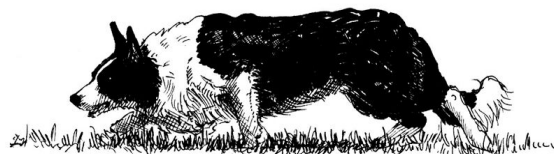


NEBCA News



**The Official Publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc.
Spring 2007**

Volume 25, Issue 1

www.nebca.net

March, 2007

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"Yum, what did you have for breakfast?"

**This is Click and newborn orphaned lamb. Both lamb and dog are owned by
Grace Smith of Charlotte, Vermont. Photo by Grace Smith**

Editorializing....

As I put together this newsletter, the Northeast is being hammered with the biggest snow-storm in years. Up here in North Hatley, QC, we have gotten about 2 feet and it is blowing around like mad. Today the dogs couldn't even go on their favorite hike, as the snow was over their heads and we all were literally buried, the dogs clinging to me like drowning rats, stepping all over the backs of my snowshoes, being so helpful...Spring seems very far away! But, by the time you read this issue, spring is really just around the corner, with the first of the NEBCA trials (Long Shot Farm) only a few weeks away. Both handlers and dogs may be very rusty from a long hiatus from training, so please be careful when starting out your training programs this spring. Ease into hard work gradually, so we don't set our dogs back weeks due to an injury. This issue includes several articles relating to dog health. Enjoy! See you on the trial field! *Fiona Robertson*

NEBCA NEWS

Editor

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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

Advertising Rates

Display Ads: 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

Classified Ads: Annually \$10 or \$3 per issue (NEBCA members)

Trial Listings and Tributes: FREE

Send all artwork and classifieds to
Fiona Robertson
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

Send all checks payable to NEBCA
and send to NEBCA Treasurer:

Maria Amodei, 978-649-6736
P.O. Box 43, Dunstable, MA 01827
mamodei@charter.net

NEBCA Bylaws & Rules

The bylaws and rules of NEBCA are available online at www.nebca.net. If members require hard copies of the NEBCA bylaws and rules, please make your request to the secretary:

Maria Mick
750 Meadowdale Rd.
Altamont, NY 12009
518-861-5854, mickwa@logical.net

NEBCA Officers

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dal@shaysnet.com

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dyoung@ubishops.ca

Committees

Open Trial Committee

Chair: Sue Schoen 508-548-5347
sbschoen@comcast.net

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mgessert@leapmail.net

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mbames@valley.net

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swwet@valley.net

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jwestcott@gmavt.net

Joanne Krause, 518-642-1580
joannekrausel@hotmail.com

Bernie Armata, 518-875-6471
bma3@cornell.edu

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george01368@yahoo.com

Trial Results /Points Tallies

Heather Millen, 607-835-6584
millen@frontiernet.net

Library

Martha Walke, 802-765-4935
walkem@sover.net

Website

Jim & Joanne Murphy, 613-283-7212
jomur9@hotmail.com

Newsletter

Fiona Robertson, 819-842-4227
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

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: \$20 individual or \$25 farm/family, and renewals are due by Jan 1. New members may join at any time and if 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 your articles, tributes, and photos to: Fiona Robertson, 4565 Rte 108, Canton de Hatley, QC J0B 2C0
Or send by Email (preferred):
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

Tips on taking digital photos for NEBCA News: Set your 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.

Tips for sending articles / trial results etc. Send in text (.txt) or word (.doc). Please don't overly format your work, as I cannot cut & paste into Publisher without lots of re-formatting first!
Please don't send in Excel, save your excel files as .txt (in WordPad) and then send! Thanks!

NEBCA 2007 Trial Listings

Submitted by Sue Schoen

March 23-25

Long Shot Farm
Church Hill, MD
All classes
Sherry Smith
longsht@dvm.com

April 21-22

Sand Creek Farm SDT
Mendon, NYT
All classes
Joyce Geier
Scf91sts45@bluefrog.com

April 28-29

Old Chatham Sheep Herding Company
Open SDT
Old Chatham, NY
Open, Nursery
Warren Mick
mickwa@logical.net

April 28-29

Connecticut Sheepbreeders SDT
Tolland, Ct
All classes
Carol Campion
carcampion@sbcglobal.net

May 11-13

Borders On Paradise
Turbotville, Pa.
All classes
Dave Fetterman
d.fetterman2@verizon.net

May 12-13

NH Sheep&Wool Festival
All classes
Cantoocook, NH
Chris Bowen
cbowen@ne.rr.com

May 25-27

Mass Sheep&Wool SDT
Cummington, Ma
All classes
Kate Collins
George01368@yahoo.com
NEBCA Meeting

June 1-3

Nearfield Farm
Three day Open/Nursery
Gabe Merrill
gabe@pivot.net

June 9-10

Ames Mountain Meadow
Lebanon, NH
Open & USBCHA Nursery (time permitting)
Bud&Mary Ames
mbames@valley.net

June 16-17

Ames Mountain Meadow
Lebanon, NH
Novice Trial
Bud&Mary Ames
mbames@valley.net

June 14-17

Pennsylvania State Championship
Hop Bottom, Pa
All Classes
Cheryl&Dick Williams
culleymont@epix.net

June 23-24

High Point Farm Novice SDT
Knox, NY
Novice
Peter VandeCar
518-482-2625

June 23-24

Shepherd's Crook Farm
Woodville, Ont
All classes
Ian&Shona Talbot
Ian_shona@hotmail.com

June 30-July 1

Fetch Gate Farm
Cortland, NY
Open
Roger&Heather Millen
millen@frontiernet.net

July 2-July 3

Fetch Gate Farm
Nursery, Novice
Roger&Heather Millen
millen@frontiernet.net

July 7-8

Merck Forest
Rupert, Vt
Open
Deb Fuller
D2fuller@msn.com

July 14-15

Mad River SDT
Waitsfield, VT
All classes
Nancy Phillips
nphillips@madriver.com

July 28-29

Lennoxville International SDT
Lennoxville, Quebec
Open, Nursery
Dave & Mary Ellen Young
dyoung@ubishops.ca
(Last chance to get Getty Points!)

August 3

Ewesful Acres SDT
Portland, ONT
Novice
Jim&Joanne Murphy
Jomur9@hotmail

August 4-5

Ewesful Acres SDT
Portland, ONT
Open
Jim & Joanne Murphy
Jomur9@hotmail.com

August 9-11

Kingston SDT at Grass Creek Park
Kingston, ONT
Open, Nursery, PN
Amanda Milliken
ajmilliken@jmail.com

August 17-19

Leatherstocking SDT
Cooperstown, NY
All classes
Barbara Armata
taffaway@aol.com

August 25

Vermont State Championship SDT
Quechee Scottish Festival SDT
Queechee, VT
Open
Steve Wetmore
swwet@valley.net

August 26

Spring Valley Farm SDT
Strafford, VT
Open
Steve Wetmore
swwet@valley.net

August 30

Lancaster Fair SDT
Lancaster, NH
Open
Roger Deschambeault
nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

September 1-2

Blue Hill Fair
Blue Hill, ME
Open
Jim Davidson
207-677-2224

September 1-3

NJ State Championship
NJ
All Classes
Gene Sheninger

(Continued on page 4)

NEBCA 2007 Trial Listings

(Continued from page 3)

esheninger@optonline.net

September 8-9

Brynog Farm SDT

L'Original, ONT

All classes

Bruce Smart

613-525-3582

September 17-18

Big E SDT

Springfield, MA

3 Open

Pat Canaday

aginfo@bige.com

September 18-26

USBCA National Finals

Gettysburg, PA

September 29

NH State Championship

East Conway, NH

Open

Roger Deschambeault

nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

September 30

Fryeburg Fair SDT

Fryeburg, ME

Open

Gabe Merrill

gabe@pivot.net

October 6-7

Nation Valley SDT

Winchester, ONT

All classes

Werner Reitboeck

Werner@storm.ca

Columbus Day Weekend

NEBCA Novice Finals

High Point Farm

Knox, NY

Tentative date and location

Steve Wetmore

swwet@valley.net

October 20-21

Rhinebeck Sheep & Wool Festival SDT

Rhinebeck, NY

2 Open

Warren Mick

mickwa@logical.net (Tentative)



For up to date trial info and entry forms, visit www.nebca.net.

