

NEBCA NEWS
JANUARY, 1985
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Barbara Leverett
address and telephone number above

Crawford Taisey (207-865-3852)
207 Main St., Freeport, ME 04032

NORTHEASTERN SHEEPDOG NEWSLETTER: Nancy Hayes (617-478-3277) 38 Highland St., Hopedale, MA 01747

THE EDITORS BARK

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you enjoy this first trial issue of the NEBCA NEWS put out by a new brace of editors, namely Denise Leonard and Kristen Whittle. This first one, thrown together a bit hastily, will with any luck evolve into an organized and informative newsletter. It will be sent out following each NEBCA meeting and with enough support and printable contributions, perhaps more often in the future. So send us any and all suggestions, comments, and materials. We are planning a column on training tips. Any questions on training, trialings, judging, etc.? Send 'em along!!

Thanks to Mike Devine, editor of the Southern Stockdog Journal, we have permission to reprint a letter printed by them from the Border Collie Club of America (BCCA), along with his editorial response. Both are pretty self-explanatory. You will find these reprints along with the NEBCA response in the newsletter. Mike has also given us standing permission to reprint any of the articles and editorial information published in their Journal. When I spoke to him, he mentioned that he had received the calendar sent by Barbara Leverett. He was very impressed with its quality and said he would highly recommend it to the readers of the Journal. We are very grateful for his help and cooperation.

We have a few reminders. There are still calendars available! Christmas may be over, but how about birthdays, thank-you gifts, puppy customers, even Valentine's Day gifts! Use your imagination! Write to Versil Holland to order them (see the announcements section for address and prices). Also, anyone with pictures, poems, sayings, etc., that are suitable for next year's calendar, please send these along to Versil. Black and white, like the BCs themselves, are preferred, but color pictures with sharp contrast may be acceptable. Also color photos are needed for the cover. If you want these pictures back, also send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The trials committee would like you to send them your trial dates as soon as possible. Send them to Maurice MacGresor whose address is above. We will

also print any information on trials sent to us.

We will be running a Breeder's Directory and classified ads for anyone interested. All breeders of BCs who would like to be listed, please send your ad, with a maximum of five lines, along with \$3.50 to one of the editors for listing for the remainder of the year. Classified ads are \$1.50 per ad, per issue and should be sent to the editors as well. We will retain the right to edit wordy ads. If this policy is disagreeable with the majority of the advertisers, we may change it to a set fee for a certain number of words and then add an additional charge per word after that. So let us know what you think before the PUPPY flood is upon us.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NEBCA

Until next time then...try to stay warm, and send us your suggestions!

Your editors,
DAL and KPW

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 6

The annual meeting was held at Edsar Gould's house on January 6, 1985 and was called to order at 10:30 AM. The secretary and treasurer's report was read and accepted.

OLD BUSINESS: Results of the elections are as follows:

President--Versil Holland
vice-president--John Hood
secretary-treasurer--Faith Webb
ass't secretary--Barbara Leverett.

Both by-laws, which read 1) nominations to take place in the fall with elections to be held in January and 2) the term of office be two years rather than one, were passed. Fifty-two ballots were turned in.

Jim Davidson, who runs the trial at the Blue Hill Fair, Blue Hill, ME., has offered to put an ad for NEBCA in the Blue Hill Fair book. Betty Levin has sent him a letter concerning this, but was unable to send him requested information concerning a Judges list.

Fryeburg Fair has offered to host the Championship trial. Roser Deschambeault looked at the field. It is too small. The trial would have to be restructured because the current rules would not allow it to be run on their fairgrounds the way it is presently set up. Versil has tentatively told them no.

Versil gave a report about money from the sale of calendars, hats, bumperstickers, etc. (It is included after the minutes.)

Ellen Raja brought up that there should be a different way of handling the accounting such that all the money goes to one place. There was a lot of discussion about this, ending with a motion by Walt Jagger to form a petty cash fund for Versil and Bonnie Holland which would be replenished as needed and the records of transactions be updated at monthly intervals. The motion was seconded by Edsar and was passed. A motion was also made by Walt to allow members to buy for either cash or charge a dozen or more calendars for cost plus half the difference between the cost and the selling price. The motion was seconded by Maurice and was passed.

Maurice MacGresor wanted to see an accounting of the Championship trial. He would like to see some prize money offered.

Denise Leonard and Kristen Whittle will do the NEBCA News. This will be separate from the Northeastern Sheepdog Newsletter put out by Nancy Hayes.

