



NEBCA News

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



Michelle Higgins' Flint-© Michelle Higgins

3/1/2015

The mission of the North East Border Collie Association is to promote and protect the Border Collie as a working stock dog through the sanctioning and regulation of competitive herding trials and by providing information on training, health and breeding.

Volume 33, Issue 1

www.nebca.net

Winter 2015



NEBCA News



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NEBCA News Mailing Dates/ Deadlines.

4 regular issues:

Spring (March 1)

Summer (June 1)

Autumn (September 1)

Winter (December 1)

**Copy deadlines are 1 month
prior to publication date.**

Send articles to Maria Amodei,
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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.

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, PO Box 66,
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You can also join or renew online
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Business Cards:

\$15 per issue/\$50 per year

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\$50 per issue/\$150 per year

Full Page:

\$75 per issue/\$225 per year

"Why does watching a dog be
a dog fill one with happiness?"

—Jonathan Safran Foer

Please support Border Collie Rescue

New England Border Collie Rescue

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<http://www.mabcr.org>

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since I entered my first sheepdog trial in 2004, I have made many great friends among the members of NEBCA. It is an honor to have been asked to serve as president. I have big shoes to fill, as Warren steps aside. I look forward to the challenge.

Our organization is in great shape. In 2014, we put on wonderful year-end trials at both the Novice Finals and the Fall Foliage. And, as you can see from the Financial Statement included in this newsletter, we had positive net income for the year. This is partly thanks to the smart and dedicated work of our two Trials Committees. But, it could not have happened without the contributions of the many members who sponsored and participated in the Benefit Trials and Clinics that supported these events. I hope that these Benefits can become a NEBCA tradition.

One concern I have is the fact that NEBCA has actually experienced a decrease in membership over the past several years. This surprises me as I feel I am continually meeting people who are just discovering our events and our wonderful dogs. It is a trend that I would like to reverse. We discussed the issue at the Annual Meeting in January and some great suggestions were brought to the floor. I encourage all of you to come to me with any thoughts and ideas that you may have.

As I sit and look out at another bitterly cold New Hampshire winter morning, the trialing season seems a long way off. But, it is February now. The days are getting longer. Spring will take too long to get here, but it is coming. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Chris





THE FAULTY DOG

There are no perfect dogs. You can pretend your dog is perfect or opine about his faults, or... you can work to train your dog to improve those faulty areas and handle your dog to capitalize on the strengths and avoid the weaknesses. This column will describe a faulty dog, and offer suggestions from different people on training exercises to improve the dog and handling methods to get the best work from the dog on the field. The dogs described will all be successful Open dogs (past or present) that have significant faults. The absence of faults does not make a great dog. The presence of remarkable abilities makes a great dog.

Dog #1: A well trained bitch. However, she has no pace. This dog gets up fast and comes on fast. She has very little eye, very little presence, and needs to be close to the sheep to move them and almost in front of them to turn them, yet she moves most any stock she's presented with. She is sensitive and tries hard to complete the task asked of her, a partner. Her flanks are generally good. Her walkup is direct and she comes right to her stock. She carries no tension. Good stop, but seldom stops on her feet. There are rare moments she will show some pace on her own, but drilling for pace resulted in a stressed dog who still had no pace. The concept of pace eludes her. She does slow down briefly for "Time", almost never to a walk. This is difficult to maintain.

Joyce Geier's thoughts:

There are many of us who would die for a dog with these strengths! She walks straight onto her sheep, has nice flanks, is relaxed in her work, and is willing to partner. She has little eye, and so may ~seem~ to have little presence, but since she moves almost everything, that tells me that she really does have a good bit of presence.

However, a key question is: where does her presence come from? Many dogs generate their presence from movement, and that could be the case here. Every dog has a favorite, relaxed, and comfortable "power pace". If she works at a slower pace and comes onto her sheep more slowly, she may feel as if she loses her power. If that's the case, she will be very reluctant to pace more slowly.

Training, then, would go back to basics: teaching her ways to build eye, move sheep slowly, and control sheep from a further distance. A few ideas include moving sheep across streams or barriers; loading onto trailers; and working a single (kindly) sheep. Going back to wearing walks, and correcting her for speed (not stopping or drilling her, but stepping toward the sheep and her and throwing your arms up and saying "HEY!" just enough to make her pause) might also be useful.

I'd caution the handler to do this slowly. This dog's pace issue can be handled through, and you don't want to take away the dog's current method and undermine her power; but you do want to teach her an additional method that she can use.

