

NEBCA News



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Off and Back Again to Waupoos Island

Pp 5-6

**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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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.

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From the President

It is finally May, though she has been threatening for some time now! Lambs are busting out everywhere, a new grand-daughter and a new puppy! As you can imagine, a very busy time.

For many, the trialing season has begun. The entries are brimming over and the enthusiasm is as high as it has ever been. Lots of exciting opportunities for handlers in the NEBCA area. We just wrapped up a well received judging series with a one-day clinic with Lyle Lad as the judge/mentor. There was a strong group of participants who consistently attended all three. We are especially pleased to see the new handlers coming up through the ranks and this type of clinic can only help steer folks in the right direction.



While we have lost a few trials for 2012, there are a number of new ones on the calendar. Check them out and please support the trial managers. A number of sites and options are being looked at for both the 2012 Fall Foliage and Novice Final, so get your dogs qualified and get ready! We look forward to sharing details soon.

In this issue, you will see we have new tee shirts and caps available as well as the new calendar and a new item available—a series of notecards. All items support NEBCA. There is also a wonderful article by Amanda Milliken about the Waupoos Island sheep, and a follow-up article about my heading to England in 2011, as well as other good reading. So join us and enjoy the reading. If you have anything that would be interesting for other members in upcoming newsletters, please let Molly King or Jim Allen know! We would like to encourage diversity in reporting.

Above all, though, welcome to spring, and we hope to see you down the road.

Carol



A Note from the Editor

We had a wealth of information to select from for this issue. Two of the items will be continued in the Fall issue. We encourage all members to consider writing articles on trialling and sheepdog work for the NEBCA News. If they are judged appropriate, we will be happy to include them in future issues. Send them to me or Molly King; our addresses are listed on p. 2.

We wish everyone an enjoyable trialling season.

Jim Allen

Upcoming NEBCA Meetings

Don't forget the NEBCA meetings to be held in conjunction with the trials at Cummington (MA Sheep & Wool Festival, May 26-27) and Leatherstocking (July 17-19).

BUY YOUR 2012 NEBCA CALENDAR NOW!!!!

Buy it on the website <<http://www.nebca.net/calendars.html>> or call George Northrop at 978-249-4407! The best Border collie pictures in the country, bar none. Note: People renewing NEBCA membership can buy a 2012 calendar for \$10 with renewal and get free shipping.

GET READY FOR THE 2013 NEBCA CALENDAR!

Some samples from the 2013 Calendar:



Mr. August



Miss December



MOVING THE SHEEP OFF WAUPOOS ISLAND -- AND BRINGING THEM BACK AGAIN

by Amanda Milliken

Late in the fall, the first weekend of December, I join a gather on Waupoos Island to help the Fleugals take off the sheep. The island is about seven hundred acres tucked into a bay on the southeastern tip of Prince Edward County, which juts out into Lake Ontario. It is a big day-long project that involves a lot of people. My dogs are made for such a job, and I am honoured to do it. Those familiar with the Kingston Trials could imagine heading westward up river, to Lake Ontario, proceeding past Kingston about thirty miles and you might end up at Waupoos. Normally, Sue Schoen comes from Cape Cod, we take in a winery or two and catch supper at East of Main in Wellington. The day is fun, no matter how you cut it.

Sue broke her leg, and Carol Guy joined in to take the sheep about a mile from the dock, to the Fleugal place, where the sheep will winter. I got the island. Belinda Betz came along.

There were about three hundred replacement lambs to have off, before the main flock. When we met them, at least six had been wolfed, one dead and others so injured they needed to die. Winter kills and injuries always seem more vivid than those of the summer. In the summer, blood dries to a tame coloured rusty look but the winter blood dries frozen and bright-- nothing subdued about it. The lambs gathered in a remarkably



orderly fashion. One imagines them trying all sorts of stuff, Kingston Sheep Dog Trials in the make. But numbers like that keep them quite quiet. We corralled them at the dock and sent them forward to the barge. The Huntaway loaded them on the barge, with a lot of barking, to which we sheepdog hands are unaccustomed.

As the lambs headed for the mainland, we gathered the ewes. I had Dorey, Monty and Roz. I sent Dorey first. She picked up about three hundred from the first field but there were another thousand further out. Asked to go back, Dorey could

not of course believe it, thinking she had hit pay dirt with her first outing. When she finally looked back, she hesitated in disbelief, but happily joined Roz and Monty, who were both smarter about the gather. To say it was beautiful understates the case. The terrain was very dull and wintery which made the movement of the flock dazzling in contrast. The flock moved in a giant fluid mass. We walked them a mile or so to the dock, where the barge was arriving just in time to reload with sheep.