Maurice MacGresor thought we should try to get sheep that have been worked by everyone's dogs or by none of the dogs for the Championship trial. Betty Levin suggested that it should be part of the Championship trial arrangement to be able to work the sheep with dogs that are not in the trail. The trials committee will work on that problem.

Barbara Leverett asked about a NEBCA-sponsored clinic. U Mass will be approached about hosting it and Denise Leonard and Kristen Whittle will look into it.

The Judges list was discussed. Basically, last year's effort was thought to work well. A few points were brought up by several people.

1. Make sure people know that they can still have a points trial.
2. Make sure all potential judges get together before the trial season starts so there is uniformity in the judges.
3. Bring in a few outside ideas.

A motion was made by Maurice MacGresor to continue with the Judges list. It was seconded by Crawford Taisey and was passed.

NEW BUSINESS: The possibility of splitting the secretary and treasurer into two jobs was discussed. However, since it has worked well so far, it will be kept as is.

Thanks went to Helen and Edgar Gould for hosting the meetings.

The members of the trials committee were Versil Holland, Maurice MacGresor, Crawford Taisey, and Fran Wheeler. Versil resigned and recommended Barbara Leverett for his place. A motion was made by John Hood to add Walt Jasser, Roger Deschambeault, and Barbara Leverett and drop Versil Holland and Fran Wheeler from the committee. Maurice MacGresor seconded the motion and it was passed. Cheryl Jasser moved to appoint Maurice MacGresor chairman. This was seconded by Edgar and was passed. Duties of the trials committee are to set dates together, check out trial sites, and give advice to promoters.

The Southern Stockdog Journal published a letter from Diane Kann, who is trying to get the Border Collie registrations under one registry and have the breed recognized by the AKC. Barbara Leverett will write a letter of opposition from NEBCA to Ms. Kann. Copies will be sent to the Southern Stockdog Journal, the AKC, and Peg Brown. (A copy is included in this newsletter.) Members are urged to write letters expressing their thoughts.

Maurice MacGresor suggested having a local TV station cover one of our trails; possibly the Championship trial.

Cheryl Jasser offered to host a winter trail indoors if there was enough interest.

The Virginia Border Collie Association would like to have some kind of trial with us. There was discussion about how to pick the teams and when to have the trial. The fall seemed like the best time. Seven people thought a team trial would be better and five people preferred an open trial. The decision was left to the trials committee which will report at the next meetings.

Everyone was in favor of doing the calendar next year. Pictures are needed as well as poems and sayings for captions.

Walt Jasser thought it should be clearer that the top dog of the year, which is chosen by the number of points accumulated during the trial season, is decided before the Championship trial and the winner of the Championship trial is just that.

There was some discussions about including the shed exercise in our trials. It should be in trials all year long if it is to be in the Championship trial. Maurice MacGresor thought that it takes too much time to have at every trial and Betty Levin thought that it is sometimes an audience loser. That issue will also go to the trails committee.

Versil Holland wanted to know if we should continue to sell hats, patches, pens, pencils, etc. It was agreed we should.

The next meeting will be at Maurice MacGresors at 1:00 pm on February 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

EXPENDITURES FOR NEBCA SALE ITEMS

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Hats | 255.60 |
| Pens and Patches | 144.00 |
| Bumper stickers | 50.00 |

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|-----------------------|--------|
| Total 1984 sale items | 449.60 |
|-----------------------|--------|

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|--|--------|
| Sales of NEBCA sale items 1984 | 272.00 |
| Sale items Nebca on back order from 1984 | 177.60 |

Miscellaneous calendar costs 1984

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Envelopes | 10.50 |
| Advertisins | 135.00 |
| Postase | 165.31 |
| Telephone | 26.96 |

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|-------|--------|
| Total | 337.77 |
|-------|--------|

Miscellaneous Championship trial costs 1984

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|--------------|-------|
| Score sheets | 19.00 |
| Memo Boards | 84.00 |

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| Total | 103.00 |
|-------|--------|

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| Paid out by Bonnie Holland out of 1984 NEBCA gross income | 890.37 |
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

** Dues are due! \$10.00 per individual or \$15.00 per family. Send to Faith Webb, Mt. Sunapee, NH 03772. Make checks payable to NEBCA.

** There are still 1985 calendars available. Contact Versil Holland, 30 Candlewood Road, Ipswich, MA 01938. Prices are \$6.00 (\$5.00 plus \$1.00 shipping) for a single copy. NEBCA members may obtain discount prices of \$3.25 each for ten or more copies plus shipping: \$3.00/10, \$5.00/15 or \$7.00/20. Make checks payable to NEBCA.

