

NEBCA News

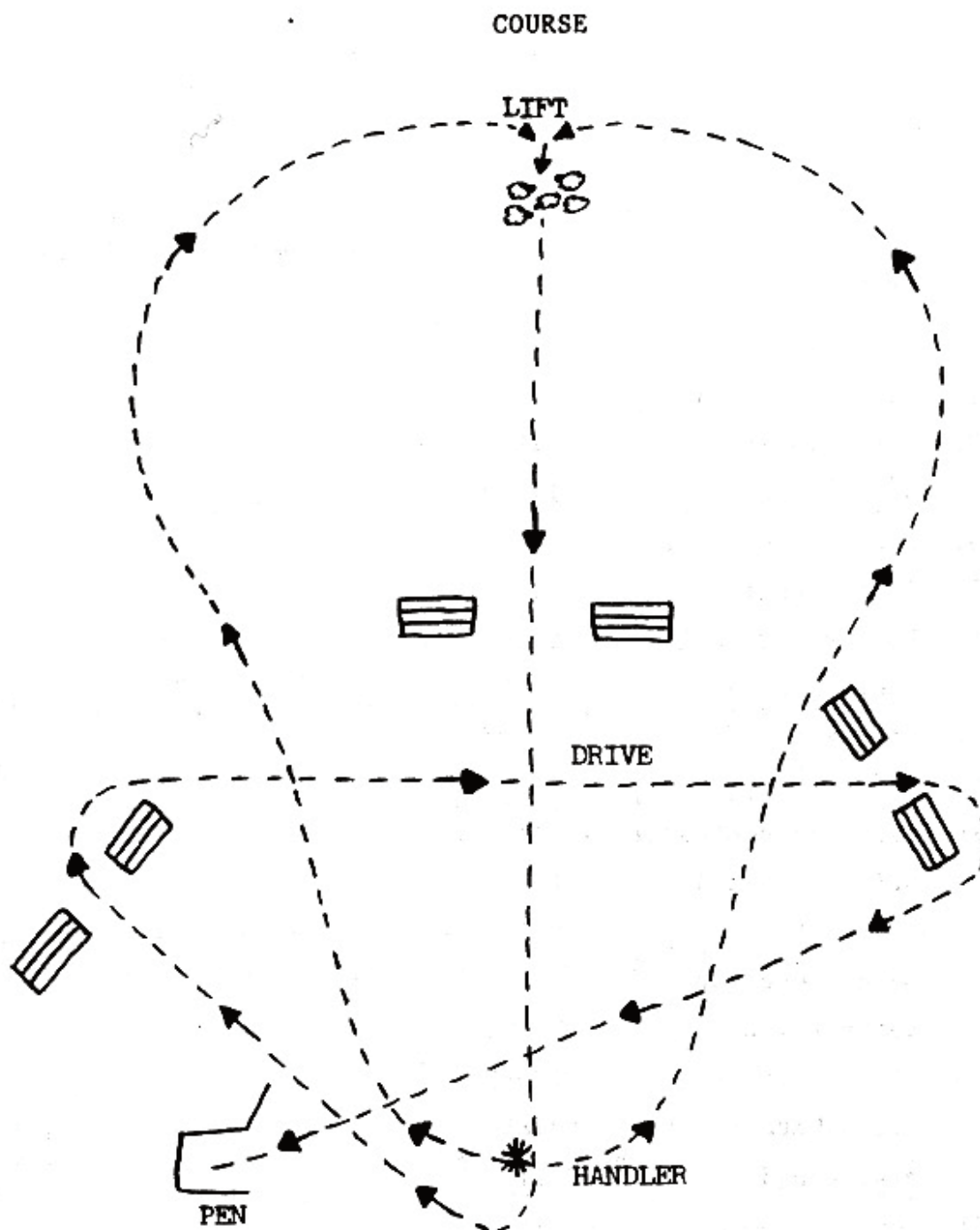


The Official Publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc.

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March 2012



An Introduction to Judging

Pages 9-15

The Northeast Border Collie Association's Mission

... IS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE BORDER COLLIE AS A WORKING STOCK DOG THROUGH THE SANCTIONING AND REGULATION OF COMPETITIVE HERDING TRIALS BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON TRAINING, HEALTH AND BREEDING.

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Send articles to Molly King,
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NEBCA Bylaws & Rules are available online at www.nebca.net. If members require hard copies, please contact The Secretary, Maria Mick, 750 Meadowdale Rd, Altamont NY 12009. 518-861-5854, mickwa@logical.net

Membership Information: Dues are \$20 for individuals or \$25 per farm/family. Renewals are due by January 1. New members may join at any time. If joining after October 1, you will automatically be paid through the following year. To join or renew your membership, send your name and address along with your dues to: The Secretary, NEBCA, Maria Mick, 750 Meadowdale Rd, Altamont NY 12009.

You can also join or renew online at www.nebca.net

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Business Cards @ \$15 per issue \$50 per year

1/4 page @ \$35 per issue \$100 per year

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New England Border Collie Rescue

<http://nebcr.org/>
info@nebcr.org

Northeast Border Collie Rescue

<http://northeastbordercollieresue.org>
nbcr@verizon.net

Mid Atlantic Border Collie Rescue

<http://www.mabcr.org/>
slr@mabcr.org

Glen Highland Farm

<http://glenhighlandfarm.com/sbcr.htm>
sweetbcrescue@citlink.com

Border Collie Rescue Ontario

<http://www.bordercollieresueont.com/home.cfm>
cindy@bordercollieresueont.com
sharon@bordercollieresueont.com

From the President

It is January 23rd. It is raining and the fog is rising from what little snow melt we have. This is the winter that wasn't, so far anyway. We had a bit of winter in October, but since then she has hidden her face.

The dogs love it. The sheep love it. And I love it.

Oddly enough the annual meeting set for January 21st had to be cancelled due to snow—but it is the only real snow we have experienced so far this winter. It is melting away tonight as I write.

The annual meeting will have taken place by the time you read this. There has been a lot of behind the scenes activity up until now. The committees have had a lot to work on and talk about—proposals for fundraising; proposals for judging education in NEBCA; Fall Foliage and Novice final organizational ideas. Lots.



I want to take this time to thank the folks who serve on these committees. It is all volunteer work and the people who have served this past year have done a tremendous job. They have looked at issues with an objective eye and have tried to keep the betterment and improvement of NEBCA as their goal. They have worked well together and there is a wonderful energy in the club that is taking us to new heights.

One of the hottest news items is the 2012 Fall Foliage. It is now a qualifier for Soldier Hollow. Through the foresight and work of Carolyn West, a new member of our Open Trials committee, NEBCA's Fall Foliage has been accepted and there has been great enthusiasm generated by such an accomplishment. NEBCA has been a leader in many programs in the Border Collie community and we hope to shine in this endeavor as well. With the type of commitment we have seen in the past year, I have no doubt about its success.

Judging education. Another hot topic! There have been a few super proposals addressed to the Board of Directors on promoting judging education for the new as well as experienced handlers. The BOD has appointed a committee to look at all the options and try to find the most cost efficient, effective way to approach this for the club. If you have ideas and sentiments along these lines, please express them to the Judging Committee.

On to the coming season. There are some new trials being offered this year. Please support them if you can. Trial managers—please get your trial listings in as soon as possible so people can make their plans. Fuel and distances are always an issue, but if you can attend a trial, do. It is always appreciated.

Best of luck in 2012.

Carol



A Note from the Editor

I hope you enjoy the lengthy article on the judging clinics of the past. If there is enough demand, we will prepare a PDF copy of that article for posting on the NEBCA website. In coming issues of the NEBCA News I hope to include articles by Patrick Shannahan and also bring in the items alluded to in the current article citing J. M. Wilson— now outdated in some respects, but still well worth reading.

Jim Allen

NEBCA 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

President, Carol Campion, called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM. There were 33 members present and 37 voting by proxy.

Approval of Past Minutes

The minutes from the meeting in Cooperstown as printed in the winter newsletter were approved.

Executive Committee Reports

Secretary and Membership Report - Maria Mick

- As of 1/27/12 there were 243 memberships which is about 30 more than this time last year. Of the 243, 53 are family memberships, 5 Life memberships and 1 Honorary membership. About 32% opt to view the newsletter electronically. Historically, this has always been around 30%. Report accepted.
- Steve suggested members give a membership to puppy buyers.

Treasurer - 2011 Statement of Accounts - Ellen Black

- The 2011 balance sheet was presented (the balance sheet is included in the newsletter). Accounting is done on a cash basis so most recently received memberships will not be counted in submitted treasurer's report.
- PayPal is being used for member renewals and for online fundraising sales. It has not been reliable for memberships and so will only be used for fundraising items going forward.
- There is confusion about the rental fee for the NEBCA fencing. The fees should be published in newsletter along with guidelines for using the fence. Steve moved to charge \$50/trial for rental. Motion withdrawn. Maria Amodei moved that the rental fee be \$20 for partial usage and \$30 for all of it. Motion passed. The OTC will keep track of who uses the fencing and where it currently is located.
- Treasurers report passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Open Trials Committee - Rob Drummond

- The 2011 Fall Foliage was held at the Leatherstocking Trial site in Cooperstown. Thanks were extended to the local committee (Linda Hotchkiss, Armata's, Barb Leverett, Warren Mick), to the Clark foundation and to Betsy Drummond for donated prizes, including engraved whistles, a crook and handler gift bags. The trial came in well under budget thanks to the \$1854 gate fee collected. (Fall Foliage budget included in newsletter)
- 2011 High Points winners were announced: Lori Cunningham & Matt was Champion and Bev Lambert & Awel took reserve. The Edgar Gould Breeder's award goes to Steve Wetmore for breeding Dale.
- New committee members Warren Mick and Carolyn West will replace outgoing members Michelle Brothers and Maria Amodei.
- Carolyn West was instrumental in arranging for the NEBCA Fall Foliage to be a qualifying trial for the Soldiers Hollow SDT. To keep this status, the Fall Foliage must be a quality trial with good sheep, a double lift final and also be held every year.
- The winners and awards from 2011 need to added to the NEBCA website.
- The committee requests a budget of \$3000 for the 2012 Fall Foliage.
- The committee is planning a fundraising effort so that some prize money can be offered in the FF qualifying runs (not final round). Money given in the qualifying runs would be from the fund raising and possibly from an increase in the entry fee. The OTC is asking

for ideas to help raise funds to support this initiative. Additional fundraising is being considered to provide travel grants to the NEBCA member attending Soldier Hollow that qualified via the FF and for NEBCA members going to the world trial held every three years.