I'd also consider teaching this dog to stop on her feet, and then to half-halt on her feet. It eliminates the abruptness of getting up too rapidly and keeps the dog on contact more, which will also smooth out the pace. This adds another tool for the handler to use while the other areas are being addressed in training.

There is also one serious question I'd ask: can this dog walk steadily for a quarter mile? I have come across dogs with apparent "pace" problems that simply didn't know how to WALK for more than a few steps. I would think about teaching this girl to treadmill and working up to a quarter mile of a strong, even, relaxed, four-beat WALK. (Walking on a leash or next to a bike really won't do the trick - these allow the dog to easily break gate or rhythm.) Then, we know that she will have the physical capability for another relaxed power pace - just slower than her current one.



The Faulty Dog continued...

Lori Cunningham's thoughts:

I would take a stab at retraining a better response to a take time command. With the dog's history of being stressed by this type of training in the past, I'd change whatever word I'd previously used for "take time" and I would try to use a soft whistle more than a verbal command. Given this dog "needs to be close to its sheep to move them," I would set her up on light sheep and point them towards a draw so they would move with little push from the dog and I could concentrate on her taking my commands without her feeling stressed by feeling she had to be close to move them. I'd walk along with the dog to reinforce her pace with my presence, using both the new take time command, and a stop as needed to maintain a good distance off the sheep. Keep it upbeat and happy and short, and hope the obedience to the new drill would carry over in other situations.

This is a challenging scenario for me to feel good about offering a suggestion, though, because the dog described above is performing well enough to be successful at the Open level. I'd be more inclined to put more work into it if the dog was younger in its training.

If this dog has the fault as described above and is still doing consistently well in Open, I may be inclined to run the dog as she is, using a stop as necessary unless her lack of pace is having unacceptable effect on a particular packet of sheep. It may not be the pretty, perfect paced run that we'd all like to have, but if she is getting the job done successfully, I'd likely take her as she is. I have seen so many instances of handlers with fairly good dog who try to "fix" a fault in the dog that bothers him or her, but who end up with more than one thing broken. In my opinion, at some point in a dog's training and career, faults become management issues rather than things to be fixed. In the description above, where the dog seems to be doing well at almost everything and there is no indication that the fault is causing disasters, I would tend to manage the pace with stops and enjoy my dog & its successes.

THE GREATEST GUY I NEVER MET

By Betsy Drummond

On August 25th, 2014 I lost a dear friend whom I had never met; most of you had never met him either, but chances are that you do carry with you one very small connection to him.

Charles Ridener, "Charlie", lived on a sheep and cattle ranch in Greenwood Arkansas with his wife Debbie and a requisite abundance of working border collies. He was a 32 degree mason, a machinist, founder of a manufacturing business, a musician and an accomplished country and gospel singer. Charlie also trained working stockdogs. You would not likely recognize him or even his name, but Charlie and his wife Debbie were the founders and owners of Boulder Bluff, the most highly recognized and successful maker of plastic sheepdog whistles in the country. If the back of your plastic whistle says BB, it's one of Charlie's. And if you're like most handlers, the first whistle you ever put in your mouth was a Boulder Bluff. Once you figured out that it was you and not the whistle that was defective, it opened up a whole new world for you and your dog. In addition to whistles, Charlie manufactured collars and kennels and recorded training DVD's and CD's. He had a voice that was as smooth as silk and his narration and easy humor was reminiscent of the old Disney animal adventures of the 1960's.

In the course of business I spoke and exchanged emails with Charlie several times a year, and each communication was like opening a gift. He was interesting and insightful, funny, kind and compassionate. Charlie made it easy to become his friend. Although his world was filled with ideas, inventions, projects, production, family and faith, he always made business a pleasure, and shared the generosity of his spirit. He was a gentleman. The contributions Charlie Ridener and his wife Debbie have made to the sheepdog world and to the preservation of the working sheepdog will not be forgotten.



MINUTES – NEBCA ANNUAL MEETING 17 JAN 2015

NEBCA Annual Meeting - Hadley, MA, Jan. 17, 2015

Meeting called to order at 10:20AM. There were 28 members present (a quorum is 25).

Minutes from Cooperstown meeting, August 16, 2014, approved.

Executive Committee Reports

A. Secretary's Report (Martha Walke)

As of January 16, 2015, there are 179 members for the 2015 year (6 lifetime, 40 family, and 133 individual memberships).

