

NEBCA News



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Martha's Story: A Study in Canine Dementia . . . pp. 8-9

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,
mollyking59@gmail.com

NEBCA Bylaws & Rules are available online at www.nebca.net. If members require hard copies, please contact The Secretary, Martha Walke, P.O. Box 66 S. Strafford, VT 05070. 802-765-4935, mwalke@sover.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, Martha Walke, P.O. Box 66, S. Strafford, VT 05070.

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

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Please support Border Collie Rescue

New England Border Collie Rescue

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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
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From the President

Hello Fellow Members,

It seems we're now paying the price for last year's tame winter. My sheep are walled in with snow, dog training is on hold, and outdoor activity limited to short snowshoeing treks and hauling firewood. You may have guessed it's not my favorite season. On the bright side, it's almost March and maybe the mosquitoes and ticks won't be as bad.

I'm pleased to welcome our new officers and committee members: Barbara Armata and Carol Campion on the Board, Steve Wetmore on the Open Trial Committee and Wendy Warner on the Novice Trial Committee. We will all benefit from their talents and devotion to our mission.



A major topic at the annual meeting was the club's financial condition. Our treasurer estimates a 14% deficit this year if we do nothing different. Thankfully, there's a cushion of money in the bank, so it's not a crisis, but clearly some changes are needed. Many good ideas were offered at the meeting and the board and committees have since been brainstorming. New fundraising, reducing calendar printing costs, increasing membership, newsletter and web site advertising are all being considered. Everything we do is getting looked at. Raising dues, however, is considered an absolute last resort. If you have other ideas please let the board know.

You'll find our very unoriginal "Go-Green" campaign later in this newsletter and you'll hear about some new fundraising work specific to the NEBCA year-end trials via social media and website promotions. Please support these if you can.

Despite the budget issue, all the regular activities will go on. The trial and clinic schedule is filling up and members are as enthusiastic as ever. NEBCA is about dogs, but NEBCA is people. And the NEBCA community makes things happen.

At your service,
Warren

A Note from the Editor



We are thrilled to have Ginny Prince's story about her Martha in this issue. If other members have interesting or educational stories, please put them together and send them to Molly King, who will then send them on to me for publication.

In addition, please keep Martha Walke informed of any change in your e-mail or mailing addresses. We often send copies to addresses that are no longer valid, so the newsletters cannot be delivered and must be resent, costing us unnecessary money paid out of our dues.

Jim Allen

NEBCA 2014 Merchandise

New NEBCA hats, sweatshirts, and tees are on sale at <http://www.nebca.net> under Merchandise.

This year's t-shirt is 100% cotton, unisex color is Oyster, women's tee is Mint. Sizes small to 2XL. NEBCA logo on front. Artwork by Barb Armata on the back.

New sweatshirts for 2013 are zipper hoody cotton in blue jean, crimson and willow. The design is on the back with NEBCA logo on the front.

Visors are stone, cilantro, tulip and bluegrass. New ball caps in khaki, willow, periwinkle, buck, and tamale.

All the merchandise can be bought online through PayPal.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 18, 2014

NEBCA Annual Meeting - January 18, 2014
Antrim, NH

Present: Warren Mick, President; George Northrop, VP; Ellen Black, Treasurer; Martha Walke, Secretary; Lynn Deschambeault, BoD; and 24 other members. There were 16 proxies.

Called to order at 10:13AM.

Warren thanked the Drummonds for hosting the meeting, setting up tables and chairs, and providing drinks and lunch (pizza).

Minutes from the Cooperstown meeting were accepted with no change.

Executive Committee Reports

A. Secretary - As of 1/17/14, there are 163 memberships which translates to 212 members (123 individual and 40 family (82 people); 7 life; 2 honorary). Of these, 12 are new memberships (6 individual and 6 family). At the end of 2013, there were 280 memberships (132 individual; 41 family; 6 life and 1 honorary). Currently, there are 72 memberships that elect to read the Newsletter online.

M/S to accept. Discussion: how to attract new members – signing up new puppy buyers for one year; get brochures out at all events; push calendars; push pdf newsletter on website; send a one page preview of newsletter to members.

Report accepted.

B. Treasurer – see attached 2013 Financial Statement with comments.

M/S to accept. Discussion: the number of ads has increased; need better tracking of fence rental equipment (Rose Redick agreed to help with this). Need to think about making up our loss as in six (6) years, if loss continues, we will be out of money. Board needs to re-evaluate: dues; budget; ads in newsletter. There was an audit this year; no issues; it will be done annually.

