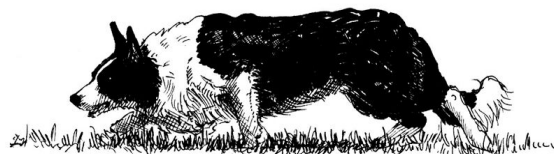


NEBCA News



The Official Publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc.
Spring 2008

Volume 26, Issue 1

www.nebca.net

March 2008

Inside this issue:

NEBCA Goes to the Worlds 3

US World Team Handler Profile: Joyce Geier 3

NEBCA Trial Calendar 4

NEBCA Learning Trials 5

Got Sheep? 6

NEBCA Classifieds 7

The Beginner 8

NEBCA Meeting Minutes 9

NEBCA Finances 11

US World Team Handler Profile: Maria Amodei 14

In Case of Emergency 15

Letters of Recognition and Thanks 18

NEBCA Breeders Listing 20



Winter Work. Photo by Grace Smith

Open the mail and what do I see?

A picture of Santa Claus....
Or was it me?

The lamb I remember very
light & a buzz

But the bag & the chimney for
my size would be tuff

The whiskers we share very
fluffy and white

As too the wild hair wind
blown and alight

Santa would call "on Prancer
on Dixon"

But I say "come on Spot don't
pee in the kitchen"

Santa fly's through the night
like a man on a mission

And I'd fall on the ice and be
out of commission

Oh the pictures are similar I'd
have to agree

But Santa's very nimble which
is unlike me

In the spirit of Christmas he
wishes good cheer

And in the same spirit I'd wish
for a good beer.

We both like a hearty laugh &
he a ho ho

But when I look at my scores
I say "oh no"!

So to end this discourse I
have one thing to say

That is Merry Christmas I will
soon be on the way

Santa (or Rob Drummond)

Thanks Rob
for being such
a great sport!
Although his
wife was in on
the scheme,
Rob himself
had no idea
until he saw
the Winter
issue of
NEBCA News!



NEBCA NEWS

Editor

Fiona Robertson
4565 Rte 108
Canton-de-Hatley, QC J0B 2C0
(819) 842-4227
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

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

President

Denise Leonard, 413-773-5232
dal@shaysnet.com

Vice President

Barb Armata, 518-875-6471
taffaway@aol.com

Secretary

Maria Mick, 518-861-5854
mickwa@capital.net

Treasurer

Maria Amodei, 978-649-6736
mamodei@charter.net

Board of Directors

Chair: Warren Mick, 518-861-5854
mickwa@logical.net

Dave Fetterman, 570-742-3526
d.fetterman2@verizon.net

Barbara Leverett, 518-568-2833
rleverett@frontiernet.net

Dave Young, 819-889-3276
dyoung@ubishops.ca

Committees

Open Trial Committee

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

Peter Van der Car 518-482-2625

Chris Bowen 603-358-014
cbowen@ne.rr.com

Mary Gessert (518) 861-8508
mgessert@verizon.net

Bud Ames 603-448-542
mbames@valley.net

Novice Trial Committee

Chair: Steve Wetmore, 802-765-4466
swwet@valley.net

Joyce Westcott 802-496-2459
jwestcott@gmavt.net

Susan Allen, 301-223-7481 (May-Oct); or 802-333-4396; bcbirth@earthlink.net

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

Calendar

George Northrup, 978-249-4407
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 will 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 goes to the World Sheepdog Trial in Wales

By Fiona Robertson

Four NEBCA members will be making the trip to Wales this year to compete in the 2008 World Sheepdog Trial to be held in Carmarthenshire September 11-14.

The NEBCA handlers and dogs slated to compete are: Joyce Geier of NY with her dogs Clue and Brass; Maria Amodei of MA with her dogs Cato and Rhyme; Gene Sheninger of NJ with his dogs Jess and Jen and Fiona Robertson of QC with Creekside Tap (representing Canada).

For details, please visit the 2008 World Trial website at:

www.worldsheepdogtrials.org

In the next few issues of the NEBCA News, we will be featuring articles related to the World Trial, including handler profiles of the selected NEBCA members. Joyce Geier and Maria Amodei are profiled in this issue.

As this newsletter reaches you, these handlers have already begun

the export process, which consists of several precise steps including microchipping, rabies vaccination, rabies titer and more. The expense entailed for these procedures, not to mention the cost of shipping dogs to the UK as manifested cargo is very high. Please look out for upcoming fundraisers to help support these NEBCA members as they represent not only their respective countries, but the Northeast Border Collie Association as well!



US World Team Handler Profile: Joyce Geier (New York)

By Fiona Robertson

Although Joyce grew up on a farm and currently lives on 30 acres surrounded by sheep, she would hesitate to call herself anything more than a "gentleman farmer". By day, Joyce flies a desk for corporate America, and it is only in the other hours that she can indulge herself tending sheep, maintaining the farm, and training dogs.

For Joyce, training and trialing sheepdogs is the culmination of thirty years' work with dogs. Obedience and retriever trials in the 70's morphed into tracking and wilderness search & rescue in the 80's. Sometime during those years of finding lost souls in the New Mexico mountains, a friend signed her up for a herding clinic so that her costs would be covered.

"That was it. I was hooked." Says Joyce.

Over time Joyce's canine entourage progressed from Shelties, to Aussies, to Border Collies. Many of us in the Northeast remember Joyce's first Border Collie, Troy, who is now 14 years old.

"Troy is a native New Mexican, although his pedigree has a large dose of ##Very ##Good ##Dogs in it."

Joyce says that Troy was an outstanding dog for her to grow with, and she doubts (like all of us with our first dogs) that she reached his full potential.

"A natural, quietly powerful and thoughtful dog, he never

let me down and more than once saved me from grievous situations – usually despite my best efforts to prevent him from doing so."

Like most handlers who are successful in the sport today, Joyce reflects that she has been extremely fortunate for the help she's received along the way, much of it from NEBCA members. Long time NEBCA member Steve Wetmore gave

Joyce her first lessons with Troy.

Later, Gene Sheninger helped introduce Joyce to the BC trialing world. She is also very grateful to both Bev Lambert and Amanda Milliken, who each "gave me a good talking-to a year or so later and booted me from Pro-Novice into Open." And even though she was petrified, Joyce admits they were right, she was ready. After that, Kent Kuykendall mentored her for several years. He challenged Joyce to stretch, to refine & step up her thinking, training, and handling. Joyce

says, "To this day, I still uncover gems of wisdom that he planted within me."

This will be Joyce's second appearance at the World Trial. In 2005, she represented the US in Tullamore, Ireland. She reports, "It's hard to describe the exhilaration of laying down solid runs there, against the great handlers who routinely complete the double lift at the International. It was mind boggling standing next to them, watching great runs

(Continued on page 13)



Joyce Geier's World Trial competitor, "Clue"

Mark Billadeau 2007

NEBCA Trial Calendar 2008

Submitted by Sue Schoen

March 28-30
Long Shot Trial
Church Hill, MD
One Novice
Two Open
Sherry Smith
longshotdmv.com

April 19-21
Sand Creek Farm
Mendon, NY
Two open, 3 Nursery.
Two novice
Joyce Geier
jdgeier@bluefrog.com

April 25-27
Old Chatham\
Old Chatham, NY
Two open
Warren Mick
mickwa@capital.net

April 26-27
Connecticut Sheepbreeder's Association
Tolland, CT
(tentative)
www.nebca.net

May 9-11
Borders On Paradise
Turbotville, Pa.
Two open
One novice
Dave Fetterman
d.fetterman2@verizon.net

May 12-13
NH Sheep&Wool Festival
Two novice/open
Cantoocook, NH
Chris Bowen
cbowen@ne.rr.com