In the membership year 2013 there were a total of 271 memberships (6 lifetime, 70 families, 195 individuals) and in 2014 there were a total of 248 memberships (6 lifetime, 60 families, 182 individuals).

Discussion followed on ways to attract new/more members.

B. Treasurer's Report (Ellen Rusconi-Black)

The 2014 Financial Report has been completed and is included in this newsletter. There was an audit done in 2013. The 2014 audit has been postponed.

Board of Director's (BOD) Report (Barbara Armata)

NEBCA's financial status and the pros and cons of increasing dues vs fundraising were discussed. There were many in the club who participated in fund raising efforts with positive results for both Novice Finals and Fall Foliage. Calendar printing expenses were discussed with the suggestion to get estimates from other sources. Dana Eriksen got estimates from other printers last year. With these numbers in hand, Kate was able to negotiate with her printer. Rose Reddick submitted her accounting of the equipment available for rental by club members.

Carol Campion announced on September 29, 2014 that she will be resigning from her position on the Board as of December 31, 2014. We appreciate her contributions during the past year.

There was discussion of the different social medias that are being used by NEBCA; specifically the official NEBCA Facebook page and the unaffiliated NEBCA Handlers' Tent Facebook group. A concern of some was the use of the NEBCA name on sites on which the club has no oversight. It was decided to table this until the new BOD is in place.

The out going BOD members, Dave Sharp and Lynn Deschambeault, were thanked for their terms of service. Both will be missed.

And, of course, thanks to our outgoing President for all his leadership.

Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Trials Committee (Rob Drummond)

- 1 No new trial sanctions since last meeting
- 2 Overview and Financial Report - Fall Foliage Trial

Discussion:

1. did not use any NEBCA funds for the Fall Foliage





Minutes Continued...

2. combining the PA State trial and the FF offset expenses
3. requested \$2800.00 funding for the 2015 FF (Denise Leonard)

B. Novice Trials Committee (Pam Davies)

Committee: Pam Davies, Sara Reiter, Wally Dury and Wendy Warner.

- Sanctioned novice trials in 2013-2014 season
 - Number of trials 18 (one day: 8, two day: 9, three day: 1)
 - Total trial-days: 29
 - Two trials had just PN & Ranch classes, one trial had just NN & PN, the rest offered all 3 classes
 - No complaints or incidents were brought to the committees attention
- Novice Finals Held on Sept 13-14 at Stonebridge Farm in Gansevoort NY
 - Total of 52 entries: NN-16, PN-23, Ranch-13
 - Barb Armata judged, Armata's sheep were used
 - Budget:
 - \$ Net cost to NEBCA \$599, well under budget of \$2100,
 - \$ Low cost due to \$1593 of benefit money and other donations
- Several requests to drop a dog two classes were considered
- Rule Changes:
 - A change concerning NN handlers that give lessons or run other peoples dogs for money was considered but not adopted
 - A change concerning what constitutes placing in open is still in discussion
 - A more rigorous procedure for tracking dropdowns is being discussed
- Considered resuming recognition of dogs that point out (graduate) of a novice class

Newsletter (Jim Allen)

2014 was a good year for the NEBCA News. I would like to thanks all the people who contributed articles and photographs. The original articles were the most popular items we had. People liked the reports on trials, the book reviews, how certain jobs are performed, historical reminiscences, and hints on training and trialing.

Circulation remained about the same over the course of the year and we managed to keep expenses within reasonable bounds.

It has been a pleasure to serve as editor of the NEBCA News.

Discussion:

1. Suggested that members pay for their hard copies of the Newsletter
2. suggested that the Newsletter be sent to local groups (4-H clubs, agility clubs, etc.)

Select Committee Reports

A. Fundraising Committee (Ellen Rusconi-Black)

Sales: 2014: 68- 2014 Tee Shirts, 18- 2013 Tee Shirts, 6 -2012 Tee Shirts, 22- 2011 Tee Shirts, 35-Sweatshirts, 9 Visors, 10 Bucket Hats, 30 Bags, and 47 Baseball Hats. Merchandise was sold by Betty Murray and myself at select trials and on the NEBCA Web site.



Minutes Continued...

Finances: 2014 merchandise Income: \$ 4,462 , Expense: \$ 3,046, Net Profit: \$ 1,416. (This is a significant increase over 2013 Net Profit of \$322)

2015 Proposal:

1. New Merchandise:

- Purchase 24 ball hats, 6 visors, 10 Bucket Hat, 100 short sleeve tee shirts, 36 sweatshirts or vests or heavy shirts and 30 cotton canvas bags.
- Val P is designing the Tee Shirt for 2015 with Betsy.