While the barge went back and forth, the dogs and I returned to the eastern end of the Island to bring off a handful of boer goats that a cottager keeps for the summer to take down his browse. Bob Fleugal winters them. The elders among them had met the dogs last year, but the younger ones were indignant about having to go anywhere, but particularly at the behest of a dog. We walked a mile and half back to the dock. Sometimes the goats were comical. My pictures look as though the dogs took a piece of them but there was never a mark on them. It was successful bravado.

Carol went home at the end of the day, but Belinda and I headed to Wellington. Next time I see those sheep

will be to return them to the island in March (see cover picture).

Picture left, moving the sheep to river to board their barge.





In early March, Sue Schoen and I moved sheep from the mainland to Waupoos Island, the summer ground. For the first time since Bob Fleugal has organized this job, there was no ice on which to take the sheep across. They had to be barged. While it was a much less nerve racking job for me, (I always picture the whole flock, falling through) it was also a lot longer. 1700 sheep, 200 to 250 to a barge.

Picture right:
“Permission to grip, ma’am?”



Carol's Odyssey Continued

by Carol Campion

August 17, England

I met Derek at a Rhugg Farm in North Wales. He was meeting a friend to pick up some dogs and I was to stay at Lonscale during the World Trial. I had turned in my expensive rental car and would borrow one from Derek, so Sue and I drove to the farm, not more than 5 miles from her place, to meet up.

It is a massive farm that sells fresh meats and fresh ice cream. It was hard to locate them on the farm as it encompassed such a large area, but after a few inquiries we arrived at the right destination. We gathered and a few folks got together to work their dogs. It was the first time I had seen Derek in about 2 years, the last time being at my farm in CT for a clinic. And Tam had originally worked at his farm as a nursery dog for Anna Ostman, a young woman from Sweden who was working for Derek for a year.

Tam was sound for that demo and I was buoyed by the performance. I felt his injuries were behind us and there were a few "warm up" trials I had entered in England in preparation for the World Trial that I was looking forward to.

The Lake District

The Lake District is absolutely stunning. At every turn is wonderful scenery that just surpasses the beauty of your last gaze. If ever you have a chance to go, do. The natural beauty is overwhelming. I was fortunate to have sun so the panoramas were visible and intoxicating. Hills and lakes and sheep. Derek's Farm is at the base of Skiddaw, one of the noteworthy hills in the area, and Derek treated me to an ATV ride through the property. It consists of 1500 acres of hill ground including hiking trails through Lonscale, Skiddaw and Blencathra, to name a few. Derek owns a handful of Blue-face Leicesters and an enormous flock of Swaledales. Most of his original flock was destroyed during the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001, but he was slowly rebuilding his stock. As we toured about, there were sheep seemingly everywhere, dotting the majestic hillsides.

Rachael, Derek's daughter and farm partner, had the weekend off, so I stepped in. I spent the first day working in the pens deworming, sorting lambs and marking sheep. Derek gathered the large groups from the hills with Laddie and Fleece, his open trial dogs. Using the dogs and his ATV, he would gather from a hill and work the sheep to the paddocks in the lowland and into pens. There they were sorted and attended to. In our spare time, I was treated to a "doggie show and tell". "Take a look at this one," Derek would say. "And what do you think of that one?" So many to look at. I'd find an interesting looking one in a kennel and ask, "What about this one? Can you show this one to me?" For me, that is heaven, looking at working dogs! Learning the pedigrees and watching them work—all set against the stunning backdrop of the hills of Cumbria.

The following day was a "warmup" trial, FYLDE SDT ANNUAL CHARITY OPEN, HALL TREES FARM, CHIPPING, PRESTON. I had entered months in advance. It was managed by Thomas and Linda Longton and was at the farm of Tom Roper. Derek and I had both entered so we traveled together.

It was about an hour and a half south of Derek's. It was raining when we left his house but the sun kindly met us en route and by the time we arrived it was windy and blustery but sunny. It took a while to find the farm. Their GPS systems work off of post codes rather than actual house addresses, but nonetheless, we managed to get lost. Once off the main route, there are many roads that are not more than a gravel walk. After a bit of time retracing our steps, we arrived.

It was a beautiful uphill course on rolling fields. We were south of the Lake District and the land was kinder. The course was a National size course and was run on Texel crosses—big healthy ewes brought into the hold pens from neighboring fields about 50 at a time. It was hard to recognize fellow handlers because everyone was bundled up in cold weather jackets and hoods drawn tightly to keep the wind at bay. If they were not out dressed accordingly and watching the runs, handlers kept huddled up in their vehicles waiting to run.

As we pulled up, Jim Cropper was at the pen and was just running out of time as the pen gate was shut. He was followed by Shirley, his wife, who had a decent run, but no single at the end.