May 23-25
Mass Sheep&Wool SDT
Cumington, Ma
Two open/one novice
Kate Collins
George01368@yahoo.com
NEBCA Meeting

May30-June1
Nearfield Farm
Center Conway,NH
One novice,two open, nursery
Gabe Merrill
gabe@pivot.net

June 14-17
Pennsylvania State Championship
Hop Bottom, Pa

Two novice/open
Cheryl&Dick Williams
culleymont@epix.net

June 21-22
High Point Farm
Knox,NY
Two novice
Peter Vandecar
518-482-2625

July 3-4
Fetch Gate Farm
Cortland, NY
Two novice/nursery
Roger&Heather Millen
millen@frontiernet.net

July 5-6
Fetch Gate Farm
Two open
Roger&Heather Millen
millen@frontiernet.net

July 11
Ossipee Valley Fair
Open and nursery
Ossipee,NH
Lynn Deshambeault
merlynn@fairpoint.net

July 12&13
Merck Forest
Rupert, Vt
Two open
Mandy Smith
mandy@merckforest.org

July 19-20
Mad River SDT
Waitsfield, VT
Two novice/open
Nancy Phillips
nphillips@madriver.com

July 26-27
Sherbrooke SDT (formerly known as
Lennoxville International)
Lennoxville, Quebec
Two Open
Dave &Mary EllenYoung
dyoung@ubishops.ca

Aug 1-4
Ewesful Acres SDT
Portland, ONT
Two novice/open
Jim and Joanne Murphy
jomur9@hotmail.com

August 2-4
Eighty Acres Summer Trial
Kingston, ONT

Two open, novice
Viki Kidd
vkidd@rogers.com

August 7-12
Kingston SDT at Grass Creek Park
Kingston, ONT
Two open
Canadian Open and Nursery Champion-
ships
Amanda Milliken
ajmilliken@gmail.com

August 15-17
Leatherstocking SDT
Cooperstown, NY
One novice,2 open
Barbara Armata
taffaway@aol.com

August 23
Vermont State Championship
Scottish Festival
Queechee, Vt
One open
Steve Wetmore
swwet@valley.net

August 24
Spring Valley Open
Strafford,Vt
One Open
Steve Wetmore
swwet@valley.net

August 28
Lancaster Fair
Lancaster, NH
Open points
Roger Deschambeault
Nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

August 30-31
Blue Hill Fair
Blue Hill, Me
Two open points trials
Jim Davidson
207-677-2224

September 6-7
Nation Valley Fall SDT
Winchester, Ontario
Two novice,open
Werner Reitboeck
werner@storm.ca

September 9
USBCA National Finals
Sturgis, ND

September 13-14
Woolly Winds Novice

(Continued on page 5)

NEBCA Trial Calendar 2008 (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Esperance, NY

Two novice

Melody Hanchett

featherrunner@hotmail.com

September 19

New Hampshire Highland Games

Loon Mt.

Lincoln, NH

Open points

Lynn Deshambeault

merlynn@fairpoint.net

September 20-21

Brynog Farm SDT

L'Original, ONT

All classes

Bruce Smart

613-525-3582

NEBCA Novice Finals

TBA

Three novice trials

Steve Wetmore

swwet@valley.net

September 26-28

Endless Mountains Classic

Harford, Pa

Two open

One double lift

Cheryl and Dick Williams

culleymont@epix.net

September 27

NH State Championship

East Conway, NH

Open

Roger Deschambeault

nearfieldfarm@pivot.net

September 28

Fryeburg Fair

Fryeburg, Me

Open

Gabe Merrill

gabe@pivot.net

Oct 4-5

Shepherd's Crook Farm

Woodville, Ont

Two novice, open

Ian and Shona Talbot

ian_shona@hotmail

Oct 4-5

Renaissance Farm Trial

Sydenham, Ontario

Lorna Savage

savagel@sympatico.ca

Columbus Day Weekend

NEBCA Fall Foliage

Location TBA

Sue Schoen

sbschoen@comcast.net

October 25-27

Butternut Creek Farm Trial

Kingston, Ontario

Amanda Milliken

ajmilliken@gmail.com

For up to date listings and info:

www.nebca.net

NEW for 2008: NEBCA Learning Trials

Submitted by Emily Yazwinski

The Ad Hoc Learning Trials Committee (LTC) was developed at the January 19, 2008 NEBCA Annual Meeting. Members include: Bernie Armata, Jill Horton-Lyons, Emily Yazwinski, Barb Leverett, Val Pietraszewska, Ellen Rusconi-Black and Deb Donahue.

The Mission of the Ad Hoc NEBCA Learning Trials Committee is to assist new sheepdog handlers in learning the various aspects of herding trial protocol, sheep behavior and handling, evaluating courses and runs and developing strategies for running their own dogs.

The committee will accept proposals from those willing to conduct one or two day Learning Trial Clinics, and be available to assist hosts with the clinics when asked. Hosts may charge a fee. NEBCA has allocated up to \$500 for the year to help hosts offset the cost of having a Learning Trial Clinic. The committee will allocate funds among several clinics and foresee hosts applying to use the funds for such things as porta-potty rentals. Funds may also be available from ABCA.

Learning Trials are not NEBCA sanctioned trials for points.

Learning Trial Participants, through small group hands on experience under the guidance of a more experienced handler will obtain greater stock sense and be able to assist in a variety of tasks at a competitive trial.

Suggested Learning Trial Topics include: Working the Sheep pen; sheep behavior, handling skills, working efficiently, what to expect.

- Holding Out or Setting Out; pressure points and using yourself and your dog.
- Exhausting Sheep after a run
- Scribing; etiquette
- Recycling Sheep to the Holding Pen
- Running Your Dog; Sizing up the Course, developing a strategy, what do you look for, evaluating a run, some points on judging.
- Evaluating your dog; take an honest look at your dog, working to your best advantage, what you can and cannot expect.
- Trial Etiquette; Handler and Dog Etiquette on and off the field.

The LTC suggests that the following information be made available to clinic participants in the form of a handout.

Clinic host should feel free to add other information they feel is appropriate. Please ask the committee for any help with the handouts.

Working the Sheep Pen: The objective is to quietly and efficiently sort sheep to be taken onto the field by the Set Out crew for the next handler/dog team run. Sheep are to be handled in a humane and gentle manner to provide every competitor with as similar an experience as possible.

Exhausting Sheep After A Run: At many trials once you have completed your competitive run you will proceed to the exhaust area. You are then responsible for exhausting the sheep for the next competitor. Your dog goes out to collect the sheep once the competitor has completed their run to place in the exhaust pen.

Scribing: The scribe records the scores provided by the judge and maintains the time clock. The Judge gives the scribe the points off for each section of the run. Judges are concentrating on providing each competitor with a fair and equitable evaluation of their work. Judges are ex-

(Continued on page 6)

NEBCA Learning Trials (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

perienced handlers. Judges appreciate scribes that allow them to focus on their tasks. It is the judge who addresses any handler's questions. Some judges may request to review the scribe's scores. It is best to double check the accuracy of the scores calculations.

Recycling the Sheep to the Holding Pen: When the set out pen requires more sheep, the sheep in the exhaust will be recycled to the set out pen. A handler and dog will bring the sheep out of the exhaust and drive them towards the set out pen. Often the few sheep in the exhaust pen will be released to lure the sheep together. A dog/s from the set out will be sent to pick up the sheep from the exhaust dog. The objective is the calm and quiet transfer of the sheep to continue with the trial in an efficient and smooth manner.

Running Your Dog: Learn about different breeds and ages of sheep and their corresponding behaviors. Learn what to look at when evaluating a course and how to analyze other runs in order to benefit your runs.