2. Funds: budget funds of \$3,000 requested 2015.

B. Calendar Committee (George Northrop)

Sold out of the initial printing of 300 calendars. Much credit to Rob Drummond and Steve Wetmore for hawking calendars at fair trials (about 40 each at Blue Hill and Loon Mountain). About 50 have gone out with new or renewed memberships. With an okay from the Executive Committee, another 40 calendars have been printed. The printer did not charge for these as Kate Collins was able to convince them they had overcharged for design work.

Kate Collins, Val Pietraszewska and Martha Walke have done a wonderful job putting this calendar together. Given the greatly reduced cost of printing, the calendar should have turned a significant profit.

C. Learning Trials Committee (Val Pietraszewska)

Last year the LTC helped fund and provide support and advice to several Novice learning trial events. In 2014, the LTC was allocated \$600 by NEBCA and of those funds, \$150 was spent. Sara Reiter, Denise Leonard, Rose Redick and Mary and Bud Ames organized and held learning trial activities during 2014. Some of the activities were for people new to sheepdog trials and some were directed toward novice handlers who aspire to be open handlers and trial judges.

The people who participate in the learning trial programs are very enthusiastic about their experience. We believe that it encourages them to continue to belong and to be contributing members of NEBCA.

The LTC requests that NEBCA allocate \$600 for the committee to distribute to NEBCA learning trials in 2015.

D. Library Report (Martha Walke)

In 2014 there were 40 transactions made by 27 borrowers for a total of 53 items Loaned (11 books; 37 DVD sets; 4 CDs).

Five DVDs and 1 Book have been purchased at a total cost of \$245.51

In 2014, \$300 was budgeted for the library. Of this amount, \$161 was spent.

A budget of \$300.00 was requested for 2015.

There will be a complete listing of the library's holdings in the Spring Newsletter. The website listing will also be updated.

Unfinished Business and Special Orders

A. Election Results

The nominating committee consisted of Dave Sharp, Mike Nunan and Barbara Leverett.



Minutes Continued...

The results:

- BOD (2 year term): Maria Mick & Joyce Geier
- BOD (1 year term): Maria Amodei
- President (2 year term): Chris Bowen
- Vice President (2 year term): George Northrop
- Secretary (2 year term): Martha Walke
- Treasurer (2 year term): Ellen Rusconi-Black

New Business

A. Treasurer - 2015 Proposed Budget (Ellen Rusconi-Black)

Motion to amend the budget to reflect three requested increases (Fall Foliage; Library; Learning Trials).

Motion carried.

Motion to accept the budget as amended. Motion carried.

B. Bylaw Review

Discussion:

1. bylaws were initially drawn up by a lawyer to comply with MA laws of incorporation
2. suggested that the VP serve (ex officio) on the Novice Trials Committee instead of the President this duty should be assigned by the President rather than a bylaw change
3. ask the BOD to review

C. Social Media Sites - Status & Policy

There are three websites: NEBCA Handlers Tent ; NEBCA-L; Facebook page

Discussion:

1. any official notices to go on any site should be written by an official committee member
2. purpose of each site; how to use; what to keep; policies that govern each suggested that a committee be formed (BOD?) for this and to set ground rules
3. suggested an article about these sites be written for the Newsletter

D. Other New Business

1. Rose Redick - suggested all members be aware of new (state) legislation concerning dogs be conscious and actively aware of what will impact us
2. Motion made that that Executive Committee and/or the BOD appoint a Membership Committee. Motion carried.

E. Committee Appointments

1. Open Trial Committee: Denise Leonard & Steve Wetmore, continuing. Newly appointed: Mich Ferraro, Sue Schoen and Dick Williams. Ex officio: Chris Bowen.
2. Novice Trials Committee: Pam Davies, Sara Reiter and Wendy Warner, continuing. Newly appointed: Barbara Eriksson. Ex officio: George Northrop.
3. Learning Trials Committee: Rose Redick, Denise Leonard, Ellen Black and Wendy Warner, continuing.
4. Audit Committee: Dave Sharp, Warren Mick, Chris Bowen, continuing.



NEBCA News



Minutes Continued...