Derek ran before me. He had a good run but was worried about his dogs running too wide. Both are big outrunners and if sent to the right, there was a lot of open ground to cover. There was a fence along a road the the left. The course was a big 600 acre hill course and plenty wide with a long cross-drive and sheep that needed to be "taken". The cross-drive was along a ridge and easy to navigate once you got them onto the ridge, but many handlers failed to navigate to that point.

Laddie ran wide and Derek missed the 2nd drive panel, but finished with a good split, pen and single.

Fleece ran just before Tam, so I didn't get to see the run. She ran wide and lost some time but Derek was very pleased with how she handled sheep that kept wanting to break in the shedding ring.

I was up next.

Up until this time, I had run in Wales on very, very light sheep. The Welsh sheep were sheep that were so touchy that any slight movement at the pen would blow them out or around. I had only just begun to get to the point where I felt I had a feel for them.

Tam ran out deep and wide. As he came around the top, the sheep broke and he caught them off line and started his fetch. It was a bit ragged, with Tam trying to play catch up due to their false start.

Thomas Longton called me. "We are giving you a rerun. Those sheep were not properly held".

I was pleased, but also worried about Tam, because I had been resting him and it was a lot of running for a dog that had been lame. I waited 3 runs and again went to the post. I had decided if he showed any tenderness, I would retire him.



He ran out well and landed perfectly at the top. We had a lovely run around the course, had good lines and made the panels. In the shedding ring, I separated the collared from the uncollared easily, regrouped and headed to the pen.

Once again the pen proved to be my demise. Up until this trial, all sheep I had penned were flighty. These were heavy ewes that needed much more aggression than I was showing. We stalled out at the pen and time was called.

I was disappointed because the run was so good. Thomas met me at the gate telling me that on this type sheep, I needed to be more active. "You have to bully them into the pen."

Derek made the Double Lift with Laddie. He thought my run might make it in, even without the pen and single, but that was not to be. The best news for me was that Tam stayed sound and ran the huge course without any bad effects.

The next day, Derek returned to run in the final, but I stayed at the farm and went hiking.

Later in the afternoon, I went to a lower field to work lambs. There was a field of about 50 Swaledale lambs and Tam and I got lost in the pleasure of shedding dodgy Swaledale lambs.

It proved to be our undoing. (To be continued.)

RETURN TO OLD CHATHAM

By Sue Schoen

The revival of the Old Chatham Sheepdog Trial this spring was a resounding success. Many thanks must go to Warren Mick who agreed to organize the trial and to the Old Chatham Shepherding Company who offered use of their wonderful sheep and fields. Handler response to the trial was enthusiastic and the atmosphere all weekend remained upbeat and festive. We threw a good trial.

On Friday morning Bev Lambert, Warren Mick and I drove 120 freshly shorn and delightfully dog-ignorant Friesian ewe lambs from the farm to the trial field with our young dogs, Joe and Peat. With Peat pushing and Joe backing, the flock was easily moved on the road, but balked at entering the exhaust. We were not quite sure what to expect when the trial began: would they split, drop, stall? Not to worry. The sheep proved just and reasonable in all phases of work. They held up well.

As the trial began, the packets of four ewes were reluctant to leave their mates at the set out pen. Once broke, they stood quietly grazing on lush grass scattered with dandelions and alfalfa as each dog began to lift. They never fought but would turn and question each dog. "Don't worry about it, just get moving," was the dog's correct choice. As I set sheep with Peat I watched him learn this with growing certainty and confidence. What an experience! Perhaps it was the field that provided the biggest challenge for most of the dogs. Many dogs did not easily find their sheep the first day. Handlers were encouraged to help their dogs during the first trial, but by the second day dogs were expected to complete the outrun without undue assistance. The weather was not particularly accommodating on Friday – cloudy, blustery winds and cold, but by Saturday the sun came out and at times one could almost bask in it on the grassy hillside.

Maria Amodei judged the 68 runs of the first trial. Peter Van De Car sat for the second trial and sorted out those 66. Martha Walke was our dedicated scribe, sitting through almost every single run. Rose Redick was our trial secretary, handling the scores, coffee and other essential workings at the bottom of the field. At the top end Dave Gessert read Her-



man Wouk's *Winds of War* and cheerfully loaded and released the sheep on Saturday and Sunday. Jim and Sharon Perkins and Mich Ferraro pinch hit on Friday. Bev Lambert, Amanda Milliken and I spotted sheep with relief from Warren and Mich. Barb Leverett graciously shepherded the sheep to their electronet night pen at the end of the long days.

Top runs on Saturday included Amanda Milliken with Monty and her young Dorey bitch in first and second. On Sunday, the two Barb Lev's duked it out for first in a run off. Barb Leverett eked out a win with her nice bitch Bess over Barbara Levinson's seasoned bitch, Ryn.