Training or Health Issue?

By Barbara Armata

I have had times when working my open dogs that I wonder where their training has gone. Why aren't they driving as smoothly as they once did? Why won't she/he come in on the shed?

I want to share some of my experiences so maybe it will help some older dogs out there. Now, I don't mean the geriatric 10 to 12 yr olds. I mean the prime time of 6-8.

My first experience with the health of my dog interfering with training came with Kelly. When she was 2 years old, I found I could no longer put any time on her without her becoming fatigued and sulky. She was a very natural dog on sheep and she DID have an attitude, but when she would stop to rest on the way out to work sheep, I made an appointment with my vet. There was no definitive diagnosis, other than; "pre diabetic" and her lab values were all out of normal, including her calcium. She never would muscle up like most dogs. I did spay her and eliminating the hormones did seem to help somewhat. But she never did become consistent when working. Some days she worked and competed like the terrific dog she could be, then there were days she just didn't feel good and it would show.

Taff was a strong, hard running, hard gripping, large female that I had the pleasure of breeding, raising and train-

ing. I knew all that went into her training....good and bad...so I didn't have to guess why she was doing things. She would take the bit and run down a fetch, but she could also make a shed happen without a hole. When she was about 6 or 7, I noticed she was not coming in sharp on her sheds. I evaluated

"Look at your dogs for their physical strengths and weaknesses. There are many treatments available to get the dogs back to doing what they love to do. But don't forget, that lure of the trial field may not be what your dog needs to get better."

how I was shedding. I went back to basics with her. Then one day, while I was going to hold out, I asked Taff to go under a plastic snow fence. She refused. When I touched her on her back, she sank down from my touch. Now, I had been brushing and handling this dog all along, but at this point, it became too much. X-rays showed arthritis and bridging of her upper lumbar vertebrae. Every time she would sink down to push off to come in on a shed, her back

would cause her great pain. I quit working her for some time, plus put her on an anti-inflammatory. Taff recuperated enough to compete with again; however, I realized her limitations and adjusted how I worked her so as not to put added strain on her back.

Rhett is Taff's son. Built big and long like her. So I now was aware that genetics could cause him the same problems. Also, like Taff, he was not afraid to grip a sheep no matter what happened to him. For the first year of his training, he wore a muzzle.

Last year, in early spring, he displayed symptoms of Lyme. He was sore all over. His snap test was negative, but we treated him and he recovered. Also, at this time, he had been bumped by another dog while playing. He had trouble moving his head and neck. I rested him for a month. I was able to get back to working him, but now at trials, he would make the drive portion until halfway on the cross drive, he would flip behind and bring me the sheep. Now this dog is a driving machine, so it really was out of character. I x-rayed him and there was that spurring, bridging and arthritis of his upper spine. He'd be moving down low in front, driving along, until the pain became too much. At which point, he'd say enough and bring me the sheep.

(Continued on page 6)



NEBCA Trial Results



Bittersweet Farm New Year's Trial, Hampton, CT

January 7, 2007

Judge: Larry Campion

Trial Manager: Carol Campion

Submitted by: Carol Campion

The Bittersweet New Year's Day trial was postponed from Jan 1 to the this past Sunday, Jan 7th and it proved to be a wise choice. The weather here in Connecticut was spring-like and made for a perfect day of trialling.

There was a total of about 50 runs with a pot luck lunch break sandwiched in between. The New Year's lunch is always great but we socialized too long and it cost daylight causing some folks to run literally in the dark and some folks, like this trial host, not to run at all.

Thanks to everyone who entered and especially to those good sports who ran in the dusk or forfeited runs due to lack of daylight. Special acknowledgement to those that helped: set out: Chris Bowen & Ed Hobart; in the pens: Bill Foshier, Rob Drummond, Yvonne O'Brien, Ellen Rusconi Black and Sara Murray; to Gabe Merrill for secretarial assistance and to Ann Devine and Val Petrachevka for help on Saturday setting up the course. Help is always appreciated and does not go unnoticed. If I left anyone out, please forgive me. *Carol*

Novice: 5 dogs ran

Total points possible: 80

- 1 Eileen Wilentz Jamie 68
- 2 Nancy Joyce Simmons Hope 67
- 3 Michelle Ferarro Nimbus 57
- 4 Sharon Perkins Tweed 48

Pro Novice: 16 dogs ran

Total points possible: 80

- 1 Ellen Rusconi Black Stevie 71
- 2 Carl Campion Floss 70
- 3 Michelle Ferarro Skye 63
- 4 Sally Lacy Kitty 63
5. Maria Amodei Rhyme 61

Ranch: 8 dogs ran

Total points possible: 90

- 1 Bev Lambert Hemp 69
- 2 Ann Devine Ben 58
- 3 Joan McGrath Amos 55
- 4 Sue Schoen Tyne 46
- 5 Ann Devine Annie 44

USBCA Nursery: 5 ran

Total points 90

- 1 Roger Deschambeault Pat

Open: 22 dogs ran

- 1 Roger Deschambeault Ken 94
- 2 Bev Lambert Maid 87
- 3 Peter Vandecar Bud 86
- 4 Joan Worthington Sam 77
- 5 Ed Hobart Picasso 77
- 6 Michelle Higgins Deigh 76
- 7 Maria Amodei Cato 72
- 8 Sue Schoen Brook 71
- 9 Chris Bowen Jake 69
- 10 Doug McDonough Emmie 68



NEBCA Business - Annual General Meeting

Submitted by NEBCA Secretary, Maria Mick

Albany NY, January 20, 2007

Denise Leonard called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM

Members Present: 24 plus 1 by proxy

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: given by Maria Mick – Total membership for 2007 to date is 140 which includes 4 Life memberships and 36 family memberships. This compares to 154 members at the 2006 annual meeting and 248 members at the 2006 Leatherstocking trial meeting.

Treasurer's Report: given by Maria Amodei – The financial results for 2006 were presented (the balance sheet and budget summary are included in this newsletter). Net income for 2006 was \$715. Maria noted that both Fall Foliage (FF) and Novice Finals (NF) came in well within budget and this helped to offset the \$2500 donation made to the National finals. The current account balance is \$11,997.12. Steve Wetmore motioned to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Joanne Krause and passed. Maria also reviewed a proposed budget plan for 2007. Several adjustments were made. Sue Schoen motioned to accept the revised plan

(included in this newsletter). The motion was seconded by Betty Levin and passed.

Election Committee Report: given by Chris Bowen
Novice Rule Changes: (see Winter 2006 newsletter for wording)

- Proposal 1: passed by a vote of 83 to 26
- Proposal 2: passed by a vote of 97 to 13
- Proposal 3: rejected by a vote of 54 to 57
- Proposal 4: passed by a vote of 86 to 22

Executive: unanimous - all current officers are re-elected

Board of Directors: Warren Mick 107, Dave Young 96, Carol Campion, 3 Steve Wetmore 1, Sally Molloy 1. Warren and Dave will be on the board.

Board of Directors Report: given by Warren Mick - A question came up in 2006 regarding advertising for clinics in the NEBCA newsletter and/or website by non-members as well as the type of clinic. Since there is no official policy covering this

(Continued on page 6)

Training or Health Issue?

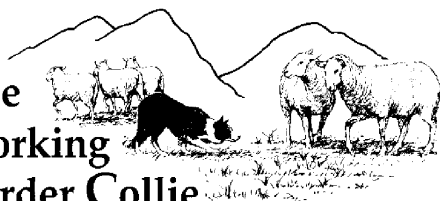
(Continued from page 4)

I had to rest him the rest of last year. This spring he still wasn't doing very well, but with conditioning, he's now back to trialing. At the Fall Foliage, Bruce Smart watched Rhett bounce down the lane to the field. He asked how old he was. Rhett is 8, 9 in Dec. He commented that he moved like a younger dog. Believe me; it warmed my heart to hear that. It was a long year off, but this showed me it was worth it.