** Looking for pictures for the 1986 calendar. Send them to Versil and Bonnie Holland, 30 Candlewood Road, Ipswich, MA 01938. Black and white prints are preferred, but color prints are okay; no negatives. Color photos are also needed for the cover. Pictures should be sharp and clear. If you want your photos back send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

** The trials committee is soliciting trial dates. Contact Maurice MacGresor, RFD Box 650A, Center Barnstead, NH 03225, 603-269-7631, as soon as possible.

** Please respond to Ms. Kann's letter concerning registry and recognition of BCs by the AKC. Her letter, as well as editorial comments by the Southern Stockdog Journal and NEBCA's response are published in this newsletter. Responses should be sent to Ms. Kann as well as the AKC. Addresses of both are given further on in this newsletter.

** NEBCA News will accept classified ads for \$1.50 per ad per issue and breeders listings for \$3.50 per five lines for the remainder of the year. Send ad and/or listing with payment (checks made out to NEBCA) to Denise Leonard, 72 Shutesbury Road, Leverett, MA 01054, 413-549-1882, or Kristen Whittle, PO Box 185, Sunderland, MA 01375, 413-549-5011. Closing date for the next issue is February 17.

** The mailing labels have not been proof read. If you find any error in your address, please notify Denise Leonard.

** The next NEBCA meeting is at 1:00 PM February 10, at Maurice MacGresor's house. To get to Maurice's, go to Concord, NH. Take Rte 4 east to rt 28 north. At the Junction of 28 N and rte 126, take a right. Go 1/2 mile into Barnstead Village and take a left at the Barnstead Christian Church. Go 3 1/2 miles and look for a driveway on your right. The mailbox is on the top of an old cream separator.

UPCOMING TRIAL DATES

March 30 (snow date April 6), 10:00 AM: Headstart Trial hosted by Cheryl and Walt Jasser, Hop Bottom, PA. This will be a nursery trial with three classes: 1. Novice/Novice, 2. Pronovice, and 3. Ranch. It will be Judged by Mike Canaday. Entry fee is \$10.00. For more information contact Cheryl Jasser, RD 1, Hop Bottom, PA 18824, 717-289-4733, or Walt Jasser, Sheepy Hollow Farm, Box 233, Hop Bottom, PA 18824, 717-289-4663.

May 25 & 26: The Cumminston trial is back at Cumminston, MA. There will be an open trial and a novice trial with two classes; novice/novice and ranch. This is being held in conjunction with the Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Fair. There will be a pot luck supper May 25 at 6:00 PM on the ground for all participants in the fair and the BC people are urged to participate. We are looking for volunteer help for this. Specifically, we need a time keeper, a secretary for the judge, people to help move sheep, and a truck large enough to hold 12 to 15 sheep (gas money provided). For more information contact Denise Leonard, 72 Shutesbury Road, Leverett, MA 01054, 413-549-1882.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Red and white puppies whelped October 27, 1 male and 2 females, both parents registered and working. For information contact Carole Presburg, Woolgather Farm, 75 Bear Hill Road, Merrimac, MA 01860, 617-346-4385.

The following is a copy of a letter sent out by Diane Kann calling for the unification of registry of BCs and their recognition by the AKC. It is followed by responses from our association written by Barbara Leverett, and from the editor of the Southern Stockdog Journal, Mike Devine. All members are urged to respond both to Ms. Kann (address below) and the AKC (American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010).

BORDER COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA
Road 2, Route 380, Box 223A, Sinclairville, NY 14782
716-962-8501

Dear Border Collie Owner/Breeder:

You have been recommended to our club as a person with an indepth interest in the Border Collie. We therefore would like to extend to you the offer to join the BCCA.

We are a group of Border Collie breeders, owners and admirers who have recently formed a club known as the BCCA--Border Collie Club of America. The purpose of this club is multi-fold. We hope to promote the versatile Border Collie for what he is--an intelligent working dog that can be dualled for obedience, pet or conformation. We also hope to coordinate a manual or book on this breed. And we hope to furnish one registry with which purebred Border Collies can be listed, in addition to any others that the breeder may choose to keep current with. At present, we see many dogs with backgrounds from more than one registry. It is our hope to unite these backgrounds into one.

