

NEBCA News

The Official Publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc.



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That First Open Placement...

By Sally Molloy



NEBCA life member Alex McKinven receiving first place honors with old Moss at Cummington. (Not his first time placing in Open!)

For most novice sheepdog handlers, placing in an Open trial appears a distant and not-very-realistic dream: it seems quite challenging enough to remember that "come by" means "clockwise" and that (given their druthers) sheep tend to move toward other sheep. And it's all too easy to lose sight of the bigger picture while practicing for that next novice trial. The NEBCA Novice Committee would like to help remind everyone that becoming a good stockperson and ultimately a good Open handler *is* that bigger picture. We hope "That First Open Placement" will be at least a semi-regular column showing the glimmer of light at the end of the seemingly endless novice tunnel. We also hope that more of you will send in your anecdotes to share--whether they're heroic or amusing, they're bound to help inspire a novice or two!

Barbara Levinson lives in Morristown, New Jersey and has been handling sheepdogs for about ten years. She writes the following about her 10-year-old Ivy:


(Continued on page 11)

Editorializing...

By Fiona Robertson

I am honoured to be appointed new editor for NEBCA News and have already received lots of support from members offering ideas and help with gathering information. Emily Yazwinski has kindly offered to act as "Trial Results Coordinator" so Trial Managers, please help her out by sending your results, write ups and photos to her at least a week before the 1st of the month deadline. Her e-mail

is yazfam@shaysnet.com.

I hope to live up to everyone's expectations and I WELCOME your ideas, articles, photos and tributes. Please check page 2 for info on how to send stuff. Note that I suffered a major hard drive crash during the 2nd week in February, so anything sent to me then is lost. SORRY! Please re-send! 

NEBCA NEWS

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The NEBCA News is the official publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc. Four regular issues are published with supplements issued during the trial months as needed.

| Issue | Mailing Date | Submission Deadline |
|--------|--------------|---------------------|
| Spring | Mar 1 | Feb 1 |
| Summer | June 1 | May 1 |
| Fall | Sept 1 | Aug 1 |
| Winter | Dec 1 | Nov 1 |

Display Advertising Rates

Prices are for camera ready ads. Display advertising will only appear in the 4 quarterly issues:

| | Single | Year |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Business Cards (2"x3 1/2") | \$15 | \$50 |
| 1/4Page | \$35 | \$100 |
| 1/2 Page | \$50 | \$150 |
| Full Page | \$75 | \$225 |

Send all artwork to Fiona Robertson
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca
Send all checks payable to NEBCA
and send to NEBCA Secretary:

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Membership Information

NEBCA members will receive the newsletter, can borrow from the Nebca lending library and may participate in NEBCA sponsored events.

Annual membership dues is \$20 per individual or \$25 per farm/family. Membership renewals are due by Jan 1, but new members may join any time. New members joining after Oct. 1 will automatically be paid though the following year. To join, send your name and address along with your dues to the secretary, Maria Mick. Make checks payable to NEBCA.

Contribute!

Please send you trial results, articles, tributes, and photos to:

creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

Tips on taking digital photos for NEBCA News:

Set you camera to the highest resolution before you take the picture. The photo will use more memory, but will look best in print. When sending these large files by e-mail, please zip them first.

You can also scan prints to send by e-mail. Again, choose a higher resolution before you scan and zip the file to send.

You may also send your prints by snail mail to the Editor. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your photo back! (Note: use a regular US stamp—I cross the border almost weekly, so can mail from a US postbox easily.)

Articles will be accepted based on relevance to the working Border Collie and the mission of the Northeast Border Collie Association. All articles may be edited for content.



ABCA NEWS: Epilepsy Research Study

By Sally Lacy, ABCA Health & Genetics Committee

We on the ABCA Health & Genetics Committee agree that epilepsy is a devastating genetic disease. It is present in all dog breeds and mixed breeds and no-breeds at an estimated incidence of 2-5% (Heynold Y, et al., 1997). Unfortunately the Border Collie is not an exception. We know of dogs from good working pedigrees that have been put down because of epilepsy. We have been collecting pedigrees for several years and are currently working on establishing collaborations for Border Collie breed specific research that we will hope will be as fruitful as the ones we've established for eye diseases and hip dysplasia.

If you have a Border Collie with epilepsy, you must be wondering what you can do to help advance the knowledge about epilepsy and its genetic basis. We are working on providing an avenue for you to help. Here's what we need from you to aid in our genetic mapping project: Vet records including results of any blood tests, spinal taps, x-rays or other investigations; completion of a questionnaire which will describe the onset, type, duration and location of seizures and other symptoms experienced by your dog; pedigree of your dog (which will be coded and kept completely confidential) so that we can tie it into the pedigrees we are assembling; a blood sample for DNA (more on that later); and probably the most difficult task, but the item we're most in need of, a videotape of a couple of seizures. This will help in identifying the type of epilepsy present.

Determining a genetic cause for Idiopathic Epilepsy (IE) in Border Collies begins with basically a "negative" diagnosis in that trauma, tumors and other illnesses that manifest themselves with seizures are ruled out. However, the diagnosis of IE is not sufficient for including an individual for a genetic mapping project. In humans, there are several subtypes of IE and, within these subtypes, different genes have been associated with the disorders. Many of them have been separated from each other by age of onset, but also in the specific description of the entire seizure event. Not all seizures are created equal and their progression across the body can map back to a particular part of the cortex and demonstrate a particular sub-type of IE.

One problem for veterinary neurologists, is that they very rarely get to witness a seizure event and because the patient cannot self-report, they are very dependent on a very accurate description of the seizure by the owner to try to classify it. Usually, the owner's description is not sufficient to adequately sub-type the seizure, making it difficult to generate pedigrees that will be "pure" enough to enable genetic mapping. If dogs in a genetic mapping project have epilepsy caused by different genes, it becomes much more difficult to isolate any one gene as a cause for the disease because of the "noise"

this creates. By videotaping a dog having a seizure, you give the neurologist a chance to adequately determine the sub-type of IE and aid tremendously to a genetic mapping project.

One major problem with genetic mapping of IE, is that most IE dogs aren't kept around long enough to provide DNA samples. We are in the process of setting up a facility for archiving DNA samples from our affected Border Collies. When we have the facility set, we will notify those who have contacted us where and how they can send their blood samples.

We would also be interested to hear from veterinarians who might have working Border Collies with IE in their practices and who would like to help recruit study participants. At this point we are confining the research to Border Collies with strong working-line pedigrees.


If you would like to participate in this study, please send email to one of the following committee members:

Mellissa DeMille mellissa@sheepdog.com (principal investigator)

Denise Wall cdwall1@yadtel.net

Amy Coapman acoapman@karuk.us

Sally Lacy keswickfarm@monad.net

Or write to: Sally Lacy, P.O. Box 729, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447 USA 

Send your funny photos !



Betty Levin & Roger Deschambeault at the NH State Championship SDT last fall. For results, see page 5. We're not sure who's having more fun....Betty or Roger? (or the dog?)

View From the Past...



Border Collie Rescue

By Fiona Robertson

Most of us, as trial competitors, would never think of taking a rescue into our kennel or homes. When we are thinking of adding a new dog or pup, we need to be “guaranteed” that we are getting a working Border Collie. We look at the working ability of the parents and other relatives, pedigree, as well as the talents of any other offspring the potential sire and dam has produced. With a rescue, you can’t usually get this.

Border Collies that end up in rescue don’t usually come with a pedigree or ancestral history. They enter into rescue as strays, or from bad situations (in some cases, from *really* bad situations).

We, as Border Collie lovers can help. Here’s how:

- Donate-money, dog food, toys, supplies, even some time to help.
- Screen-as breeders, we must continue to carefully screen potential puppy buyers. The most common reason BC’s are relinquished is simply due to mismatching the needs of the high-drive dog with a “low-drive” owner.
- Foster-if you have the space and time.
- Adopt-you may just be very surprised at how many super dogs are waiting for their second chance on life!

(Continued on page 18)



“Blaze” adopted from Glen Highland Farm and now learning agility



Trial Results



New Hampshire State Championship September 27, 2003 Judge: Jim Cropper

By Gabe Merrill

This year our trial had weather much like the spring trial – drizzle and some rain at times. Our judge, Jim Cropper, said that it was just like the weather at home! The sheep worked very well so everyone had a good and even chance. Thanks to all for the help setting out, exhausting, etc. Without help it would be hard to put on a trial. Thanks to Betty Murray for keeping the scores.

Jim and Shirley stayed with Kris and Roger for about 2 weeks and while there took in the Fryeburg Fair and gave some lessons. He is a good teacher. Kris and Roger put on a great meal after the trial. A good time was had by all.