I hope this will encourage others to really evaluate the physical aspect of their dogs, along with training. Look at your dogs for their physical strengths and weaknesses. There are many treatments available to get the dogs back to doing what they love to do. But don't forget, that lure of the trial field may not be what your dog needs to get better. An equine surgeon I had worked for had this bit of advice: "a tincture of time can cure a lot of things".



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NEBCA Business - Annual General Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

and related issues, the BOD drafted an overall information policy for NEBCA (the draft is available on the web site). The BOD welcomes feedback from members on the proposed policy. The final version is to be presented at the next meeting.

Open Trials Committee Report:

given by Sue Schoen - Sue said the 2006 trial season went very well with 66 open trials being held. The 2006 FF was well attended with 44 dogs running in the combination championship trial and open USBCHA trial. Lorna Savage and Zoe won the FF and the Long Road Trophy. The cost of sheep was more than expected but the cost was off set by lots of volunteers to help out with many jobs. The FF in 2007 will be cancelled because many members will be involved with the National finals in Gettysburg. Betty Levin motioned that any dogs that would have qualified for the FF this year (if a FF was held) will be automatically qualified for 2008. The mo-

tion was seconded by Maria Amodei and passed.

The High Points competition rule which limits counting a maximum of four trials per state/province was discussed. Barb Armata motioned that the 4 trials per state/province limit be increased to 6 trials. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed. The change would apply starting the 2007-2008 season.

The future of the Fall Foliage was discussed. Michael motioned that the open trials committee seek out the opinion of the membership as to the future of the FF (ie different format, elimination of FF, separate FF trial committee) and report back at the Cooperstown meeting. The motion was seconded by Barb Armata and passed.

Novice Trials Committee Report:

given by Steve Wetmore - The committee worked on the proposals voted on for this meeting. The 2006 NF held Barb & Bernie Armata's went very and

was well attended. The 2007 NF will tentatively be at Peter VandeCar's farm in Knox, NY on Columbus Day weekend.

Fund Raising Committee Report:

given by Joanne Krause - There are still some T-shirts and hats left from last year. It was suggested that NEBCA fundraising be reduced somewhat so as not to impact the fundraising for the National finals.

Calendar Committee Report: given by George Northrup - 640 2007 calendars were printed and there are about 150 calendars left. A few are still being sold by mail. Quotes for printing the 2008 calendar were provided (\$2775 for 500, \$2995 for 600). How many calendars to print was discussed. It was recommended that the calendar be increased to \$10 each. Maria Amodei volunteered to contact Clean Run (agility organization) to see if they would be interested in selling NEBCA calendars for a cut. Steve

(Continued on page 8)

NEBCA Classifieds

BORDER COLLIE STUD SERVICES: *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 8, Glen has placed in the top 10 of approximately 140 Open trials. CEA/CH genetic test "normal". Grandson of Berhow's "Nick" (3 time USBCHA National Champ). Glen is a very biddable & stylish worker. Eyes clear, hips OFA certified.

Doc: (ABCA 214103, CBCA 3846) - 2005 Canadian National Nursery Champion, descendant of Julie Simpson's ## Moss and #Gwen and Stuart Davidson's #Whiterose Kep. A good gathering dog and serious minded worker with a terrific temperament. OFA Good and eyes clear.

Dale: (ABCA 227438, CBCA 4515) - 2006 NEBCA Ranch Reserve Champion and Long Road Winner, out of Wetmore's "Gyp" by Mick's "Glen", from Berhow's "Nick" line. A dog that is focused and quick. OFA Excellent, eyes CEA/CH genetic test "normal".

All three above dogs are standing at Mick's Border Collies: Warren and Maria Mick, Altamont, NY 518-861-5854 or mickwa@logical.net.

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.

BORDER COLLIE TRAINING SERVICES: In-house training, specializing in giving young dogs a great start. Handling border collies for over 20 years. References available. Lessons also. Barbara Leverett, St.Johnsville, NY. Phone: (518) 568-2833. rleverett@frontiernet.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. merlynn@fairpoint.net

BITTERSWEET FARM "Home of Whiterose Kep": Training services for dogs & handlers: Expand your dog's experience with a variety of fields, sheep and situations. Quality pups, started & trained dogs sometimes available. Dogs taken in for training on a limited basis. Contact: Carol Campion at carcampion@yahoo.com 860-455-9416

BC Pups due April - out of Mick's "Kess" (CBCA 647) from Owen's #Rock, Templeton's #Roy, Dalziel's ##Wisp and Wilson's ##Spot, #Dryden Joe, Hutchison's #Jen. A great farm dog and finalist at Kingston's Grass Creek Park. A small, smooth tri with stamina to work all day. Sire of the litter is Mick's "Dale" (ABCA 227438, CBCA 4515) 2006 NEBCA Ranch Reserve Champion, from Mick's "Glen" (Berhow's *Nick line). A rough coat tri, small, quick, and driven. Warren & Maria Mick, Altamont, NY 518-861-5854 or mickwa@logical.net. Litter information, pictures and pedigrees at www.creeksidebordercollies.com.

Border Collie pups born 1/9/07. Dam: Li 182928 (daughter of Zoe 144406) ; sire: Bob 210470 (son of Ken 204289). Both parents are talented and keen. Contact Patricia Hammel Murphy 508 737 3765 or email p.patriciahammel@comcast.net

WANTED TO BUY: car crates for three dogs 35 to 60 lbs, easily portable secure outside pen at least 4' high, dog ramp/s, interesting books (dog / sheep), spinning wheel. Please call Carolyn at 315-685-1830.

Puppies born January 2007: By Stuart Davidson's Whiterose Kep & out of Eve Marschark's Rue (formerly Bev Lambert's). Kep's pups are precocious workers with great talent, Rue is quite skilled and biddable. Should make keen and talented trial dogs! FMI contact: Eve Marschark at 215-795-2023 or evemarschark@verizon.net

Pups born February 17: 4 females, 2 males out of Rhyme (Kate Broadbent's Rose, Imp Moss) by Roger Deschambeault's Ken. Rhyme is an nice young bitch, very direct on her drives with a nice bend on her flanks. Pedigree and further info at: www.northfacefarm.com, click "Rhyme Puppies" link. Maria Amodei (978) 649-6736, mamodei@charter.net.

Lovely, well bred female Border Collie looking for companion home. 6.5 year old female. Hips sound, eyes cleared. This sweet tempered, beautiful girl was discarded by a commercial breeding operation and is now in foster care at Creekside Border Collies in North Hatley, Quebec, Canada. She will be spayed, nurtured to thriving health and then will be available free to the perfect active home. Potential adopters will be carefully screened and references will be required. For info please Email creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca.

BC puppies due the end of April. Dam: "Lucy" (Dave Young's Streak x Sally Lacy's Tru). Hips OFA Excellent. Eyes CEA Normal. Sire: Maria Mick's "Doc" (Ian Zoerb's Peg x Zack). Hips OFA good. Doc was the 2005 Canadian Nursery Champion. Peg was the 2006 Western Canadian Champion. Contact Joanne Krause 518-642-1580 or joannekrause1@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: 3 yr old bitch from Dave Young's Streak (Amanda's Boy and Hazel) and Warren Mick's Glen. Interested buyers should have some training experience or some near by help. She comes from a working farm of 500 housed ewes and does pen work and some field work. For more info call Dave Young at 819-889-3276.

Got something to sell? Looking to buy? Looking for a trainer? Classified ads are just \$3 per issue for members, or \$10 annually! Send ad to creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca and send payment to NEBCA c/o treasurer, Maria Amodei (for address, see page 2).



