right away, throw it for a retrieve. If he doesn't want to give it back, trade him for another toy (save one very special toy or tug for this if he's that kind of dog), or a special treat. Make it worth his while to give it up.

Tether him again (or otherwise a bit farther, or if farther isn't possible, conceal the toy only slightly...behind the corner of the couch with a bit of it showing, or in a clump of crabgrass, or at the base of a small shrub, etc. It should still be visible to the dog. Keep an excited tone; make sure he sees you place it, then run back and give the command to "go find it" again. Again...go



with him part way but let him get ahead of you and let him make the find. get him to stay), and wave the toy again...run out Have fun with the toy again. Basically, just make the game gradually more difficult until you can hide the toy really well and he will do his best to find it.

If by chance he isn't all that interested in going to get the toy, when you go back to him after placing it, take his leash and both of you run to the toy. Show him the toy...make just as much fuss as if he'd just found it all by himself. Always make the whole deal sound like it is the most fun a dog can possibly have.

You don't necessarily need a box, but having things around that you can hide the toy behind is good. As the dog gets better at searching, you can use other items like a sock or other small article of clothing. You can hide things in a cardboard box, but make sure you work up to it...like having the box on its side so he can easily reach in and get the toy. Work up to having a closed box that he has to dig at or work hard at to get in it.



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Having trained with these particular dogs for years has given me a level of insight of what their normal alert and body posturing is when they are working a scent pool and such. It was so natural. I'd eagerly watch the handler perform their tactical plan with the dog and then watch the dog's response. If the dog gave an indication of recovery where it was sent there was the mutual trust that the dog would work it out. Other times the dog would be sent away to work areas on their own with the handler expecting the dog to pick up sent and follow on its own volition. The dog is expected to do this. Sometimes one or the other tactic would pay off and other times the team continued searching.



When my morning shift would arrive to the WTC site the K9's were deployed almost immediately every day to Towers One and Two. Some days the more specialized teams would follow the K9's to the work site. Sometimes I would work behind the K9's and other times I would be assigned to particular sections of the pile with the equipment to ferret out possible voids to search. The rapid pace of work on site kept us moving on to another possible indication the dogs had or left searching on our own part for viable voids. The working dogs were not responding with their usual focused bark indicating live human finds. The dogs that were cross-trained gave their alert used for human remains detection. The dogs not cross-trained continued daily looking for live victims. This disaster went quickly from expecting to recover live victims to looking for human remains.

Training with the K9's gives me the confidence in our K9 teams. If the dogs were alerting then I believed we had something. I never second-guessed the K9 teams I was working with. If an outsider asked how good our dogs were, I always replied with a confident statement of reassurance that they were in the presence of some of United States' best. On site is not the time to rethink your K9 team's capability. We train hard and are thorough in our training.

The K9 units from across the United States that responded to the disasters had a pretty good probability of having visited or tested at the Indianapolis, Indiana site where INTF-1 calls home. The Hanson site is presently under reconstruction. Prior to this, it was noted for having very severe rubble. The different piles had their own characteristics as well as names giving ominous warnings of what to expect.

Some K9 teams come back to Indianapolis, Indiana to recertify as others come back for another attempt at the test and certification. You get to know some handlers and K9's during their short stay and can connect with what is happening out on the Hanson test site. If you are lucky during a testing weekend, you can get to know some of the handlers a little better by joining the group going to supper at a local restaurant on Saturday night. Insight comes from the chatter of what had been experienced during the day and the anticipation of what to expect on Sunday. You get exposure to other handlers by being accountable for the transportation of the handlers and K9's to the various testing sites. I am usually a victim buried deep in the bowels of the rubble.



I get to know the handlers by their encouraging voices and the dog's staccato breathing with an expected patterned bark. Never uttering a sound, I lay and hopefully wait for the handler to tell the evaluator that, "The victim is here."

When we were at New York, Pete Davis and Appollo showed up at our forward BOO. It was like your neighbor had dropped in to say hi only larger, much larger. In the early days as with so many people, no one had a definite head count as to who was in the towers when they collapsed. I only know this guy from short clips in Indy and I'm wanting to shout and cheer that he's out front. He wanted to check in with Anne Trout who felt the magnitude of his presence.

So it was with me, I cross-train as one of the Technical Search Specialist on our team. I first started working on the Technical Search Team after Wayne Morgan, Technical Search Team Manager, a very qualified and challenging professor of the trade, had recruited others and me from the K9 team who were working no certified K9's. He showed up to the K9 training with neat toys and gadgets. I love cameras and found the additional equipment to be fascinating with great potential for intended search scenarios. At a later point in time he asked if I would take the class to be given in Fairfax this past summer with Wendy York, another K9 handler from INTF-1. I did and during that week, I had the opportunity to get to know other members of the USAR teams from around the United States. This foreshadows the event I experienced while waiting to be deployed to Tower 1. I was setting up and checking to make sure my Delsar acoustical device was working. Steve Gillespie, NYTF-1 walked up. What a cause for a celebration but time and responsibilities prevented the warranted party. He too was off duty when the towers collapsed. In the short time he had, he recited the list of names of the living I would recognize from the class. I breathed a sigh of relief, I was then given the signal from our TFL and I had to go do my job.



Why Agility For Airedales?

By Yvonne Michalak

Does your Airedale have a sense of fun and love of adventure? How has your own sense of humor been lately? Would you like to improve your motivational skills in Training? How about you and your ADT getting into better physical condition? Agility may be the answer for you and your 'Dale!



Christie Williams & Erin

There are various groups of obstacles to learn at first:

1. The Jumps--Single, Double, Triple, Broad, Panel (or solid) Winged,
2. Tire
3. The Contact Obstacles--A-Frame, Teeter, and Dog Walk
4. Other Obstacles--Open/Closed Tunnels, Pause Table, and Weave Poles

Plan to spend six months to a year for your Airedale to become solid on all of these and for your handling skills to develop. Positive Motivational Training is the only type allowed in Agility--the word "NO!" is not even allowed! Use of the clicker for reinforcement and the words "Try again" are keys to success. Watch your ADT's expression as new courses and obstacle problems are solved successfully!

Revitalize your sense of humor--your 'Dale will do all work "off lead" after the first few Classes! Get in shape--nothing like running alongside your Airedale on a course, which includes 13-20 obstacles! Agility will increase elusive "Attention" spans as the two of you will need to function as a Team, your ADT watching your every move to take cues for the next Obstacle. Physically, your Airedale will become better coordinated, as positioning of the back legs becomes vital on the narrow Dog Walk and Teeter. Muscles develop as the weekly Training exercises are practiced.

Agility can strengthen the bond between you and your ADT as you learn to run each new course together as a Team. **Why not give your Airedale a chance at this fun sport?**

"IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, RENEW YOUR NAWATA MEMBERSHIP TODAY TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER

NAWATA MEMBERS RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, A MEMBERSHIP CARD AND SCOREBOOKS FOR 2 DOGS AS PART OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP DUES. FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, VISIT OUR WEB SITE <http://www.airedale-nawata.org> "