There was great food to be had at local and not so local restaurants. We ate one night at the local Jackson's, which excels in pub atmosphere with a fire to dry your shoes and vintage shotguns wired to the ceiling over the bar. This meal was topped in cuisine by the Blue Plate in Chatham. But better yet was a jaunt to Great Barrington for Japanese food at Bizen. The best Japanese food I've had since I lived in Santa Barbara. There were great sandwiches for lunch available in Old Chatham and lattes were delivered each morning.



Spirits were high as we packed up the trial on Sunday night. I was certainly proud to be part of a crew that put on such a fine trial with great sheep and a challenging field. Can't wait to see if we can pull it off again next year. And thanks especially to all the handlers and spectators who came and participated and made this a great event.

OLD CHATHAM RESULTS

Old Chatham - Trial 1 - 68 Dogs ran

1	Amanda Milliken	Monty
2	Amanda Milliken	Dory
3	Dick Williams	Mick
4	Barbara Levinson	Ryn
5	Cheryl Williams	Spot
6	Bev Lambert	Hemp
7	Sue Schoen	Peat
8	Dick Williams	Mirk
9	Mich Ferraro	Clive
10	Bev Lambert	Joe
11	Lori Cunningham	William
12	Roger Millen	Taggart
13	Lori Cunningham	Matt
14	Heather Millen	Kate

Old Chatham - Trial 2 - 66 Dogs ran

1	Barbara Leverett	Bess
2	Barbara Levinson	Ryn
3	Cheryl Williams	Spot
4	Amanda Milliken	Monty
5	Maria Mick	Kit
6	Lori Cunningham	Matt
7	Bev Lambert	Hemp
8	Amanda Milliken	Roz
9	Sue Schoen	Peat
10	Jim Perkins	Ben
11	Mary Thompson	Beauty
12	Bev Lambert	Joe
13	Lorna Savage	Tyler

Living & Trialling in the UK



by Joyce Geier

Luck, good fortune, and an 18-month long work assignment in London have landed me (and my dogs) in the UK for quite a good bit of time. Since 2005, it's amounted to 24 months and has allowed me to compete in more than 150 trials...almost as many as I've run in here at home.

In practical terms, that translates into fitting an awful lot of dogs into many different (small) cars, getting embarrassingly stuck and pushed out of more than a few beautiful trial fields, running on many, many different courses and sheep, meeting more wonderful people than I can count, and getting delightfully lost in all four of the UK Nations and Ireland.

So what's different? What's the same? How does it all work? What have I learned?

The Trial Seasons and Trials

The UK and Ireland have, in my mind, phenomenal weather: cool and damp; but rarely below freezing or beastly hot, making it perfect to trial year-round.

Trialing takes a short break in the fall after the International, while the sheep are gathered and the tups (rams) are put in. After that, the Nursery/Novice season starts.

This is young dog season; in general, the Novice class is for dogs who have not yet placed in an Open trial (placements are only 1-6). Nursery, like ours, is age limited – but the specific restrictions vary quite a bit by region. Both classes run full Open courses, although in some areas, there is no shed in Nursery until after the New Year.

Many regional societies work together to host the Novices and Nurseries. In the south of England, for instance, the Sussex, Surrey, Wessex, and Squires' Farm societies create a delightful and cooperative calendar that allows a trial (or two) every weekend. At the season end (generally early spring and well prior to lambing), each society will hold a championship trial. It begins with the last regular run of the season, and is followed by a limited entry Championship trial. After that, the Novice & Nursery Champions and the season aggregate Champions are crowned.

Once lambing has settled, the Open season begins in earnest.

Societies do offer their own series and it is great fun to follow them and participate – the Northumberland series, for instance, is a fantastic one – but there are also many, many spectacular independent trials.

Whether in the Opens or Nurseries, the entry fees tend to be low (\$7-10), and there is little payback. Many trials are charity trials, with all entries and proceeds going toward a worthwhile social cause – a practice that I believe we could learn from.

How Many Trials Can You Fit Into One Day?

It is sometimes possible to run at more than one trial in a day; it often depends on how much driving you are willing to do. In Wales, where distances aren't quite so great, this is a fairly common situation (although you often need to book in to each trial very early, say, 7 am); in other areas, it can mean 2 or 3 hours of driving between events.

More interestingly, there are sometimes distinct morning and afternoon trials held on the same field. Generally, the handler is limited to two different dogs – one in each trial. This sounds bizarre but is a creative way to provide even running, since the sheep are largely undogged and often change markedly from their first use (in the morning, one run) and their second use (in the afternoon, one run).

Types of Courses

Most trial courses contain the same general elements as ours, although the courses tend to be much larger than the typical NEBCA trial.

There is also a much wider variety of terrain, and trial courses use it as it is. Terrain that would cause many American handlers to faint – such as L-shaped outruns, crossing over (very tall) stonewalls or through (very deep) ditches or 'banks', out-running through farm gates and through several fields, moving sheep around bogs and across streams, driving through heather and rushes – are all perfectly normal. Hill trials are in their own class when it comes to terrain and challenge (They give new meaning to "off course" or "off line", when it means losing the sheep to a cliff or bog.)