Evaluating Your Dog: When is your dog ready to trial? Have realistic expectations of your dog. Learn how to help your dog on and off the field. Know when to retire gracefully


Trial Etiquette of the Handler and Dog on and Off the Field: Trials can only occur when handlers pitch in to help with the work. Hosts need our help from set up to take down to have a trial. Most trial forms request your help. Follow through to provide or in the event you

can not honor, inform the host or volunteer coordinator so they may make other plans.

Good sportsmanship and professional conduct is expected by all handlers. Trials are a public venue with guest observers. Dogs are to be exercised away from the trial area and other dogs in the parking area. Most trials request dogs be maintained on leashes and please clean up after your dogs including in the parking area. Consider the close proximity of

others when camping and the noise and outside lights overnight.

Proposals for hosting a NEBCA Learning trial may be sent to Bernie Armata at: bma3@cornell.edu.

As these events are scheduled they will be listed under clinics on the NEBCA website and posted in the newsletter as time allows. We look forward to NEBCA members taking advantage of these opportunities to learn more about trialing with your dogs! 

The Working Border Collie



TODAY'S MAGAZINE
FOR THE WORKING
BORDER COLLIE

* Great Color Photos * Trial Results * Training Articles
* Handler Profiles * Trial & Clinic Dates * Veterinary Column
and more...

THE WORKING BORDER COLLIE
14933 Kirkwood Rd.
Sidney, OH 45365
(937) 492-2215
wbc@bright.net
www.working-border-collie.com



U.S FUNDS ONLY

Six Issues Per Year

\$35.00 / Per Year - US or \$65.00 / 2 years.
\$45.00 / Year to Foreign Countries.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone _____

Got Sheep? by Maria Amodei

9 years ago I got bit by the herding bug. I started taking herding lessons with my big Belgian Shepherd named Sundog. We were traveling over an hour each way to get to lessons so I was lucky to be able to work once a week. Either I needed to get some sheep for regular access or give up. I live on $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre in a town where land values are held high by spreading suburbia, so purchasing more land was well out of my financial reach. My job is such that I need to be near a major metropolitan area where the clients are, so I was likely to have the same problem wherever I moved.

There was open land in town, some of it fallow. I coveted these parcels and dreamed of the fields cleared of brush and beautifully fenced, with sheep grazing peacefully. My

dreams did little to help my reality. I had lived in Dunstable for 10 years yet knew few people here. That was going to need to change if I wanted sheep.

First I started with an inventory of the possible locations. The clear winner was a field fenced with 5 wire electric about 2 miles from my house. There were a few sheep in there already. I was pretty sure it was owned by the family in the house across the street from the field. The second option was right around the corner from my house. I had no idea who owned this second parcel. It was rapidly being engulfed by brush and trees. I needed to track down the

(Continued on page 13)

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 9, 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 on a limited basis. Contact: Carol Campion at carcampion@yahoo.com 860-455-9416

CBCA REGISTERED PUPPIES READY TO GO!

Out of Amber CBCA 2276 (Sara CAB 134733 x Bull CBCA 1344 of John Wilson's #Rob, ##Spot & Great Grandson of Dalzeil's ##Wisp) **by Mr. Blue CBCA 4688** (Heidi CBCA 455 (Ivan Weir's Joe and going back to Balch Taff on her dams side) x Imp. Ben CBCA 3937 (who has sired some very promising young dogs in Ireland). Parents CEA DNA Normal. Pups are tri-colored, rough coats. Both parents work around the farm, are showing great potential on the trial field and are wonderful house pets. For more information please call: Wendy Pullan 613-396-5317. Thistle Dew Farm, RR #1, 123 Maple Sugar Road, Shannonville, Ontario, K0K 3A0; thistledew@auracom.com (Please note this does not always work !!)

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 creekside-farm@sympatico.ca and send payment to NEBCA c/o treasurer, Maria Amodei (for address, see page 2).

OOPS!

In the winter issue of NEBCA News (Volume 25, Issue 4), we printed a wonderful article **Report on the "Genetic Lesson from the UK" Lecture** and the poem **Sheep Dog Passing** by R.A. Chesterfield. I mistakenly labeled Barbara Starkey as the sender when both pieces were actually submitted by Nancy Starkey.

Very sorry for the confusion!

The Editor

Clinic with Kevin Howell of Karana Kelpie Stud, Eugowra Australia

When: Friday, June 6 - June 8, private lessons scheduled on Monday June 9th.

Location: Sheepdog Junction, Middleboro, Massachusetts

Participants: Limited to 15 teams per day. All levels of teams are welcome. Kevin is happy to work with puppies to advanced trial level teams. Auditors: Unlimited

Cost: For all three days: \$350 / working team (\$240 to audit all 3 days) OR one day \$150 / working team (\$80 per day to audit). Continental breakfast and lunch provided each day. We will begin at 8:00 am each day.

Contact: Julie Williams juju543@juno.com . For more on Kevin Howell, please visit his website at: www.karanakelpie.com.au



Too much snow to work dogs?

Dogs got cabin fever?

How about this for doggy endorphins!

A tired Border Collie is a good Border Collie!

This is Kate Broadbent with a fast team of Border Collies.

Photo submitted by Amanda Milliken

The Beginner

Submitted by Gail Van Wicklen

As I thread my way carefully through the in's and out's, or it is come-by's and away's, of learning sheep herding, the realization that I am slowly becoming more aware of what I need to do is setting in.

Dog had it figured out from the start, sorry I am a little slower.

Having relinquished the control of a long time agility trainer to become somewhat of a participating director for a dance with both sheep and dog is amazing to me.

While my choreography is not even close to perfect, I can see slow improvement in the movements of both dog and sheep while I try to maintain slow steady progress toward those distant gates, fences or pen without letting things get out of hand. Which does happen occasionally – dog really enjoys that part until I get after her!

No longer can I rely on training once a week for a few minutes, I must now strive to find sheep to practice with and instructors to help me as often as possible in my progression toward that end goal, a reliable and steady herding dog.


I have had instruction from some of the best handlers and attended many clinics, coming away from each with more knowledge to apply to my training and a whole lot less, well spent, money in my pocket.

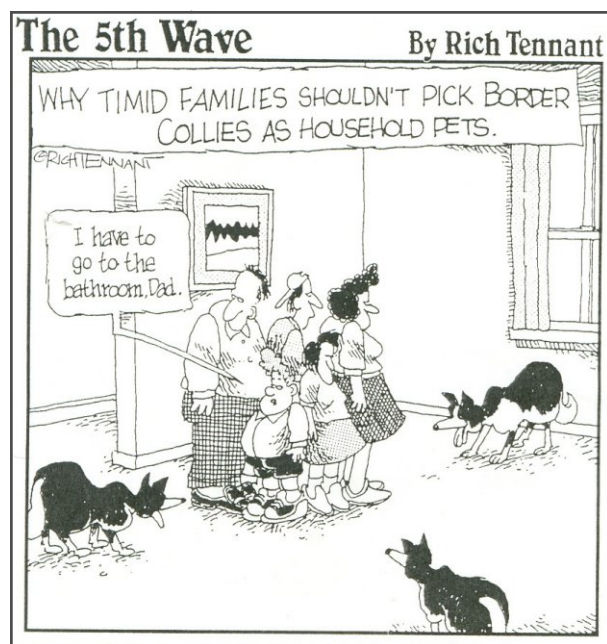
Along the way I am meeting many wonderful people, seeing beautiful sights, and learning to become a better shepherd and person.

Volunteering at trials is a wonderful way to learn. Being a Scribe, score sheet runner, etc., has helped me learn what tri-

als are all about, how the scoring is accomplished and what is needed to be successful on the field.