NEBCA Business - Annual General Meeting

(Continued from page 6)

Wetmore volunteered to coordinate selling calendars at the National finals. George moved that NEBCA budget \$3000 for calendars for 2007. Seconded by Sally Lacy. Amended to \$3100 by Barb Armata, seconded by Darlene Hutchins. Passed.

Newsletter Report: Given by Warren Mick - Fiona Robertson will continue as newsletter editor in 2007. Members must support Fiona by submitting articles, photos and trial results for the newsletter.

Library: Denise Leonard presented the report provided by Martha Walke – Twenty-six members borrowed from the library in 2006. Several new acquisitions were made and some existing lost or damaged items were replaced. Martha would like suggestions from members for new purchases. Martha plans to re-inventory and publish the current holdings on the website and in an upcoming newsletter.

Presentation of Awards: The Edgar Gould Breeder's Award for 2006 goes to Ivan Weir of Ontario for breeding of Lorna

Savage's Zoe, winner of the 2006 Fall Foliage.

New Business: Sue Schoen presented a draft update to the NEBCA breeding policy. A committee was formed with Michael Dathe, Sally Lacy and Sue Schoen to review the new policy and to also review the existing animal health policy to determine if it also needs updating.

Announcements: Committee Appointments – Open Trials Committee - Sue Schoen (chair), Mary Gessert, Peter VandeCar, Chris Bowen + one more pending. Novice Trials committee – Steve Wetmore (chair), Joanne Krause, Bernie Armata, and Joyce Westcott.

Meeting Dates for 2007: Saturday at Cummington Trial weekend, Saturday of Leatherstocking Trial weekend.

Motion made to adjourn by Sally Lacy and seconded by Sue Schoen.

Adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Submitted by NEBCA Secretary, Maria Mick



NEBCA Business - Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Maria Amodei, NEBCA Treasurer

NEBCA Operating Budget for 2007 / Actuals 2006

		2007 Plan		2006 Actual				2006 Plan	
Item	Income	Ex-pense	Net	Income	Ex-pense	Net	Income	Ex-pense	Net
Membership	\$5,500		\$5,500	\$5,047		\$5,047	\$5,500		\$5,500
Advertising (brdrs list, ads)	\$500		\$500	\$528		\$528	\$500		\$500
Library	\$100	\$200	(\$100)	\$236	\$393	(\$157)	\$100	\$300	(\$200)
Fence Rental	\$100	\$50	\$50	\$204		\$204	\$100	\$50	\$50
Bank Charges/Interest	\$80	\$0	\$80	\$104	\$2	\$102	\$70	\$20	\$50
Office Expenses		\$250	(\$250)		\$147	(\$147)		\$250	(\$250)
Awards		\$150	(\$150)		\$238	(\$238)		\$150	(\$150)
Insurance		\$1,100	(\$1,100)		\$1,055	(\$1,055)		\$1,000	(\$1,000)
Misc		\$200	(\$200)			\$0		\$300	(\$300)
Newsletter		\$3,100	(\$3,100)		\$2,522	(\$2,522)		\$3,100	(\$3,100)
Fall Foliage Trial	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,350	\$2,427	(\$77)	\$1,200	\$2,800	(\$1,600)
Novice Trial	\$1,200	\$2,400	(\$1,200)	\$2,600	\$1,800	\$800	\$1,200	\$2,400	(\$1,200)
2004 Trial Expense						\$0			
2007 National Finals		\$2,500	(\$2,500)		\$2,500	(\$2,500)		\$2,500	(\$2,500)
Calendar	\$3,000	\$3,100	(\$100)	\$2,639	\$3,078	(\$440)	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Fund Raising	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$4,546	\$3,376	\$1,170	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
Total:	\$13,480	\$15,050	(\$1,570)	\$18,254	\$17,538	\$715	\$14,670	\$17,870	(\$3,200)

Balance History (All Accounts)

12/31/04	3/31/05	6/30/05	9/30/05	12/31/05	3/31/06	6/30/06	9/30/06	12/31/06	1/20/07
15,652	17,657	15,185	13,554	11,331	12,913	9,203	9,672	12,046	12,035

Continued on page 9

NEBCA Business - Treasurer's Report

NEBCA Cash Flow - 1/1/2006 through 12/31/2006

INFLOWS

Advertisements	\$178.00	0.98%
Breeders Directory		
Listing	\$260.00	1.42%
Web Link	\$90.00	0.49%
TOTAL Breeders Directory	\$350.00	1.92%
Calendar Sales		
2006 Calendar	\$692.50	3.79%
2007 Calendar	\$1,946.00	10.66%
TOTAL Calendar Sales	\$2,638.50	14.45%
Fence Rental	\$204.00	1.12%
Interest Inc	\$103.70	0.57%
Library Fees	\$236.40	1.30%
Membership Dues		
Family		
2006	\$1,577.00	8.64%
TOTAL Family	\$1,577.00	8.64%
Individual		
2006	\$3,130.00	17.15%
2007	\$320.00	1.75%
2008	\$20.00	0.11%
TOTAL Individual	\$3,470.00	19.01%
TOTAL Membership Dues	\$5,047.00	28%
Novelty Sales	\$4,546.00	24.90%
Trial Income		
2006 Fall Foliage	\$2,350.00	12.87%
2006 Novice Finals	\$2,600.00	14.24%
TOTAL Trial Income	\$4,950.00	27.12%
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$18,253.60	100.00%

NEBCA Cash Flow - 1/1/2006 through 12/31/2006

OUTFLOWS

Administrative	\$81.38	0.46%
Awards		
High Points	\$166.71	0.95%
Other Awards	\$71.61	0.41%
TOTAL Awards	\$238.32	1.36%
Bank Charge	\$2.00	0.01%
Calendar Expense		
2006 Calendar	\$62.42	0.36%
2007 Calendar	\$3,015.60	17.19%
TOTAL Calendar Expense	\$3,078.02	17.55%
Insurance		
Other Insurance	\$1,055.00	6.02%
TOTAL Insurance	\$1,055.00	6.02%
Library		
Books And Videos Purchase	\$293.64	1.67%
Library Administration	\$99.57	0.57%
TOTAL Library	\$393.21	2.24%
Newsletter		
Postage	\$808.25	4.61%
Printing	\$1,713.33	9.77%
TOTAL Newsletter	\$2,521.58	14.38%
Novelties - Cost of Goods Sold	\$3,376.15	19.25%
Postage and Delivery	\$65.39	0.37%
Trial Expense		
2006 Fall Foliage		
Awards	\$330.79	1.89%
Dinner	\$98.00	0.56%
Facilities	\$292.83	1.67%
Food	\$58.56	0.33%
Judge	\$500.00	2.85%
Misc	\$71.29	0.41%
Recording	\$176.00	1.00%
Sheep	\$900.00	5.13%
TOTAL 2006 Fall Foliage	\$2,427.47	13.84%
2006 Novice Finals		
Awards	\$265.72	1.52%
Dinner	\$0.00	0.00%
Facilities	\$725.00	4%
Food	\$140.93	0.80%
Judge	\$400.00	2.28%
Misc	\$18.00	0.10%
Setout	\$250.00	1.43%
TOTAL 2006 Novice Finals	\$1,799.65	10.26%
National Finals	\$2,500.00	14.25%
TOTAL Trial Expense	\$6,727.12	38.36%
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$17,538.17	100.00%
OVERALL TOTAL	\$715.43	100%

2006 Treasurer's Report

- **Bank balance on 12/31/2006 was \$12,008.09.**
- In 2007 we've received much of our membership money, some calendar money, and paid our 2007 installment to the Nationals. Current balance on 20 Jan 2007: \$11,997.12
- Both the Fall Foliage and the Novice Finals were beautifully run this year, providing a great trial for competitors with minimum cost. The Novice Finals had an excellent turnout and made \$800.
- Hats and Shirts were profitable as usual thanks to Joanne Krause's hard work and Betty Murray on the front line for almost \$1,200
- Newsletter costs were somewhat low this year as there was no summer supplement. We expect a supplement next year so we have not decreased the budget.