Report accepted.

Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Trials Committee – Rob Drummond

The Fall Foliage trial came in just under budget; the new qualifying rules (see website) this year; limited the entry to 50 dogs; having a course director and dedicated setout people worked well; the payout in the preliminary was achieved by an increase in the entry fee. To support the 2014 Fall Foliage, raffles and fundraising ideas are being considered. There are 3 sites under consideration for 2014: Dave Fetterman's Borders on Paradise site; Dick Williams is looking into the fairgrounds near Hop Bottom; and Old Chatham. The committee requested a \$3000.00 budget for 2014 FF Trail. Discussion on funding & prize money. The committee will be considering a change in the high point system for implementation at the start of the next trial season (Aug 1).

B. Novice Trials Committee – Eileen Wilentz & Warren Mick

The Novice Finals were held at the Tolland Agriculture Center in Vernon, CT, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2013. About 50 dogs competed, each getting three runs with the best two being counted for the placings. Sheep were provided by Carol Campion. Chris Bowen judged all runs and Carol and Gene did the set out. The site for the 2014 Novice Finals has not been determined. The committee requests a budget of \$2600 for the 2014 Finals. Anne Devine and Eileen Wilentz are leaving the committee, two new members will be appointed.

C. Fundraising – Ellen Black

A merchandise inventory was presented. Ellen suggests a rise in prices of \$3 or \$5. Send suggestions of items to sell to Ellen.

D. Calendar – George Northrop

There was an initial printing of 300 2014 calendars which ran out in and 50 more were printed. There are approximately 35 2014 calendars left. The cost for shipping needs to be updated on the website. Dana Erickson offered to get a quote for printing calendars from a printer she has worked with.

Select Committee Reports

A. Learning Trials Committee – Emily Yazwinski

The committee funded 6 events, some being stand alone trials and the others were mentoring at established trials. The committee feels they are encouraging and facilitating members new to the sport with a small amount of monetary support. It was pointed out that the mission of this committee is closest to NEBCA's mission and that, at trials, it is important to be aware of new handlers and to offer support. The committee needs to keep evolving – an example being to offer mentoring to new open handlers.

Emily will be stepping down as co-chair of the committee. She also commented that 7 members was too many.

B. Judging Education Committee –

Did not do anything in 2013. Recommend it be dissolved.

Board of Directors Report - Dave Sharp and Lynn Deschambeault

A. Actions in 2013

Developed and posted the Information Policies and the Nomination/Election/Audit/Proxy Process. Both docs may be found in the Members Only section of the website.

Developed and posted the Lifetime membership Process and Criteria. Found on the Special Recognition tab on the website.

Developed revised Audit Procedures with assistance from Bill Black. The 2013 audit was completed and an audit will be done each

year from now on.

B. Initiatives

1. Duffy/Millen/Wetmore proposed that NEBCA sponsor the pen at the 2013 USBCHA Finals at Belle Grove. They raised \$2000 towards this and requested NEBCA put in \$500 to meet the total of \$2500. The proposal was approved.
2. Dave Fetterman proposed that NEBCA provide access, on the website, to all past issues of the American Border Collie Magazine. The BoD is looking into copyright issues & ownership; digitizing and an index; other due diligence as required.
3. Ginny Prince proposed that NEBCA initiate a "Good Shepard" award to recognize members who have demonstrated good shepherding during a just completed trial season. The BoD is reviewing this proposal and is interested in feedback from members:
 - a. is the award too restrictive? Is there a more inclusive title?
 - b. does NEBCA need another special recognition award?
 - c. who would see that the award get proper attention?
 - d. what would be criteria, recognition, and nominator for the award?

Newsletter – Jim Allen

Molly King is doing an excellent job of finding/getting articles as well as pre-editing.

Please send in pictures from the camera (not reduced). Please volunteer to write an article. Suggested that a list of High Points dogs be published. Because postage is rising, it was suggested members might want to reconsider getting the newsletter online. Dana Eriksen is going to look into getting advertising for the newsletter.

Library – Martha Walke

In 2013 there were 35 transactions made by 22 borrowers for a total of 90 items (63 DVDs/videos; 18 books; 9 CDs/tapes).