I truly hope that other handlers, new to the sport of sheep herding, are finding it as rewarding as I am and will step up and volunteer at the next trial they attend.

This will be my first season trialing at USBCHA / NEBCA Trials and I expect it will be a good one, no matter what the outcome! 



NEBCA Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Maria Mick

NEBCA 2008 Annual Meeting

January 19, 2008
Deerfield, MA

Meeting called to order at 10:12am by Denise Leonard

Old Business

Last Meeting Minutes - Martha Walke motioned to approve the minutes from the Leatherstocking SDT meeting. Motion seconded by Betty Levin and approved.

Secretary – given by Maria Mick – Currently 153 members, including 35 family memberships and 5 Life memberships (Walt & Eleanor Jagger, Betty Levin, Betty & Dave Murray, Roger Deschambeault, Gabe & Edwin Merrill). Numbers from 2007 Annual meeting: 154 members including 36 family memberships and 4 LIFE members.

Treasurer – given by Maria Amodei – NEBCA donated the 2nd installment of \$2500 to the National Finals and received the entire \$5000 back the last quarter of 2007. There is currently approximately \$16000 in our treasury. We now have a CD earning more interest (about \$20/month earned). Refer to treasurer's report. A motion by Martha Walke to accept the report. was seconded by Bernie Armata and passed.

Sue Schoen noted that High Points prizes for 2007 were still to be arranged and that she had not yet been reimbursed for the 2006 Supreme Champion award, a painting of Bev Lambert's Bill. Emily motioned that NEBCA should pay for the Supreme award up to \$250. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed. Trials committee was given a budget of \$300 for the 2007 high points prizes.

Election Committee –Chris Bowen gave the results for the Board of Directors election: Barb Leverett - 62, Dave Fetterman - 44, Betty Levin – 43, Eve Marschark – 36. Denise announced that based on the results, Barb Leverett and Dave Fetterman will join existing board members Warren Mick and Dave Young. Denise also thanked to Betty Levin and Sally Lacy for serving last term.

Board of Directors - given by Warren Mick– It was a quiet year with nothing significant that could not be handled by the various committees.

Open Trials Committee – given by Sue Schoen - There was no FF in 2007. Sue opened a discussion on the future of the Fall Foliage trial. The general sentiment was that the committee should continue the trial if at all possible. A motion for a \$1600 budget for the 2008 fall foliage was made and passed.

Sue asked whether Dick William's Lass, who won the 2007 high points, should be given the chance to earn a Supreme Champion title in 2008 since there was no fall Foliage in 2007. This question was put to a straw vote and it was decided that the events must be in the *same* year. Steve Wetmore motioned that the Open trial committee should add the requirements for the Supreme award to the open trial rules. The proposed rule change would need to be voted on at the

next annual meeting and, if passed, would take effect in the 2008-9 trial year. The motion was seconded by Emily Yazwinski and passed.

Novice Committee - given by Steve Wetmore.

The 2007 novice finals went smoothly with over 50 dogs competing. Steve offered thanks to the many volunteers that helped with the trial and Peter Vandecar for the use of his farm in Knox, NY. A site and date for the 2008 novice finals has not yet been determined.

Steve expressed thanks to Joanne Krause for her help on the committee. Joanne is resigning this year.

Steve asked that members review the novice points list and let Heather Millen know if any dogs listed are not longer competing. He also noted that the 30 point limit is now in effect.

The topic of how to increase the number of fun-days, clinics and other training activities for novice people was discussed. Bernie Armata motioned that an ad hoc committee be formed to investigate ways that NEBCA could increase the training opportunities for novice people in the region. The committee would have a budget of \$500. Motion seconded by Ellen Black. The motion was amended that the committee should obtain approval of the executive on how the money is spent. The amended motion was passed. The ad hoc committee is composed of Emily Yazwinski, Bernie Armata, Ellen Black, Wendy Warner, Deb Donahue, Jill Horton Lyons, Val Pietraszewska, and Barb Leverett.

Fund Raising Committee– given by Joanne Krause - Joanne reported that the fundraising effort made a profit in 2007 but there were quite a few items left unsold. She suggested adding some sweatshirts this year but holding off on anything else until most of the 2007 items were sold. Rob Drummond and Bill Black suggested a quality made pin might be a good fundraising item and offered to investigate it further.

Calendar Committee –given by George Northrup – George said that only about half of the 2008 calendars were currently sold. He thought the increased \$10 price was partly responsible and that the number sold at national finals was unexpectedly low. Even so, he thought a few more would be sold and the calendar should come close to breaking even. George provided two quotes for printing 400 calendars and motioned that that the club allocate \$3000 for printing a 2009 calendar. The motion was seconded by Emily Yazwinski and passed. Kate Collins noted that submissions for photos used in the new calendar would be accepted until Feb. 1.

Newsletter – given by Warren Mick - Fiona Robertson has agreed to continue to edit the newsletter this year. She asks for contributors of articles, trial results, photos, etc.

Library – given by Martha Walke - 28 people borrowed from the library in 2007. Martha will accept suggestions for new purchases.

(Continued on page 10)

NEBCA Meeting Minutes

NEBCA Breeding Policy –given by Sally Lacy - The committee formed to update the NEBCA breeding policy will report at the next meeting.

Awards –2007 High Points Champion was Dick Williams and Lass. Sue Schoen displayed the finished painting done by Barb Armata of Beverly Lambert's Bill who won the NEBCA's 2005 Supreme Champion title.

New Business

Betty motioned that Dave and May Davidson be granted Life membership in NEBCA due the fact that they have run the Blue Hill SDT for 52 years. Sally Lacy seconded the motion. Warren Mick moved to amend the motion so that they be granted "Honorary Life member status", with no voting rights, instead of full life member status, since they have not always been NEBCA members. The amended motion was passed.

Emily Yazwinski motioned that NEBCA give Kate Collin's sister a sweatshirt and letter of recognition for the work she has done over the years in preparing ads for NEBCA and helping with the NEBCA calendar. The motion was amended by Val Pietraszewska to allow Kate to decide if whether a one-year membership or sweatshirt would be more appropriate. Motion passed.

NEBCA member Wally Dury made the suggestion that the trial listing on the website be linked to Google Maps to provide directions to trial sites.

Discussion continued on whether the newsletter should be available electronically from the website. Also, the possibility of offering a classified section on the website was discussed. Denise Leonard is to contact the NEBCA webmaster Jim Murphy to discuss ways to enhance the website and improve communications.

Rob Drummond provided information from Dave Fetterman concerning a study investigating canine hearing loss being conducted at University of California/Davis. We are looking into the possibility of placing the survey to be used by investigators on the website for those interested in participating.

Rob Drummond discussed an inquiry from Dave Fetterman concerning the possibility of sanctioning a novice trial even if only 2 of the 3 novice classes were offered. Discussion followed and Denise Leonard motioned for the committee to take informal surveys at trials to gather opinions of trialers/trial managers concerning Dave's suggestion and present some criteria at a later date.

Announcements –2007 Calendars are still available for sale.

Meeting dates 2008 –Meetings scheduled for the Saturdays of the Cummington SDT and the Leatherstocking SDT following the trial.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.



The Gift of Relaxation...

I was working at a client site yesterday when the woman on the desk beside me mentioned that she had heard I keep dogs and sheep. An animal lover, she went on about how relaxing it is to keep animals, citing the studies that show how petting an animal reduces your heart rate and respiration. She has a cat and a toy poodle that she adores. She asked about my animals and spoke lovingly of her own.