There are a few well-known circuits held over the summer, where hosts cooperate to put on a week-long series of trials in

some spectacular areas. These always seem to have a wide variety of terrain, course type, and sheep, and I find these to be great fun and fantastic seasoning for dogs (and handlers).

One of my favorites is the Hebridean Circuit. It is true: no matter where you are in the UK, you take a day (or two) to get to the Isle of Skye, where the first trial is held in Waternish several miles down a one-lane track; and from there, you island hop to a different island and trial every day. By the time the circuit finishes on Skye ten days later, you've logged nine trials, seven islands, four ferries, and seven B&B's. You've run on white sand beaches, rocks, wild flower meadows, bog-laden hills, and football pitches; you've exhausted sheep over sand dunes or into stone-built community pens; and (if your luck went bad) lost sheep into a hidden ditch or perhaps the ocean.

Sheep

Contrary to popular belief, the sheep in the UK are not all "light". They are, however, widely varied; ranging from heavier woolies to wild & wily hill Scottish Blackface. While the sheep may be moved about in large flocks by dogs during routine management, they are only moved about in trial-size groups once or twice a year. The sheep read dogs extremely well, and routinely test every dog they meet; many overtly challenge dogs and go out of their way to beat them, and.....generally act the way sheep do when they aren't hobby flocks.

When it comes to creating a good dog (or a good handler), the consistent variety in sheep and the un-dogged-ness of them is beyond compare. To me, this is one of the great advantages of trialing in the UK; in a very short time, you and your dog can gain more experience there than you can in several years here.

It's a Different Paradigm

This is probably the most difficult thing to explain: the entire paradigm around trialing is very different. Here in the US, trials are an end in themselves; for 90% of the handlers, sheep and trials are a hobby, and it is "all about the dogs". In the UK, sheep are how 90% of the handlers earn their living, and trials are a "busman's holiday"

— and it's "all about the sheep".

This leads to several differences from our normal trialing culture.

To start with, the trial season is driven by the sheep management calendar, not the weather. Next, the judging and the trial courses themselves — it's all about managing the sheep properly, and doing good work in typical work environments and situations.

Judging, scoring, and trial courtesy hinge on good sheep management: let your dog rush the sheep — anything faster than a moderate trot — and you will be penalized or called off. Let your dog harass sheep down the course, and you will find yourself not welcome at trials. Steady, efficient, calm movement is what is valued, and scored well, and respected. Anything else? Not.

Yes, of course the dogs play a part, but perhaps a different one than you would think. The dog is viewed primarily as a tool to do work; the dog is evaluated for it's usefulness, and the trial is just the evaluation field. The dogs aren't pets, any more than a carpenter's tools are toys. If the dog isn't doing useful work, then it is moved on (often as a "Sunday", or hobby trialer's, dog).

This thinking has an interesting side effect: it is normal to hear knowledgeable handlers standing on the sidelines, quietly discussing the dogs while they run, in the context of the dog's effect on the sheep and the job at hand. If this same level of critiquing and discussion were to happen here under a handler's tent in the US, the level of offense taken, feelings hurt, and personally perceived attack would be astronomical. But in the UK, there is nothing personal about it; frankly, it reminds me of experienced workmen discussing tools, while the less experienced silently listen and learn.

Note: Joyce's article will be continued in the next issue.



The Connecticut Sheep Breeders SDT

The Connecticut Sheep Breeders SDT was held on Saturday, April 28th, and Sunday, April 29th, in Vernon, CT. This long running trial is part of the Connecticut Sheep Breeders 103rd Annual Sheep and Wool Festival and it draws a large crowd of enthusiastic spectators on Saturday while the festival is being held. The trial field is a mostly flat twenty-acre hay field with a nice hill at one end for viewing and though it's not a huge field it allows for challenging outruns and drives in all of the classes.

We were blessed with nearly perfect sheepdog weather both days, with temperatures around 60 degrees and bright sunshine. The only negative was a blustery wind which seemed to blow out toward the sheep, so hearing was largely unaffected. Pat Canaday's sheep were fit and provided the usual challenges to all of the dogs. While out West the handlers and dogs are tested against range sheep, we in the East face our own tests with the trial-savvy farm flocks. They know how to beat a dog (and handler) and it takes solid handling to get them around the course without losing too many points, or, in some cases, the sheep!

Judging duties were split between George Northrup on Saturday and Rob Drummond on Sunday. Rob made some changes to the course and set an out of bounds area which made handlers pay extra attention to the pressure from the exhaust on Sunday. Both judges did a great job of sorting out the runs and provided nice feedback to the Novice handlers.