- An idea to start a NEBCA Nursery dog of the year award was discussed. The age requirement would be the same as the USBCHA. A point system would be devised that looks at ranch, nursery, and open performance in NEBCA region trials. Anyone with suggestions should contact the committee.
- The open committee report was accepted.

Novice Trials Committee – Given by Kate Collins

- The 2011 Novice Finals was held at High Point Farm and included a total of 63 dogs, each getting three runs with the best 2 counted. Kate extended thanks to all who helped including Betsy Drummond and BorderCollics Anonymous for donating prizes and to Peter VandeCar for hosting the trial.
- Martha Walke will be replacing Jackie Evans on the committee. Kate thanked Jackie for her service.
- The committee is considering two rule changes: 1) revamping the qualifying points requirements for Novice Finals and 2) whether dogs that qualified to run in Ranch in the novice finals but also place in open before the trial should be allowed to run. No decision has been made yet on either change.
- The committee has decided to extend the rule waiver that permits NEBCA sanctioned novice trials to not include all three classes though 2012.
- A new NEBCA banner to use at the Novice finals was purchased. Steve Wetmore said the banner, which has the website address, will help promote NEBCA. Steve and Dave Sharp will assess if additional banners should be obtained. It was suggested that the banners travel with the trial committee chairs or members to ensure that they get to trials.
- A tentative date for the 2012 finals is Sept 22-23. Several sites are being considered.
- The report was accepted.

Calendar Report – George Northrop

- A total of 287 year 2012 calendars have been sold; 47 of these were purchased at the time of membership renewals. Twelve calendars were given free to those that contributed photos to the calendar or to LIFE members. A note posted on Sheepdog-L resulted in selling many calendars. Still have some calendars left.
- Calendar is near break-even.
- Betsy offered to put a link on the BorderCollics Anonymous site.
- Photos for the year 2013 calendar need to be submitted soon. The calendar is usually available by the end of April.
- Valerie Pietraszewska is new member of calendar committee.
- Report accepted.

Fundraising Report - Kate Collins and Ellen Black

Net income from fundraising in 2011 was \$1080. As usual, Betty Murray sold items at several trials. Celia Morgan was thanked for selling many items at the Fall Foliage trial. Note cards will be a new fundraising item in 2012. Plan to order 250 note cards at 55-60 cents each and sell them in packages of 10 on the web site when available. Also plan to order more baseball caps and new short sleeve t-shirts in 2012. Sally Lacy will do the artwork this year. A budget of \$2800 was requested. Report accepted.

Financial Plan for 2012 – Ellen Black

Ellen reviewed the proposed financial plan for 2012. The plan was approved (the approved plan is included in the newsletter).

Select Committee Reports

Learning Trials Committee Report -Rose Redick

- There were three LT activities in 2011: Cummington, High Point Farm and Leatherstocking trials (Judging clinic). Rose thanked those who helped and participated. Rose was thanked by the floor for her efforts.

- There is one request by Cummington to do something this year.

- Emily asked if the original LTC (Bernie Armata, Rose, Emily Yazwinski, Val Pietraszewski, Ellen Black) is still standing. The response was yes. The LTC contacts should be added to the website. It was suggested that the LTC should have a mission statement & goal established to guide their activities.

- Report accepted.

Judging Education Committee Report – Dave Sharp

- A JEC was recently formed (Dave, Lori Cunningham, Rose, Wally Dury). Some of the proposed activities were given. Steve suggested reprinting old articles by Tommy Wilson. Martha said a new book about judging was ordered and that a judging DVD by Stuart Walton is available on the ISDS site.

- Report accepted

Adjourn for lunch 30 min. Resume 12:45.

BOD Report Chair – Dave Sharp

Presentation of Lifetime Membership Sally Lacy.

BOD recognized the 30th Anniversary of the PA SD Championship. Key decisions and actions taken in 2011

- Direct support for Border Collie Rescue organizations is not part of the club mission.

- Subsidizing a member's trip to world trial since is not part of the club mission. A separate fundraising effort could be set up for this purpose.

- NEBCA's non-profit status was reviewed. The status, 501c7 does not permit tax deductible donations.

- One trial audit of NEBCA finances was done. An official audit will be done in May.

- The BOD will recognize long running trials – PA

- The club will not offer a paid lifetime membership.

- Made recommendations on dealing with animal health emergencies at trials: veterinary hospital contact info should be posted at a trial, the judge and trial manager may stop any run if warranted for health and safety concerns. Both these should be mentioned at handlers meeting.

- Member based Yahoo group will be set up to aid in discussions amongst members, help disseminate NEBCA info and help make club activity more transparent. Carolyn West will explore and monitor. This yahoo group will have a confidentiality statement so that emails are not distributed.

Newsletter Report - given by Martha Walke for Jim Allen

Given the cost of printing and mailing, Jim urged members to elect getting only the electronic newsletter. Members should notify the secretary if they wish to stop or start receiving the paper newsletter. Still need more articles which can be sent to Jim or Molly King. Plan to help judging committee— can include articles on judging and some question/answer.

Maria Amodei suggested sending a more enticing email notice out to members when a new newsletter is on the website and offered

to help make it happen. The email might include bits of newsletter content with direct links to the articles. It would also note the web version has color photos.

Report accepted.

Library Report – Martha Walke

An updated library list is now on website. The 2011 national finals DVD is now available. Let Martha know of any new material requests. Members may request time extensions on borrowed items. New mailers were purchased.

Report accepted.

Old Business

- Obtain a Banner for Novice Finals - done.

- The suggestion to add NEBCA hats as a check-off item on membership renewal form was not done since hats are available on the website.

- Put the NEBCA pamphlet on website – done

• Membership committee proposal - Joe Evans

Joe noted that the club has had about 300 members for many years and that not enough is done to add new members. More members would increase revenue. He suggested that the club should have a committee or person to promote NEBCA and increase the membership. Activity would include reminding members to renew, recruiting new members, promote interaction with members as to "what do you want this club to be?" The BOD will review the suggestion.

Election Committee – Rose Redick

There were a total of 139 members cast ballots. Mike Nunan received 81 votes, Barb Levinson 63, Cheryl Jagger-Williams - 61, Michelle Ferraro - 38, and Gene Sheninger - 22. Based on the results Mike and Barbara are elected to the board of directors.

Rose made a few recommendations regarding the election process: Family memberships should use two separate ballots; the deadline for ballots (and proxies) should be clearly defined, and a procedure should be in place in the event of a tie. The club should consider creating a formal process for elections. Will put more info on web site and cover in newsletter.

New Business

Generating a fund for future trials - Rob Drummond

Rob suggested a fund be created to support new trials in the NEBCA region. The fund could be generated by instituting a 1 dollar/dog sanctioning fee for sanctioned trials. Money collected from novice trials would go to support new novice trials. The same could be done for open trials. Rob agreed to write an article for the News outlining his proposal.

Changing annual meeting date & by-laws amendment- Emily Yazwinski

Emily noted that the Bylaws are very specific on the date for the annual meeting (the third Saturday in January) and the club should consider changing this so that the meeting could be held at a trial during the trial season. This might save people making a special trip, allow more participation and eliminate the need to travel in the winter months. Carol said this proposal could not be put up for a vote because it was not received in time. By-law changes require 30 days prior notice to the membership and a 2/3 majority to pass. Denise noted that the specific date may be required due to our incorporation status. Dave S. will investigate the legal requirements and report back by Cummington.

2013 National Finals Announcement - Lori Cunningham

A bid has been submitted to have the 2013 USBCHA National Finals in Virginia. The proposed dates would conflict with the NEBCA Fall Foliage trial. So the Fall Foliage that year would need to occur on a different weekend than normal.

Satellite locations for the the January 2013 AGM – M. Amodei

Maria noted that it is unrealistic for NEBCA members on the outskirts of the NEBCA region to get to the AGM location, even if centrally located. Technology exists that would allow satellite meeting locations to be set up around the region that could tie in real time to the main meeting site. Satellite locations would need a computer, phone and high speed internet connection. A conferencing service such as "GoToMeeting.com" would be used. A moderator at the main location would be needed and all meeting materials (reports, agendas, etc) distributed ahead of time. Dave and Maria will do a test run and report back. Send in ideas/comments to BOD.

Proposals to establish "NEBCA Hall of Fame" and "Faces of NEBCA" - Steve Wetmore, Dave Sharp

The "NEBCA Hall of Fame" would recognize special dogs and handlers in the region. The "Faces of NEBCA" would be used to recognize outstanding member contributions. The criteria for these proposed awards needs to be determined. Neither idea was voted on.