45 dogs to the post

1. Roger Deschambeault and Joe 91
2. Sue Schoen and Willy 90
3. Sue Schoen and Nap 89
4. Roger Deschambeault and Ken 88
5. Denise Leonard and Rose 83
6. Gabe Merrill and Sue 82
7. Dave Webster and Moe 81
8. Maurice MacGregor and Mindy 81
9. Brenda Buja and Dice 81
10. Maurice MacGregor and Kate 81



Judge Jim Cropper congratulating Roger Deschambeault for his winning run with Joe.

Fryeburg Fair Open Sheepdog Trial September 28, 2003 Judge: Jim Cropper

By Gabe Merrill

Well here we are the last trial to be held in our area this year. It seems as though the spring trial was yesterday. Summer was too short. We have large crowds at this trial. Jim Cropper did a fine job watching the runs and scoring them accordingly. Shirley scribed for him. We enjoyed having them here.

Lyn and Steve announced throughout the day. Thanks to Betty Murray for keeping and posting scores.

43 dogs to the post

1. Roger Deschambeault and Trim 93
2. Gabe Merrill and Sue 92
3. Steve Wetmore and Dart 91
4. Maurice MacGregor and Kate 90
5. Maurice MacGregor and Mindy 89
6. Sue Schoen and Nap 88
7. Betty Levin and Folly 85
8. Ed Hobart and Angel 84
9. Betty Levin and Maddie 84
10. Roger Deschambeault and Ken 84

More Trial Results on page 6 & 7

Attention Trial Managers:

Members appreciate write-ups! If you would like help in finding someone to do a write up of your trial, please contact the Trial Results Coordinator at: yazfam@shaysnet.com

Ethics & Etiquette: Accurate Pedigrees

By Bruce Smart, President of the ABCA

Most of us who are members of NEBCA register our dogs with the American Border Collie Association (ABCA). Canadians will often register with the Canadian Border Collie Association (CBCA) and quite a few pups will be registered with both.

The ABCA is the dominant registry in North America and issues about 18,000 pedigrees a year. I have the dubious honor of being the President of ABCA and would like to tell you of our concern about the accuracy of pedigrees.


I won't belabor the point about the need for pedigrees to be accurate, suffice it to say that when buying or selling a Border Collie or making breeding decisions we rely on the pedigree. However, the information on the pedigree comes from the declarations of the breeder and the owner of the sire – often the same person. If those declarations are inaccurate, either by accident or deliberate falsification, then the pedigree will also be wrong.

I believe that the vast majority of breeders take their responsibility for accurate declarations very seriously. However, there may be some people who will abuse the honor system of reporting. If they are breeding a lot of pups they may not be keeping adequate records of matings. They may be careless in exposing females in heat to males.

Whatever their motives their declarations on the registration form are not always accurate. This is a very serious fault and ABCA will treat it as such.

If you go to the ABCA website under NEWS you will see a Disciplinary Procedure that has been put in place. The penalties for falsifying registration forms will be very serious including censure, suspension or expulsion from membership.

The ABCA does not wish to start a witch hunt but if we become aware of such false declarations then they should be reported to the Secretary of ABCA.

Now that DNA testing is available we have a useful tool to validate pedigrees. 

*Have an idea for this column?
Send to the Editor at:
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca*



Trial Results



Blue Hill Fair / Northeast Open Points Trials August 30-31, 2003 Scorekeeper/Judge: Carol Goodwin

By Steve Wetmore

The Blue Hill Fair claims the bragging rights to the longest continuously run sheep dog trials in the country; this year was their 47th year!! And for 47 years without fail, they have been managed by May & Jim Davidson- thank you so much! These are two arena-type trials; Saturday is in a small ring and Sunday the dogs run on the racetrack in front of the grandstands- which are packed to standing room only! Saturday also draws a huge crowd with spectators 3 to 4 deep around the tiny ring. There is a serious and devoted following of trial enthusiasts in downeast Maine!! The sheep were Roger Deschambeault's horned Dorsets. Both trials are pointed, so the crowds can easily follow the action, and at times there is a lot of it!! In case of ties (which there are many), the fastest time wins. At only \$5.00 a dog entry fee, this is also one of the least expensive trials to run in; even though the fair pays handsomely to the top ten each day. The trials only last 3 to 4 hours a day (because the venues are small, each run only takes at most 4 minutes), so there's plenty of time for lobster rolls, fries, and ice cream!

Aug 30, 2003 Blue Hill Fair SDT 34 dogs to the post

1. Maurice MacGregor & Sam
2. Betty Levin & Maddie
3. Lynn Deschambeault & Di
4. Bruce Smart & Dolly
5. Roger Deschambeault & Joe
6. Maurice MacGregor & Kate
7. Sue Schoen & Nap
8. Roger D. & Ken
9. Sue Schoen & Clair
10. Dave Craven & Mirk

Aug 31, 2003 N.E. Open SDT 32 dogs to the post

1. Stephen Wetmore & Dart
2. Maurice MacGregor & Mindy
3. Bruce Smart & Dolly
4. Lynn Deschambeault & Di
5. Stephen Wetmore & Keegan
6. Roger Deschambeault & Joe
7. Maurice MacGregor & Sam
8. Gregg Hamm & Maya
9. Sue Schoen & Clair
10. Barbara Starkey & Dot

Special Awards: Sat, Aug 30, 2003

High Score to Maurice MacGregor. & Sam
High drive to Dave Craven & Mirk
High gather to Dave Craven & Mirk
High pen to Maurice MacGregor & Sam
Long road winner to Maurice MacGregor & Sam

Special Awards: Sun, Aug 31, 2003

High score to Stephen Wetmore & Dart
High drive to Roger Deschambeault & Joe
High gather to Sue Schoen & Clair
High pen to Stephen Wetmore & Dart
Long road winner to Stephen Wetmore & Dart

More Trial Results on Page 7



Trial Results



**Vermont State Championship, Quechee, VT
Aug. 23, 2003 Judge: Gary Westbrook, AR
72 dogs to the post (12 places paid)**

1. Paul Heidenberg & Jody
2. Warren Mick & Glen
3. Denise Leonard & Rose
4. Bev Lambert & Rue
5. Fiona Robertson & Pat
6. Maurice MacGregor & Kate
7. Roger Deschambeault & Trim
8. Barb Armata & Rhett
9. Barb Levinson & Lass
10. Ed Hobart & Joy
11. Steve Wetmore & Dart
12. Michael Dathe & Cooper

**Spring Valley farm SDT, Strafford, VT
Aug. 24, 2003 Judge: Gary Westbrook, AR
60 dogs to the post**

1. Bev Lambert & Pippa
2. Barb Levinson & Lass
3. Bev Lambert & Bill
4. Michael Dathe & Cooper
5. Sally Lacy & Chess
6. Steve Wetmore & Gyp
7. Warren Mick & Glen
8. Fiona Robertson & Pat
9. Barb Armata & Jazz
10. Brenda Buja & Dice
11. Maria Amodei & Cato
12. Betty Levin & Folly



NEBCA Library

By Margaret Wheeler, NEBCA Librarian

My predecessor, Emily Yazwinski and her family run a busy dairy farm. They run 150 head and milk 80 everyday. So I guess you would say that Emily is busy what with the farm, her accomplished children, her dogs (that she trains herself) and being what I think of as "Power Help" for NEBCA and the New England herding community. Despite the many demands on her time, she still managed to set up the library records in such an organized way that I (who have fewer demands on my time) will be able to accept email library request and bring library materials to trials. Without Emily's stewardship and care, this would have been very difficult to accomplish. Thank You Emily!

I met Emily for the first time at a Kathy Knox clinic at Bittersweet Farm a year ago last July. Even in that short time, I have already developed a habit of mind where Emily is concerned: I expect her to impress me, not TRY to impress me mind you. Emily is very modest. She would never toot her own horn.


That first time I met her it was the cool Indian Runner ducks that she brought, the superb dishes she prepared for the potluck and her great son who worked the sheep pen all

through the hot day without one word of complaint. At this years New Years Day trial, it was her knitting and her lovely daughter. Okay, I imagine that most of you NEBCA members can knit in the dark with one hand tied behind your back, but I was flabbergasted by these wonderful hats that the Yazwinski women had made. At the risk of sounding like I'm from Idaho (I am from Idaho) these hats were so cleverly and carefully made, they looked *storebought!* However, it goes without saying that you could look and hard and not find a hat with roosters flaunting bright red combs preening all around the edge. And this time it was Emily's daughter who worked the sheep pen all through the cold day wearing her own beautifully knitted hat (ice blue with creamy snowflake shapes I think).