Special thanks to Joanne Krause. She has quietly contributed a great deal to NEBCA between organizing the hats and T shirts each year and her work on the Novice Finals.

Editor's Note: Some formatting was required and therefore the Cash Flow report had to be divided into 2 columns instead of the 1 column as was submitted. I apologize for any inconvenience.



**Vermont
Triple Crown Award
2007**

**Merck Forest SDT
July 7 & 8**

**Mad River Valley SDT
July 14 & 15**

**Vermont
State
Championship
SDT
August
25 & 26**

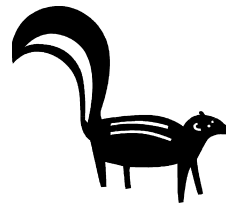
The overall top scoring
Open dog and handler
will be named the Ver-
mont Triple Crown
Champion!

*Last year's winner was
Peter VanderCar and Bud.*

*For more info:
Steve Wetmore
swwet@valley.net*

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the 2007 National Finals are occurring near the epicenter of Pennsylvania's Amish puppy mill farms—what better incentive to educate future Border Collie owners on how to choose a dog! There is no other breed that requires more education of owners than the Border Collie, and there is almost no other setting that requires such a proactive effort to inform the public on how to acquire a healthy representative of the breed, should they determine the Border Collie is a dog that would match their (hopefully) active lifestyles.

Lori Mauger



My Vet gave me this skunk deodorizing recipe after I made one of those late night calls to him. My then 6 month old BC, Niamh, did one of those young dog search and rescue operations

late at night resulting in the young skunk hanging off her lip, 2 skunked dogs and my clothes that had to be thrown away. But that is another story. Suffice it to say Niamh has never been the same since. I keep these ingredients on hand and even travel with some in the first aid kit. Do not premix, it will lose its effectiveness.

It was recommended by my Vet that dogs, exposed as mine were, needed to be revaccinated for rabies, even though their shots were up to date. It was further a concern, that my dog was salivating profusely, as a result of the skunk hanging on her lip, that I had been potentially exposed. Fortunately, I was bundled up because of the cold night temperatures, and I had no current abrasions for the saliva to penetrate. I washed for over a minute with good sudsy soap. As I had witnessed the event, I felt it was a healthy skunk that had just had enough of being herded by a young border collie and took action as a last ditch effort to escape. You can bet we went back to night leash walking and fenced a dog yard as a result of our escapade.

Skunk Odor Formula

The formula was printed in the October 18, 1993 issue of Chemical and Engineering, page 90, by chemist Paul Krebaum.

Towel off the dog with a clean dry terry cloth towel or good absorbent paper towels and throw them away. The oils will just smell up your washer.

In a bucket mix 1 quart of Fresh 3% hydrogen peroxide. I keep a new, not opened bottle on hand. Add ¼ cup baking soda and 1 teaspoon liquid dish soap, (Dawn works well).

The mix will bubble. Thoroughly wet the dog with the mixture, wash the dog while it is bubbling. Rinse the dog and repeat. Use clean running fresh water.

Gently wash around the face. Can also use 'no tears' baby shampoo around the face. Clean wash towels are good for this.

NEBCA Funnies

A Shepherd's Song

Composed by Denise Leonard

Sung to the tune of "There's a hole in my bucket" and accompanied with a shepherd's whistle:

There's a hole in the fenceline dear Jessie, dear Jessie
There's a hole in the fenceline dear Jessie, dear Jessie a hole
Well then fix it dear Denise, dear Denise, dear Denise,
Well then fix it dear Denise, dear Denise, fix it
But the sheep have escaped, dear Jessie, dear Jessie
But the sheep have escaped, dear Jessie, they're gone
Well what should I do dear Denise, dear Denise
Well what should I do dear Denise, tell me
Please fetch them dear Jessie, dear Jessie, dear Jessie,
With away to me and walk up, dear Jessie, bring them back!

Another Shepherd's Song

Composed by David Leonard

Sung to the tune of "I'm bringing home a baby bumble-bee"

I'm bringing home a little lambie pie
First I went way to me and then I came by...
I know that this will really make her day
Rats, that lamb jumped and got away!

The following was actually heard at the Quechee Sheepdog trial several years ago.

A girl and her father were watching the trial. Whomever was on the field was attempting to shed. Well you know how senseless that can look when the sheep are just circling and running and the job just isn't getting done for whatever reason! So the girl asked her father what they are doing. He provides some elaborate explanation which is somewhat right about the dog and handler splitting the sheep into two groups. And then the girl asks, "But where's the pig?"

Obviously that was after the movie, Babe!

And Yet Another....

Composed by Sue Schoen

Sung to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean"

The sheep have gone over the mountain,
The sheep have gone over the hill,
The sheep have gone over the mountain,
I hope they won't be coyote kill

Bring back, bring back, bring back my woolies
to me, Jessie,
Bring back, bring back, bring back my woolies
to me!



Countdown to Gettysburg - The 2007 National Sheepdog Finals

By Bruce Smart

It's hard to believe that in just a few months we will be gathering in Gettysburg to host the 2007 Finals!

From now until September, the pace will speed up as we strive to get everything in place. It's been a LONG time since we have had Finals in the East and we need to do our best to put on a great event!

When this project started, many people were skeptical that a suitable venue and sheep could be found. We are very pleased to say we have secured an excellent field and great sheep!

However, much remains to be done!

Check out the official event website at www.sheepdogfinals2007.com. You will find lots of information about the 2007 Finals.

We encourage everyone to look at the website's link to the volunteers' information area. There are a lot of jobs that have to be filled, some of which need particular expertise but a lot that just need a person willing to help. If you are going to the Finals as a participant, or as a spectator, we welcome you to become involved as a volunteer, as well.

Critical to the success of the Finals is raising sufficient money to pay the considerable costs. Most of the cost of the event is the responsibility of the local hosts. Many of us received a request for a donation just before Christmas. If you put it off, please see if you can contribute now. Remember, for US citizens, a charitable donation tax receipt will be issued. If you have a business why not buy an ad in the souvenir program?

There are other fun ways to participate. For example, enter

a benefit trial, buy a ticket in a 50/50 draw or look for interesting items in the silent auctions that are being held at many trials. If you have the space and sheep resources, think about hosting a fun day or other gathering at your farm and donating some of the proceeds toward Finals fundraising. We appreciate any donations, large or small. If you have any additional fundraising ideas, please contact someone on the Committee. New ideas are always appreciated!

Remember, for \$100 (charitable donation receipt provided) you can sponsor one of the Open dogs. Your name will be in the souvenir program alongside that dog and you will have some fun seeing how it fares in the trial compared to thestacy@meteamet.com dogs sponsored by your friends. You will also get gate passes and a Finals cap. Perhaps you and your friends can each sponsor a dog and see whose dog has the greatest success. How did they do on the gather, the drive, penning and shedding? Go to the website for details on becoming a dog sponsor.

If you are "crafty", or know someone who is, or you know someone who makes or sells items that might appeal to the crowds we expect to come to the event, encourage them to attend the Finals as a vendor. Information on vendor applications is on the website.

Many, many of your fellow working Border Collie friends have already committed to bring all the pieces together so that the Gettysburg Finals will be a resounding success. We cannot do it alone. Please join in and help make the 2007 Finals an event to remember!

**Bruce Smart for
The Finals 2007 Organizing Committee**



2006 NEBCA Fall Foliage Champion - Lorna Savage's Zoe

By Lorna Savage

I am attracted to smooth coat tricolor Border Collies, but not blue eyes. Now I do not see the blue eye, I see only style and working ability. I fell for this little dog when she was 4 weeks old because she reminded me of Spin my first dog, with the dribble of white connecting her blaze to her ruff; and she was out of Ivan Weir's Moy, my Spin and Dot's half sister, and this was to be her last litter. After Spin and Dot, I could not help but go back to Ivan Weir for more of the same breeding.