Judging DVD - Maria Amodei

Maria spoke on the proposal she submitted requesting \$10,000 to produce a DVD on judging. The BOD had reviewed the proposal prior to the meeting and decided it did not fall within NEBCA's mission. The proposal is being referred to the judging education committee.

Judging clinics proposal - Rose Redick

Rose submitted a proposed that NEBCA fund a series of judging/handling clinics. An instructor would be hired to do several clinics across the NEBCA region. NEBCA would pay for the clinician travel expenses and instruction fees. Fees could also be charged to participants to handle other costs. Members would be limited to one working spot (unless a clinic did not fill up) but could also audit. The proposal was referred to the judging/education committee which will report back at the next meeting.

Trial Schedule

Some dates for upcoming trials were announced. They will be added to the website trial list.

Meeting Dates for 2013

Cummington , Leatherstocking, third site TBD

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm

OLD AND BEFUDDLED by Betty Levin

No, not me (although much of this might apply to old handlers as well as old dogs). I'm referring to the dilemma presented by an old working dog. Each one ages differently, and its needs vary according to its condition and environment. My last old dog, Maddie, was nearly seventeen when I had her put down. My current old dog, Kyle, presents another kind of challenge. Two bouts with Lyme disease left him seriously arthritic and spurred on other symptoms of old age. He is increasingly slow, but when he shows that he wants to come out to the pasture with me while I'm training the youngsters, then I have to allow for the extra time it takes for him to come through the gates and join us. He watches intently as the young dogs work, but whenever (once in a while) I ask him if he wants a turn with the sheep, he makes no move to get up.

So far so good. About three years ago he began to lose his hearing. For a while he continued to respond to whistle commands. Then his deafness grew worse, and I found myself yelling to catch his attention. Now, profoundly deaf, he relies entirely on his failing sight. This works well enough when I need to bring him into the house or through a gate. He still comes when he can see me beckon. But if I lose track of his whereabouts, then I have to go and hunt him down. All of this is worrying and time-consuming. I have work to do; I have deadlines. Sometimes I think it's past time to curtail his freedom to come and go from house to barn to pasture. Still, I hate to rob him of his partial liberty.



Some of my friends advise me: If he's no longer useful, find him a retirement home, or else tie him out. But that would be an insult.

Last March a ewe in labor came into the barnyard. It was just coming on to dark, and I wanted her in the barn in case I needed electric light. The problem was that the barnyard was teeming with ewes about to lamb and ewes with lambs, and I was reluctant to put my very young dog, not yet two, into this pressured situation. Then I saw Kyle on the barnyard driveway. He was watching intently. I looked directly at him and said, "Oh, Kyle, I need you." I'm sure he couldn't hear me. Still, he got up and walked stiffly to the gate. I let him in. All I could do was point to

the ewe, but he already had her in his sights. She was agitated and determined to keep to the far side of the barnyard. I moved to the barn door and waited while Kyle quietly, very slowly and without any fuss, edged her away from ewes and lambs and then, with absolute authority, brought her to me and put her into the barn.

That was the last time he worked. For him it didn't seem like a big deal. For me it was a reminder of how I've always counted on him to be my partner, my friend. So I guess I owe him the time he takes, the delays and inconvenience. I'll keep looking for him when he doesn't show up with the other dogs, and I'll try not to lose track of him. That's all I can do, just give him a little time. Even if he's out of sight, he's never far off.

P.S. I know that placing retired dogs in new homes is often good for all involved.

SALLY LACY – LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Sally Lacy was nominated for lifetime membership and the Board of Directors unanimously conferred lifetime membership to her in 2011. Sally is the artist who created the drawing of a working border collie which became NEBCA's logo. For many years she helped put together the NEBCA calendar and contributed many fine drawings which greatly enhanced the calendar's visual impact. She has hosted the annual meeting in her home and mentored many by hosting clinics starting in 1988/90 with clinicians like Jack Knox, Vergil Holland, Kent Kuykendall and Alaisdair MacRae at her farm in New Hampshire. Sally also has a strong record of leadership having served on the Board of Directors. NEBCA is a better and stronger community because of the contributions from Sally and others during the early years of our club.

In addition to all that Sally has done for NEBCA she has devoted many years working on the Genetics and Health Committee for the ABCA, focusing on eye disease, hip dysplasia and epilepsy. She also fought the AKC sanctioning and breed description of the border collie in an effort to protect the working border collie.

Other current recipients of lifetime membership include Roger Deschambeault, Eleanor Jagger,

Betty Levin, Gabe Merrill and Dave & Betty Murray. Prior recipients include Edgar Gould, Walt Jagger and Alex McKinven.



Photo by Kate Collins

North East Judging Clinics

The first of the three events will be on February 25th. Working slots may be full, but these will be equally as valuable as an auditor. Come sharpen up your handling goals and have a social day with fellow handlers. More info can be found on the NEBCA web site under clinics.

February 25, 2012 Part #1 Judging seminar was held at Rob Drummond's offices.
Clinicians: Warren Mick and Roger Deschambeault
Contact Rob Drummond 603 478 0846 rob@brailsfordco.com

March 24, 2012 Part #2 Judging seminar
Aurora Ranch, Royalston MA,
Clinicians: George Northrop & Carol Campion
Contact Kate Collins 978 249 4407
george01368@yahoo.com

April 21, 2012 Part #3 Judging seminar
Bittersweet Farm, Hampton CT,
Clinician: Lyle Lad
Contact Carol Campion 860 455 9416
carcampion@yahoo.com

LONG SHOT FARM DECEMBER TRIAL RESULTS

Open Class (27 dogs)

Pam Gardner Rusty 88
Gene Sheninger Sweet 82
Walt Zeiser Rose 81
Linda Tesdahl Juno 80
Roger Millen Tagg 78
Jeanine van der Merwe 77
Polly Matzinger James 77
Jeanine van der Merwe Jade 75
David Sharp Tot 74
Polly Matzinger Lily 73
Sherry Smith Rock 73
Gene Sheninger Jet 71
Jeanine van der Merwe Pete 71
Eileen Stein Mac 70
Carolyn West Abe 63

Linda Tesdahl Suede 62
Gene Sheninger Nick 60
Heather Millen Kate 60
Barb Klein McKenna 58
Leslie Whitney Kite 56
David Sharp Dol 55
Deb Mickey Annie 53

Ranch (21 dogs)

Mark Sheldon Tess 69
Anne Devine Rob 69
Fran Sharon Maid 64
Sherry Smith Queen 63
Dan Weeks Anna 61
Robin Mongold Tanner 60
Sherry Sheldon Chick 60
Dan Weeks Tilly 59

Leslie Whitney Captain 57
Judy Gambill Tweed 50

Pro Novice (18 dogs)

Polly Matzinger Serious 72
Jeanine van der Merwe Bo 72
Pam Davies Teilo 69
Nancy Simmons Fly 66
Robin Mongold Chad 65
Carol Lockhart Jazz 64
Leslie Whitney Jess 62
Nancy Obernier Bob 60
Maggie Chambers Strike 58
Sherry Smith Bella 57
Nancy Obernier Sid 55
Judy Gambill Cal 51

Would you like to host a NEBCA Learning Trial?

The Learning Trials Committee would like to receive proposals from those willing to conduct one or two day Learning Trial Clinics. Committee members would be available to assist hosts with the clinics when asked. Hosts may charge a fee. NEBCA has allocated up to \$300 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 committee is composed of Emily Yazwinski, Valerie Pietraszewska- co chairs, Ellen Black, Wendy Warner, Deb Donahue, Jill Horton Lyons, and Rose Redick.



FOUND ITEM:

WOMAN'S RAINCOAT FOUND AT HIGH POINT FARM

A turquoise raincoat, ladies medium, Columbia, found on Peter Van de Car's porch at the 2011 Novice Finals. E-mail Kate at katecollins64@gmail.com.

An Introduction to Judging Guidelines

Judging guidelines were developed with real stock/farm work in mind while trialing is a representation of day-to-day shepherding. Adhering to these standards will help NEBCA achieve its mission of promoting and protecting the Border Collie as a working stock dog.

A good way to increase and refine your understanding of possible deductions a judge may take based upon the action of the sheep and dog on the trial course is by attending a judging clinic. A judging clinic can also help refine your handling by helping you focus on what the guidelines suggest for point deductions. A few clinics have already been announced and other clinics will be added. There is no better way to ensure that your specific questions are addressed than by attending a judging clinic.

Another approach is to read this brief compilation from three NEBCA News articles first published in 1989 and 1991. Then more thoroughly review each section and accompanying sketches more thoroughly together with the USBCHA Judging Guidelines. If you don't have a copy handy, the NEBCA website welcome page has links to both the ISDS Rules and USBCHA Guidelines.

Judging Education Committee

1. NEBCA'S JUDGING CLINICS

by Douglas McDonough

In 1985, 1987, and 1988, the NEBCA Trials Committee organized judging clinics, with the purpose of improving and standardizing the quality of judges in the Northeast. Clinic instructors were Lewis Pulfer (July 1985), Bruce Fogt

(April 1987), and Ralph Pulfer (July 1988). All three men are from Ohio and all are successful, nationally known handlers and judges.

In this series of NEBCA NEWS articles, I will attempt to summarize what was taught at the three clinics. Please remember that this summary can't get every topic covered during 3 one-day clinics. My apologies ahead of time to the three instructors for all the things that they consider important that I have left out. NEBCA members who never trial their dogs may find that this series helps explain just what is going on at a trial, how the judge deducts points, and why everybody loves to complain about the judging. In the accompanying sketches, the handler is usually represented by an X; the sheep by XXX; and the path of the dog is shown by arrows.