Due to the Old Chatham trial being held the same weekend, we had a small field of Open dogs and handlers, but we had a large and enthusiastic crowd for the Novice classes. In Novice, Eileen Wilentz and Celt won on Saturday with a score of 70 and Donna Dickenson and Gel won on Sunday with a 73. Donna and Gel were the Champions for the weekend and Eileen and Celt were Reserve Champions. A great job by both teams – it was Gel's first trial and Celt is now moving up to Pro-Novice. There were several handlers and dogs who, along with Donna and Gel, went to the post for the first time, among them Karen Gorman and Bryce, Jean Freeman and Billy, and Judianne Davis and TeeCA. It was nice to see these new teams out on the field and having a good time and doing really well despite the usual first time nerves!

We had a large field of Pro-Novice dogs and handlers and ran 27 dogs on Saturday and 24 on Sunday. Kate Collins and Ben won on Saturday with a 75 and Sally Molloy took both first and second on Sunday with Kip and Sid. Pro-Novice Champion was Kate and Ben and the Reserve Champion was Sally Molloy and Kip. It was especially nice to see Mary Ann Duffy out on the field with her nice red bitch Hattie. Many of you will remember that Hattie was lost for

weeks last winter just after being imported from England. Hattie's recovered from her ordeal, which included a broken leg, and Mary Ann and she are building a nice partnership.

In Ranch, Anne Devine and Rob won on Saturday with a 77 and Becky Peterson and Peg won on Sunday with an 80. Kate Collins and Ela, Joan Worthington and Dee, and Nancy Phillips and Dot bade a good-bye to their Ranch eligibility this weekend after placing in Open. Champion for the weekend was Mary Ann Duffy with Gyp and Reserve Champion was Sandy Hornung with Allie.

The Open class was small but competitive nonetheless. As is the norm with this flock of sheep, sheds were few and far between. There was only one 10-point shed for the weekend—way to go, Sally Molloy and Bett! Kate Collins and Ela shone on both Saturday and Sunday with a first and second place and were Champions for the weekend. Sunday's winner was Joan Worthington with Dee. Reserve Champion for the weekend was Walt Ziesser with Rose. Any Open handlers who are going to go up against Pat Canaday's sheep at Cummington will surely be practicing patient shedding in the next weeks, as there were only six sheds in thirty runs for the whole weekend.

The trial managers, Anne Devine and Carolyn West, want to thank everyone for all of their help over the weekend from setup on Friday to cleanup on Sunday. We couldn't have held the trial without so much assistance from so many people. Ginny Prince stepped up and did a great job in the setout pen the whole weekend and taught many Novice handlers how to handle the sheep through the chute and onto the field. We'd especially like to thank our judges Rob Drummond and George Northrup and all of the handlers who took turns holding out the not-so-easy-to-hold sheep.

The trial is a small one, but it's a great way to shake off the winter cobwebs and kick off the 2012 trialing season!

Article by Carolyn West

RESULTS, CT Sheep Breeders SDT

Novice – Saturday, 21 dogs ran

1. Eileen Wilentz/Celt 70
2. Sara Reiter/Rye 60
3. Victoria Snowden/Teak 58
4. Pat Bacskey/Winslow 56
5. Donna Dickenson/Gel 55
6. Jean Freeman/Billy 52
7. Judianne Davis/TeeCA 51
8. Diane Thompson/Belle 49

Novice – Sunday, 18 dogs ran

1. Donna Dickenson/Gel 73
2. Jean Freeman/Billy 66
3. Bob Holmgren/Slick 66
4. Victoria Snowden/Teak 63
5. Mary Wasielewski/Fizz 63
6. Karen Malloy/Keeper 59
7. Sara Reiter/Rye 59
8. Sara Reiter/Spec 55
9. Eileen Wilentz/Celt 52

Champion: Donna Dickenson/Gel

Reserve Champion: Eileen Wilentz/Celt

Pro-Novice – Saturday, 27 dogs ran

1. Kate Collins/Ben 75
2. Val Pietraszewska/Kep 70
3. Clara Stites/Tess 69
4. Donna Dickenson/Dot 69
5. Betty Levin/Morag 65
6. Karen Malloy/Riot 60
7. Liz Phares/Juniper 58
8. Pam Davies/Tielo 58
9. Sally Molloy/Kip 56
10. Wally Dury/Lisa 54
11. Sarah Stewart/Paige 52
12. Morgan Dawkins/Gilly 52
13. Ellen Black/Peig 51
14. Gail Van Wicklen/Mist 50

Pro-Novice-Sunday, 24 dogs ran

1. Sally Molloy/Kip 75
2. Sally Molloy/Sid 74
3. Linda Clark/Meg 69
4. Kate Collins/Ben 68

5. Pam Davies/Ben 67
6. Mary Ann Duffy/Hattie 66
7. Karen Malloy/Riot 65
8. Betty Levin/Morag 62
9. Ellen Black/Peig 60
10. Val Pietraszewska/Kep 55