The library acquired 18 DVDs (8 DVDs of the 2012 Finals; 9 DVDs of the 2013 Finals; 1 DVD on trial judging); 5 books (2 Hints & Tips for the Trial Field; Sheepdog Glory; Training a Sheep Dog [pamphlet]; and Understanding Border Collies). We had donated to the library 1 book (Sand and Gravel by NEBCA member Clara Stites) and 4 DVDs (2005 ISDS World Semi-Finals; 2005 World top 5 runs; Basics of Sheep Management; and Away to Me). As far as I can make out, we spent @\$95.50 for postage and \$144.00 for items for the library for a total output of \$239.50, leaving us with a balance of \$60.50.

As is the case with all libraries that lend AV items, the wear and tear is beginning to show on some of our more popular items. Some of this is from improper handling of the DVD and some is from improper packaging of the item. Some of these will have to be replaced in 2014.

Old Business

A. The Trial Managers Handbook is on the website. Nancy Phillips headed up the committee that wrote/updated it. It is an evolving document.

B. The rule in the novice trial guidelines that requires novice trials to include all three class has been suspended the past several years as a test. The Novice Trials Committee has decided to make this a permanent change in 2014.

New Business

A. 2014 Proposed Budget – Ellen Black reviewed the proposed budget for 2014. A motion to accept this budget was seconded but later withdrawn. Discussion followed as to how to achieve a balanced budget. It was suggested that we reduce costs and increase revenue where possible in 2014 but not try to balance the budget in one step. Many suggestions were made. M/S – Reduce the Fall Foliage and Novice Finals contributions by \$500 each with the remainder of the proposed budget accepted as written. Accepted.

It was suggested that the BOD consider increasing dues for both individual membership and family membership by \$5.00 each, effective for 2015.

B. Election Committee – Martha gave the election results: Barbara Armata 47 votes; Carol Campion 48 votes; Barbara Levinson 40 votes; Nancy Phillips 44 votes. Warren announced that Barbara Armata and Carol Campion were elected to the Board of Directors.

C. Committee Appointments – Warren Mick

Steve Wetmore and Dave Fetterman were appointed to the Open Trials Committee. Novice Trial committee appointments are not yet determined.

D. Other New Business

It was suggested that members who currently receive the paper version of the newsletter and wish to change and receive the newsletter online should email the secretary (walkem@sover.net).

E. Meeting Dates for 2014

There will be a meeting Saturday, May 24, at the Cummington Trial; and a meeting Saturday, August 16, at the Leatherstocking Trial.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Walke, Secretary

NEBCA Financial Statement 2013				
	Sub-Totals	Jan-Dec	BUDGET	Jan-Dec
	2013	2013	2013	2012
INCOME				
Membership Dues		\$5,655.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,820.00
Calendars--members	\$2,656.50			
Calendars--non-memb	<u>663.00</u>	3,319.50	3,200.00	3,257.00
Breeder's Directory		415.00	400.00	400.00
Advertisements		590.00	300.00	440.00
Merchandise--members	\$3,858.30			
Merchandise--non-memb	<u>562.00</u>	4,420.30	3,000.00	3,307.56
Library		323.54	150.00	257.00
Interest-Capital One		49.06	75.00	69.23
Rental of Equipment		20.00	100.00	60.00
Donations		45.00	-	-
Total Income		\$14,837.40	\$13,225.00	\$14,610.79
EXPENSES				
Calendars		\$2,651.91	\$3,100.00	\$3,099.94
Newsletter		2,645.79	2,800.00	2,723.49
Merchandise purchased		4,098.85	2,800.00	2,621.10
Fall Foliage Contribution		2,856.94	3,000.00	2,828.55
Novice Finals Contribution		2,598.58	2,100.00	1,219.27
Insurance		605.00	650.00	605.00
Library		224.63	300.00	228.33
Administrative		669.42	500.00	1,086.65
PayPal transaction fee		21.19	75.00	71.72
Advertisement		500.00	100.00	-
Awards/Gifts		270.25	300.00	420.20
Learning trials		600.00	500.00	100.00
Fencing		-	50.00	-
Donations		500.00	-	-
Total Expenses		\$18,242.56	\$16,275.00	\$15,004.25
Net Income (Loss)		<u>\$(3,405.16)</u>	<u>\$(3,050.00)</u>	<u>\$(393.46)</u>
ACCOUNT BALANCES				
Bank of America		\$11,893.71		\$9,347.93
PayPal		-		-
Capital One		<u>8,579.95</u>		<u>14,530.89</u>
Total		<u>\$20,473.66</u>		<u>\$23,878.82</u>
Submitted by: Ellen Black, Treasurer, 1/16/14 revised				