Ralph began his clinic by reviewing the progress of the past few decades in North American sheepdog judging, with the overwhelming majority of trials today judged according to International Sheep Dog Society rules, which are very brief. Lewis and Bruce also began by stating that they would be teaching us the ISDS rules, but the rules as explained and expanded in the Scottish Farmer by legendary British handler J.M. Wilson. Ralph stressed that ISDS rules say that all penalties (points deducted) are "circumstances at hand" by the decision of the judge based on the actions of the sheep and the dog.

Bruce said, "The judge's job is to take points off every variation from perfect work." Even if the work appeared nearly perfect but there was something the judge didn't like, but couldn't quite put his finger on, take off points — room must always be left for the perfect dog. Ralph said there is nothing wrong with giving perfect points for a phase of work. If it looked excellent, give all the points. Don't hold back 1 point or 1/2 pt. for some potential future better work. Scoring for a typical run is: Out-run 20; Lift 10; Fetch 20; Drive 30; Shed 10; Pen 10; Single 10.

To Bruce (B), a perfect outrun is pear shaped with the dog in contact with the sheep but not disturbing them (figure 1). A dog that runs up the middle and swings around the sheep at the end loses 4 points (figure 2). To Lewis



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

(L), the outrun should be pear shaped. A square outrun (figure 3)

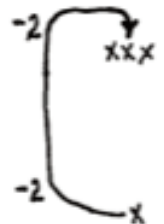


FIGURE 3

loses points.

The dog overrunning unnecessarily at the top loses points (figure 4).

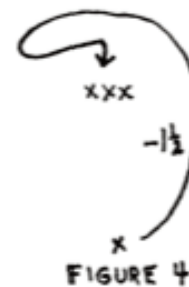


FIGURE 4

Ralph (R) says that none of the sample outrun paths (in figure 5) would lose points except (a) the tightest run (through the fetch gates equals -4 or -5) or (b) a square outrun or (c) if the

dog breaks away from the handler's side and runs backwards away from the sheep before going out (-2 points).

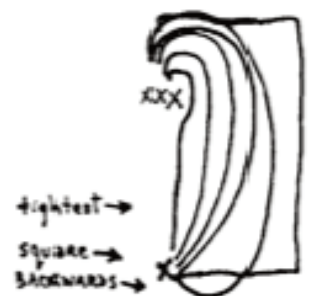
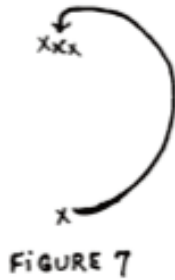
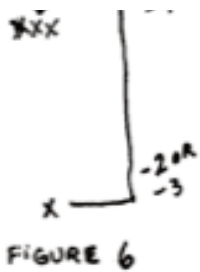


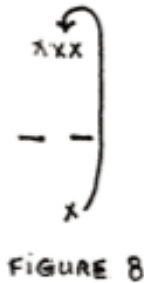
FIGURE 5

Here are point deductions (fig. 6) at both bottom and top of outrun — if one or both corners are square.



R: Although the pear-shaped outrun looks pretty, there should be no deduction for a "circle" outrun (fig. 7).

R: Dog running just to outside edge of fetch gates is O.K. (fig. 8).



B: A dog running too tight is also subject to a loss of 1 or 2 points depending upon how tight the dog is. B: A dog running the fence who is "off contact" with his sheep would lose 1 or 2 points depending upon how wide he ran.

The size of the field must be taken into consideration in determining these point losses. R: Dog running over to fence before turning in to sheep is O.K. if fence not ridiculously long ways away and if dog angles down to it — not a square outrun (fig. 9).



L: If dog goes out too straight, whistle him out wider quickly. The closer he gets to the sheep, the harder it is to get him wide. You'll lose 1/2 to 1-1/2 points for a redirect. If dog stops on outrun, lose 1 pt. If you whistle him on and he obeys (redirects) lose another 1/2 point. For a



crossover, lose 10-18 points. R: There is no deduction for (fig. 10) this type of outrun if dog corrects self, doesn't startle sheep, and no redirect given. -1 if redirect given.

B: Redirecting a running dog is 1/2 point deduction whether or not the dog takes the redirect. If the dog stops itself and is redirected, lose 2 points. If the handler stops the dog and redirects it lose 3 points. If handler gives the dog a "that'll do" command on the outrun it is the same as any other command - lose 1/2 point. If, however, the dog turns back to the handler or stops and sniffs the ground or otherwise loses contact with the sheep on the outrun, lose 2 points.

B: A crossover occurs when the dog crosses the line between the sheep and the handler on its outrun. The minimum number of points lost from a crossover should be 10 or half the outrun points. The only type of outrun that could result in this minimal point loss is a dog that crosses over at the handler's feet as soon as it is sent and otherwise has a perfect outrun (fig. 11). Normally when a dog starts to crossover, the handler attempts to prevent it by stopping and redirecting the dog. Each stop and redirect = -3 pts. and the crossover at least 10 more.



The closer to the sheep a crossover occurs, then the more points that are deducted. R: Ralph assigns a heavier point loss when the dog stops itself on an outrun than when the handler stops the dog. If conditions are perfect (dog can see sheep), -3 or -4 pts. If it is a blind lift for the dog, perhaps a -1 pt. deduction.

Be very lenient with sheep bolting down past the fetch gates and the dog going too wide on the outrun to get behind them fast enough ("covering the sheep") until sheep are down past the fetch gate. If this occurs and the sheep come straight down through the fetch gates, handler has just gotten an early Christmas gift. There is normally no such thing as "out of contact" if the sheep are going right.

For this type (fig. 12) of very undesirable outrun, R. deducts -11 pts. R: The end of the outrun is O.K. IF THE SHEEP LIFT STRAIGHT (fig. 13).

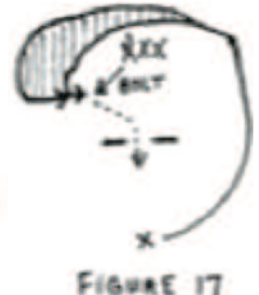


R: If the sheep are running away, the dog must come in fairly close to stop them soon — if dog runs wide around to stop

them, there would be points off (fig. 14). Any command on the outrun has a penalty. For the first redirect, R. usually deducts 1/2 pt. Subsequent redirects are usually -1 pt. No deduction for stopping the dog at the end of the outrun. If the dog runs to the holding pen or exhaust pen, R. takes a light deduction (-2 or -3) if it comes off quickly.



R: From the lift (fig. 15) the line of travel will be to the center of the fetch gates. If the sheep being held for the outrun should split and the dog gathers the single as part of the outrun and puts it with the others, then the lift begins. R: If the sheep bolt down the field at an angle, either of these outruns (figures 16 or 17) is O.K. The shaded area (fig. 17 again) represents the zone of O.K.



outruns, if the dog succeeds in stopping the running sheep. Dog should run as close to them as is necessary to stop them quickly.

R: To summarize the outrun so far, the dog can go in many places and still be O.K., e.g., the dog can head the sheep if they are moving (unless moving down towards handler on the fetch!); otherwise, the dog should get behind the sheep at the end of the outrun.

Ralph then answered a series of specific questions. If the dog starts out, spins around 360 degrees, then continues the outrun, -2 to -4. Handler and dog are at post. Dog begins to dash away before handler is ready, so handler stops dog and recalls it a few feet, then sends it on its way = -3 or -4. At the handler's post, the dog can be set up to 4 yards away from handler. There is a deduction ANY TIME the dog "turns to" — turns to look back to handler or spins around (-2 to -4). -6 off outrun (fig.18) of dog that runs in towards the sheep and startles them backwards. Once around them, then the lift begins.

B: A handler who walks to the post with his dog on the leash would lose -1. The handler should be given a reasonable time to send his dog (B. suggested one minute) before judge should tell the handler to send the dog or be disqualified. The outrun ends when the dog makes contact with the sheep (the "lift"). B. says THE OUTFUN CANNOT BE JUDGED UNTIL THE LIFT IS COMPLETED.

R. stressed that ISDS rules say that all penalties are "circumstances at hand" by the decision of the judge based on the actions of the sheep and dog. R. deducts points from the outrun and the lift independently of each other. L. said that when he judges, you'll lose points on everything (outrun, lift, and fetch) if the sheep don't lift straight towards the handler.

2. LIFTS AND FETCHES

In 1985, 1987 and 1988, NEBCA organized judging clinics to inform interested members of the detailed rules for judging sheepdog trials. This summary article examines Lifts and Fetches.

According to Bruce Fogt (B), the Outrun cannot be judged until the Lift is completed. If the sheep lift straight on to the handler then the dog is in the correct position. A perfect lift is worth 10 points and must be smooth and straight from wherever the sheep are to the handler (fig.1).

If the dog overran the sheep, lose 1-1/2 points or more depending upon severity of the overrun. If the dog stops short, lose 2 or more points depending on severity. Bruce suggested setting up mental point zones for judging the direction that the sheep travel during the lift. (fig.2)

A little off perfect would be -1/2; more off would be -1 or -2 and so forth. Sheep lifting straight away from the handler is -9. These point zones allow the judge to point all lifts uniformly. Sheep leaving the lift at an incorrect angle means the outrun was also wrong (dog short or overran) and usually results in an equal deduction from the outrun AND the lift. This will also result in a loss of points on the fetch since the sheep will be off line on the beginning of the fetch.