So when I touched base with Emily today, I was ready to be impressed yet again, and I was but couldn't have predicted that I would be floored by the fact that Emily used to run a sled dog team. Who Knew?!

Well as one might expect, Emily left the library in topnotch condition. Everything is listed and labeled and all set to go. With encouragement

from Warren Mick, we have decided to try a few new library policies:

- I will now accept email requests for library materials: my email address is drumlins@adelphia.net. Please put **NEBCA Library** in the subject line so that everything will be directed to one Outlook folder.
- Second, payment can be sent with returned videos. Borrowers will not need to pay in advance.
- I will bring the library along to at least three trials throughout the spring and fall. I am open to suggestions as to which trials to bring them to, but I'm thinking that I will try to hit a trial in New England, a trial in New York and a trial in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. 

For an up to date listing of NEBCA library holdings, go to page 12.

LONG SHOT FARM SHEEPDOG TRIAL

Church Hill, Maryland

April 2, 3, 4, 5 2004

SANCTIONED USBCHA & NEBCA

Phone 410-758-3363 or email longsht@dmv.com

Open & Ranch Judge: Kent Kuykendall

Nursery, Pro Novice & Novice Judge: Carol Calhoun

Entry Fees and Prizes

Open: \$40 Cash & Ribbons to 10 places
Ranch: \$25 Ribbons to 10 places
Pro Novice: \$20 Ribbons to 10 places
Novice: \$20 Ribbons to 10 places
Nursery: \$25 Ribbons to 5 places
Special Awards for two day overall champion in each class (except nursery)

Camping Available, No Hookups
Concessions at trial

Motels:

Courtyard Inn 410-778-2755
Rivers B&B 410-778-6437
Claddaugh B & B 410-778-4894

OPEN CLASS ONLY: 2 dog limit unless time allows for third dog; list dogs name as 3rd choice but pay that day. Due to entries and time we reserve the right to run to standards if needed in open class. Dogs running sheep out of control or off course will be called off.

Running Order: Friday: Open Class 1, Saturday: Open Class 2 (First half), Ranch 1, Sunday: Open Class 2 (second half) Ranch 2, Monday: USBCHA Nursery, Pro Novice 1, Novice 1, Pro Novice 2 and Novice 2.
All classes start 6:45 handlers meeting and start class thereafter.

FOOD: Plenty of good food for sale throughout day at trial

Friday Night: New this year, Local farmer to roast pig with trimmings, \$10 per person but pay that night

Saturday and Sunday: The great buffet dinner catered by Jimmy's Grille, \$16 per person (includes tons of food, deserts, ice tea, coffee) Beer and wine provided by hosts. **NOTE: These meals must be paid for with this entry.**

| HANDLER | DOG | CLASS | FRI / SAT / SUN / MON | FEE |
|---------|-----|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Number of Dinners Sat: _____ Sun: _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Sherry Smith, 211 Long Shot Farm Lane, Church Hill, MD 21623.

NO ENTRIES POSTMARKED BEFORE MARCH 2nd, '04. There is a limited entries. **No refunds after March 15th, '04.**

____ Waiting list entry desired. (Please check if interested, otherwise entry will be returned if trial is full. Checks will be cashed after March 15th, 2004.

I understand that I am responsible for any and all damages done to livestock, property and/or persons by myself, my dog(s) or any member of my party. I also understand that in the event of personal injury or damage to my property or animals that I will not hold anyone hosting or associated with this event responsible.

Signature: _____

Date _____

Address: _____

Phone&Email: _____

A Tribute to Swift

By Michele Higgins

Swift...



She was my sheepdog,
raised her from a pup,
I so enjoyed her while she grew up,
had a slow start,
but she was all heart,
I was a novice you see,
and she was so forgiving of me.

How fast from my feet, away she would fly,
running with ease, like she never had to try,
rounding the top at the blink of an eye.

I named my fast little sheepdog Swift,
so very special to me, truly a gift,
20/10 was usual on outrun and lift,
we grew together, made a good team,
we had a long career ahead or so it would seem.

Then just a few days after our first time in open,
my heart would forever be broken,
she just was not right,
it was then I discovered our plight,
Swift had terminal cancer,
not what I wanted to hear for an answer.

For three months she put up a good fight,
but in the end I did what was right,
just a few days after she turned seven,
I had to send her off to Heaven,
Swift was my girl, my angel, sent from above,
to teach me what it was to have unconditional love.

Never again will I run my hands through her fur,
waiting our chance to walk to the post,
Swift was a dog who always gave me her most,
that is how I will always remember her,
Please forgive me if I seem to boast.

I will forever miss her, such a special gift,
My fast little sheepdog, the one I named Swift.



ABCA Initiates Pilot Study of Hip Dysplasia

by Sally Lacy

Like herding ability, hip formation is a complex trait which is the sum of a dog's genes and its environment; and these traits develop over time correctly - or not - directed by an interaction of genes and environment.

While genes provide the blueprint for how the hip joint is built, the environment provides both the building materials and the stresses

on the maturing joint. Hip dysplasia (HD) is a *trait* (sum of genes and environment). Osteoarthritis (OA) is the *disease* caused by poorly formed hips. The HD trait starts with genes that cause errors in the way the hip capsule forms, and it also is affected by environmental factors that affect the amount of banging around that takes place in the joint as the puppy is growing.

Dr. Rory Todhunter of Cornell University is studying HD on two levels: diagnostic and molecular. He is looking for the most useful tools to predict whether the mature joint will be normal or not, and he is looking for specific differences in the genome between dogs that have bad hips, those which have good hips, and those which have some of

(Continued on page 18)

NEBCA Business

Minutes from the January 17th NEBCA Annual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM, 39 members present

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes - Last meeting in July, motion to accept by Gene Sheninger, seconded by anonymous.
2. Election Results - The election committee was comprised of Denise Leonard, Emily Yazwinski and Kate Collins. Denise noted that there were a significant number of the original incorrect ballot submitted and that the results were substantially different depending on whether they were counted or not. Warren explained that the original ballot that went out with the newsletter incorrectly omitted two names. A revised ballot was sent/given to all members so they were aware of all names on the ballot. Discussion followed as to whether the vote was valid. George Northrop motioned that the vote be invalidated. Motion was seconded by Gene Sheninger, and passed. Warren said a committee would be formed to decide how to revote and that the committee would include the two board members whose positions were not affected by the vote.
3. Secretary's report given by Maria Mick. Membership tallies for current 2004 are approximately 154 with 40 family memberships as compared to 287 with 70 family memberships at the end of 2003.
4. Discussion of last year's committee report to evaluate why membership is declining and how to possibly increase membership. Steve Wetmore suggested a reduced rate be offered to first time members. Carol Campion suggests printing of library holdings in newsletter, as well as including articles of interest to non-trialing members. It was announced that the new editor of the newsletter is Fiona Robertson. Rob Drummond suggested a providing members NEBCA decals/pins to display would help advertise the club. Carol Campion suggested expanding the links page on the website to make it a more useful. Rose Redick suggested listing resource people, but majority disagrees since this could potentially mean an endorsement by the club. Gene Sheninger suggests adding a request for further info in the 2000 newly printed pamphlets. Could add to the membership renewal form a checkbox if you wanted your name to be published on a public membership list (pay for access to this list). Emily Yazwinski proposed allowing members to prepay member dues for several years at a time. Betty Levin suggested offering a discount for doing this.
5. Treasurer's report given by Warren Mick. The 2003 budget summary prepared by Jim Strohecker was presented along with a proposed budget for 2004 (both are included in this newsletter). As of January 14 the balance in checking account was \$12168.18. Gene Sheninger noted that total income and expenses for Fall Foliage and Novice Finals in Jim's report did not agree with the budgets that were printed in the winter newsletter. Warren said he would work with Jim to find out why. Steve Wetmore motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded Gene Sheninger, and passed. Gene stated that the proposed budgets for the 2004 Fall Foliage and Novice Finals were not correct. He motioned that the amounts should be \$2000 and \$1000, respectively. Motion seconded by Steve Wetmore, and passed.
6. Board of Directors – Given by Sue Schoen. Sue noted that there were no major issues before the board at the moment. The board was in the process of formulating guidelines for bequeathing lifetime membership status. Kate Collins suggested that the board should come up with a guideline or written policy on the process used to handle complaints.
7. Open trials committee – Given by George Northrop. No significant issues last year. About 40 dogs ran in Fall Foliage. Second time ever in NEBCA history to have Supreme Champion (winner of Fall Foliage and High Points competition): Warren Mick and Glen. Proposal of 2004 Fall Foliage site to be Bill Fosher's field in Amherst, MA. If anyone has an idea for a judge, please notify George Northrop.
8. Steve Wetmore suggested that each trial offer some sort of recognition to award to the person/dog that would win the Long Road Award.
9. Novice trials committee – Given by Sally Molloy. Sally welcomed Rob Drummond and Ron McGettigan to the novice trial committee (they join Sally Molloy and Michele Higgins). The 2003 Novice finals were held at Alix Cleveland's farm in Pennsylvania.
10. Proposed novice rule changes: Proposal (1), taking a dog down two levels, passed, 33 for, 12 against. Proposal (2), consistency between novice and open guidelines as to what constitutes placing in open, passed. Proposal (3), definition of novice trial season, passed.
11. The 2004 novice finals will be held in Morristown, New Jersey Sept. 18 – 19. Fosterfields will waive rental fee and will allow Gene Sheninger's sheep to remain from his Labor Day trial for the Novice Finals. Since it will be public event NEBCA will need to supply a program. NEBCA will need to sign a contract with Fosterfields and provide insurance. Handlers will also need to sign the standard release form.
12. Fund raising committee – given by Warren. The 2003 fundraising effort went very well. All the hats are sold and only a few T-shirts are left. A plan for 2004 fundraising has not been worked out yet. Jody Somers has offered to be on the committee again.
13. Calendar report – given by Kate Collins. All calendars sold out several weeks ago. Kate motioned that we print 600 calendars this year. Motion seconded by Sally Molloy and passed.