Comments on NEBCA YTD Financial Jan 1- Dec 31, 2013

Income:

1. Membership dues is \$1,200 less in 2013 than 2012. A deposit of \$710 was made in Jan. that does not show in 2013 as we are a cash accounting system.
2. Advertisement in the web site has been active this year and shows an increase. Ads are \$10 members and \$15 nonmembers for 3 months.
3. Merchandise shows an increase of \$1,100 that offsets the merchandise expense.
4. Interest Capital One that changed name from ING account.
5. Equipment Rental: Only 1 trial rented the equipment this year. This is on an honor system to rent \$20 portion NEBCA fencing, \$30 all NEBCA fencing.
6. 92% of our income is generated from members, therefore not affecting our IRS Tax status (must be 85% or more income from members).

Expenses:

1. Calendar Expense, with the Nationals Calendars sales were good and George had additional 50 calendars printed this Dec.
2. NF was over budget.
3. Administrative Expenses reflect; end of year awards to outgoing officers, web hosting, postage reimbursements for club business, memorial recognitions, folding tables for Betty Murray who provides many trial secretarial duties and sales, and bank checks & deposit slips ordered.
4. Reduced Paypal transaction fee as no longer take memberships through Paypal in 2013.
5. Advertisement was not budgeted for the Blue Grass (\$50) or Nationals (\$450). When nationals returns in 2016 to the east coast our budget should reflect this.
6. Awards: includes 2012 High Points. 2013 expense will be reflected in 2014.
7. Learning Trial supported 6 trials at \$100 each vs 5 trials.
7. Donation of \$500 made to the Nationals in VA. 2016 budget should reflect club donation to the East Coast Nationals.

Martha's Story: A Study in Canine Dementia by Ginny Prince

I had kept sheep for about 10 years when I got Martha, my first Border Collie, from David Kennard, as an 8-week-old pup. I had put my old German wirehaired pointer, George, to sleep 2-½ years before and was just starting to think maybe I was ready for another dog. I liked Jack and Rose, Martha's parents, and several related dogs that were at the farm. I didn't know enough at the time to see that Rose had really a lot of eye.



Martha was a terrific first Border Collie. She was a real sweetheart, biddable and a great companion in the house, skiing, mountain biking and hiking, and such help with sheep chores. She was very easy to start with sheep, being a clean gathering dog. Because of her eye there was never a worry of damaging a sheep through gripping, one of my big worries. My great regret with Martha is that I stopped her too much (like many novice handlers) and what with her excessive eye and pressure sensitivity she became stickier and stickier as time went on.



Martha opened up a huge world to me, the world of working sheepdogs, and I'm forever in her debt. She also made me open up my soul to a dog again—I was so deeply attached to George that I held myself aloof from Martha for almost a year, but she won me over and taught me that there is room in my heart and life for many dogs.

Martha and I ran in our first trial when I went to watch an informal novice trial at Steve Wetmore's. Dave Webster (who had been my first vet employer) and Steve twisted my arm to run Martha, who had never seen Katahdin sheep before. I think she thought they were deer, which I had trained her to leave alone, so the sheep sped to the exhaust and jumped the fence. Steve gave us another run which probably didn't go a whole lot better, but I was hooked, joined NEBCA and went to the Cummington trial next, and we eventually progressed to the open class at the end of Martha's career.

By the time Martha was 11 she was nearly deaf and slow enough that she could no longer trial, but there was a brief delightful window of time when she taught me about holding sheep out at trials.

When my next dog, Ida, took over the daily sheep work at home, I thought I would just let Martha do some easy tasks. One day I took her out in the field, and gave her an away flank command and she went left, so I thought OK, she wants to go that way, so I said OK. come bye, and she reversed her direction, which I thought was weird, like she was suddenly dyslexic—yes, I double checked that it wasn't me being mixed up. The next time I tried working her a usually benign ewe turned around to face Martha and stomped her foot. Martha, who would normally have politely stood her ground until the sheep backed down, promptly turned away and left the field. Sadly I said to myself, "Well, that's proof that Martha is fully retired now." What I find particularly fascinating is that not long after that the sheep began to act as if Martha did not even exist, though out of long habit she always went and stood at the pen gate. Even other sheep, for instance Pat Canaday's sheep at the CT sheep breeders' festival, completely ignored her.