5. Newsletter Editor: Maria Amodei

F. Meeting Dates 2015

1. agreed with proviso that one of these dates may be changed by the President:
Cummington, May 24, 2015
Cooperstown, August 15, 2015

G. Announcements

1. the field at Cummington will be completely mowed this year

10. The NEBCA Annual Meeting was adjourned at 1:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Walke, Secretary



Michelle Higgins' Spirit-© Michelle Higgins



Steve Wetmore & Gile - © Kate Collins

NEBCA OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Membership Dues	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Calendars	3,000.00	3,200.00
Breeder's Directory	300.00	400.00
Advertisements	250.00	500.00
Merchandise	3,800.00	3,000.00
Library	250.00	250.00
Interest	35.00	50.00
Rental of Equipment	80.00	60.00

Total Income **\$ 13,715.00** **\$13,460.00**

<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Calendars	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,750.00
Newsletter	2,300.00	2,700.00
Merchandise		
purchased	3,000.00	2,800.00
Fall Foliage Contribution	2,800.00	2,500.00
Novice Finals		
Contribution	2,100.00	2,100.00
Insurance	650.00	650.00
Library	300.00	300.00
Administrative	600.00	500.00
PayPal transaction		
fees	25.00	25.00
Advertisement		100.00
Awards/Gifts	350.00	300.00
Learning Trials	600.00	600.00
Fencing	-	-

Total Expenses **\$ 13,925.00** **\$15,325.00**

Net Income (loss) **\$ (210.00)** **\$ (1,865.00)**

Budget Discussion:

1. use leftover monies from previous FF before NEBCA funding
2. also, use funds raised for FF before NEBCA funding
3. continue to put on fundraising trials



Jet brings them home-© Mary Ann Duffy



NEBCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

NEBCA Financial Statement 2014

	Sub-Totals 2014	Jan-Dec 2014	BUDGET 2014	Jan-Dec 2013
INCOME				
Membership Dues		\$ 6,120.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,655.00
Calendars--members	\$ 1,778.00			
Calendars--non-memb	<u>1,107.00</u>	2,885.00	3,200.00	3,319.50
Breeder's Directory		280.00	400.00	415.00
Advertisements		225.00	500.00	590.00
Merchandise--members	\$ 4,062.00			
Merchandise--non-memb	<u>399.50</u>	4,461.50	3,000.00	4,420.30
Library		298.00	250.00	323.54
Interest-Capital One		34.33	50.00	49.06
Rental of Equipment		80.00	60.00	20.00
Donations		147.00	-	45.00
FF Balance from Donations		630.06	-	-
Total Income		\$ 15,160.89	\$ 13,460.00	\$ 14,837.40
EXPENSES				
Calendars		\$ 1,026.68	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,651.91
Newsletter		2,228.65	2,700.00	2,645.79
Merchandise purchased			3,045.85	2,800.00
FF NEBCA Contribution		-	2,500.00	2,856.94
NF NEBCA Contribution		598.99	2,100.00	2,598.58
Insurance		625.00	650.00	605.00
Library		128.48	300.00	224.63
Administrative		635.63	500.00	669.42
PayPal transaction fee		32.05	25.00	21.19
Advertisement		-	100.00	500.00
Awards/Gifts		368.38	300.00	270.25
Learning trials		150.00	600.00	600.00
Fencing		-	-	-
Donations		-	-	500.00
Total Expenses		\$ 5,793.86	\$ 15,570.85	\$ 16,943.71
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 9,367.03	\$ (2,110.85)	\$ (2,106.31)
ACCOUNT BALANCES				
Bank of America		\$ 18,180.56		\$ 11,893.71
PayPal		-		-
Capital One		<u>8,614.28</u>		<u>8,579.95</u>
Total		\$ 26,794.84		\$ 20,473.66

Submitted by: Ellen Black, Treasurer, 1/08/15



Comments on NEBCA YTD Financial Jan 1- Dec 31, 2014

Income:

1. Advertisement: Lower than 2013 for website, newsletter & breeder's directory. If ads are being put on various Facebook sources, may account for this.
2. Calendars: Fewer were printed in 2014 vs 2013 when the Nationals were in the east.
3. Merchandise: 2 factors feed increase; 1. price for hats & shirts increased \$5. 2. A sale table for merchandise more than 2 years old, reduced lugging around old merchandise and provided an income boost.
5. Equipment Rental: Rose took on the management of equipment which shows a positive increase of payment. This is on an honor system to rent \$20 portion NEBCA fencing, \$30 all NEBCA fencing.
6. **90%** of our income is generated from members, therefore not affecting our IRS Tax status (must be 85% or more income from members).
7. Donations: Raffle of the stuffed sheep designated to the club overall.
8. FF Balance of Donations: This reflects funds the FF made this year. It does not include NEBCA Contribution designated to support the FF. As the expense line shows. No NEBCA funds were needed to support the FF event. Congratulations to all who supported and worked so hard to make the FF such a successful event.