(Continued on page 13)

That First Open Placement


(Continued from page 1)

I had been trialing two years when I met Ivy. Her sire was Walt Jagger's Celt and her mother was a Jack Mon-sour bitch working as a farm dog in the sheep barns at Cook College, a part of Rutgers University, here in New Jersey. She had been started as a replacement for her mother by Barbara Leverett. I purchased Ivy as started dog; she was not yet driving. I ran her as a three-year-old in the prescribed NEBCA fashion: NN, PN, and Ranch. Then on to Open. She was my first Open dog--at that time my only Open dog--and I went to trials near and far with one dog. Based on my experiences with her in the novice classes, I thought I had a pretty good chance at Open, until I got there. We spent our first year working hard to be competitive, struggling with all the finer points of managing an Open field. As it turned out, this was the year the USBCHA finals were to be held in Virginia. At the last local trial before the USBCHA year ended, I earned a point. Literally, a point. I sent my entry in to Francis [Raley, secretary of the USBCHA] and earned my place at the finals. I was so proud of Ivy. It was our first year in Open, she was clearly not yet a seasoned Open dog, and then, of course, there was her handler. As her career progressed and our teamwork improved, she went on to do really amazing things. First place ribbons in Open, honorable mentions for outwork, an amazing shedder and a great teacher.

When Denise Leonard of Greenfield, MA started trialing in the early 1970s, there were no novice classes! Entries were considerably smaller, and trials were fewer and farther between. Denise writes the following about those early days with her dog Kirk:

There were five dogs or so in the class. I can't remember who was judging, but competing (I think) were Betty Levin, Ellen Raja, Crawford Taisey, and Margaret Helburn. We were supposed to do an outrun, lift, fetch, and a short drive. Because I finished the drive so quickly, they decided I should then wear though the panels. And then there was a pen. At the time the course seemed huge, but in actuality it was probably quite small.

I then went on to place at Blue Hill Fair Sheep Dog Trial and the Augusta Sheep Dog Trial with Kirk. I remember placing fifth with him at the Blue Hill Fair. He was probably about three at the time. He qualified for the final run in twelfth place and had a great final run finishing fifth.

At that time there were probably only three or four trials in the area: two over the Labor Day weekend at the Blue Hill Fair, one in Augusta, Maine, and one at the Codman Farm in Lincoln, MA. Since Kirk was born in 1973, this is pretty ancient history. But it may be of interest. 

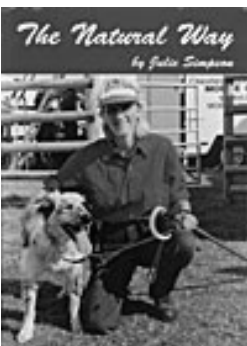
We'd like to thank Barbara and Denise for sharing their stories with us. If you have a first open placement that you would like to share, please send it to sally.molloy@patmedia.net, or snail mail to:

Sally Molloy
80 Sycamore Lane
Skillman, NJ 08558

Book Review: *The Natural Way*, by Julie Simpson By Margaret Wheeler

How is a Book Like a Working Border Collie?

The Natural Way, Julie Simpson's training book has this in common with the dogs we admire: outwardly, it is simple and spare, but underneath every necessary quality is present and everything present is necessarily devoted to the task at hand.



The early chapters of *The Natural Way* are focused on important general principles: *Stock and Sheep Sense*, herding *Dogs*, *Border collies* in particular and *Choosing and Buying a Dog*. These chapters offer an enormous amount of practical, concrete information, but they also work together to make a very strong, virtually irrefutable argument for the importance of breeding and training sheepdogs for real work on livestock. An autobiographical chapter, Julie's life story, is among these early chapters as well. From it we learn that while Julie is enormously accomplished on the trial field, she also has many years of experience as a work-

ing shepherd in charge of large numbers of sheep. She tells her story humbly and with great humor, but upon reading it one is convinced that Julie Simpson is eminently qualified to speak authoritatively about the working stockdog.

Several of my friends have read this book and our conversations about it always begin with a discussion of Julie's autobiography. We enjoyed her story tremendously. Un-traveled American that I am I was particularly taken by Julie's descriptions of the difficult and sometimes dangerous task of working livestock along the

(Continued on page 14)

NEBCA Library Holdings

BOOKS - Training the Sheep Dog

1. E.B. Carpenter – *The Border Collie: Basic Training for Sheepwork*
2. Katy Cropper – *A Dog's Life in the Dales*
3. Bruce Fogt – *Lessons from a Stockdog*
4. John Holmes – *A Farmer's Dog*
5. Tony Iley – *Sheepdogs at Work*
6. Glyn Jones – *A Way Of Life*
7. Scott Lithgow – *Training and Working Dogs for Quiet Confident Control of Stock*
8. Tim Longton – *The Sheep Dog: Its Work and Training*
9. Thomas Longton & Barbara Sykes – *Training the Sheep Dog*
10. Luke Pasio – *Heather Jean: The Working Sheep Dog*
11. Pope Robertson – *Anybody Can Do It*
12. Mari Taggart – *Sheepdog training; An All-Breed Approach*
13. John Templeton – *Working Sheep Dogs – Management and Training*
14. Virgil Holland – *Herding Dogs – Progressive Training*
15. Julie Simpson – *The Natural Way*
16. Derek Scrimgeour – *Talking Sheepdogs*
17. Janet Larson – *The Versatile Border Collie*
18. Marjorie Quarton – *All About the Working Collie*
19. Barbara Swann – *The Complete Border Collie*

BOOKS - General Training / Health

1. Delta Society – *Professional Standards for Dog trainers: Effective, Humane Principles*
2. American Humane Association – *Guide to Humane Dog Training*
3. Eddie Straiton – *Dog Ailments – Recognition and Treatment*
4. Bruce Fogle, D.V.M. – *The Dog's Mind – Understanding your Dog's Behavior*
5. Monks of New Skete – *The Art of Raising a Puppy*

BOOKS – Shepherd's Life

1. G.M. Anderson – *Times Remembered*
2. John Barrington – *Red Sky At Night*
3. Louis Irigaray – *A Shepherd Watches, A Shepherd Sings*
4. Phillip Keller – *Lessons From a Sheepdog*
5. Iain R. Thomson – *Isolation Shepherd*

BOOKS - Fiction/Children's

1. James Herriott – *Dog Stories*
2. James Herriott – *Only One Woof*
3. Betty Levin – *Away To ME, Moss*
4. Dick King-Smith – *Babe the Gallant Pig*

BOOKS - Miscellaneous

1. Jane Burton – *A Dog's Life, A Year in the Life of a Dog Family (photos)*
2. E.B. Carpenter – *The Blue Riband of the Heather, The Supreme Champions 1906-1988*
3. Betty Cavanna – *The First Book of Wool*

4. Noel Flanders – *The Joy of Running Sled Dogs*
5. Colin Gordon – *One Man's Opinion, An Approach & Guide to Judging Sheepdog Trials*
6. Leo Gowan – *The Craft of Stickmaking*
7. Sheila Grew – *Key Dogs, Volume 1 & 2*
8. Eric Halsall – *Sheepdogs, My Faithful Friends*
9. Donald McCaig – *Eminent Dogs, Dangerous Men*
10. Olivia Mills – *Practical Sheep Dairying*
11. Jane Simmons-Moake – *Agility Training – The Fun Sport for all Dogs*
12. American Rescue Dog Association – *Search and Rescue Dogs – Training Methods*