For a long time the only other things we noticed about Martha's aging process were increasing deafness and stubbornness. She also stopped looking at us humans as well as the sheep, and mostly just stared at Ida, the middle dog, whether we were inside or out walking. This drove Ida crazy, since Martha would stare and stare and then stalk Ida and not re-

spond to Ida's normal dog language telling her not to do that. We frequently intervened to prevent a snarling episode, though the two dogs never injured each other. I also realized that the rest of Martha's behavior was just following an ingrained pattern without really connecting with events or me. I was completely unable to teach her hand signals though I tried to since she couldn't hear.

To her last day, Martha's social skills with human friends persisted. She greeted visitors effusively, and then snapped into the staring at Ida mode. At night Martha always slept on the floor by my side of the bed. I finally had to tie her up because she began pacing, panting and getting stuck under my bedside table. On days when Roger was home and I wasn't, he observed that Martha was frequently anxious and sometimes clingy; previously unheard of behavior except with thunder or gunshots. If I wasn't very careful, Martha would bite me when taking a food treat, another thing she would never have done in the past. She began to lose the younger dogs and me on our morning and evening walks, even though I stuck to the same route. Once I found her in the road looking up and down it for us, though it had been years since I walked that direction, fearing problems with cars though it is a dead end road with little traffic.



For the last year of her life, I was unable to get a photo of Martha looking at me because she was no longer making eye contact.



I realized that Martha had given me a great gift by leaving me so gently after teaching me many wonderful things. She had only left her body in our care, and Roger and I decided that we would let go of her physical being while she still had dignity. Besides all the memories and parts of me that are Martha, the silver lining to this ending is that Martha was able to contribute to the study of Alzheimer's disease in people.

Judianne Davis and her husband, Bill Van Nostrand, study the deterioration of the human brain caused by Alzheimer's disease at Stony Brook University. I had been collecting blood samples from Border Collies for a little while so that Judianne could see if they have similar age markers compared to humans. Martha proved to have lots of amyloid in her blood (Alzheimer's disease might be caused by de-

posits of amyloid, a type of protein, in the brain). The finding made a lot of sense.

One spring day when Martha was 14 I put her to sleep. Judianne came in order to save Martha's brain so she and her colleagues could compare it directly to brains of humans with dementia. This past fall the researchers reported that in many areas of her brain Martha had lots of neuropathological changes similar to human Alzheimer's patients. Martha's story will be published soon in *Veterinary Clinics of North America*, as part of an article on the comparison of brain aging in humans, dogs and cats. I am unbelievably honored that Martha and I could contribute to the understanding of the tragic disease of dementia.



The Graduates by Maria Amodei

The rank and file of Open handlers doesn't change much. We are a familiar group, many long time friends, sharing the joy and frustration of testing our skills while the stock and terrain find holes in our abilities like rain dripping through an old barn roof. The patching and perfecting is endless, a purgatory that we enjoy together.

The one thing that we all appreciate is seeing new faces walk to the post in Open. The NEBCA Novice program is designed for new handlers to develop their skills as well as providing some trial classes for experienced handlers to bring out young dogs. When a new handler moves to Open we recognize a colleague in our pursuit of excellence in dog and stock handling. We smile our congratulations as they stand at the post, recognize errors that we struggled with, notice every successful detail and know exactly how hard it was to accomplish because we marched that same difficult road. Welcome graduates! You have joined a troop of like-minded people. A couple of our newer Open handlers talk about their experience of moving to Open.

Rose Redick

In the fall of 2012 I moved to Ranch at Woolly Winds Trail. I wanted to see if we could do the OLF. And we did. I decided to bite the bullet and move to Open. So I entered the Big E. Although this is a points and time trial it is still considered an Open Trial. Then I entered the trial at Carol Champion's that winter. I didn't want to look back. We had all winter to work on running in the Open trials in the spring of 2013. I think I entered every trial this year or close to it. The first time we finished a course was at the NH Sheep and Wool Festival. We got a score and I was thrilled. Each time we ran I could see and feel we were getting there. I had a blast at Grass Creek in Kingston. Kensa got the sheep to my feet and to the first panel. Each trial had different challenges, and it was great. I focused on getting around the course, knowing that the rest would come as we continued, and it is. I'm looking forward to running again in spring 2014.

Sallie Butler

I worked with several handler/trainers in New England and visiting from U.K. and Ireland. They offered the same advice: Move to Open. Their unanimous advice upended my plan to conquer each level prior to Open. Trusting the trainers' wisdom, I stepped to Open. The move pushed me to forego many trials in order to focus on effective and efficient learning. When I do enter Open events, I trade minor embarrassment for new knowledge gained by watching and listening to great handlers and their dogs. As Open has begun to look possible, I see that the top handler/trainers are correct.