I came home that night to a house full of puppies, raging about the living room slamming plastic bottles from side to side like pucks in a game of puppy hockey. I waded across the room with little fangs attached to my legs and looked at the porch where they had spent the day. No point in trying to clean that up, all frozen to the deck. I brought the adult bitches (2 of whom are in season) out of the kennels and crated them in my bedroom. I let the boys out of their kennels to follow the girls' trail around the yard, then went to feed sheep in the frozen dark. After feeding the adult dogs I put the puppies out one last time, then put them in the x-pen in the living room for the night. They were far from ready to settle. It looked like a snake pit with squeaky toys in there. Then I considered what to do with the 3 boy dogs who were still outside. The neutered boy came in to bed. Cato seemed under control though he was standing two inches taller and strutting and preening like an 18 year old boy with a new leather jacket. I brought him inside to sleep but blocked off entry to my bedroom. Dare had completely morphed into Gonad the Barbarian. He spent the night on the porch. By 4AM Cato's restlessness earned him the porch as well. Overall it was not bad, the puppies slept in till 6AM.

I had not gone into any details when the nice lady asked about my animals.
I don't think she would have understood.

Maria Amodei

NEBCA Finances

Submitted by Maria Amodei

NEBCA Cash Flow 1/1/2007- 12/31/2007

INFLOWS

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Advertisements | \$84 | 0.62% |
| Breeders Directory | | |
| Listing | \$305 | 2.26% |
| Web Link | \$80 | 0.59% |
| TOTAL Breeders Directory | \$385 | 2.85% |
| Calendar Sales | | |
| 2007 Calendar | \$663 | 4.91% |
| 2008 Calendar | \$1,683 | 12.47% |
| TOTAL Calendar Sales | \$2,345 | 17.38% |
| Fence Rental | \$158 | 1.17% |
| Interest Inc | \$96 | 0.71% |
| Library Fees | \$216 | 1.60% |
| Membership Dues | | |
| Family | | |
| 2007 | \$1,675 | 12.41% |
| 2008 | \$125 | 0.93% |
| TOTAL Family | \$1,800 | 13.34% |
| Individual | | |
| 2007 | \$3,210 | 23.79% |
| 2008 | \$160 | 1.19% |
| TOTAL Individual | \$3,370 | 24.97% |
| TOTAL Membership Dues | \$5,170 | 38.31% |
| Novelty Sales | \$2,961 | 21.94% |
| Trial Income | | |
| 2007 Novice Finals | \$2,080 | 15.41% |
| TOTAL Trial Income | \$2,080 | 15.41% |
| TOTAL INFLOWS | \$13,495 | 100% |

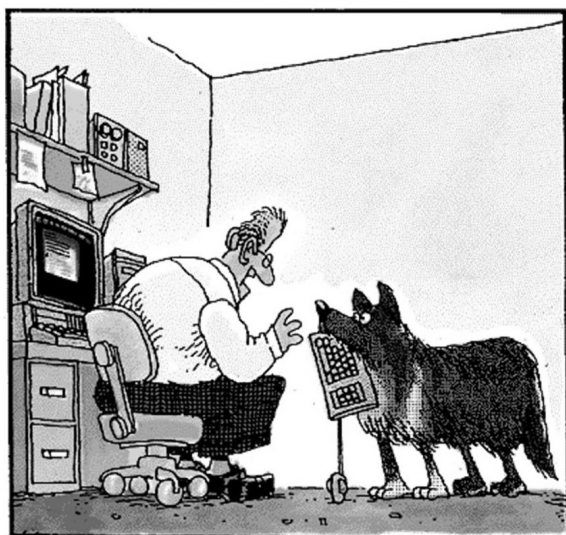
NEBCA Cash Flow 1/1/2007- 12/31/2007

OUTFLOWS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Uncategorized* | \$285 | 3.01% |
| *foreign checks to re-deposit | | |
| Administrative | \$125 | 1.32% |
| Bank Charge | \$41 | 0.44% |
| Calendar Expense | | |
| 2007 Calendar | \$94 | 0.99% |
| 2008 Calendar | \$3,121 | 32.98% |
| TOTAL Calendar Expense | \$3,214 | 33.97% |
| Insurance | | |
| Other Insurance | \$742 | 7.84% |
| TOTAL Insurance | \$742 | 7.84% |
| Library | | |
| Books And Videos Purchase | \$18 | 0.19% |
| Library Administration | \$5 | 0.05% |
| TOTAL Library | \$23 | 0.24% |
| Misc | \$69 | 0.73% |
| Newsletter | | |
| Postage | \$735 | 7.77% |
| Printing | \$1,441 | 15.23% |
| TOTAL Newsletter | \$2,176 | 23.00% |
| Novelties - Cost of Goods Sold | \$2,229 | 23.55% |
| Postage and Delivery | \$74 | 0.78% |
| Trial Expense | | |
| 2006 Fall Foliage | | |
| Awards | \$22 | 0.23% |
| TOTAL 2006 Fall Foliage | \$22 | 0.23% |
| 2006 Novice Finals | | |
| Food | \$65 | 0.69% |
| TOTAL 2006 Novice Finals | \$65 | 0.69% |
| 2007 Novice Finals | | |
| Awards | \$701 | 7.41% |
| Dinner | (\$80) | -0.85% |
| Facilities | \$395 | 4.17% |
| Food | \$297 | 3.14% |
| Judge | \$450 | 4.76% |
| Misc | \$186 | 1.96% |
| Setout | \$150 | 1.59% |
| Sheep | \$800 | 8.45% |
| TOTAL 2007 Novice Finals | \$2,899 | 30.63% |
| National Finals | (\$2,500) | -26.42% |
| TOTAL Trial Expense | \$485 | 5.13% |
| TOTAL OUTFLOWS | \$9,463 | 100% |
| OVERALL TOTAL | \$4,032 | 100% |



The 5th Wave



Shep... Give me back the keyboard.
I don't care if you weren't done surfing the Web
for Border Collie sites -- it's my turn now.

NEBCA Finances (continued)

NEBCA Operating Budget for 2008/Actuals 2007

| Item | 2008 Plan | | | 2007 Actual | | | 2007 Plan | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | Income | Expense | Net | Income | Expense | Net | Income | Expense | Net |
| Membership | \$5,500 | | \$5,500 | \$5,170 | | \$5,170 | \$5,500 | | \$5,500 |
| Advertising (brdrs list, ads) | \$500 | | \$500 | \$469 | | \$469 | \$500 | | \$500 |
| Library | \$100 | \$200 | (\$100) | \$216 | \$23 | \$193 | \$100 | \$200 | (\$100) |
| Fence Rental | \$100 | \$50 | \$50 | \$158 | | \$158 | \$100 | \$50 | \$50 |
| Bank Charges/Interest | \$100 | \$0 | \$100 | \$96 | \$41 | \$55 | \$80 | \$0 | \$80 |
| Office Expenses | | \$250 | (\$250) | | \$199 | (\$199) | | \$250 | (\$250) |
| Awards | | \$150 | (\$150) | | | \$0 | | \$150 | (\$150) |
| Insurance | | \$1,000 | (\$1,000) | | \$742 | (\$742) | | \$1,100 | (\$1,100) |
| Misc | | \$200 | (\$200) | | \$354 | (\$354) | | \$200 | (\$200) |
| Newsletter | | \$3,200 | (\$3,200) | | \$2,176 | (\$2,176) | | \$3,100 | (\$3,100) |
| Fall Foliage Trial | \$1,200 | \$2,800 | (\$1,600) | | | \$0 | | \$0 | \$0 |
| Novice Trial | \$1,200 | \$2,400 | (\$1,200) | \$2,080 | \$2,964 | (\$884) | \$1,200 | \$2,400 | (\$1,200) |
| Novice Trial/Training Days | | \$500 | (\$500) | | \$22 | (\$22) | | | |
| 2007 National Finals | | | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 | | \$2,500 | (\$2,500) |
| Calendar | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$0 | \$2,345 | \$3,214 | (\$869) | \$3,000 | \$3,100 | (\$100) |
| Fund Raising | \$3,000 | \$2,000 | \$1,000 | \$2,961 | \$2,229 | \$733 | \$3,000 | \$2,000 | \$1,000 |
| Total: | \$14,700 | \$15,750 | (\$1,050) | \$18,495 | \$14,463 | \$4,032 | \$13,480 | \$15,050 | (\$1,570) |