I can connect with the Irish bloodlines from Hartford Logan; Ivan Weir's Imported Jim is the dad to Spin, Dot and grandfather to Zoe and they all have the same natural talent and kindness to their sheep. Jim was also the sire of Ralph Pulfers Tweed and Corrie who was Reserve International Supreme National Champion with Alas-

(Continued on page 13)

2006 NEBCA Fall Foliage Champion - Lorna Savage's Zoe

(Continued from page 12)

dair Macrae. in 1992. This September, at the 2006 National Finals Imported Jim was inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame.

Zoe was so easy to train and so much fun that I found myself always wanting to work her and so the other dogs got less than they should. She is a natural square flanker and works well off her sheep, but her downfall is sometimes getting a bit too wide. In 2004, in her first year out she was the Pronovice Reserve Champion for the Ontario Border Collie Club behind her full sister Holly.

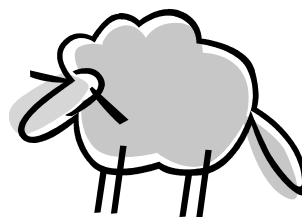
At four years of age this is just her second year in open and she has done me well with many placings and wins. I have high hopes of Zoe taking over for Dot who retired in the spring of 2005. So far she has met the criteria, now matching Dot's Fall Foliage Championship of 1999. Most handlers say you come across such talented dogs only once; I feel I have come across it not once but three times. I will be forever grateful for seeing that first little Weir dog at the Kingston Sheep Dog trials so many years ago. Spin, the first, passed on earlier this year at fifteen, but I feel she lives on in her niece, Zoe.



Above: Bruce Smart's Floss (Bruce's Missy x Imp. Jim) dealing with the difficult sheep at Brynog Farm SDT, October 2006.

Left: Pro-Novice winners Nancy Phillips and Susie and Novice winners Paul Garwood and RMS Taff at the Nation Valley SDT, September, 2006.

Both photos by Claire Garwood



A Tale from the Dark Side

By Lori Mauger

I was inspired to write the following personal account thanks to the National Finals coming east this year. I hope you will keep an open mind when you read it. I'm a member of NEBCA who also has a history competing in performance events. I realized that there would be many people like me at the finals—those who “cross boundaries,” so to speak—who are attending Gettysburg both as eager volunteers and as competitors. I didn't write this story to try to alter anyone's beliefs. I merely thought that by sticking my neck out, perhaps I could illustrate that people take many different paths into the world of herding, and that neophytes like me are simply eager to learn. Thanks in advance for taking the time to read and ponder my ramblings!

I'm not a political sort. I vote because I feel it's important to exercise my rights, not because I'm passionate about a candidate or a political platform. The same holds true with clubs

spent all of my time with the dogs. The lady who owned the poodles belonged to a local dog training club. The club offered training classes to the public, but its primary goal was to prepare competitors to earn titles in obedience trials.

My mother finally lamented that poodles weren't so bad, and since they were a non-shedding breed, I could have one. In short order a backyard-bred female miniature poodle puppy joined our household. I named her Juliette, after a poodle in a children's book that I had read a hundred times. The nice lady with the chocolate poodles offered to drive me and Juliette to dog training classes at her club, and I couldn't have been more thrilled. Eventually, I became a junior member of the club, and I convinced my mother that we needed a second poodle for me to train because the first one was just plain nasty and uncooperative (a product of her backyard-bred pedigree). In my quest for all-things-dog, I also joined the



Lori's Moss

or groups that I belong to. I pay my club dues, and once a year I'm asked to vote for club officers. Since I'm usually not familiar with the people who are running for office, I dutifully fill out the ballots and mail them in. I'm not overly concerned about the candidates' mission or agenda. I simply know that in order for clubs to run, and for our country to run, officials must be elected to carry out executive business. Personally, I belong to clubs mostly for the reading material. I like to read.

Back in the mid-1970s when I was 11 or 12 years old, we had a Beagle mix named Kelly that my dad brought home. Kelly was only allowed in the house when it was really, really cold outside because my mother was afraid of dogs. After Kelly died, I begged my mother for a dog that could live in the house. I nagged her incessantly. At the time, my parents were friends with a couple who owned two chocolate-colored miniature poodles. Every time we visited their house, I

local 4-H dog club. The 4-H club in my area primarily focused on the training of Seeing Eye puppies, but there were a few of us in the club who were working with our own family pets. I didn't care what the “goal” of either club was— all I knew was that the clubs offered me a place to learn about dogs and about dog training, and nothing made me happier. I still feel the same way about clubs today: I belong in order to learn—and to occasionally help out with club events—not to swear my allegiance to a particular philosophy.

As a junior member of the dog training club, I was of course encouraged to train towards an obedience title, which I happily did. Training for a title gave me specific goals to work on, and earning an obedience title was the fulfillment of those goals. As a little girl, earning an obedience title meant the world to me! I was proud of my dog, and I was proud of myself. More importantly, I was hooked on dogs for life.

(Continued on page 15)

A Tale from the Dark Side

(Continued from page 14)

High school and college curtailed my dog activities, but as soon as I graduated from college, I adopted an adult German Shepherd and went right back to obedience school.

Training had changed a lot in the years I was away. Food training for obedience competition, which had previously been scoffed at by serious trainers in favor of the pop-and-jerk method, had become in vogue. Competition changed a lot, too. Dogs were now required to be extremely precise in order to score well. It was around this time that I became aware of Border Collies, as they were becoming a popular breed with obedience competitors. I am not the type of person who blindly follows the crowd, so I didn't run out and get a Border Collie just because it was the "in" thing to do. Instead, my next dog was a severely neglected rescue Golden who was dog aggressive. It was somewhere in between acquiring the German Shepherd and acquiring the rescue Golden that a good friend of mine purchased a female Border Collie puppy. The puppy, named Jetta, was from working lines, and she was the most brilliant and most outgoing dog I had ever met in my life. Although Jetta never had the opportunity to work stock, I could see in her the qualities that made a working dog excel. Jetta had work ethic to die for, and she learned so fast and so well that it blew my mind. Thanks to Jetta, I wanted to know more about Border Collies and about their work as sheepdogs.

In 1989 Jetta's owner and I attended a local sheepdog trial, and it was then that I knew someday I would own a Border Collie, and that my Border Collie and I would learn about herding. To witness dogs working in such close partnership with their owners to accomplish a job, and to see dogs whose working instincts defined their very being, literally took my breath away. I waited almost five years before I got "Skid," my first Border Collie puppy. She was sired by an imported dog that was being trialed in USBCHA Open by a northeast handler.

I grew up and still live in a suburban community that is within commuting distance of New York City. It is a crowded, congested metropolis, where small farms and any acreage to speak of have been swallowed up by "McMansions" and shopping malls. Hence, 'round these parts, Border Collies are primarily family pets, and some go on to compete or to serve in various capacities such as agility, obedience, search and rescue, and pet therapy. A few others, like my own dogs, get to work stock once a week, or maybe more if they're really lucky! Unfortunately for me, the ability to purchase enough property to support even a small flock isn't financially, geographically, or personally possible, so I enjoy every opportunity to work my dogs and to

learn from others. In addition, due to my "non-agricultural" upbringing, I have absolutely no stock sense whatsoever, which of course puts my dogs at a disadvantage. Over the years, I've certainly learned a lot about stock, but I'll never possess an innate understanding. As a result, anytime that my dogs encounter a training challenge, I always remind myself that part of their problem is me. I try very hard to keep things in perspective.

If you've read this far I'm sure you've figured out by now that I'm a hobby herder with a dog sport background, and I belong to various clubs solely because they relate to my interests, and not because they tout a particular party line. I began participating in performance events purely by circumstance as a youngster. I came to know and admire Border Collies due to the sport of obedience. I understand that working qualities are first and foremost the reason why Border Collies excel in every type of work or sport their owners choose to train them for. I wasn't fortunate enough to grow up with livestock or with working dogs. Yet, I completely understand the people who do rely on the dogs for more than just "sport," and who therefore work hard to safeguard the breed's inherent abilities.

Most of the non-USBCHA herding programs are admittedly juvenile compared to what is expected of a USBCHA Open-level trial dog or of a dog who works on thousands of acres tending to a commercial flock...