The Graduates of 2012 and 2013

Jean Barrett, October 2013
 Sallie Butler, August 2012
 Kyra Castanzo, 2013
 Diane Cox, May 2013
 Pam Davies, November 2013
 Deb Donohue, Sept 2013
 Mel Hanchett, 2012
 Elizabeth Phares, May 2013
 Michael Polites, May 2012
 Rose Redick, September 2012
 Alex Tkacenko, 2013
 Dan Weeks, 2012
 Eileen Wilentz, July 2012

This list is compiled from the general memory of fellow dog trialers. I'm quite sure it is not entirely accurate, for if our memories were too painfully accurate it would be difficult to summon the confidence needed to continue entering dog trials. ☺

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT REQUEST

Go Green!

Save a Tree!

Help the Club!



“How To Change The Way You Get The News”

- Today about 75% of readers receive the printed version of the NEWS while 25% read the NEWS online.
- Printing and mailing costs in 2013 were \$2,065 or \$10.60 for each member who receives the print version. Costs, especially postage, will increase in 2014.
- The adopted 2014 budget projects a loss of \$1,865.
- One alternative to address this shortfall is to encourage members to elect to receive the NEWS online. A huge plus for the online version is that the photography is in color, which is much more beautiful and expressive than the black-and-white photography in the printed version.
- The Board of Directors has set a goal of reaching 75% online readership by August 1, 2014. 72 members currently elect the online version, so we need 125 additional members to make that same switch to the online version. This would result in savings of \$800 - \$1,000 per year.
- It's easy. Just let the Secretary know that you want the online version of the NEWS. E-mail Martha at walkem@sover.net today.

NOTICE:

Seeking Input on Changes to the Open Points System

The OTC continues its discussion regarding changing the points system similar to what the USBCHA is using. This change would be effective August 1, 2014. The OTC is seeking opinions from the membership and suggests writing your opinions and sending them at your earliest convenience either by mail or email to:

Rob Drummond, Chair
NEBCA Open Trials Committee
200 Stowe Mountain Road
Hillsboro, NH 03244
(603) 478-0846
robnebca@bcaddict.com

Bittersweet Farm New Year's Day Trial *by Carol Campion*

Thanks to everyone that came out for the Bittersweet New Years Day Trial. It was a balmy 29° and sunny—10° warmer than forecast! Those 19° predicted temperatures kept some away, but the handlers who braved the cold were met with 29° and with the sun, it felt even warmer! These events always attract good food—soups; two casseroles, hot cider, coffee, tea and hot chocolate - and heat on in the camper if anyone got cold.

The day marked a few "firsts" in addition to trial placings. Chris Bowen started running dogs 10 years ago at this trial. 2014—Diane Cox won her first Open class with Monk with a well deserved win, Bob Holmgren won PN with his dog Slick, Pam Davies acquired her first Open points for Jet with another good run and her first shed, Donna Dickenson moved Gel up to Ranch with a good run, Molly King ran Emma for her first time in PN and had a nice go, and there were some very nice nursery dogs.

Fifty-two dogs ran. The sheep were North Country Cheviot/Texel ewes and proved a challenge. Despite this challenge, there were some outstanding runs that shone above the rest. Congratulations to all.

Open 20 dogs to the post

Diane Cox Monk 89
Eileen Wilentz Celt 82
Carol Campion Floss 81
Pam Davies Jet 80
Sue Schoen Flo 78

Ranch 11 dogs to the post

Pam Davies Patch 82
Dan Weeks Anna 81
Molly King Allie 74
Anne Devine Tessa 71
Pam Davies Tielo 64

Pro Novice 13 dogs to the post

Bob Holmgren Slick 76
Eileen Wilentz Celt 73
Donna Dickenson Dot 70
Ginny Prince Dar 69
Deb Duarte Jillie 68

Novice 2 dogs to the post

Victoria Snowden Prim 68
Ellen Fowler Celt 61

USBCHA Nursery 6 dogs to the post

Carol Campion Min 76
Diane Cox Wull 59
Julie Williams Joe 59

Our judge was Larry Campion. Emily Yazwinski kept the trial running smoothly as trial manager; great help in the set out pen—Ginny Prince, Bob Holmgren, Ellen Rusconi Black, Ellen Fowler, Val Pietraszewska; expert setting out provided by Chris Bowen, Sue Schoen, Emily Yazwinski and Carol Campion. Thanks again to all who came and to all those who helped in any way. If I forgot someone, please forgive me ahead of time!