Ralph Pulfer began his judging clinic segment on lifts by saying that since ISDS rules say that the main feature of the lift is the ability to take control of the sheep in a firm and quiet manner with-

out disturbing them. He deducts nothing from the lift if the dog obeys this rule. Thus, on a lift like this (fig.3), he



deducts nothing if the lift was good according to the above rule, even if it was in a wrong direction. In this example, he would deduct -3 or -4 for the dog stopping short on the outrun, then he'd

deduct -3 or -4 off start of the fetch for being off line.

For a lift like this (fig.4), where the dog appears to overrun the sheep then walks up to the sheep diagonally, but the sheep lift straight to the handler, there is no deduction since the dog was obviously right.



The judge has to decide how much running of the sheep was caused by the dog and how much the sheep would have run on their own. In response to a question, Ralph (R) says that he doesn't go back and change scores for sections of runs but if he thinks he was too lenient on outrun points, he will hit harder on lift points.

For a lift like this (fig.5), where the dog overruns the sheep, corrects itself, then walks straight up to the sheep who lift straight to the handler, -3 or -4.



R. says that if a dog needs commands on the lift, for the first few commands - 1/2 pt. per command. A dog needing several commands -1 pt. per command. A dog zigzagging to the lift with commands, more than -1 per command (for a probable total of -2 to -4). A dog moving REAL slowly is O.K. A dog zigzagging on lift without commands is O.K. If dog runs too tight on lift and sheep split away, -8 on lift. If one sheep (perhaps eating) jumps at lift, no deduction if dog

didn't cause the reaction. It is up to the judge to decide.

B. said that a dog that needs commands on the lift (usually for hesitation) loses 1/2 to 1 pt. for each command. Hesitation without commands is usually 1/2 pt. lost. A dog zigzagging towards the lift (dog hesitant to make contact) loses 1 pt. for each jag off the straight approach. If the sheep jump away from the dog but go in the right direction (not a smooth lift) lose 2 pts. If the sheep jump in the wrong direction lose 2 pts. plus a loss of a point for lifting off line. A fast lift can cost 1 to 5 points depending upon how fast the sheep move. On the outrun and lift, the judging is primarily based on the actions of the dog. In the other phases of the work the position of the sheep is more heavily relied upon.

B. said a dog stopping short (fig.6) and moving in on the sheep who lift smoothly but 90 degrees off line is a loss of 5 pts stopped short and 5 pts lifting off line.



FIG. 6

If the sheep are drifting (fig.7) the dog must run far enough to cover the sheep. If the sheep lift straight to the handler then the outrun was correct.



FIG. 7

Although B. would like to cut points for a dog being stopped at the end of the outrun by the handler, Bruce says that J.M. Wilson said this was no loss of points and so he makes no deduction.

The **FETCH**, where the sheep travel straight to the handler, is usually worth 20 pts. Fetch gates are usually 12 ft. long and have a 21 ft. opening between them. For judging, B. mentally divides the field into quarters along the fetch line (fig. 8). These quarters help the



FIG. 8

judge to estimate the distance the sheep travel while off line. B. then divides the field into point zones (fig. 9).



FIG. 9

or about 3 ft. on either side of this line. Sheep still going through the gates but off the perfect line would be subject to loss of points: -1/2 pt. off line while still inside fetch gates. The quarters that the field is divided into are a measure of distance to help the judge determine how long the sheep have been traveling off line. Off line slightly for 1/4 of the field is -1/2 point; one-half of the field is another -1/2 pt. Sheep off line a little bit the whole fetch would thus be -2 pts. Sheep zigzagging (fig.10) lose points each time they go off line. How many points lost depends upon what point zone they zag into. Loss of points on the fetch are for the whole bunch of sheep — one sheep off line in the 1 pt. zone might be -1/2 pt.

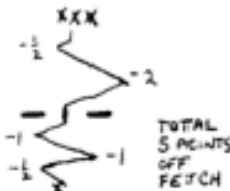


FIG. 10

B. said if the sheep miss the gate lose 5 pts. (fig.11). Additional points would be deducted for being off line as shown. Anytime that the dog crosses the course between the sheep and the obstacle that the sheep are headed for it's a loss of -4.

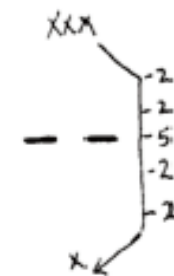


FIG. 11

The dog heading the sheep and unnecessarily stopping their line to the obstacle (but not crossing the course) is -1 or -2. If sheep bolt down the field angling away from the fetch gate, it's

O.K. for dog to stop them and put them directly back on line—the only points lost would be for off line. If sheep bolt straight down the field for the handler with the dog left lying down on the lift, -1 or -2 for dog out of contact.

R. said that for this fetch (fig.12), if the dog keeps trying to turn the sheep onto the line for the whole distance, he would probably only deduct -1/2 pt.



But for the exact same fetch (fig.12 again), if the dog follows the sheep the whole way (thus is driving them off line), lose -6 pts. R. deducts -2 pts. whenever sheep get out beyond the panel. (fig.13)

FIG. 12

However, for this second time out beyond the panel (fig.14), he would deduct -3 because the handler had the chance to correct it so this is worse than the -2 deduction. R. stressed



that all penalties are circumstances at hand by decisions of the judge based on the actions of the sheep and dog.

FIG. 13

Sheep miss fetch gates (fig.15), R. deducts -12 if dog following sheep; -7 if dog trying to turn them. On the fetch, it is O.K for the dog to head them to a stop in order to turn them before the fetch gate.



FIG. 15

B. said the fetch ends when the sheep cross the fetch line behind the post. B.'s point zones are continued down the field and around the post so deductions for too wide on the turn depend upon what zone the sheep have moved into. If the sheep turn in front of the post or turn

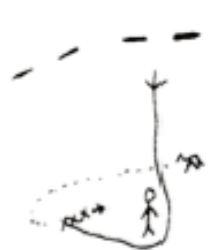


FIG. 16

This is better than losing the sheep. A wide turn is usually -2 points off the fetch. If the sheep continue to stay out there for the beginning of the drive then -2 off drive as well. If the sheep stop to graze, dog is out of contact and lose -1/2 pt. or more if it persists. Dog barking while working is usually at least -1 pt.

R. repeated that every phase of rules is under the circumstances at hand rule, trying to emulate practical shepherding. R. said it is usually better for handler to turn the sheep around the post about 10 ft. out behind the post. Most judges will deduct -1 pt, but it is safer. With unbroken sheep, turn them 20 ft. out from back of post. If sheep are turned in front of post, -4 if close to post, up to -10 if turned way before post. Turn wrong way around back of post -6.

Sheep running around post, heavy to exhaust (fig.17), bolting off line, perhaps only -1/2 to -1 point. This is up to the judge.



FIG. 17

Crossing the course at the handlers post (fig.18) may be only -1 to -2 if heavy pressure to exhaust. Ralph lets



FIG. 18

the handler get up to 10 ft. away from the post if working unbroken man-shy sheep. R. also lets the handler get away from the post to help stop sheep that are bolting down to the handler on the fetch. He hits

only a light fault if sheep turn between handler and post or if most sheep go behind post and 1 sheep turns in front of post.

the wrong way around the post lose -2. If the sheep are bolting on the turn and the dog heads them lose 4 pts. for crossing the course (fig.16).

R. added that the decision to give a handler and dog a rerun is one of the most difficult and dangerous decisions that judges and/ or course directors make. Course directors can give reruns but they can't change a judge's scoring.

DRIVING, PEN, SHED

This is the continuation of a series of articles begun in 1989. This article will cover driving, penning and shedding.

DRIVING (30 points)

Driving is very similar to fetching and is judged by all three men in much the same way that they judge the fetch. As Ralph pointed out, and all handlers know, the first and third legs of the drive are precise. The 2nd leg is less precise—the judge can't see the line any better than the handler and so has to be lenient. The sheep are usually turned around the back of the handler's post with the drive beginning as the sheep pass the fetch line.

Bruce continues the point zones he used on the fetch right around the handler's post and into the drive. B. divides the drive into 3 sections (drive away, cross drive and return) to help keep track of how long sheep have been off line and when another point deduction might be necessary. B. wants the turns at the gates to be tight. If the sheep go wide there he will deduct points according to what point zone the sheep have moved into. Lose 5 points for a close miss of the gate by all the sheep, 2 points lost if 1 sheep misses, and 3 points if 2 miss.

Bruce agrees it isn't always possible to judge the cross drive until the sheep have reached the second gate, at which point he will look back at the cross drive and calculate any point losses. Each time the sheep are turned on the cross drive they are either moving off line or back on line.

If at least 3/4 of the drive is not completed Bruce doesn't consider that phase of work completed and the dog

can't earn any more points in the trial and will receive no drive points. A dog driving sheep through the fetch gate instead of the drive gate earns no points for the drive or the rest of the course since he didn't complete the drive.

Ralph feels that the first leg of the drive is the easiest and is very severe if the sheep are allowed to drift up to the first gate slightly off line, 5 to 6 points (Fig.1).



Fig. 1

sary for the sheep to go through the center of the drive gate. If the sheep miss the first drive gate on the outside R. deducts 5 to 7 points depending on how wide the

sheep are; if the miss is on the inside the deduction is 8 to 9 points as the sheep have cut the course making the drive shorter and course easier (Fig. 2). If the sheep bust through the gate R. takes 4 to 7

points if they are put back on line immediately. If the dog simply follows the sheep as they miss the gate making no effort to get them back on line

R. takes 8 points. If the sheep go through the panel and then turn around and come back through R. takes 5 points plus any loss for being off line. If the sheep are turned back to the handler 3/4 of the way to the second drive gate R will take 20-24 points off the drive. If the sheep are turned before that or if the handler runs out of time before the sheep reach the penning area no points for the drive.