VIDEOS

1. 1988 International Supreme (Parts 1 & 2)
2. 1989 British International Supreme (Parts 1 & 2)
3. 1991 British International Championship
4. 1992 British International Sheepdog Trials
5. 1993 International Supreme Sheepdog Championship
6. 1994 International Supreme Championship
7. 1995 International Supreme Championship
8. 1996 International Supreme Championship
9. 1998 International Supreme Championship (Tape A & B)
10. *One Man and His Dog* - 1990 (poor quality)
11. *One Man and His Dog* - 1991, includes part of 1989 International (poor quality)
12. *One Man and His Dog* – BBC of America -Tape A (includes 3 weeks shows)
13. *One Man and His Dog* - BBC of America -Tape B (includes 3 weeks shows)
14. 1994 Nationals (4 Tape set \$12.00 rental)
15. 1995 Nationals
16. 1996 Nationals (4 Tape set \$12.00 rental)
17. 1996 Best of the Best Nationals (includes runoff between Macrae & Wilson)
18. 1998 Nationals (2 Tape set ; Top 20)
19. 1999 Nationals – Rural Route Video
20. 2000 Nationals – Rural Route Video
21. 2001 Nationals – Rural Route Video
22. 2001 National Cowdog Finals – Rural route Video
23. *The Year of the Working Sheepdog* – filmed in England
24. *Training the Working Border Collie* – Tony Collins (Parts I & II) (2 tape set)
25. *Come Bye! And Away! The Early Stages of Sheep Dog Training* – Glyn Jones (Tape I)
26. *That'll Do! Widening the Sheepdog's Experience* - Glyn Jones (Tape II)
27. *Take Time* - Glyn Jones (Tape III)
28. *Training The Working Stock Dog* – Elvin Kopp (Parts I, II, & III) (3 tape set)
29. *Stockdog Training Fundamentals* - Mike Hubbard
30. *Training Your Dog for Cattle* - Mike Hubbard
31. *SDTF Outwork & Drives* - Mike Hubba

(Continued on page 14)

NEBCA Business: Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 10)

14. Newsletter report - Given by Warren Mick. He stated that Lori Cunningham had stepped down as newsletter editor and that Fiona Robertson from North Hatley, Quebec would be taking over. He expressed thanks to Lori for her efforts as editor for the past three years. Fiona will send the newsletter electronically to Warren who will have it printed and mailed. Mailings for newsletters will be March 1 and every 3 months thereafter. Deadlines for submissions will be one month prior to each mailing date. Rose Redick offered to help with the mailing.
15. Library report - Given by Emily Yazwinski. Emily said borrowing was down in 2003. She suggested that the library holdings be published in the newsletter and perhaps a pullout sheet with the holdings be available at trials and be given along with the newly printed pamphlets. Emily proposed adding three new items to the library this year: the 2003 International Sheepdog Trial video and the new books by Julie Simpson and Derek Scrimgeour. Emily said she would be stepping down as librarian and introduced Margaret Wheeler who will be taking over. Margaret and Warren both thanked to Emily for serving. Carol Champion motioned that the operating budget of the library for 2004 be \$200. Motion seconded by Denise Leonard and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

16. Presentation of Awards - Sally Molloy said Carol Goodwin's Bama was the only dog to point out of novice-novice in 2003 and they would be receiving a plaque. Steve Wetmore stated a "Handlers" award would be give to NEBCA's Supreme Champion - Warren Mick and Glen. The award will be a pen and ink portrait of Glen by Shannon King. Steve will be collecting donations from the handlers to pay for the award. Sue Schoen presented a Recognition Award of lifetime membership to Betty Murray for her years of dedication and service to NEBCA.
17. Betty Levin proposed changing the bylaws so that each Director on the Board serve a four year term and would not be able to serve consecutive terms. She said a longer term would provide more continuity and the one term limit would give more people a chance to contribute. Warren said a committee would be appointed to review this proposal and make a recommendation.
18. Questions were asked as to what was covered by NEBCA's insurance. Warren said that Dick Williams was most knowledgeable about this but that the policy only provides liability coverage for the clubs officers. Special coverage was added in 2003 for the Novice finals and Fall Foliage trials. Gene noted that USBCHA sanctioned trials can get insurance under the USBCHA policy for a small fee.
19. Carol Champion asked if the club thought it appropriate to address the issue of sportsmanship in the Northeast. Due to the growing number of people from out of the area commenting on the poor sportsmanship

in the Northeast, it was suggested that NEBCA's Board of Directors look into the issue. Several members present felt that action should be taken to find ways to promote better sportsmanship.

20. Warren relayed a concern of Jim Strohecker that we need to promote new judges from the NEBCA ranks. It was suggested that NEBCA should sponsor some judging clinics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

21. Sally Lacy reviewed two research projects being supported by the ABCA. In one study, being done at Cornell, a new test for hip dysplasia called DLS is being developed. The second study regards epilepsy in dogs.
22. The Renaissance Farm trial will not be held this year. Jim and Joanne Murphy have offered to do a trial during that time.
23. Photos for the 2005 calendar should be sent to Denise Leonard or Kate Collins before the end of January.
24. Meeting dates for 2004 - Four tentative meeting dates were given: 1) in May in MA, 2) in early July at the Lynch Mob Trial 3) in August at the Leatherstocking trial (or possibly at Fosterfields) and 4) in late September at the New Hampshire trial.
25. Motion for adjournment made by Gene Sheninger and seconded by George Northrop. Adjourned 2:55 PM.

2003 Treasurers Report - Year End

Submitted by Jim Strohecker, Treasurer, January 14, 2004

| Income Category | Amount | Expense Category | Amount |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Membership | \$5065.00 | Newsletter | \$3673.95 |
| Breeder's List | \$350.00 | Insurance Premium | \$494.00 |
| Library | \$112.00 | Library | \$182.58 |
| Fence Rental | \$150.00 | Bank Charges | \$40.00 |
| Newsletter Ads | \$49.00 | Corp. Renewal | \$18.50 |
| Nursery Finals | \$1720.00 | Nursery Finals | \$1768.60 |
| Fall Foliage | \$1290.00 | Fall Foliage | \$2461.68 |
| Calendars | \$2498.50 | Calendars | \$2251.92 |
| Fundraising | \$3177.16 | Fundraising | \$1990.00 |
| | | Misc. | \$400.00 |
| | | Awards | \$175.93 |
| Total Income | \$14411.66 | Total Expense | \$13457.16 |

(Continued on page 18)

NEBCA Library Holdings

(Continued from page 12)

32. How To Get The Most From Your Working Dog – Scott Lithgow, (Companion to his book, Training and Working Dogs)
33. University of Guelph Series: (3 tape set)
Part 1 – “Selection and Early Training of Border Collies”
Part 2 – “Basic Training for Sheep Work”
Part 3 – “Advanced Training For Sheep Work”
34. Training and Working a Border Collie – Rural Route Video
35. The Sheepdog Video – The Training and Handling of a Sheepdog for the Better Management of Small Stock - filmed in South Africa
36. Training the Working Stockdog – Gary Erikson
37. How to Handle Cattle with Cows – Phil Phillips
38. Learn How to Train Your Stockdog the Right Way - Chuck O'Reilly
39. One Woman and Her Dog – Katy Cropper
40. Starting Your Border Collie on Cattle, Sheep and Ducks – Rural Route Videos
41. A Hill Shepherd Trains his Border Collies – Derek Scringeour
42. British Sheep Fairs and Crafts – Rural Route Videos
43. Sit, Clap & Furbish – Karen Pryor

44. Babe (the movie about a sheep-herding pig)

AUDIOTAPES

1. Hubert Bailey – *Training Whistle Commands*
2. Alasdair Macrae - *Whistle While You Work*

Rules for library use:

- Borrowers must be members of NEBCA.
- Requests can be made by email or by regular mail.
- Payment for a video may be included when the video is returned.
- Books are lent free of charge for four weeks.
- **Videos are \$4.00 each.** They are lent out for two weeks per single video and three weeks for sets..
- Borrower is responsible for return mail.
- Only one book or video (or set of videos) sent out to a member at one time.
- **Overdue fine is 10 cents per day.**

Library Address: Margaret Wheeler, 15 Longmeadow Rd., Windham, NH 03087.