Have a happy & safe New Year!

Halloween Fun Trial at Cascade Farm



L-R: Val Pietraszewska, Bud Ames, Mary Ames, Jessie Nunan, Mike Nunan, Martha Walke, Ginny Prince (aka Rob Drummond).

A Fable, Sort Of ... *by K. C.*

Once upon a time a boy and a girl lived in the mountains of Colorado. They skied together one Sunday and at the top of the mountain he kissed her. She had a bitch named Persephone, who looked just like a Border Collie but had no sheep yet. The girl had always loved dogs and thought the Border Collie very interesting....It was her favorite in her parents' book of dog breeds. Her parents, however, preferred to have a Beagle and a Wire Hair Fox Terrier.

The boy and girl moved to Massachusetts with the intention of building a sailboat to sail around the world. The girl didn't know how her sweet little bitch would manage on a boat as she preferred staying on land, so they moved to a farm in Royalston. She had majored in Animal Husbandry and he in English, so working the land made perfect sense! They bought land which had once been a farm. They started clearing the trees to build a barn, then a house. This land was way down a dirt road with no phone or electricity available. The phone company put in a line for free, but the power company wanted many thousands of dollars to bring in power. They lived with no electricity for 10 years. There were kerosene lamps and hand pumps for water. It took 450 pumps by hand to fill the water trough for the animals. A wood cookstove provided heat as well as being a stove and oven for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The house was built with the white pine logs from trees that grew nearby. In the beginning, they had two Jersey milk cows, two horses, and a few beef cattle. They raised a few pigs each year. They were given four Romney sheep and the flock was started.

When her old bitch Percy died, the boy bought the girl a Border Collie pup advertised at the local Agway. As she was a birthday gift, the pup was named Happy Birthday, Happy for short. The flock kept increasing in number, as will happen when you are fascinated with what different breedings will produce. A good sheepdog was needed! They had no idea how to train one. A fellow from New Zealand who sheared the flock told them to "just put her in with the sheep." Well, that wasn't such a good idea.

In 1987, friends got a blond puppy from Beverly Lambert at the New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Fair. She gave it to them. Pippin, he was called. Beverly told them about NEBCA and they joined. The boy and girl attended a clinic that was given by Jack Knox at Sally Lacy's farm. It was an amazing experience, way too much information for people who knew nothing about training except to teach a dog to sit, stay, and not pee in the house. The dogs learned faster than the boy and girl, and taught them quite a bit.

Pippin worked both the sheep and the cattle. One day, when they were trying to sort the flock into breeding groups, Pippin taught them to shed. The girl was training Pippin and, much later, ran in the Novice Novice class at Joanne Krause's trial. Carol Champion had said "Try it, you'll like it," and she did. The boy had to give it a go as well, so he bought a young bitch named Kyp from Alasdair MacRae. He traded him a mandolin as part payment.

Their addiction was complete. More sheep came along for dog training, as Romneys are "make me" sheep. There were more dogs, more friends and more involvement with NEBCA. The boy tried his hand at judging. They both enjoyed competing in trials. They are still going to clinics, as there is so much to learn about these dogs and training and trialing them. The challenge of managing dog, sheep and human is unending.

The boy and girl have a rule to prevent marital discord: One does not speak to the other about a run for at least half an hour. (If it is a great run, that rule doesn't necessarily hold.) When marital discord occurs on the training field, the only rule is not to scare the dogs. Forty-one years after the kiss on the top of mountain, they have eleven dogs of varying ages and different stages of training, a flock of purebred Romneys known for their soft handled fleece of many colors, Cheviot/Texel crosses for meat and training, grass-fed cattle for beef and many wonderful friends through sheepdoggin'.

The boy and the girl say it is absolutely true that there is no good shepherd or herdsman without a good dog.