Fig. 2



Lewis is looking for nice medium turns at the drive gates. As always Lewis is watching for straight lines on the drive. L did suggest that if the handler is unsure of the line on the cross drive the best action might be a banana drive, bringing the sheep toward the handler after the first gate and then driving them back up to the second drive gate

so the handler has a better perspective on the gate (Fig. 3). There will of

Fig. 3



course be a loss of points for being off line, but it would not be as severe as missing the second gate.

PENNING (10 points)

All of the judges agreed that the pen starts around 10 to 30 feet from the pen depending upon the size of the trial field. Normal line is from the edge of the 2nd drive gate to the back corner of the pen. The pen should have its back to the 2nd drive gate according to R. B. uses point zones to judge the pen just as he does for the fetch and drive. If the sheep circle the pen up close B. takes 2 points; if one sheep circles closely lose 1 point. If the sheep circle the pen in the 3 or 4 point zones B. takes off points accordingly. If all the sheep are in the pen and break out B. takes 5 points or half the pen, possibly more if they run away from the pen into one of the point zones. If the handler pushes the sheep into the pen B. takes 5 points. If the dog is out of contact when the sheep are penned B. takes 1 or 2 points depending upon how far out of contact the dog is (heavy point loss for the dog at the back of the pen). If the handler artificially holds some of the sheep in the pen (closes the gate) while others circle the pen lose 2 points from Bruce.

Ralph doesn't take any points deduction if the gate is only partially closed (open about 2 feet) while the handler tries to get the remaining sheep into the pen. Slamming the pen gate or leaving the gate open after completion of the pen costs 1 point from B. The first time 1 sheep circles the pen R. will take 1/2 to 1 point. R. believes that more leniency at the pen allows more room for

judging. If the sheep go through the handler holding the rope Ralph takes off 1/2 to 1 1/2 points for the handler not doing a good job. If the sheep finally go into the pen R. gives 2 points.

If the sheep are in the pen and break out before the gate can be closed, R. takes 10 points. It is also a very serious fault if the sheep are all in the mouth of the pen and break out. If the gate hits the sheep when being closed R. will take nothing to 4 points depending upon the circumstances. R. also told all the handlers not to hit the sheep with their crooks or prod them to get them out of the pen.

SHEDDING (10 points)

The judge will announce at the beginning of the trial what is required at the shed ("2 sheep off the back," "any sheep," "one sheep on the head") (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4



two sheep. There is quite a bit of confusion among inexperienced handlers about which sheep is the last sheep. This is a determination that can only be made if all of the sheep are in a group facing in the same direction. The last sheep is the one facing the back ends of the rest of the group. If the last sheep is required at the shed, the sheep must all be lined up facing in the same direction before it is possible to find this "last sheep" and make a shed. If some of the ewes should turn around before the dog can make the shed then she may no longer be the last sheep and the shed will be invalid or points will be lost.

The area in which the shed is to be performed will also be indicated at the handler's meeting. According to ISDS rules it should be a marked circle 40 yards in

diameter. The shed may be done either before or after the pen depending upon how the course is arranged.

Lewis says if the shed is before the pen, the handler should not leave the post until all of the sheep are in the shedding circle.

Bruce says that if the shed is after the pen and the dog crosses between the sheep and the shedding area when bringing the sheep to the ring lose 4 points for dog crossing the course. R. says that if the shed is after the pen, ideally the handler should be in the shedding ring first, followed by the sheep and then the dog, but there is usually no deduction of points if the sheep arrive before the handler. Sheep traveling off line from the pen to shedding area are subject to loss of points. R. feels that no more than 3 points should be lost on how the sheep are brought to the shedding area. He doesn't care very much if the dog crosses the course in getting sheep to the shedding area as long as it is good practical shepherding.

R. says the shed tests the dog's ability to come in and take control. If the sheep are well broke the dog should wear the shed sheep for a few seconds; if the sheep are not broke R. will call the shed as soon as the dog looks at the shed sheep. If a single is asked for but the dog sheds 2 or else just splits the flock, lose 8 points. Each time the sheep leave the shedding area Bruce takes 1 or more points depending upon how far away they get. R. will take 1 or 2 points each time the sheep leave the shedding ring.

If the handler makes an opening for the shed and calls the dog but the dog doesn't come in, L. takes 4 points, R. takes 3-4 points, and B. takes 5 points. If the dog starts to come in at the wrong place and the handler stops him, lose 2 points from Lewis. If the last two sheep are to be shed and the dog takes the first two, B. takes 3 points but accepts the shed. If the dog turns on the wrong sheep B. takes 3 points. If the handler

does the shed, B. takes 1 to 5 points depending upon how quickly the dog comes through and takes control.

If the dog is called and the gap closes before the dog can come through, R. takes no points off.

B. and L. each take 1 point for a missed opportunity to shed; R. will take 2 points for an obvious chance missed. R. will disqualify any handler who hits a sheep during the shed

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Ralph emphasized that reruns are the most dangerous decisions that judges and/or course directors can make. Course directors can give reruns; they can't change the judge's scoring. Bruce said that the handler may ask for a rerun up to the time the sheep turn at the post and begin the drive, The judge

may decide to grant a rerun at any time. B. feels that the justifications for a rerun are unfit sheep or outside interference (another dog on the course). If a rerun is granted the dog will run the full course and rejudging will begin wherever the judge determines. A ewe refusing to flock or laying down is not cause for a rerun unless there is an apparent physical cause according to Bruce.

B. said that the judge should decide before the trial begins what will be done about grips and be consistent all day. There must always be a loss of points for a grip. B. will take 1/2 to 5 points for a dog biting a balky ewe on the nose; flank grips at least 5 points. If the dog hangs on 10 points up to disqualification. If the grip is totally uncalled for, B. will take 10 points up to DQ for that dog.

Bruce said the judge sets the time for

the course.

Bruce repeatedly reminded everyone that the judge is called a judge because he is required to use his judgment. Ralph emphasized that the ISDS rules say that all deductions are determined by the judge based upon the actions of the sheep and the dog.

Bruce said that the judge may DQ any handler for improper conduct. He also said that the judge has a responsibility to judge every run as all of the contestants have paid for his judgment and it's very important to every handler that he be properly placed even if he isn't in the money.

Finally, Ralph mentioned that this country is still lacking enough qualified judges and that handlers should be careful about complaining about beginning judges.

WHISTLE CLINIC

When: April 1, 2012

Where: Spring Valley Farm, Strafford, VT

How much: \$100; lunch and spirits included

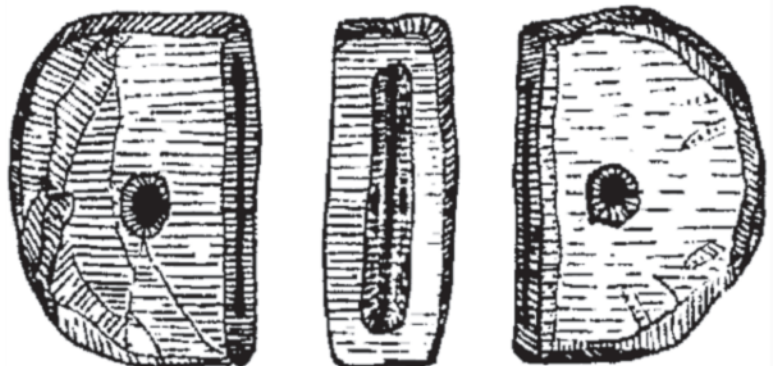
Clinician: Rob Drummond, aka "The Whistle King"

Rob's bio:

Rob has been whistling forever. He even whistled before he could talk! As a young boy, Rob perfected his whistling techniques by practicing on girls. He is known for his skill and craft at producing and selling whistles all over the world. His resumé includes whistling the Star Spangled Banner for several professional sporting events.

Plastic, brass, aluminum, stainless steel, solid gold, Corian, stone, even wood or your fingers, Rob will help you improve your whistling skills.

Men's Post-Clinic Special: For only an extra \$50 Rob will share his secrets on wolf whistling — results guaranteed with female handlers!



Some stone (blue shale) whistles made by Rob when he lived in the Ardennes area of France in a former life,

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NEBCA Products

New NEBCA logo hats and tees on sale at <http://www.nebca.net> under Merchandise. Our member volunteer webmaster, Joanne Murphy, has been busy revising the Merchandise section to sell both the NEBCA hats in avocado, grape, & light royal colors and the newest NEBCA tees on line through PayPal.

The 2012 Tee Design is by member volunteer Sally Lacy, of Vermont.

NEBCA Merchandise is on sale at limited trials, so check us out on line. The 2012 calendars are on sale now!!

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Training and Trialing in Wales by Carol Campion

I bought Tam in August of 2009. By winter, I had decided I would run him in the 2011 World Trial in Cumbria England. And why not? He came from that part of England and it would be like going home for him. Me, I had always wanted to take a dog "over" to run, and a goal like this made it more focused. He was a perfect candidate—young and talented and a great trial partner for me. Not long after I started running him, I came to the realization he was as consistent a trial dog as I had ever run—good outrunner—tremendous listener and natural.

I entered the necessary trials in 2010 and by mid-summer he was in about the 90th place on the USBCHA standings. I entered him in the VA Finals, only to withdraw him after he developed a growth on his gums that needed surgery. The vet thought it a serious type of cancer and sent out for biopsies. My hopes of going to England faded.