Email: drumlins@adelphia.net (Subject: NEBCA library). **Checks may be made payable to NEBCA**



Book Review: The Natural Way, by Julie Simpson

(Continued from page 11)

rough coast of northeast Scotland. This rugged landscape presents every sort of challenge to Julie and her dogs: rough steep hillsides interrupted by fence lines where dogs working livestock along the rough coast of northeast Scotland. This rugged landscape presents every sort of challenge to Julie and her dogs: rough steep hillsides interrupted by fence lines where dogs work at great distances and must be whistled through gates and around obstacles as well as precipitous sea cliffs which pose dangers to sheep, sheepdog and shepherd alike.

Now, I caution you, it takes some careful reading if you intend to glean Julie's trial accomplishments from her autobiography; they are embedded in tributes to other handlers and shepherds and of course to the many fine dogs she has trained and run. Other distractions are in the way invitations from the queen and hilarious tales of such things as sheep and London taxis and herding by moonlight (or the lack thereof). However through careful reading and rereading I did manage to pick out some of the highlights of Julie's career as a top handler:

- In 1996, Julie's dog Moss became the Supreme International Champion and Julie became the first and so far only woman to win the title in what has been almost a century of ISDS International trials.
- In 1991 Julie and her dogs took the Scottish Singles Championship and the Scottish Brace Championship.
- Julie and her dogs have won three (or four) Scottish Brace Championships and have been runners up in the International Brace Championship.

Practical issues:

If you are interested in starting a young dog, The Natural Way will be an excellent resource. I keep my copy of The Natural Way in the map pocket of my truck. The book is logically organized and Julie's explanations are complete but concise. The pictures and illustrations are very clear, plentiful and placed in such a way as to support the text effectively. I confidently recommend the book as a quick training reference because on several occasions, I have taken a break in a work session and have been able to turn quickly to the section that addresses my difficulty. In my copy of The Natural Way, the Driving chapter is particularly well worn, marked by sweat and the occasional tear of frustration.

I'll end by saying that there is one thing better than owning a copy The Natural Way, and that is having the book **and** going to one of Julie Simpson's clinics. Last fall I attended a clinic with Julie and had a chance to see for myself the reason that people throughout the U.S. and in fact throughout the world know her to be a first class trainer, handler and teacher. That clinic also made it clear to me that The Natural Way is an accurate description of the way Julie actually trains her dogs. Everything we did at the clinic could have been lifted from the pages of her book. So get the book, go to her clinic, and have Julie autograph your very own copy of The Natural Way.

(Continued on page 15)

Book Review: The Natural Way, by Julie Simpson

(Continued from page 14)

The Natural Way by Julie Simpson was published in 2003, in Bishop Wilton, York by Working Sheepdog News.

It will be available from the NEBCA library in mid February and can be purchased from:

Border Collies in Action: <http://www.bordercollies.com>

Working Sheepdog News: <http://workingsheepdog.org>

Dogwise Books: <http://www.dogwise.com> 



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See page 2 for rates.

Teaching Streets: Traffic Education for dogs, Part I

By Polly Matzinger

Far too many of us have lost dogs because they were hit by cars, and this is almost entirely preventable with a little training. It is easy to teach a dog not to run into the street without permission. Like many other training tasks, it takes a bit of time, but the process is simple and can be done by anyone anywhere. It's a four/five step process, and it has always worked! It's easiest with very small puppies (I start as soon as I get one, at 8 weeks, and am usually on step four by the time the puppy is ten weeks old). It even worked on a dog that was eight years old when I got him. It looks like a lot of words, but don't be discouraged. It's really very easy. I wrote a lot of words because I wanted to make sure that the small details are there.

STEP 1: Body Cues

Every time you come to a street, stop dead in your tracks, tell your dog to "wait" in a calm tone (don't yell) and hold the leash so that she stops too.

Note: Pick streets that have sidewalks if you can, the change in height makes it easy. Later when the dog is fully trained, they will distinguish between grass/dirt and asphalt. If you're on a farm and don't have sidewalks, use the streets or lanes that you really don't want your dogs to run out into.

Count to two, then say "OK!" in a very light happy tone and RUN across the street with her. Running with you is the reward she gets for having done it right. If she steps into the

street before you say "OK!", say "oops" and put her back on the sidewalk. No punishment, just a reminder that you want her on the sidewalk. Do this for a couple of days. Don't worry if she waits standing or sitting or lying down, I don't care how my dogs wait as long as they do it. I have found that each dog finds his own way to hold himself and this is better than deciding it for him. Also, if you ever have to yell "wait" he'll stop faster if he can stop in his own style than if he has to do something (like sit) that you made him do.

Don't use the word "stay". That means something different. "Wait" means "stop here for a short time, we'll soon be moving". "Stay" means "don't move a single foot for a long time until I tell you to". I use "wait" whenever I go through the front door, whenever I open the car door, whenever I open the pasture gate, whenever I feed a dog, at lots of other times. It becomes a very useful word for them to know. (It can stop them in their tracks if I have to stop them. But that comes later. Back to training!)

STEP 2: Separating Body Cues from Verbal Cues

When you come to a street, stop, say "wait", count to two and take one step into the street without saying anything (Only one foot. If your dog is on your left, take the step with your right foot so that you can turn towards her to keep an eye on her). Be ready to stop her because she will

move with you, as she is used to following your body movement. But now the trick is that you will begin to let her know that your movement isn't what she should be waiting for. **She needs to wait for the word "OK".** So if she comes with you (remember you're only moving ONE FOOT into the street), tighten the leash so that she can't actually put a foot off the sidewalk (or put a hand in front of her chest) and say "oops, wait". Count to two and then say "OK!" (Remember that it's a light happy tone) and RUN across the street. After a few times of this she should begin to be more relaxed and to stay on the sidewalk when you put one foot into the street. Now take a whole step (two feet) and be ready to stop her if she comes with you, as above. When she can wait for two feet, take two whole steps before you count to two and say "OK!".

STEP 3: Raise the Bar

When she can wait till you take two whole steps, you're into part three. Here the job is to work longer and longer distances until you can get completely across the street with her calmly waiting on the other side until you say "OK!". Remember to RUN when you say it so that she runs happily across the street when you release her with the "OK!".

At some point, as you're lengthening the distance that you move away from your dog, you'll need to drop the leash so that you can back up further than its range. Don't worry, he'll wait be-

2004 Trial Schedule

Novice and open trials in the list are NEBCA qualifying unless noted otherwise. Novice trial means NN, PN and Ranch classes will be held. The web site trial listing contains entry forms, directions and other information.

April 2-5

Long Shot Farm SDT
Church Hill, MD
Two novice & open trials
Sherry Smith, 410-758-3363
longsht@dmv.com

April 24-25 TENTATIVE

O.C. Sheep Herding Co. Open
Old Chatham, NY
Two open trials
Warren Mick, 518-861-5854
mickwa@capital.net

April 24-25

Connecticut Sheep Breeders SDT
Tolland Agricultural Center, Vernon, CT
One novice & two open trials
Melissa DeMille, 860-669-7578
mellissa@sheepdog.com

April 30-May 2

Soule Homestead SDT
Middleboro, MA
Two novice and open trials
Connie Weller, 508-747-5755
cmweller@earthlink.net

May 7-9

Borders-on-Paradise SDT
Turbotville, PA
Two novice & open trials
David Fetterman, 570-742-3527
debft@ptd.net

May 8-9

NH Sheep & Wool Festival Intl. SDT
Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Contoocook, NH
Two novice & open trials
Clint Brake, 603-478-0220
cbrake@gsinet.net

May 22-23

Mass Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT
Fairgrounds, Cummington, MA
One novice trial & one open trial
Info: Kate Collins/George Northrop
978-624-5562, george01368@yahoo.com
Entries: Denise Leonard, 413-773-5232
dal@equinox.shaysnet.com

May 22-23

Genesee SDT
Mumford, NY (south of Rochester)
Two novice & open trials
Joyce Geier, 585-624-8220
joyce@sandcreekfarm.com

May 22-23

Turn Around Farm Novice Trial
Sawyerville, Quebec
One day sheep camp and
One day novice trial
David & Mary Ellen Young
819-889-3276, dyoung@bishops.ca

May 28-31

Steppingstone SDT
Havre De Grace, MD
Two novice & open trials
Brace competition planned
Kathryn Paxton-Hill, 410-939-2934
Paxtonhil@aol.com

May 29-30

Hillydale SDT
Uxbridge, Ontario
Two novice & open trials
Andrea de Kenedy, 416 481-3786
adek@waldin.ca

June 4-6

Nearfield Farm SDT
Center Conway, NH
One novice & two open trials
Gabrielle Merrill, 207-935-2520
gabe@pivot.net