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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

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570-289-4733



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, 2014

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<p>Mar 9 ARENA FUN SDT 7 PINES Arena, 1297 Eldon Rd, Oakwood, ON, All Classes Viki Kidd 416-277-4313</p>	<p>July 4-6 Cascade Farm SDT Bath, NH 4-5 July one-day trials in all classes, 6 July top 20 open double lift USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC Mary Ames 603-838-2018</p>	<p>August 30 Blue Hill Fair SDT Blue Hill, ME Open Points Trial NEBCA/USBCHA Jim Davidson 88 Benner Lane, Whitefield, ME 04353 207-691-4100 Entries accepted Sat. on site</p>	<p>Sept 22 Big E SDT West Springfield, MA Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA Pat Canaday 518-861-6049</p>
<p>May 9-11 Borders on Paradise SDT Turbotville, PA USBCHA/NEBCA Dave Fetterman 570-742-3527</p>	<p>July 10 Ossipee Valley Fair South Hiram, ME Open Points Trial NEBCA Lynn Deschambeault Entries accepted 1 hr before trialmerlynn@fairpoint.net 207-452-2898</p>	<p>August 31 Northeast US Sheepdog SDT Blue Hill, ME Open Points Trial NEBCA/USBCHA Jim Davidson 88 Benner Lane, Whitefield, ME 04353 207-691-4100 Entries accepted Sat. on site</p>	<p>Sept 26-28 Long Shot Trial Church Hill, MD Pronovice, Ranch, USBCHA Nursery & Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA Sherry Smith 410-708-2428</p>
<p>May 24-25 Bobtail SDT Turbotville, PA Two Open and Nursery, & Novice USBCHA/NEBCA Dave Fetterman 570-742-3527</p>	<p>Jul 12-13 Merck Forest Open SDT Rupert, VT Two Open & One Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Tom Ward 802 394 7836</p>	<p>Sept 19 Loon Mountain SDT NHHG Loon Mt, Lincoln, NH One Open Points NEBCA Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898 Entries 2 hrs Before Start or Email</p>	<p>Sept 28 Fryeburg Fair SDT Fryeburg, ME Open Points Trial USBCHA/NEBCA Gabe Merrill 68 Misty Lane Brownfield ME 04010 207-935-2520</p>
<p>May 24-25 MA Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT Fairgrounds, 97 Fairgrounds Rd Cummington, MA Two Novice & Open, one Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Denise Leonard 413-773-5232</p>	<p>July 25-27 Fetch Gate Farm SDT Cortland, NY 3 Novice and USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584</p>	<p>Sept 19-21 Pipedream Farm SDT 9416 Mt Tabor Rd Middletown, MD 21769 2 Open, 1 Novice & 3 Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Renee Billadeau 301-293-2797</p>	<p>Oct 3-5 Fall Foliage Championship Location Pending Two Open One Double Lift NEBCA Denise Leonard 413-773-5232</p>
<p>June 7-8 Fosterfields SDT Morristown, NJ 2 Open, 2 Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Heather Nadelman hln@littlehats.net / 908-359-1808 Sally Molloy molloy.sally@gmail.com. 609-279-9728.</p>	<p>Jul 26-27 Spring Valley Open SDT Strafford, VT Two Open & Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Steve Wetmore 802-765-4466</p>	<p>Sept 19-21 Adriance Farm SDT Rhinebeck NY Two Open, One ProNovice, Ranch, USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Julie Williams 845-849-3275</p>	<p>Oct 31-Nov 2 Long Shot Trial Church Hill, MD Pronovice, Ranch, USBCHA Nursery & Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA Sherry Smith 410-708-2428</p>
<p>Jun 14-15 Stonebridge Farm SDT Clarke Road Ganesvort, NY N, PN, Ranch Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Rose Redick 518-465-6808 Warren Mick 518-861-5854</p>	<p>Aug 15-17 Leatherstocking SDT Cooperstown, NY One Novice (15th) & Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA Barbara Armata 518-875-6471</p>		
<p>Jun 27-29 Caora Farm SDT 235 Sharon Rd, Millerton NY 12546 Two Open, USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Michele Ferraro & Kak Weathers 518-592-1320 Martha Walke, Entries</p>	<p>Aug 23 Vermont State Championship SDT Scottish Festival Queechee, VT One Open & Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Steve Wetmore 802-765-4466</p>		
<p>July 3-6 Fetch Gate Farm SDT Cortland, NY 1 Novice, 2 Open, 2 Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584</p>	<p>Aug 29-31 Woolly Winds SDT Taravale Farm Esperance, NY One Novice & Two Open NEBCA/USBCHA Barbara Armata 518-875-6471</p>		



Learning Trials Committee Announcement:

If you are holding a trial or clinic with a learning component, you may apply for funds from the Learning Trials Committee to help offset the cost of the event. Please look under Learning Trials on the NEBCA website for our mission statement, suggested activities and for the application form.

Applications should be submitted to Valerie Pietraszewska by May 30th.