...For me, the earning of titles through these programs DOES NOT prove that my dogs are legitimate workers; rather, it's significant in my own personal journey of learning to how to handle my dogs.

Most of the non-USBCHA herding programs are admittedly juvenile compared to what is expected of a USBCHA Open-level trial dog or of a dog who works on thousands of acres tending to a commercial flock. However, for someone like me, who began herding with absolutely no idea of what I was doing, these programs provided the "baby steps" that I needed to gain confidence. When my first Border Collie, Skid, had been in training for a while, my herding instructor encouraged me to enter some USBCHA Novice-Novice trials, but, quite frankly, I was terrified. Even

though I was sure that my dog could handle the N-N course, I wasn't so sure that I could, especially when it came to penning! Again, I lacked confidence in my ability to read the sheep well enough to get them penned, so instead, I opted to enter some trials sanctioned by other performance organizations at the lowest level to get my feet wet, so to speak. I will never forget the sense of accomplishment I felt when my dog and I passed our first herding test! Funny thing, though, my dog was clearly far and above in her training than all of the other dogs in the class—even the judge asked why I was entered in such a low-level class. Yes, the dog knew what she was doing, but I didn't, and that fact, combined with my nerves and with the butterflies in my stomach, meant that I chose to participate in a competition that would give ME confidence! These days, I continue to compete in these types of competitions with my younger working-bred Border Collies because any competition is good experience—different sheep, different venue, different judge—same nerves! For

(Continued on page 16)

A Tale from the Dark Side

me, the earning of titles through these programs DOES NOT prove that my dogs are legitimate workers; rather, it's significant in my own personal journey of learning to how to handle my dogs. In fact, only recently did I feel confident enough in my own abilities and those of my dog to enter N-N. We did really well—another gratifying part of the journey. Look for us in future N-N, and eventually pro-novice—yikes!—competitions.

All of my dogs are spayed and neutered. I understand the awesome responsibility that breeding a litter entails, not only to the resulting puppies, but also to the breed as a whole. People breed dogs for many reasons—money, notoriety, work. Within the Border Collie breed, it seems to me that breeders can be broken down into several basic categories, and the majority of breeders truly love their dogs, even if they disagree among themselves about the traits they are breeding for. In every breed of dog, breeders breed for what they like, and in every breed of dog, there are unfortunately breeders who breed too much, or with no thought to the outcome of the mating. I believe it's up to the buyer to research breeders to find the dog that best suits their individual goals and family; conversely, I believe it's up to the breeders to do the best they can to sell their dogs to appropriate homes, so perhaps fewer dogs would end up in rescue. (Remember, I'm a neophyte!)

Speaking of rescue, I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the 2007 National Finals are occurring near the epicenter of Pennsylvania's Amish puppy mill farms—what

better incentive to educate future Border Collie owners on how to choose a dog! There is no other breed that requires more education of owners than the Border Collie, and there is almost no other setting that requires such a proactive effort to inform the public on how to acquire a healthy representative of the breed, should they determine the Border Collie is a dog that would match their (hopefully) active lifestyles.

Believe it or not, there's a contingent of Border Collie competitors who actively trial in USBCHA, as well as in other events sanctioned by a variety of organizations. In fact, some of them have qualified and will be competing at the national finals in Gettysburg. Others, like me, will be volunteering at the finals. I couldn't be more thrilled to help out while at the same time having an opportunity to watch and learn from the best handlers and the best dogs in the country.

My goal in relaying my story is not to convince anyone that they should change their views about "other" types of herding trials, performance events, or registries. Rather, I simply wanted to illustrate that people become involved in Border Collies in many different ways and for many different reasons, and that the finals offer a premium opportunity to educate the public about our beloved breed. Everyone who attends or participates in the finals, no matter what their affiliation, is there to celebrate the working sheepdog and to bask in the camaraderie of others who share the same passion. See you in Gettysburg!



Canine Rehab

By Janet Lindsay

Reading the story in the winter issue of the NEBCA News titled "Had a Bad Day" brought some thoughts of most of my 2006 to share....

Sue Schoen's Willy went through quite a trauma and recovery, and I was so relieved to get to the end of the story and hear that Willy was back to doing what he loves and excels at.

Our story is nowhere near as dramatic, but I wanted to share because sooner or later we all have a lame dog...and this is a story of a troubling lameness that just wouldn't go away - to the point where we also heard those troubling words "he should never work again."

One day in March 2006, my young dog Rip was racing around outside with the typical carelessness of youth. I wasn't paying particular attention until I heard the thud of his body hit the ground full force. By the time I was focused on him, however, he was up and running again. Not taking any chances, I put him in the house where he would lay down and be quiet for awhile. He



Janet's Rip

disappeared into my bedroom, and when he came out a few hours later he

was carrying his right hind leg high in the air!

The next morning, he was still carrying the leg off the ground, so off to the vet we went. After a full exam and x-rays we were sent home with the prescription for Rimadyl and rest for 2 wks. Within a day or so, he was gingerly using the leg, and by the end of 2 wks he was mostly ok...except that I noticed he was very careful upon rising to favor that leg, and would gimp on it 3-legged for a few steps before putting it down.

We were sent to a specialist; the worry being that perhaps he suffered a cruciate ligament injury to his knee. Thankfully, this was ruled out. The specialist did note a very mild degree of hip dysplasia and felt more rest and Metacam were in order, and a gradual return to full activity.

This is how the next few months played out: long periods of rest followed by a careful return to normal activity. All would be apparently well until that ac-

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Canine Rehab

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tivity started to include a few minutes of working on sheep. Rip wouldn't miss a beat while working, but hours later he would be in pain and hobbling on 3 legs. We were back and forth to the vet - and to be honest, they probably questioned my sanity as I presented with a very active and bouncy young dog on four apparently healthy legs! Finally I had the presence of mind to video the problem and drop it off for the vet to see. (fyi - you can buy a fairly cheap disposable DVD camera and it more than paid for itself in finally allowing the vet to see what I was describing)

Now the decision was made to send the x-rays off with the DVD to another specialist for their opinion...and that is when the disheartening recommendation was made to "just don't work him anymore." It is irrelevant that Rip is a young dog who has not yet reached his potential; he is my one and only dog to work and for better or worse he's stuck with me....so I needed to pursue this further. I requested a referral for rehabilitation and off we went.

We started a regimen of underwater treadmill, laser and whirlpool, along with stretching and massage, twice a week with the stretching and massage being done daily at home also, along with other exercises. Rip began to lose a little weight - and gain muscle - from the months of "rest" followed now by careful rehabilitation. Everything seemed to be going quite well, with the one caveat that when he was allowed freedom to stretch his legs (no working yet, and no playing either) there was just something "off" about his gait. I'd become a sharp observer of movement, and while I don't have the education to

know the "why", it just seemed a little unnatural.

With the encouragement of our therapist, we visited another well regarded therapist for another opinion. She re-




"...there is something obviously troubling when a dog rotates his entire hindquarters to avoid having the leg manipulated in the most minor of stretching."

viewed his history, x-ray, and DVD, before examining him. She carefully went over his entire body, and when she reached the bad leg, she began to stretch from the hip, while supporting the knee. Before the leg even began to truly stretch, Rip rolled his pelvis to avoid any further stretching. As good

as our rehab had been going, there is something obviously troubling when a dog rotates his entire hindquarters to avoid having the leg manipulated in the most minor of stretching.

Without going into further technicalities, our consultant diagnosed a strain of the Psoas muscle, which in the most basic layman's definition is a very deep muscle that starts at the last rib and goes down the flank and is responsible for hip flexion. (I have since read that a strained psoas muscle can sometimes be confused with the pain of hip dysplasia) We immediately tailored our rehab to focus on this area, and right away I could see more freedom in his movement and that indefinable hitch in his gait that I had observed was gone. A month later, we carefully started back working, and as of December have completed rehabilitation and are back in regular training with no troubles!