After an extensive wait of a few weeks, the tests came back inconclusive. The good news was that despite the tests not showing what it was, they did show what it was not. It wasn't a malignant oral cancer and we were sent home to keep an eye on it.

Fast forward, August 2011. Arriving in London, I landed, picked up my rental car and drove to the cargo area to collect Tam. Once again, I had been warned it could be a lengthy process. I took a seat where I met a woman that had been there for 6 hours waiting to receive her dog. Resigning myself to the idea this would be an ordeal, I took advantage of the opportunity to relax a bit. I was tired and had a long drive ahead of me to Wales. Much to my surprise, not long after, maybe in about an hour or so, Tam appeared—wagging and happy and not at all stressed over his experience.

I picked up the paperwork, the cargo people bid Tam a fond farewell and off to Wales we went.

I had rented a fairly big car that was far more costly than quoted. I didn't have time to quibble and decided I would turn it in and make other arrangements once I got to Sue's. Part of the extra expense was the GPS. That was a wise choice because there was heavy traffic from London until the motorways split and I headed for North Wales. It was a Friday afternoon in early August, so there was a lot of commuter traffic. Luckily the cargo road at Heathrow empties immediately out onto the highway so it wasn't hard to relax into driving on the left side of the road. There were numerous rest areas and I found myself needing to stop at least twice to shut my eyes.

I arrived at my good friend Sue's at about 7 pm. There was much banter, reminiscing and dog talk into the wee hours. Hard to believe Tam and I were both there. I have been over many many times but this was the first time I had my dog and didn't feel like an "onlooker".

Saturday was spent puttering about and resting up. I took Tam up on the small hill behind her house and got to work some Welsh Mountain/Beulah crosses. Free-moving and fun. On Sunday we set out to my first trial in Wales.

6/8/11 Bryneglwys

It is true all they say about trialing in Wales. At that time of year, you can get to 4 trials in a day and none more than an hour away. Many are enter-on-the-field, while some of the bigger trials are pre-enter. I had pre-entered the Uwchaled Trial in Bala at Defaity's and the Vivod ahead of time. Both of those were big big hill trials with finals; the Uwchaled's final is a double lift.



On this Sunday it was a local and we had a relaxed departure, arriving at about 11 am. I entered not long after we arrived and ran around #50 at about 2 pm. I think they ran about 90 dogs that day.

It was an uphill field a bit like Borders on Paradise field and about the same size. There were a few trees on it, making the top of the outrun tricky as the dog needed to go behind the trees to be correct. The sheep were a Cheviot type and were moving nicely for the dogs. I wasn't nervous until I walked to the post. At once, I felt like I had never been to a trial in my life! The last time I had run Tam in the states was in May and I felt like all eyes were on me and in fact they were. To feel that way after all these years was disconcerting.

Once into the run I relaxed. Tam was great. I felt more at home with his consistency shining through and the familiarity of handling him settled me. We had a good run around the course until the pen. What I failed to take full notice of is that many of the trials there have a wing on one side of the opening of the pen to help settle the touchier sheep. I was focusing so hard that I actually bumped into the wing on my way to opening the gate and it threw me off which resulted in my sheep circling the pen once. Tam ran extremely well and except for my blunder at the pen, I might have placed.

I shut the gate and from under the tent I could hear some clapping. That is not something you usually hear at their trials. After exhausting the next sheep, I made my way to the truck and was stopped by an elderly gentleman dressed in tweeds. He came over to ask about Tam.

He said "When you ran him, all the boys went quiet. That is the biggest compliment you can get here". He went on to tell me how impressed they all were with Tam and I thanked him, mentioning that I had heard someone clap. He said, "That was me!" The judge was Medwyn Evans. He met me after and commented as well on how much he liked Tam. Those exchanges put me at ease. It was the last time I was nervous running at a trial while there.

8/8-9/2011 Uwchaled Hill, Bala

The next day, Monday, was the big Uwchaled Hill trial. I had pre-entered two big Welsh hill trials with two days of qualifying and this one— a double-lift final. I had been to a Defaity's to a trial in 2006 and it was a fantastic course with dogs being sent into another field through gates to pick up the sheep. The handlers post was near the bottom of the hill but on the other side of a stream. You sent the dog from that side and then walked over a small bridge after the drive to execute your in-by work—a split, pen and single.



The Uwchaled trial field with Kevin Evans running Greg. I circled the hold outs. You can barely see them at the top left and top right!

I ran on day one late in the afternoon. The weather was damp. It was early August but we wore down vests and fleece and hats. The dogs loved it. Handlers spent a lot of time in cars watching and visited through rain-spattered windows. Though it was damp, the camaraderie was great with lots of fun and teasing.

The sheep were held at the top of the field in a big set out pen. Once the dog got behind, the hold-out people opened the pen and released the sheep. Tam needed one stop and redirect to get him out through the gates to the sheep. Having never taken sheep out of a pen, he came in a little flat but took all my commands. The sheep split in two directions as they came out of the pen and Tam, being on the backside of the pen, didn't have the control a dog could have lifting in the open. This resulted in a ragged top of his fetch, but we managed to regroup in time to make a nice entry through another set of gates back into the lower field for the second half of the fetch. The sheep broke once through those gates and you needed to cover them hard. We did. Again, Tam took every command given, but the group was hard to get settled after their splitting coming out of the pen. We drew one runner and she wanted off the field, unlike most of the packets of sheep at the trial. We made all our panels and had a good drive and very good split. At the pen, I once again had to work it to get the right feel for the sheep. They never circled but did break once before penning them. Time called.

There had been a standard called early in the afternoon. Being off line on the fetch and the breaking at the pen should have had me off, but they let "visitors" stay and finish their runs to let them have the experience. It was a much appreciated gesture and an exhilarating trial to run in.

Sue and I returned the next day to watch more qualifying and the final. It was a gorgeous sunny windy and cold day. The double-lift final run on Wednesday is an impressive final. The first outrun is to the left and the sheep are about 800 yards away up a hill and behind rugged terrain. The dog is directed through a gateway in the fence and up. The fetch is through a break in the fence about center of the field and then the turn back is to the right. The outruns are difficult and the course huge. The viewing, exceptional. You are on a hill and the handlers post is in a bowl so it is a big amphitheater. You can see everything. Kevin Evans won with his Greg, winner of the Welsh National.

Wednesday 8/10/11 Machynlleth

On Wednesday we got an early start and headed for the Machynlleth trial.

The trial field was behind the center of town. They were just ready to begin when we arrived so we got to watch a few runs before we entered. The sheep were very flighty "easy care" sheep. Easy Care sheep look like our white Katahdins. I believe they are a cross between Wiltshire Horn sheep and another hair breed. They had been brought in for the trial and they were touchy! The trial field was long and flat probably about a 300-yard outrun. There was a fence across the middle and the fetch panel was a gated opening across the stream about half way up the field.

To the right was a very

marshy area and some trees and to the left, the fence bisected the field, so a right hand outrun was easier.

I sent right. As Tam was coming around the marshes about half way on his outrun, his sheep left the top and were almost to the fetch panels by the time we got anywhere near enough to have an impact on them. These were the lightest sheep I had ever tried to handle. We got a hold on them briefly on the fetch, but after the turn they remained one step ahead of us, racing around the course. Try as we might, we never got a hold of them again. There were some seasoned handlers there who had the knack of handling those sheep and they had nice runs and the sheep under steady control! The trial was won handily by Paul Tompkins.

Wednesday 8/10/11 Llanbrynmair

From there we went to a farm trial about 35 minutes away. Enter on the field. As you hop from trial to trial, you see all the same faces again and again. It is interesting to see some dogs do well at one trial and fail at the next. The sheep were Cheviot/Texel crosses much like my sheep here at Bittersweet. On his outrun that day, Tam tripped in a ditch and went head over heels. He never flipped over but twisted pretty badly trying to keep his balance. He refocused and went on to run well. We ran very, very well but ran out of time at the pen as we were just putting them in. So no placing. The scores and runs are clean enough that you need a really good run to place and get points. Usually it is the top 6 or 8

As we left, it was raining and had gotten colder.

That evening when I let Tam out of his crate for an evening walk, he was lame on three legs with his right rear leg held tightly up against his belly. I immediately thought of the ditch and rested him for the next day after giving him Metacam. There was a quick trip to a chiropractor near Sue on Thursday and after lots of rest and easy walks, Tam seemed fine.

On Friday, I accompanied Sue and her husband Al into Chester to run errands and we returned my rental car. The cost for the car was far more than what was quoted. I was offered a car to borrow for the remainder of my trip, so gladly took Sue and Al up on their offer to return the rental.

Saturday 8/13/11 Llanfyllin

On Saturday we went to another two trials. They were locals and we entered on the field. The first was part of a local agricultural show. It reminded me a lot of our late summer and fall agricultural shows in New England. The field was about 300 yards and was flat with a rise up at the top where the sheep were held. Another good field for viewing and handling. Tam ran well but I gave him an extra whistle on the top of his outrun to make sure he



A spectator studying the sheep at Llanfyllin

covered because there were more trees there that he needed to go around. So I lost points there. I just missed the fetch panel due to miscalculation on my part. That cost me the placing. Our drive was good and we finally mastered the pen and how much pressure to put on the sheep. We ran Cheviot crosses here again. Sheep were good. Many handlers had trouble keeping the sheep on the field. Tam had a good go.

