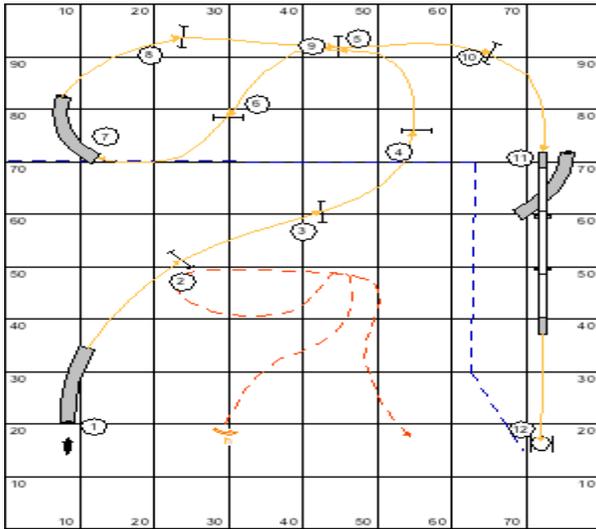


WHATCOM AGILITY TEAM PRESENTS

On Path to a Q

Join us on **Saturday, May 5th, 2012 at Hyline Hotel, Everson, WA 9am - 4pm**, for a one day workshop covering Course Analysis and Path Management. The workshop, which will alternate between discussions indoors and practice sessions in the agility field at Hyline Hotel, will be led by Stefan Elvstad.



Agility is a team sport that involves two team partners. Their roles and responsibilities are very different.

The human partner in the team (the handler) is responsible for the design of an efficient path for the dog to take, and then during the run, to communicate that path to the teammate. This makes us the navigators.

The dog's responsibility is to perform the obstacles along the path of the course. If we, as the navigators, do a good job with our two tasks, the dog will be provided with all the information she needs to always choose the correct obstacle, and can concentrate on performing that obstacle with fewer distractions.

To make this work, several things need to be in place:

- ⤴ The most important building block is the relationship between navigator and dog.
- ⤴ The dog must have the skills to perform obstacles without management.
- ⤴ The dog needs to understand that if we place her in front of an obstacle, we are asking her to perform that obstacle.
- ⤴ We must have a working method of communication between the navigator and the dog.
- ⤴ You, as the navigator, must understand how to form a path for your teammate that places her in front of the next obstacle.
- ⤴ You, as the navigator, are responsible for communicating the path to your teammate. This includes making sure your dog is able to receive the communication.

In this workshop we will focus on the last two to three items in the list above. Topics will include:

- ⤴ Characteristics of an efficient and intuitive dog path. Participants will be applying those principles to design a path that works well for their team.
- ⤴ Methods of communication with the dog. How to apply pressure or pull on the path, presenting body language, motion, and verbal cues.
- ⤴ How to deliver cues such that the dog receives them.
- ⤴ Analyzing what the dog sees.
- ⤴ Building on the limitations and strengths of an individual dog to influence her path.
- ⤴ Deriving an efficient handler path that works for both teammates.
- ⤴ Common mistakes that may blur the meaning of our cues.
- ⤴ Translating the skill needs to training and practice plans.

Price: Working spot \$50 (\$40 for WHAT members)
Audit \$25 (\$20 for WHAT members)

To reserve a spot, register by email to info@whatagility.org