Champion: Kate Collins/Ben

Reserve Champion: Sally Molloy/Kip

Ranch-Saturday, 12 dogs ran

1. Anne Devine/Rob 77
2. Sandy Hornung/Allie 75
3. Mary Ann Duffy/Gyp 73
4. Kate Collins/Ela
5. Joan Worthington/Dee 68
6. Mary Brighoff/Lance 64
7. Eileen Wilentz/Ray 59
8. Nancy Phillips/Dot 55

Ranch-Sunday, 13 dogs ran

1. Becky Peterson/Peg 80
2. Mary Ann Duffy/Gyp 75
3. Joan Worthington/Dee 70
4. Sandy Hornung/Allie 69
5. Julie Williams/Dan 66
6. Eileen Wilentz/Ray 63
7. Anne Devine/Rob 62

8. Walt Ziesser/Anne 57

Champion: Mary Ann Duffy/Gyp

Reserve Champion: Sandy Hornung/Allie

Open-Saturday, 15 dogs ran

1. Kate Collins/Ela 82
2. Walt Zieser/Rose 77
3. Rob Drummond/Casey 77
4. Sally Molloy/Bett 75
5. Carolyn West/Abe 72
6. Rob Drummond/Cub 71
7. Nancy Phillips/Dot 60
8. Nancy Phillips/Susie 59

Open/Sunday, 15 dogs ran

1. Joan Worthington/Dee 83
2. Kate Collins/Ela 81
3. Carolyn West/Abe 80
4. Walt Zieser/Rose 80
5. Nancy Phillips/Dot 76
6. Nancy Phillips/Susie 75
7. Becky Peterson/Peg 74
8. Jan Berger/Moss 73

Champion: Kate Collins/Ela

Reserve Champion: Walt Ziesser/Rose

Champion: Kate Collins/Ela

Reserve Champion: Walt Zieser/Rose



LYLE LAD JUDGING CLINIC

by Molly King

The third and final NEBCA judging clinic was held at Carol Campion's Bittersweet Farm April 21, with clinician Lyle Lad. It was very well attended, with more than 25 handlers coming from all over New England to take advantage of Lyle's expertise and good humor.

The focus of the final clinic was to apply the knowledge gained in the first two, which had been classroom clinics to learn judging guidelines, points values, what judges expect and look for, etc. The third clinic was a working clinic, with handlers/dogs from all levels running a course and the rest of us doing our best to judge and then compare our results with Lyle's.

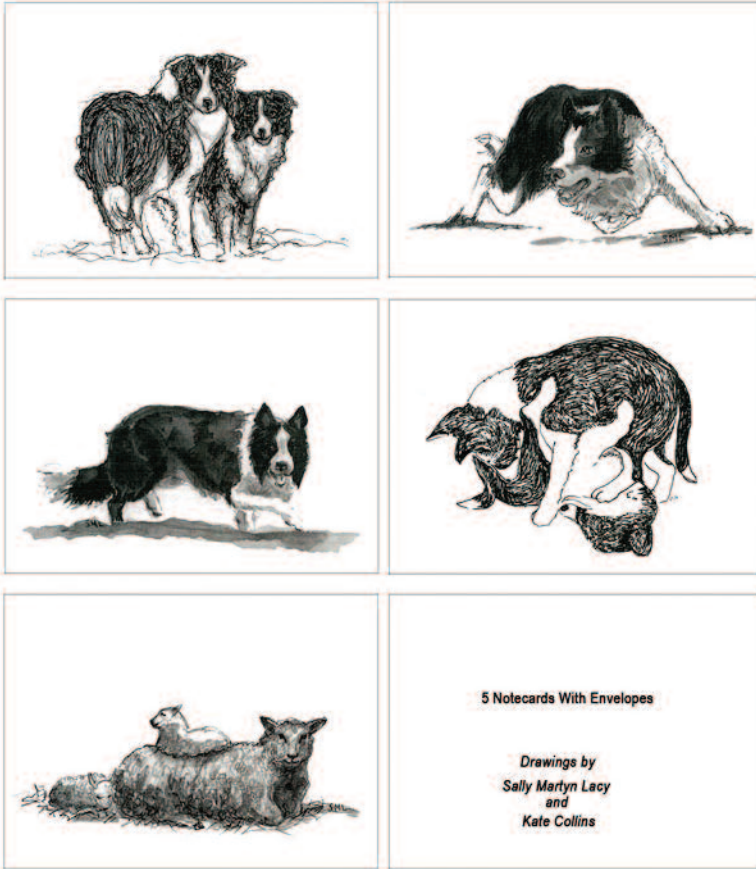
It was enlightening to say the least, with most of us not seeing a lot of things that Lyle and other folks who have judging experience saw. Lyle slashed points off of sloppy runs and shocked a lot of us with her tough scoring. But she explained all the whys and wherefores to help everyone better understand what judges see — and how they have to be, well, judgmental, when they distinguish the difference between a 93 and 92 point run. In other words, a winning run versus the dreaded 2nd place run.