Saturday 8/13/11 Llanarmon yn Ial

The afternoon trial was part of a horse show at Llanarmon yn Ial. It was the smallest course that I had been on. It was long and narrow and reminded me of a big Cummington. We had a really good run and I thought for sure I had placed, but my name did not come in the prizes. There were 90 some odd dogs that day. Hard to fathom since when you get there many people had come and gone and many came after. I did get called for the novice class placings. Somehow the trial clerk had thought I had entered Tam in the novices. Novice class is for any dog never placing in open. Since they didn't know him, he was considered in the novices and presented third. After the prizes were awarded, I told the trial manager I didn't earn the placing as I hadn't entered the class. The judge had gone home so they told me to just keep it. It was funny. I made £10.00 and could not give it back! They did eventually straighten out the point placings in their standings but the money stayed with me. It was funny at the time.

It had turned damp and cold. We were one of the last runs of the day. We headed home and had another nice evening in good company. Tam seemed a little off in his gait, but not as lame as he had been.

Sunday, 8/14/2011 The Vivod

The Vivod was the next day and I was running number 52 or so. We had heard that the farm had just gone to organic so the thistles would have been recently mowed and very sharp on the ground. I decided not to chance running Tam on any rough ground before the World Trial, so withdrew. It was good that I did. The area for the close work—penning and shedding, was a bed of newly mown thistle. There was more than one lame dog tip-toeing about at the trial. I was envious though. It was a fantastic trial.

The Vivod is one of the oldest trials in Wales and it too had two huge challenging qualifying courses. The first—a difficult 500-yard uphill outrun and dog-leg fetch through fence gates as the fetch, right-hand turn at a post part way down the field—then driving across the field to the right, through panels and sharp turn back up the field through another set of panels and then back to the handler's post for chute. The second qualifying field was a downhill 400-yard outrun through a tree-lined area into an adjacent far field that required a dog running through a wooded area to reach the sheep. It was a dog-leg fetch once again. The drive was more straightforward and then a chute.

The sheep were Welsh Mountain and ran consistently well throughout the day. They were difficult at the chutes and at the final obstacle and task—loading them into a trailer.

These two qualifiers ran simultaneously throughout the day. The fields were separated by a large parking area, food concessions, visitor tents and a big grassy area. The top 8 from one field and 6 from the other field ran in a double lift final at the end of the qualifying runs. It was exciting to watch as the view for handlers and spectators was advantageous. We sat on a hill and the dogs ran into a valley and up a far hillside. It was a sunny day and lawn chairs were lined up along the fence in front of cars as people took advantage of the nice weather to sit out.

I was traveling with my friend Sue Main and Gwyn Jones Penmachno. Gwyn and his dog Roy qualified for the final so we had a team to stay on and cheer for! Gwyn had a good run with Roy, but at the end of the day, a young handler named Arwyn Davies and his Floss took home the prize. He ran early in the final and his run was hard to beat, the teamwork needed to load the sheep made the task effortless.

Almost all the trials have a raffle along with the prize giving. No exception here. I pulled the first winning ticket and chose a bottle of Irish whiskey for Larry! Finally, a first prize for Carol!



Vivod field 1 (above); Vivod field 2 (below)





On Monday, I was to meet Derek Scrimgeour for my ride up to Lonscale. He was coming to visit a friend who lived near Sue. My borrowed car was at Derek's and I had been waiting for a ride up with someone who was heading north. But that never materialized. So I had extra time to enjoy Sue and Al's tremendous hospitality.

Editor's Note:

The further adventures of Carol and Tam in England and the World Trials will appear in the Summer issue of the NEBCA News.

A TRIBUTE TO SARAH AMES' STAR

Star was whelped March 22, 1998, and died January 17, 2012
dam: Carlene Eitapence's Lass sire: Bud Ames' Luke

Sarah started competing in NEBCA junior handler classes at age 10. At age 12 she started competing in pro-novice classes with Bud's Sam; at the time she was the only junior handler competing in the north-east.

At age 13 she requested her own dog to train and compete with. Sarah did all her own training with guidance from many NEBCA handlers. She started competing again at age 15 with Star. Sarah and Star competed in many trials- Janet Larson's, Spring Valley's Novice trial, Kelmscott, Nearfield Farm, Ames' Mountain Meadow, NH Sheep & Wool, Mad River, Tunbridge Fair, Norwich Fair, Novice finals and winning the "Kick-Ass" trophy at Dave Young's.

Star was also Sarah's hiking companion and best friend. She will be missed.



Portrait by Heidi Osgood Metcalf

2012 BREEDER'S DIRECTORY

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1165 Esperance Road
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taffaway@aol.com

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tofteast@verizon.com

This listing of Border Collie breeders is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the Northeast Border Collie Association. When making enquiries into 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.

Note: Not all breeders listed here are necessarily handlers.

NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE, 2012

Apr 27-29
Old Chatham SDT
 Old Chatham, NY
 Two Open, & USBCHA Nursery
 run over 2 1/2 days
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Sue Schoen
 508-548-5347

May 11-13
Borders on Paradise SDT
 Turbotville, PA
 Two Open & One Novice
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Dave Fetterman
 570-742-3527

May 12-13
NH Sheep & Wool Festival SDT
 Deerfield Fairgrounds
 34 Stage Rd, Deerfield, NH Two
 Novice, Open Points & Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Chris Bowen
 603-358-0147

May 17-20
Finality Farm
 211 Hammond Hill Road
 Dover Plains, NY 12522
 Two Open & Novice, one Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Joe Evans
 845-278-0472
 Mich Ferraro
 845-373-8714

Jun 10-11
Fetch Gate Farm Spring Nursery Trials
 Cortland, NY
 Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Roger & Heather Millen
 607-835-6584

May 26-27
MA Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT
 97 Fairgrounds Rd
 Cummington, MA
 Two Novice & Open
 One USBCHA Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Kate Collins
 George Northrop
 978-249-4407
 Denise Leonard (entries)
 413-773-5232

Jun 3-4
Fetch Gate Farm Spring Nursery Trials
 Cortland, NY
 Two USBCHA Nursery Trials

USBCHA
 Roger & Heather Millen
 607-835-6584

Jun 10-11
Fetch Gate Farm Spring Nursery Trials
 Cortland, NY
 Two USBCHA Nursery Trials
 USBCHA
 Roger & Heather Millen
 607-835-6584

Jun 16-19
PA State Championship SDT
 Sheepy Hollow Farm
 Hop Bottom, PA
 Two Novice, Open
 & Three USBCHA Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Cheryl Jagger-Williams
 570-289-4733

Jun 23-24
High Point Farm SDT
 Knox, NY
 Two Open and Pronovice Trials
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Peter Van de Car
 518-482-2625/518-895-2585

Jun 30-Jul 1
Cascade Farm SDT
 Bath, NH
 Two Nov, Open & Nursery Trials
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Mary Ames
 603-838-2018

Jun 30-Jul 3
Fetch Gate Farm SDT
 Cortland, NY
 Two Open, Novice & Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Roger & Heather Millen
 607-835-6584

Jul 12
Ossipee Valley Fair
 Open & Nursery Points Trial
 S. Hiram, ME
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Lynn Deschambeault
 207-452-2898

Jul 28-29
Fetch Gate Farm
 Novice SDT
 Cortland, NY
 Two Novice and Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA Roger &
 Heather Millen
 607-835-6584

Aug 7-12
Kingston Sheep Dog Trials
 Grass Creek Park
 Kingston, Ontario
 Nursery, Open Championships
 Double Lift on 12 Aug
 USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC
 Amanda Milliken
 Home 613-531-9405
 Office 613 546 1451

Aug 17-19
Leatherstocking SDT
 Cooperstown, NY
 One Novice & Two Open Trials
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Barbara Armata
 518-875-6471

Aug 18
Maine Highland Games (tent.)
 Topsham Fairgrounds, ME
 Open & Nursery Points Trial
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Lynn Deschameault
 207-452-2898

Aug 25
VT State Championship SDT
 Scottish Festival
 Queechee, VT
 One Open & Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Steve Wetmore
 802-765-4466

Aug 26
Spring Valley Open SDT
 Strafford, VT
 One Open
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Steve Wetmore
 802-765-4466

Aug 30
Lancaster Fair
 Open & Nursery Points Trial
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Roger Deschambeault
 603-939-2255

Sep 1/2
Blue Hill Fair & Northeast U.S. Sheepdog Trial
 Two One-day Open Points Trials
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Jim Davidson
 207-677-2227

Sep 8-9
Merck Forest Open SDT
 Rupert, VT
 Two Open & One Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Steve Wetmore
 802-765-4466

Sep 21
Loon Mountain SDT
 Open Points Trial
 Lincoln, NH
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Lynn Deschambeault
 207-452-2898

Sep 24-25
Big E SDT
 West Springfield, MA
 2 Open 9/24 & 1 Open 9/25
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Pat Canaday
 518-861-6049

Sep 29-30
Long Shot Trial
 Church Hill, MD
 Two Open, R, PN, NN
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Sherry Smith
 410-708-2428

Oct 5-7
Fall Foliage
 Details to follow

Oct 5-7
Swaledale SDT
 Blackstock, ON
 Novice & Open
 Double lift Oct7
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Andrea deKenedy
 647-977-3866

Oct 12-14
Butternut Creek Fall SDT
 Kingston, Ontario
 NN/PN & Open
 USBCHA/NEBCA (Open)/
 OBCC
 Amanda Milliken (Questions)
 613-531-9405
 Lorna Savage (Entries)
 613 541-0296

Nov 2-4
Long Shot Trial
 Church Hill, MD
 Open, R, PN, Nursery
 USBCHA/NEBCA
 Sherry Smith
 410-708-2428



It takes seven Border Collies to hold these sheep!

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