June 17-20

PA State Championship SDT
Sheepy Hollow Farm, Hop Bottom, PA
Two novice & open trials
Cheryl Jagger-Williams, 570-289-4733
culleymont@epix.net

June 19-20

Country Heritage Park SDT
Milton Ontario
Two NN, PN & open trials
(only open is NEBCA qual.)
Viki Kidd, 416-652-0892
vkidd@sprynet.com

June 19-20

Mountain Meadow Farm Trial
Novice fun trial on 6/19
Regular NEBCA novice trial on 6/20
Mary Ames, 603-448-5429
mbames@valley.net

July 1-4

Lynch Mob SDT
Pottsgrove, PA.
Two novice & open trials
Allan & Peg Lynch, 570-649-6212
lynchmob@sunlink.net

July 10-11

Richmond Hill SDT
Richmond Hill, Ontario
Two novice & open trials
Tara Dier, 416-778-7245
tdier@sympatico.ca

July 10-11

Bittersweet Novice trial
Hampton CT
Two novice trials
Carol Campion, 860-455-9416
campionbc@worldnet.att.net

July 16-18 TENTATIVE

Bloomfield SDT
Bloomfield, CT
Two open trials and double-lift final
Beverly Lambert, 860-742-5300
blambert2@mac.com

July 17-18

Scotia SDT
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
Two novice & open trials
Hilary Flower, 902-634-4833
wflower@bwr.eastlink.ca

July 24-25

Lennoxville International SDT
Lennoxville, Quebec
Two open trials
Dave Young, 819-889-3276
dyoung@ubishops.ca

July 31-August 2

Nation Valley SDT
Navall Farm, Winchester, Ontario
Two novice & open trials
Werner Reitboeck, 613-448-3266
werner@magma.ca

August 3-5

Ewesful Acres SDT
Portland, ON
Two novice trials & one open trial
Jim & Joanne Murphy, 613-283-7212
jomur9@hotmail.com

August 6-8

Kingston Sheep Dog Trials
Grass Creek Park, Kingston, Ontario
One PN trial & two open trials
(only open is NEBCA qual.)
Amanda Milliken, 613-531-9405
amiliken@kos.net

August 13-15

Leatherstocking Sheep Dog Trial
Cooperstown, NY
One novice & two open trials
Chalmers Means, 607-432-4903
meansbar@dmcom.net

August 28

Vermont State Championship SDT
Scottish Festival, Queechee, VT
One open trial
Steve Wetmore, 802-765-4466
swwet@valley.net

August 29


Spring Valley Open Trial
Strafford, VT
One open trial
Steve Wetmore, 802-765-4466
swwet@valley.net

(Continued on page 17)

Teaching Streets: Traffic Education for Dogs

(Continued from page 15)

cause what he really wants to do by now is run with you. Of course you need to do this on very quiet streets with no traffic. I use the NIH parking lots at night or early in the morning. Look around you for something similar or go out on really small residential streets when there isn't any traffic (or use your farm road at a time that there isn't any of traffic). **Keep your eyes open. Make sure that you can see the whole street when you call him! Listen for the sounds of oncoming traffic.**

When he's really solidly waiting while you cross the whole street, you're ready for step four. (To be continued in the next issue...) 



The Working Border Collie

**TODAY'S MAGAZINE
FOR THE WORKING
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2004 Trial Schedule

(Continued from page 16)

September 2

Lancaster Fair Sheep Dog Trial
 Lancaster, NH
 One open points trial
 Roger Deschambeault, 603-939-2255
 nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

September 4-5

Blue Hill Fair
 Blue Hill, ME
 Two open points trials
 Jim Davidson, 207-677-2224

September 4-6

New Jersey State Sheep Dog Trial
 Fosterfields, Morristown, NJ
 Two novice & open trials
 Gene Sheninger, 201-299-9785
 esheninger@optonline.net

September 6

Last day of NEBCA 2004 novice trial season

September 11-12

Green Lane Park Scottish Irish
 Festival SDT, Green Lane, PA
 Two novice & open trials
 Jim Strohecker, 215-679-1177
 jstrohecker@snip.net

September 18-19

NEBCA Novice Finals
 Fosterfields, Morristown, NJ
 Sally Molloy, 609-279-9728
 Sally.Molloy@patmedia.net

September 20-21

Eastern States Exposition SDT
 West Springfield, MA
 Three separate open trials
 Dee Woessner, 978-582-7682
 tofteast@ma.ultranet.com

September 21

Last day of NEBCA 2004 open trial season

September 24

NH Highland Games SDT
 Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Contoocook, NH
 One open points trial
 Must pre-register and get an entry pass.
 Lynn Deschambeault,
 merlynn@pivot.net

October 2

NH State Championship SDT
 East Conway, NH.
 One open trial
 Roger Deschambeault, 603-939-2255
 nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

October 3

Fryeburg Fair Sheep Dog Trial
 Fryeburg, ME.
 One open trial
 Gabrielle Merrill, 207-935-2520
 gabe@pivot.net

October 9-10

NEBCA Fall Foliage Trial
 Location TBA

October 16-17

NYS Sheep & Wool Festival SDT
 Rhinebeck, NY
 Two open trials
 Warren Mick, 518-861-5854
 mickwa@capital.net

October 16-17

Butternut Creek SDT
 Kingston, Ontario
 Two NN, PN & open trials
 (only open is NEBCA)
 Amanda Milliken, 613-531-9405
 amilliken@kos.net

October 23-24

Bittersweet SDT
 Hampton, CT
 Two open trials
 Carol Campion, 860-455-9416
 campionbc@worldnet.att.net



Errors? Omissions? Please let the editor know!
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

NEBCA Business

(Continued from page 13)

Operating Budget for 2004

| Item | Income | Plan | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | Expense | Net |
| Membership | \$6,000 | | \$6,000 |
| Advertising | \$600 | | \$600 |
| Library | \$100 | \$300 | (\$200) |
| Fence Rental | \$100 | | \$100 |
| Bank Charges | | \$50 | (\$50) |
| Office Expenses | | \$100 | (\$100) |
| Nebca Brochures | | \$400 | (\$400) |
| Corporate Renewal | | \$20 | (\$20) |
| Awards | | \$400 | (\$400) |
| Office Supplies | | \$100 | (\$100) |
| Insurance | | \$500 | (\$500) |
| Misc | | | \$0 |
| Newsletter | | \$4,000 | (\$4,000) |
| Fall Foliage Trial | \$1,200 | \$3,200 | (\$2,000) |
| Novice Finals | \$1,500 | \$2,500 | (\$1,000) |
| Calendar | \$2,500 | \$2,200 | \$300 |
| Fund Raising | \$2,000 | \$1,500 | \$500 |
| Total: | \$14,000 | \$15,270 | (\$1,270) |

Border Collie Rescue

(Continued from page 4)

Some BC rescue organizations in the Northeast:

Glen Highland Farm-Sweet Border Collie Rescue
www.glenhighlandfarm.com

New England Border Collie Rescue
www.nebcr.org

National Border Collie rescues:
www.bcrescue.org
 (searchable by region)

Have you adopted a BC from rescue? Do you volunteer for a rescue organization? Tell us your story!
 Send your articles & photos to

creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca



ABCA Initiates Pilot Study of Hip Dysplasia

(Continued from page 9)

the genes for each. The predictive tool invented by Dr. Todhunter's group is a "radiographic method to assess the degree of functional instability present in a hip joint of a dog that is standing or walking (Farese et al., 1998; 1999). This dorsolateral subluxation (DLS) test determines the extent of functional joint instability by measuring the degree of displacement of the femoral head with the hips in a neutral, but loaded, position."

It is known that some young Border Collies develop HD traits and are unsound, and that in some others the HD trait goes undetected at first but the dogs gradually become arthritic and have to be retired from hard work when they are between 6 and 9 years of age.

Just what is the prevalence and severity of HD in the working Border Collie is of importance to the future of the breed. It takes years

to develop a dog into a dependable stock dog, and it is a disappointment to have its working life cut short by arthritis. A reliable hip-information-prediction procedure can be one tool in selecting which young dogs to train and breed from.

The ABCA's Health & Genetics Committee has set up a pilot study to enroll 50-100 young Border Collies with herding pedigrees and herding futures in Dr. Rory Todhunter's DLS testing program at Cornell to see if this technique will be useful in forecasting at an early age whether a Border Collie will develop dysplasia and osteoarthritis. DNA is also being collected so the genetic information (genotype) can be analyzed as well as the physical information (phenotype). The data from the participating dogs is being compiled and analyzed to obtain a clearer picture of the hip status of working (herding)

Border Collies. The Board of Directors has authorized a grant to subsidize the cost of DLS x-rays and their standardized interpretation at Cornell.