I just want to close this by encouraging anyone whose dog experiences on-going lameness, after a full and careful veterinary exam and treatment, to consider the rehabilitation route. While it may not be the answer to every problem, it is definitely worth trying before deciding that the dog truly will "never work again." 

Janet ads: "The therapist who diagnosed Rip's psoas muscle strain was Deb Saunders and her website is www.wizardofpaws.net . She has some handy info on her website and also has DVDs available on stretching and conditioning the performance dog."

A Tale of a Tale

By Anonymous Shepherd

Finally some weather that finds me with an excuse not to go outside, I had hoped to write more often for the news but life just seems to get in the way— Especially here in North America where the climate is so lop sided! So much to do in such a short time every spring and summer (but that's another story).

There has been much talk recently about books on the Sheepdog-L. One author in particular...Ironically one well-meaning family member purchased us a copy of his latest, this Christmas, only for it to be left behind accidentally at their home. Perhaps just as well by all accounts? But time will tell and I

will reserve judgment!

But I digress: This is a tale of a tale written long ago and only recently discovered by us. Many of you may be familiar with this story but some of you may not. Winter is surely a time to reflect...Pick up a good book, sit by the fire and dwell on things past and present.

Let me take you back to my Christmas day 2005. But first, a little more history. A couple of years ago we were sitting in a friend's kitchen on a little farm in Vermont. Breakfast still in

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A Tale of a Tale

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the air but the table cleared away, conversation drifts as always to dogs and handlers. Our friend disappears for a minute and reappears, with what looks to be some old newspapers. How he came by them I do not recall, but on several separate pages are comic strips, very basic by modern standards, the illustrations crude with heavy blocks of color.

These strips depict the adventures of a dog and his good deeds. He is a Border collie. I was fascinated, but at that time knew no more about this than the fact he had been immortalized in print.

Back home I was determined to try and find out more. Not only did I discover that he was comic hero but also discovered he had been a movie star as well (His film, first released in 1938, was re-released in 1997 and was filmed on the Isle of Man).

The tale went to print first in 1898 and is set in Cumbria, England's beautiful Lake District and near the Scottish borders. It is a story of a Shepherd's dog, of the rivalry of men, of a boy, and the pursuit of the ultimate trophy, the Shepherds Cup! The Dogs portrayed in this book are not the Border collies that we know today but rather a style of herding dog that was probably part of their ancestry.

And so it was that we come back to Christmas morning 2005 (107 years since this tale was first told). I had come in from chores that morning and sat down with a mug of tea in my favorite chair, the maple slips crackling to life on last night's embers in the stove. Dog had crept in from the kitchen and nestled between wall and chair, my wife came and handed me a little package "Merry Christmas," she said, "Don't spill your tea."

I slit open the package, inside was a little red book, no more than 4 inches by 6 and barely more than ½ inch thick. Old, I

thought judging by its binding; I turned it to the spine and read the two words that disclosed that the author was the very same name I had seen on the comic strip! "How" I asked, "did you ever find it?" My wife replied that she had been browsing in a second hand bookstore one day during lunch and had come across it quite by chance.

I opened the first leaf and there inside was a picture of a boy and a man both with large dogs, the boy desperately trying to restrain his charge.

Starting to read, I realized that this was not going to be an easy task, even though I had spent many years as a young man back home in England. The little book had been written in Cumbrian dialect (slang), similar to that spoken in both Yorkshire and Lancashire, and indeed relating back to Celtic /Old Welsh.

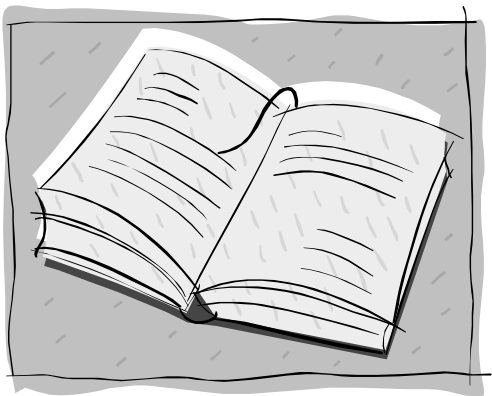
But if you are willing and have the time, it is a great story, and you will have hours of enjoyment figuring out the translation! A great book for the winter months.

If you have already read this gem try picking it up again. If not, I will reveal all in the next issue of NEBCA news. I believe that there is a free Internet

download of the book available and I will personally donate a copy of the videotape to the NEBCA library as soon as I find one. This book has joined the top shelf of our Border collie books. It by far being the oldest addition to our library at 107 years old! But more on this next issue...

A test for any up to the challenge: This dog is known by two words and the first eludes my knowledge of Cumbrian slang. I have an idea of the meaning but would like to hear yours! Write to me care of the NEBCA News Editor (creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca) and I'll post the responses in my next installment! Happy reading and stay warm!

From The Man Just Out-Standing in his Field ...



NEBCA Library - NEW items Submitted by Marthe Walke, NEBCA Librarian

Rules for library use:

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

Library Address:

Martha Walke
18 Whitcomb Hill Road, PO Box 66
So. Strafford, VT 05070
Tel: 802-765-4935

E-Mail: walkem@sover.net (Subject NEBCA Library)

Cheques may be made payable to NEBCA.

GO TO PAGE 19 FOR LIST OF NEW NEBCA LIBRARY ITEMS !

NEBCA Library - NEW items

NEW BOOKS!

1. Sheepdog Champions of North America - compiled by Geri Byrne & Mandy Harley
2. Training the Sheep Dog by Thomas Longton & Barbara Sykes (replacement)
3. Training and Working Dogs for Quiet Confident Control of Stock - by Scott Lithgow (replacement)
4. Herding Dogs: Progressive Training - by Vergil Holland
5. BO: Time Well Spent - by Aled Owen

NEW VIDEOS!

1. 2004 Supreme International (DVD)
2. 2005 World Sheepdog Trials: Top 5 Runs (Video)
3. 2006 National Sheepdog Finals: Top 2 Runs (DVD)
4. A Hill Shepherd Trains his Border Collies (DVD) (replacement)
5. A Shedding Clinic with Alasdair MacRae: Secrets of Successful Shedding (DVD)

OTHER NEW ITEMS!

1. Gaining the Winning Edge with Whistles by Kent Kuykendall

GIFTS:

1. A Shepherd's Watch: Through the Seasons with One Man and His Dogs by David Kennard
2. The Dogs of Windcutter Down: One Shepherd's Struggle for Survival by David Kennard

A full inventory as well as a "lost items" list will be included in the Summer newsletter . In the meantime, if you have a NEBCA library item, PLEASE return it to: Marthe Walke, 18 Whitcomb Hill Road,, PO Box 66, So. Strafford, VT 05070.



Photos submitted by Jen Thompson

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

Kimberly Baumgart
Gentle Shepherd Farms
7056 Rt. 16 South
Franklinville, NY 14737
(716) 674-2565
jimand-
kim@gentleshepherd farms.com

Carol & Larry Campion
Bittersweet Farm
109 Hammond Hill
Hampton, CT 06247
(860) 455-9416
carcampion@yahoo.com

Kate Collins & George Northrup
Aurora Ranch
P0 Box 119, Taft Hill Road
Royalston, MA 01368
(978) 249-4407
george01368@yahoo.com

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

Roger Deschambeault
2275 E. Conway Road
Conway, NH 03813
603-939-2255
nffarm@localnet.com

EyeSpy Border Collies
Anne Devine
205 Flanders Rd.
Niantic, CT 06357
860.608.4447
info@eyespybordercollies.com
www.eyespybordercollies.com

Joyce Geier
Sand Creek Farm
PO Box 208
Mendon, NY 14506
585-624-8220
jdgeier@bluefrog.com

Beverly Lambert & Doug
McDonnough, 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

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

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

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

Fiona Robertson
Creekside Border Collies
4565 Rte 108
North Hatley, QC J0B 2C0
(819) 842-4227
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca
www.creeksidebordercollies.com

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

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

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