2007 Treasurer's Report

Account balances on 12/31/2007 totaled \$16,078.40

- In 2007 we paid our second \$2500 installment of our \$5000 contribution to the National Finals, and then received the entire \$5000 back.
- There was no Fall Foliage trial. There are some expenses both for Fall Foliage and Novice Finals from the previous year.
- The bank was taken over by ING who did not accept money orders or foreign checks. Switched banks to Bank of America and opened \$6,000 CD.
- Hats and Shirts sales were down because of the Nationals hats, shirt and sweatshirts. We still have some left for 2008.
- Newsletter costs were actually \$2,948. The last newsletter bill was paid in 2008 so does not show here.

Balance History (All Accounts)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 12/31/05 | 3/31/06 | 6/30/06 | 9/30/06 | 12/31/06 | 3/31/07 | 6/30/07 | 9/30/07 | 12/31/07 | 1/18/2008 |
| 11,331 | 12,913 | 9,203 | 9,672 | 12,046 | 13,493 | 9,691 | 9,810 | 16,078 | 16,665 |

Joyce Geier (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

with them, and hearing them discuss handling & dog errors that I couldn't even begin to see. I left that trial as a neophyte once again."

Joyce is taking two dogs to Wales in September, both purchased as 7 week old puppies and home trained. One dog (Clue, 8 yrs old, a ##Craig pup bred by Amanda Milliken) will be a repeat at the World Trial; the other (Brass, 5 years old, a Decks son bred by Kate Broadbent) will be on his second trip to the UK but his first World Trial.

In Joyce's case, preparation for this year's event innocently began immediately after Tullamore when she changed her plans and stayed on for more trialing & training. That extra time wasn't just valuable for the dogs' mileage and her handling; it also provided weeks for listening and watching and discussing and learning to "see". It was so constructive that she returned this past summer with a young dog (Brass) for five more weeks of immersion.

"It is fair to say that I returned home each time as a much deeper trainer and improved handler with greatly advanced dogs."

This experience is having some noticeable effects. First, she's placing with (and occasionally beating) handlers such as Jim Cropper, Alf Kyme, and Dick Roper. But more telling is a comment from an Irish shepherd this summer, after Joyce and Brass gathered his difficult hill in a rapidly descending fog: "You're no slouch, and neither is that young dog." He apparently had said something quite different when she'd tried it with a seasoned dog on a sunny, lesser hill in 2005!

Other (less extreme and more common) preparation is like getting ready for any targeted, major trial. Physical and mental conditioning are the foundation (for both the dogs and handler); more so for the Worlds, because of the added stress of flying, time zones, different traveling conditions, different food, and the different sheep. Cross training is important to achieve

peak physical condition. Injury prevention, physical & mental stamina, and exemplary health become more and more critical as the event approaches.

Trial selection – timing, sheep, and courses – can help or hinder preparation as well. Joyce says that possibly more important than trials are stimulating training scenarios with a wide range of sheep, building mental stamina and sharpening up both the dogs' thinking and Joyce's handling. While some degree of 'tune up' and 'maintenance' training is always needed, Clue and Brass are mature. Hard drilling & micro-handling really doesn't benefit them much – "an interesting dilemma," muses Joyce, "since I still need much work on my handling."

Relaxation and time off are part of preparation, too, even once at the World Trial. For Joyce, photography and writing provide a relaxing break; for the dogs, long pressure-free walks & swimming to just "be dogs" keeps them bright.

"Maybe, if I had a very big hill and a few thousand sheep, this route of preparation would be laughable." Joyce says with a chuckle. Sadly, though, like most of us here in the Northeast, that is not the case, and Joyce makes do to the best of her abilities with the small holding that she's got.

A question that Joyce is often asked is: "what advice would I give to someone just starting out training or trialing"? There's the usual response of find a good mentor, read all you can, get a dog that you can work with and will grow with you, and so forth. But Joyce also offers up something a bit different.

"Think. Reflect. Seize opportunities when they arise. Push yourself toward a goal, stretching a bit more each year. Celebrate small victories along the way. And most importantly, keep it fun. Loose that, and you've lost a great pastime filled with wonderful people and adventures that you can't begin to imagine."

We wish Joyce, Brass and Clue the very best of luck at the 2008 World Sheepdog Trial!



Got Sheep? (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

landowners on these properties and ask if I could work out an agreement to use the land.

I'm quite brazen about my opinions and very confident professionally. However I am not socially confident and found the prospect of introducing myself to strangers to ask if I could keep sheep on their land for my dog to chase more than a bit daunting. If ever there was a reason for procrastination... I must have driven by that house with the big fenced field 50 times before I stopped in. It was on the main road to the next town so I had many opportunities to berate myself for my social paralysis as I drove by. Finally I pulled into their driveway. Predictably, the guy thought I was a bit strange. He said he'd talk it over with his family. It turns out their sheep were the sons' 4H projects. I gave him my number. I did not hear anything. I finally called and he said they had decided against having me keep sheep there. I don't blame them. It was a huge sense of relief to have that task over and done with.

Next I needed to find out who owned the land closer to my house. The location was great, but the land was covered with some miserable thickets and not fenced. It turns out the owners lived on the other side of town and were also parents of 4H sheep kids. Unlike the first family these folks did not peer at me as if I were asking to paint their driveway yellow. My situation seemed quite normal to them and they were open to the idea of me using their land. The land had been in the family for years, cow pasture decades ago. They liked the idea of using it for agriculture again. Knowing the land would be cared for and cleared was a real plus. I drew up a contract for a dollar and have been there for the past 9 years.

In the midst of the discussions about the land, the father of the family asked if I would be willing to serve on the board of health. He was very involved in town politics. I did not feel I was in a position to refuse as I REALLY wanted to use that land. I was elected by a landslide a couple months

(Continued on page 16)

US World Team Handler Profile: Maria Amodei (Massachusetts)

By Fiona Robertson

Maria Amodei has always been an animal lover and had horses for years when she was younger. Like most trial enthusiasts here in the Northeast, Maria is not a farmer by trade and her involvement with Border Collies happened in a somewhat backwards and roundabout way.

She began herding with her Belgian Shepherds, which got her hooked. The next dog was a Border Collie.

While many of us think back to our first trial dog with some amusement (and a good dose of regret that our beginner ways perhaps squelched some of the talent) this is not so for Maria, who is still running that first dog successfully! Her first dog was and still is, Cato—the dog that was selected for the US team! Maria speaks fondly of her smooth coated black dog. “He brought me from novice to where I am now and he’s still teaching me.”

Cato is Maria’s main dog. He was bred by Alasdair MacRae. Despite his speed, Maria describes him as primarily a thinking dog. He reads his stock extremely well. His priority is to control the stock. Maria says, “Cato is very willing to bring all his natural abilities into a partnership with me.”