Dr. Todhunter "expects that dogs with HD will have (the lowest) DLS scores ... and normal dogs will have (the highest) DLS scores ... The risk for dogs in the intermediate range will also be calculated compared to dogs at the highest risk. We expect the DLS score to be more sensitive than the OFA evaluation in detection of dogs with subluxation and with HD based on later development of hip osteoarthritis. We expect that a cutoff may be established for the 8-12-month-old DLS score ... that a veterinarian could provide to clients with a certain level of probability that a given dog is, or is not, dysplastic."

(Continued on page 19)

NEBCA Classifieds

WANTED: RETIRED FARM OR TRIAL DOG with some good years left to work a herd of Holsteins on a dairy farm in Quebec. An unfortunate accident has left this farmer without his long-time work partner and new pup won't be ready for another year or so. Dog must have a grip on command. This is a wonderful home with older children and a kind and knowledgeable farmer with stockdog experience. More info: c/o Fiona Robertson at 819-842-4227 or e-mail: creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

PUPPIES FOR SALE: Sire: Imp. Spot, owned by Rob Drummond - lines go back to *Sydney Price's Davy*, *Dalziel's Wisp*, and *Templeton's Tweed* and *Roy*. **Dam: Skye**, owned by Lori Goodman - daughter to Carol Champion's imported Liz, with lines back to Morris's Mac and Dalziel's Wisp. International Champion bloodlines. Both dogs have a natural outrun and drive with good balance. Biddable-good listeners. Both are OFA and eyes certified. Contact Lori Goodman, 401-294-7816 or e-mail leg100455@cox.net

2 PUPPIES AVAILABLE: Fiona Robertson's Imp. Pat by **Warren Mick's Glen**. 1 black & white, traditionally marked male, 1 black and white female born January 4th. Well socialized and crate trained, written health guarantee. Pups expected to be easy to train and stylish. More Info: www.copilotdogs.tripod.com/creeksidefarm. Pups available are #2 and #6. Fiona Robertson (819) 842-4227 or E-mail creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca


BORDER COLLIE STUD SERVICE: "Glen" (ABCA 136198/CBCA 471) - 2003 NEBCA Supreme Champion, 7th place 2002 USBCHA National Open, 13th place 2001 USBCHA National Nursery. At the age of 5, Glen has placed in nearly 60 Open trials, winning 11. Grandson of

Berhow's "Nick" (3 time National Champ), very biddable & stylish worker.

Imp. "Jim" (ABCA 207627/CBCA 2141), grandson of Dalziel's International Champion "Jim", classy in appearance & working style. Both dogs eyes clear, hips OFA certified. Warren & Maria Mick, Altamont, NY (518) 861-5854, or mickwa@capital.net.

MERLYNN KENNELS BORDER COLLIES and Katahdin Hair Sheep. Merle and black and white puppies, occasionally started dogs. All breeding stock OFA certified and eye checked. Proven producers of trial and obedience winners. Katahdin Hair Sheep originated in Maine, excellent for working dogs, no shearing, no tail-docking necessary. Lynn Deschambeault, Merlynn Kennels, 342 Hio Ridge Rd., Denmark, ME 04009. (207) 452-2898.

BORDER COLLIE TRAINING SERVICES Available: Take advantage of lots of sheep and a large variety of working areas. Lessons and pups available. Handling Border Collies for over 20 years. References available. Barbara Leverett, 1512 Burrell Rd., St. Johnsville, NY, 13452. (518) 568-2833.

IVAN WEIR BORDER COLLIES: *Where Champions are born*. Clinics, private lessons, and judging. Ivan Weir, 176 Lyndhurst Rd., RR #1, Seeleys Bay, Ontario, Canada. K0H 2N0. (613) 387-2696. 

Classified Advertising Rates:


\$3 / issue, or \$10 / year

Trial listings, entry forms, tributes: FREE

ABCA Initiates Pilot Study of Hip Dysplasia

(Continued from page 18)

It must be emphasized that hip dysplasia is not an all-or-none phenomenon. There will be a gradation in hip scores no matter what method is used to evaluate hip conformation. It is assumed that dogs in the intermediate risk range for any method will have less severe hip osteoarthritis and that this arthritis will develop more slowly than a dog with high risk."

Veterinarians wishing to learn more about the Dorsolateral Subluxation technique can visit Dr. Todhunter's web site: <http://www.sheepdog.com/Todhunter/dls.html> 

ABCA Health and Genetics Committee,

Sally Lacy, Chairman; C. Denise Wall, PhD; Mellissa DeMille, PhD; Amy Coapman, MS

NEBCA Meeting Dates

April 30: Soule Homestead Trial, Middleboro, MA

July 2: Lynch Mob Trial, Turbotville, PA

August 13: Leatherstocking Trial, Cooperstown NY

Oct. 2: NH State Championship Trial, East Conway NH 

BREEDER'S DIRECTORY

This listing of breeders of Border Collies is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the Northeast Border Collie Association. When making inquiries for purchasing a pup, NEBCA strongly recommends selecting from sound, proven, working stock. We suggest you see both parents work. If you are not able to see the parents working at the farm, do attend the trials and see them working there. Watch for trial results and seek the advice of experienced handlers. *Not all breeders listed here are handlers.

Barbara & Bernie Armata
Taravale Farm
1165 Esperance Road
Esperance, NY 12066
518-875-6471
taffaway@aol.com

Carol & Larry Champion
Bittersweet Farm
109 Hammond Hill
Hampton, CT 06247
(860) 455-9416
championbc@worldnet.att.net

Richard Cody
Cody Farms
363 Old Stage Road
Groton, NY 13073
(607) 898-3812

Kate Collins & George Northrup
Aurora Ranch
PO Box 119,
Taft Hill Road
Royalston, MA 01368
(978) 249-4407
george01368@yahoo.com

Melissa DeMille
82 Old Post Road
Clinton, CT 06413
(860) 669-7578
melissa@sheepdog.com

Lynn Desehambeault
Merlynn Kennels
342 Hio Ridge Road
Denmark, ME 04022
(207) 452-2898
merlynn@pivot.net

Roger Deachambeault
Nearfield Farm
2275 E. Conway Rd.
Center Conway, NH 03813
(603) 939-2255
nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

Joyce Geier
Sand Creek Farm
P.O. Box 208
Mendon, NY 14506
585-624-8220
joyce@sandcreekfarm.com

Lori Ellen Goodman
Gypsy G's Kennels
1545 Boston Neck Rd.
Saunderstown, RI 02874
401-294-7816
leg100455@cox.net

Edgar Gould
Cooperlane Farm
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
(413) 625-6496
goulds@mtdata.com

Beverly Lambert
Sheepswood Farm
280 Hebron Road
Andover, CT 06232
860-742-5300
www.BeverlyLambert.com

Betty Levin
16 Old Winter Street
Lincoln, MA 01773
(781) 259-8799
bettylevin@earthlink.net

Peg & Allan Lynch
Lynch Mob Farms
5315 Susquehanna Trl.
Turbotville, PA 17772
(570) 649-6212
lynchmob@sunlink.net

Eve Marschark
Ivyrose Farm, Box 397
3118 Farm School Road
Bedminister, PA 18910
(215) 795-2023
spin@fast.net

Alex McKinven
Cessnock Farm
RR 1 26 University Road
N. Hatley, QC JOB 2C0
Canada
(819) 842-2975

Edwin & Gabrielle Merrill
Misty Lane Border Collies
68 Misty Lane
Brownville, ME 04010
(207) 935-2520
gabe@pivot.net

Warren & Maria Mick
750 Meadowdale Road
Altamont, NY 12009
(518) 861-5854
mickwa@capital.net

Betty & David Murray
2792 Dane Hill Rd.
W. Charleston, VT 05872
802-895-4154
belm@pshift.com

Gene & Lynne Sheninger
Wayside Farm
332 Split Rock Road
Boonton NJ, 07005
(973) 299-9785
esheninger@optonline.net

Ivan Weir
176 Lyndhurst Rd.
Seeley's Bay, Ontario KOH
2N0
Canada
613-387-2696
ivanweir52@yahoo.ca

Steve Wetmore
Spring Valley Farm, Box 54
Strafford, VT 05072
(802) 765-4466
sswet@valley.net

Richard & Cheryl Williams
Culleymont Farm
RR 1, Box 1374
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
(570) 289-4733
culleymont@epix.net



**Got pups? Advertise your
litter in NEBCA classifieds!**

NEBCA NEWS