Another goal that we are aiming toward is that of full AKC recognition. We believe that AKC recognition could serve to help everyone involved and if breeders worked together, the breed would not suffer as is feared by some. We therefore hope to establish our club's strength while it is in the early stages so that when we do attain AKC recognition in full, BCCA would not dissolve, but rather would become the National Specialty Club for the breed, merely dropping it's (sic) duties of registering the animals and of keeping such AKC files. It would still function to promote the breed and provide owners and breeders as well as prospective owners, the basis for the breed's existence. Doing this, we feel we could keep the breed from becoming a "beautiful, dumb show animal". Many other breeds have accomplished this goal, quite successfully.

Sincerely,
Diane Kann, Pres.

Dear Ms. Kann,

On behalf of the North East Border Collie Association (NEBCA) and my own

personal views I'm responding to a letter of yours printed in the Southern Stockdog Journal. We are quite strongly opposed to the goals of the Border Collie Club of America. Our association is composed of a variety of members but we all cherish the Border Collie for what they were bred to do, that is to herd livestock. I shudder at the thought of seeing them put on a show bench and judged for conformation. We do not need or want full AKC recognition. This could only harm the breed's working abilities. Attempting to establish type standards in addition to working ability would only mean that many good dogs would have to be eliminated due to the large variation within the breed.

From my background in animal genetics I know that whenever you select for more than one trait you decrease or reverse the progress that can be made in any one given trait. This is what has made the Border Collie so successful as a stockdog, we select for one trait and that is working ability. To remove ourselves from this single goal would be a disservice to the breed and to the many American livestock producers who depend on the Border Collie every day. Maybe I'm being naive in assuming that you have not seen a Border Collie work under practical conditions to appreciate how important their instinctive working ability is, but if I am correct in this assumption I would like to extend an invitation to our farm to see them in action.

NEBCA and myself strongly urge you to discontinue your attempts for a unified Border Collie registry and for full AKC recognition and put your energies towards promoting the breed as one of the best stockdogs in the world.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Leverett
Assistant Secretary (NEBCA)

EDITOR'S CORNER from SOUTHERN STOCKDOG JOURNAL

We're an independent lot we Border Collie folks. It is almost impossible to get us to agree on where to go to lunch, much less judging criteria, who the best judge is, what bloodlines produce the best pups, etc. As a result, our American organizations, associations, and societies devoted to the breed are, at best, loosely knit. We have never presented a united front on any issue, large or small.

It really hasn't mattered so much because until recently, the Border Collie and the people associated with it were pretty much unknown. Sure, you could catch the odd short feature on the dogs that would appear on TV from time to time and thousands of American farmers were quietly using them as they were meant to be used, but the vast majority of people in America didn't know about Border Collies and didn't care. Primary in their indifference was the American Kennel Club.

A few years ago, though, we started to mess up. American farmers, in the face of increasing man power costs, began using the dogs in unprecedented numbers. More organizations were formed to promote Border Collies and they were more aggressive than earlier organizations had been. Finally, Border Collies began to kick the socks off other breeds in AKC sponsored obedience trials. In short, we turned the spotlight on the breed.

Now we have to decide how to protect the Border Collie breed from the folks we spent so much time and effort educating.

What has prompted these comments is a letter forwarded to me from Pes Brown of Buffalo, S.D., soliciting her membership in a group calling itself the Border Collie Club of America. The letter, reprinted along with Pes's answer, identifies "full AKC recognition" for Border Collies as one of its goals. It is a letter worth reading if only for the misinformation it contains. In particular, I liked the statement that it was possible to establish bench standards and conduct bench trials for Border Collies without sacrificing brains for beauty. Ms. Kann, president of the BCCA asserts that "many other breeds have accomplished this goal, quite successfully."

I defy Ms. Kann to name eight or ten breeds with extended histories of conformation competition that still have enough of their native intelligence and/or instinct to be worth a hoot. There just ain't no such animal.

While I am sure that Ms. Kann is sincere in her beliefs but she is serving to front an organization that is totally antithetical to the development of the Border Collie in America. The Border Collie needs "full AKC recognition" like the Hungarian Jews needed full Nazi recognition in 1939.

The time has finally come for us to come together. Those of us interested in the Border Collie as he is intelligent, willing and endowed with incredible stock sense should let Ms. Kann and the AKC know that we are reasonably content with things the way they are. We don't need the kind of "help" being offered. If we have problems we will work them out ourselves.

If you have time please write Ms. Kann at the address on the letter and let her know how you feel. Perhaps we can persuade her to reconsider her present course of action if enough of us write.

LEONARD
72 SHUTESBURY RD.
LEVERETT, MA 01054

Stephen Wetmore
Box 54
Strafford, VT 05072