The second dog Maria is taking to Wales is her smooth coated bitch, Rhyme. Rhyme was bred by Kate Broadbent and is a half sister to fel-

low teammate Joyce Geier’s “Brass”. Maria describes Rhyme’s working style: “She has perfect little flanks, then snaps on to a lovely direct line

told her directly that she needs to “tone herself down”. Maria confesses that she can become quite wired and this transmits to the animals, mostly to the detriment of the job at hand.

Maria says that preparing for the Worlds will not change too much in her training plan this season, although she is determined to try to get out to some new trials this year.

Maria’s advice to those just getting into sheepdog handling is basic and full of common sense. “Dogs have faults. Dogs do bad things. Get over it (easier said than done). It is your job as a handler to make the best of what your dog brings to the field.” She advises newbies to get their own sheep and also to work with a good instructor. (Please see article in this issue: “Got Sheep” by Maria Amodei.)



Maria Amodei’s Cato
Photo by Sharon Perkins

onto her sheep. She does not rattle her stock and is very clear in where she wants them to go.”

Maria says that several prominent sheepdog handlers have helped her along the way, including NEBCA’s own Bev Lambert. “I work with Bev Lambert whenever I get the chance. She has a thoughtful and practical approach to both handling and training.” Maria also says that Derek Scrimgeour was the first person who

When we asked Maria if she has any other interests besides her dogs and trialing, she replied: “After my full time job, taking care of sheep, training and exercising dogs and trialing on weekends? I like to sleep!”

Maria forgot to mention that she still finds time to volunteer for NEBCA and has been our treasurer for several years now. Thanks Maria! We wish her, Cato and Rhyme the best of luck in Wales!



SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE OF NEBCA NEWS IS MAY 1st 2008
(OR THEREABOUTS...) PLEASE CONTRIBUTE !

In Case Of Emergency

by Nancy Cox Starkey

As many of us travel great distances with our dogs in our vehicles, here's something that you may want to keep in mind. Have you ever stopped to think what might happen if there were an accident in which you were injured (or even killed) and not able to communicate your wishes regarding your dogs? I now carry the following letter, along with photos and medical records for each of my dogs in my vehicle at all times.

In Case of an Accident

In the event that I, (insert your name), am incapacitated and unable to make my wishes known regarding my dogs, please honor the following requests:

Please contact (name of a family member or friend) as soon as possible at (phone numbers). If he/she can not be reached, please contact (another family member or friend) at (phone numbers). All expenses for the dogs care will be guaranteed by them.

If the dogs are not injured, they are to be cared for by the nearest reputable boarding kennel, and kept in the best possible manner, until arrangements can be made for their transportation home.

If any dog is injured, they are to be cared for by the nearest licensed veterinarian. Additionally, I would like for my veterinarian, Dr. _____, to be contacted regarding decisions about the dog's care and treatment. He/she can be contacted 24 hours a day at the _____ Veterinary Hospital at _____.

If any dog is injured beyond all hope of recovery, that dog is to be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

Photographs and descriptions of the dogs that usually accompany me is contained in this packet, as are their health and vaccination records. These dogs are tattooed with my social security number on their inner left thigh, in addition to being micro-chipped with the numbers listed on the copy of their records. The welfare of these dogs is my primary consideration.

Consider keeping a letter such as this (with your information and any additional instructions) in your vehicle, somewhere where it would be easily located by emergency personnel (mine is in a zippered pouch and attached to their crates). It could ensure the proper treatment of your dogs in case of an accident. The alternatives are not pleasant: if uninjured, your dogs could be taken to a local "pound"; if injured, your dogs could be "put out of their misery" by a well-meaning but uninformed trooper. And, hopefully, all of us further ensure our dogs' safety by keeping them properly restrained at all times while traveling. A few simple precautions could make a big difference in an emergency situation.

** Revised and Reprinted with permission of Ethel B. Conrad, USBCC Founder and President*

Got Sheep? (continued)

(Continued from page 13)

later. I was the only choice on the ballot.

I started by fencing a small portion of the field right at the end of the drive. I bought 6 dogged ewes from Ellen Skillings. That summer I fenced the entire perimeter of that small field. That fall I built a 6' x 14' wooden shed on skids for shelter. I was on my way. I'll never forget those early sheep years. There's only so much you can learn from books about keeping sheep.

Probably the most fun (at least I'm laughing now) was my first lambing. I brought the sheep to my house for lambing and set up a pen off the shed in the back. I wanted them close so I could keep an eye on them. Since I don't have much room in the shed the lawn tractor had to move out onto the back porch. This redneck tradition of piling implements on the porch each March continues to this day. I did not have a trailer to bring the sheep so I decided to bring them with my dog. The problem is I live on a very busy road and my dog and I were novices. The sheep field is around the corner, with a short leg on my busy road, then an equal leg on a less busy road. There is a pond belonging to the town inside this corner. If I look across the pond I can almost see the sheep field from my house.

My brilliant idea was to bring the sheep across the frozen pond, thereby avoiding the busy road entirely. I just needed some snow for traction. The lambing dates drew near and we had no snow. Finally we got a storm. This was my chance. I grabbed Sun-

dog and went up to get the sheep. We only needed to take them on the road for about 50 feet before turning in the entry to the pond. There was a short steep bank down to the ice. The sheep thought little of this option but the dog was persistent. We got on the ice and I realized it was still quite slippery despite 4 inches of snow. One of the girls kept slipping and

for another try, this time I decided to cross further down where there was some rough area on the ice. This required another 200 feet on the road. We got almost to our planned crossing route and an impatient driver came upon us and tailgated about 10 feet behind Sundog. I lost my cool, the dog lost his cool, and one sheep escaped and ran back to the field. We

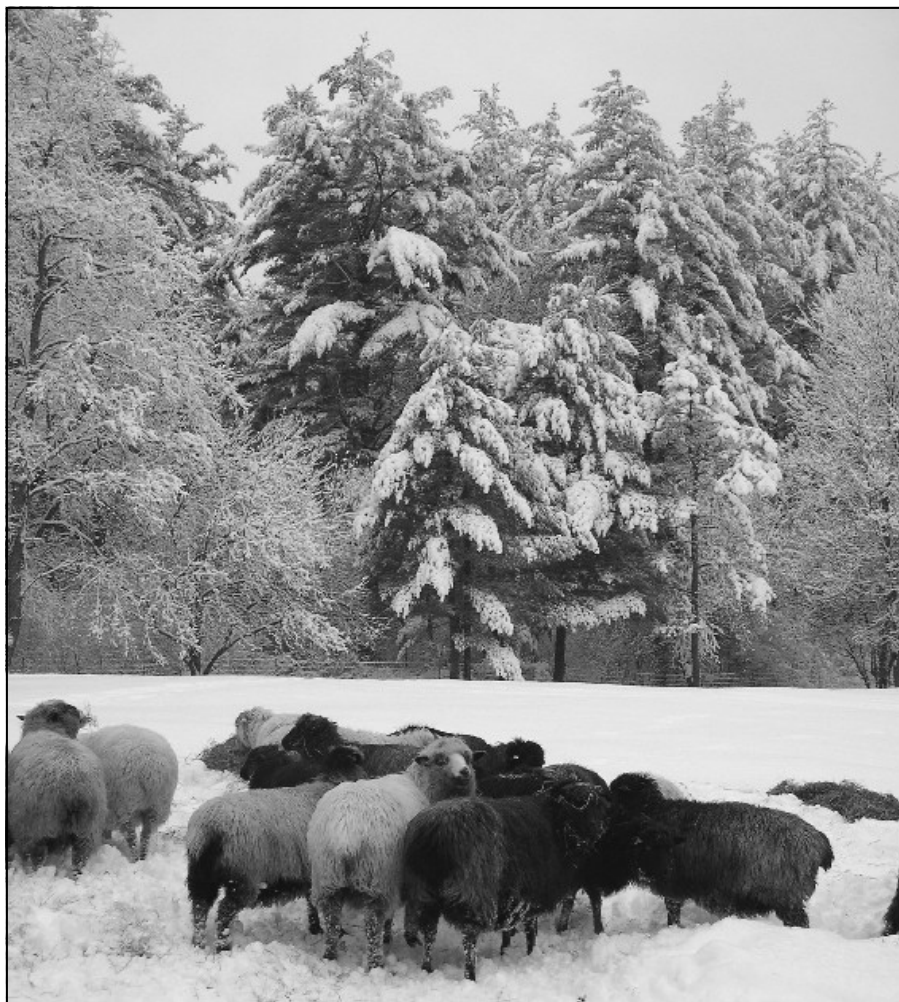
turned around and went back again. Third time was a charm, no impatient drivers and the footing on the ice was better at the lower crossing. I brought the sheep across the pond and into my back gate. Whew. I still periodically hear rumors in town about people swearing they saw a sheep laying on the ice in the middle of Woodward's pond as they drove by. I just smile and say "Really!"