Judging is not everyone's cup of tea, we learned. Knowledge of the rules and guidelines is just one aspect of the process. In high-stakes trials some competitors can be pretty unkind to judges: one well-known handler once told Lyle, "One of us here is blind AND stupid, and it isn't me." So a good eye is not necessarily enough - it also takes thick skin and a lot of self-confidence in one's own ability to judge.

Lyle has been handling sheep, training and breeding stockdogs, conducting clinics, and trialling for 25 years. She has competed in trials all over the country, on all kinds of sheep from undogged to over-dogged to cranky range ewes out west. She and Shep represented the United States in the World Trial in England this past September, placing in the top 16 and running in the double lift finals, and they won the 2011 Big One in North Dakota. In addition, she won the Bluegrass Classic with Cap 3 years in a row. She lives on her farm in Georgetown, Ohio.



New NEBCA Notecards



The notecards are \$7.50 for a pack of five. If ordered from the website there will be a shipping charge. They will be available at some trials.

New NEBCA Shirts and Other Gear

The new 2012 NEBCA ball caps are now available in red, pale pink, stone white and olive colors. Hats are \$15 + \$3 shipping.

Introducing the NEBCA logo Denim shirts for 2012. Denim shirts are \$30 + \$4 shipping. Unisex sizes are small, medium, large, XL, and 2XL.

The 2012 NEBCA Tee shirts were designed by Sally Martyn Lacy. A women's tee is offered in Aqua Color. The Unisex tee is Cricket



Green. The design in on the back with the NEBCA logo on the front. Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, 2XL and 3XL.

NEBCA Fencing

NEBCA owns a dozen or more rolls of black plastic snow fencing available for use by NEBCA trial managers. Many of you who have attended NEBCA trials have seen or even rented this fencing.

There is a fee of \$20 for partial usage and \$30 for all of it. Checks made out to NEBCA and sent to: Ellen Black, NEBCA Treasurer, 134 Great Hill Road, Guilford, CT 06437.

The Open Trial Committee keeps track of who uses the fencing and where it currently is located.

Change in Novice Guidelines

The following change has been added to the section Novice Finals in the Guidelines.

If a qualifying Ranch dog places in an Open trial before the Novice Finals, that dog may not compete in the Novice Finals.

Any dog who has placed in an Open trial is not eligible to run in the Novice Finals. The only exception is a dog(s) who has changed hands and moved down a class from Open to Ranch.



Joanne Murphy our volunteer web guru has put the merchandise on www.nebca.net. Merchandise is available at some trials.

NEBCA CLASSIFIED ADS

\$10 per issue for up to 10 lines. \$1 per line for extra space over 10 lines

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

518-568-2833.

rlverett@frontiernet.net

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

merlynn@fairpoint.net

Bittersweet Farm. Training for dog and handler alike in Hampton, Connecticut. Fields and sheep to suit any training and handling need. Hourly lessons; custom dog training; clinics and judging. Dogs taken in for training. Beginners welcome. Pups and started dogs available for sale. At stud - imported Tam - top trial dog and breeder. Contact Carol Campion at 860-455-5660 carcampion@yahoo.com

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 online. The 2012 calendars are on sale now!!



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Franklinville, NY 14737
www.gentleshepherdfarms.com

Carol Campion

Bittersweet Farm
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Hampton, CT 06247
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www.bittersweetbordercollies.com

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207-452-2898
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Conway, NH 03813
nearfieldfarm@fairpoint.net

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eyespybordercollies@gmail.com
www.eyespybordercollies.com

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Liberty Tree Farm
200 Stowe Mountain Rd.
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rob@brailsfordco.com

Tonya Fouch

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Purple.Rose13@yahoo.com

Joyce Geier

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sandcreekfarm@mac.com

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869-742-5300
blambert2@mac.com

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207-935-2520
gabe@fairpoint.net

Gene Sheninger

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973-615-9053
esheninger@optonline.net

Steve Wetmore

Spring Valley Farm
Box 5
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466
swwet@valley.net

Ivan Weir

176 Lyndhurst Rd. RR #1
Seeley's Bay
Ontario, Canada K0H 2N0
613-387-2696
ivanweir52@yahoo.ca

Richard & Cheryl Williams

Culleymont Farm
RR 1, Box 1374
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-289-4733
Culleymont@epix.net

Dee Woessner

5411 McGrath Blvd.
N. Bethesda, MD 20852
240-328-4541
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

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 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 Valey 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