Now you may be wondering what I did when the sheep and their new lambs needed to get back to the field. The ice had melted. No problem, each ewe and her young lambs were stuffed in a very large dog crate on a big crate dolly. With one person pulling and another pushing the cargo was rolled down Route 113 and up Pond Street to the

field again. I feel it is my civic duty to entertain the town. Fortunately I only had a few sheep.

Still thinking of getting sheep? Here's some pointers for the would be shepherd who has every intention of keeping their day job.

- Remember you are keeping sheep for your dog to work. Select easy care sheep with temperaments that meet your training requirements. Never keep an animal



Maria's flock in February 2008

falling, no doubt exacerbated by the dog working too close and fast. She finally lay down in the middle of the pond and quit. I tried lifting her. No luck. So here I was in a snowstorm standing in the middle of the town pond with 5 standing sheep, one sheep laying on the ice, a dog, and no clue. I gave up and took all the other sheep back to the field. I went back to get my reclining diva and she had managed to return to the shore so we collected her back to the field. Now

Got Sheep? (continued)

(Continued from page 16)

with problems. It's not worth the time. Besides, mutton is excellent dog food.

- If you don't have your own land, then spend the extra for portable equipment. My first shed I built on skids. The next three sheds are bolt together Quonset hut style sheds. Though you will want sturdy permanent fencing for at least one small paddock as a fall back, look into electric mesh.

- Are you going to need to travel for work? Consider how your sheep will be cared

for in your absence. I purchased fence-line feeders as when I'm away my sheep are cared for by my non-stock savvy mother or the neighbor's kids. Most of my purchases are evaluated based on the impact on my life and my real job rather than whether the expense will pay off in the sheep budget.

- The odds of finding a location with enough room for some big outwork and long drives are not great in New England. Get a trailer. There are often hay fields that you can use when cut if you have a way of getting your sheep there. Besides, it is much easier than marching your sheep across the frozen pond and gives you a way to take stock to the butcher or auction. It does not

need to be a big trailer. Mine is a small landscape trailer with taller sides and a tarp roof.

- Consider handling equipment. At the very least have one small pen in your setup to crowd sheep. This should not be your free standing training pen, but rather something located in a corner

sheep start disappearing.

As time went on I've fenced the perimeter of all the "open" areas and cleared much of the land. The entire fenced area is maybe 10 acres, divided into 4 smaller fields. I winter twenty bred ewes and around ten open ewe lambs for work. I keep two llamas thanks to significant coyote

depredation a few years ago. I have two as I often divide the flock. I've had electricity put at the field so I can run a more powerful fence charger for the same reason. I have four small open front sheds, a smaller shed for grain and supplies, fence line feeders, a chute and a trailer. I pasture my sheep in several other



Maria's Belgian Shepherd Sundog collecting ewes to bring home.

Photo by Karen Hocker Photography.

where it will be convenient for you and easy to get sheep into. I'll often shed off a group of sheep to work, however when I need to make sure I only get certain sheep and I'm in a rush I'd rather get to my intended training plan than spend 20 minutes on an international shed. You'll appreciate handling equipment when work gets busy and sheep need to be wormed or separated or whatever.

- Take predators seriously. It is far easier to deter predators BEFORE they have discovered the delicate taste of lamb. Once they have been reinforced for hunting your sheep it will be extremely hard to deter them. Use electricity and/or a guard animal right away. Don't wait until your

places during the summer, keeping my sheep fed and their fields cleared.

Sundog is gone now. 9 years later I have several border collies and another Belgian Shepherd. 9 years later I'm still wallowing in the muddy barnyard, carrying bales of hay, trimming feet, and taking Advil. 9 years later the tractor still goes on the porch every March. 9 years later I'm still on the board of health, examining septic plans and discussing the administrative challenges of the transfer station two evenings a month. Some people just know how to live. I've also become a true member of the town with a number of good friends among the citizens. My life is much richer for having taken that uncomfortable step and asking strangers if I could keep sheep on their land for my dog to chase.



THINK SPRING !



Letters of Recognition and Thanks

The following letters were sent by NEBCA. The first letter thanks May and Jim Davidson for their dedication to the Blue Hill Fair Sheepdog Trial, which celebrated it's 50th year. May and Jim have been awarded NEBCA Life Memberships as a way of thanking them for their work in organizing the longest running sheepdog trial. The second letter thanks Barbara Collins for her dedication to NEBCA as a volunteer providing years of graphic design.

NORTHEAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 18, 2008

32 Tibbitts Road
Round Pond, Maine 04565

Dear May and Jim:

The Annual Meeting of the Northeast Border Collie Association took place on January 19, 2008. At the meeting, the club voted to recognize your work in promoting and organizing the longest running Sheepdog Trial that takes place in Blue Hill, Maine. You both have been awarded with Honorary Life Memberships.

Although the honorary membership does not come with voting privileges, you will automatically receive the club newsletter without renewal requirements.

I am sure I can speak for the membership in thanking you for all of your time and effort in promoting the Border Collie as a working dog and showing the public in a fun venue the usefulness and versatility of this breed.

Sincerely,

Maria Mick
NEBCA Secretary

February 18, 2008

Ms. Barbara Ellen Collins
Sturwood Hamlet Apts. #1004
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Dear Barbara:

You were recently recognized at the annual meeting of the Northeast Border Collie Association (NEBCA) for the volunteer work you have done in the area of graphic design for the club. We are grateful for the ads you have designed for the Working Border Collie Magazine, the 2007 National Finals Program and the 2008 MA Sheep and Woolcraft Fair booklet as well as the work you did digitizing the art for the 2007 NEBCA t-shirt. In appreciation for your work, we would like to give you a complimentary membership to NEBCA for 2008. Thank-you again for volunteering to help the organization.

Sincerely,

Denise Leonard
NEBCA President



NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH!

RAW POWERED....

Left is 13 year old Jess eating a salmon head. Right is Tap working on some leftover deer carcass. (Not actually road kill, but pretty close...)

***Photos submitted by Fiona
Robertson***



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 necessarily handlers.

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

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

Beverly Lambert & Doug
McDonnough
Sheepswood Farm
280 Hebron Road
Andover, CT 06232
860-742-5300
www.beverlylambert.com

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

Roger and Heather Millen
1804 Babcock Hollow
Cortland, NY 13045
607-835-6584
www.fetchgatefarm.com

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
www.wayside-farm.com

Steve Wetmore
Spring Valley Farm, Box 54
Strafford, VT 05072
(802) 765-4466
swwet@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! Only \$3
per issue for members!***



**NEBCA News
750 Meadowdale Rd.
Altamont, NY 12009
USA**