Expenses:

1. Calendar Expense: Notably: reduced from 2013 thanks to the many hours of work Kate, her sister and the committee provided to make the calendar ready for the printer saving \$1,600 in expense. In addition; while the calendar income is lower this year the net income for the 2014 calendar is \$ 1,885 (income/expense). In 2013 the net income was \$668. Thank you Kate, family and friends.
2. Newsletter: Changes Jim made in the newsletter reduced expenses \$400 from 2013. Thank you Jim.
3. Merchandise: Ellen reduced the # of tee shirts, hats and other merchandise purchased in 2014.
4. FF NEBCA Contribution: \$ 0 of the \$2,500 allocated in the budget were used to support the FF. Expenses were paid from entry fees, donations and advertisement. The Committee carefully managed their expenses.
5. NF NEBCA Contribution: \$ 599 of the \$2,100 allocated in the budget were used to support the NF. This Committee also did a great job managing their expenses and had contributions to offset expenses. Congratulations to the NF Committee, well done.
6. Administrative Expenses reflect; web hosting, postage & supply reimbursement for club business, memorial recognitions, State of MA filing fees where NEBCA is incorporated.
7. Awards: Now caught up to both the 2013 and 2014 High Point awards.

I watch the dogs work...
thoughtful, persistent, attentive,
skilled, thorough. I think that
neither man nor machine can
approach the ability of these dogs.

Then I pick up the sparkling plates
and put them in the dishwasher
anyway.



Cheryl Williams' Fleet - © Kate Collins

NEBCA FALL FOLIAGE SURVEY

Written by Nancy Phillips, Stephen Wetmore and editing by Warren Mick

During the 2014 trial season Stephen Wetmore and Nancy Phillips conducted a Fall Foliage (FF) survey for the Open Trial Committee to get a sense of what the membership thinks about the event. This report will provide you with the history of the FF, how the survey was conducted and summarizes the results.

History:

The history was gleaned from reviewing past NEBCA NEWS. If you have additional knowledge, please contact the authors of this article.

When NEBCA was formed the founding members included language in the by-laws about a Fall Foliage (FF). "They will set criteria for the management of the High Points System and the Fall Foliage Championship Trial. The Open Trials Committee will see to it that the trials are run according to the rules of the USBCHA, except where these rules differ from any rules adopted by the NEBCA."

The first FF took place in 1982 in Topsfield, Mass., and was held there for two years. This past year was the 31st Fall Foliage, the PA Championships/NEBCA Fall Foliage held at the Harford Fairgrounds in PA. The FF was not held in 2007 and 2010, because the National Finals were being held in the East.

Traditionally, the FF is held the first or second weekend in October, depending on how Columbus Day falls. In 2013, it was held September 14 – 16, because the National Finals were in Virginia during the first week of October.

The FF started out as a two-day event. In 1994, it became a three-day event at the Lamprey River Farm in NH and may have had a double lift. After that it became a more of a regular component and a three day event. An international shed was included in a few trials.

Usually the FF moves to various areas of the NEBCA region. Geographically, we stretch from western Ontario to the Maritimes Provinces in Canada, from Hudson Bay, Quebec to Maryland. The geographical center would be around Lac Chibougamau, about 400 miles north of Montreal, in Central Quebec. There is actually a road that goes there! Membership wise the southeastern part of New York State ((Binghamton, NY) would be the center based on where the current members live. A more precise accounting might move the center slightly north and east.



Fall Foliage Survey continued...

The FF has been held in the following states:

New York (14 times), Massachusetts (6), Vermont (3), Pennsylvania (3), New Hampshire (2), Maine (1), New Jersey (1), and Ontario (1).

A few times it was held in the same spot for several years. In 86, 87, and 88 at the Canaday Farm, in Altamont, NY. At Old Chatham, NY, it was held four times from 97 through 2000. In 2004 and 2005, it was held in Amherst, Mass.

Usually there is not a payout at the Fall Foliage, but recognition for the top 10 to 15, as well as a prize for the overall champion and the runner-up. There were cash prizes at the FF in 2012 and 2013. In 2014, the cash prizes were during the Pennsylvania Championship part of the trial.

The method:

The Fall Foliage Survey was handed to NEBCA members to fill out at the following trials: Cascade Farm in May, Mass Sheep and Wool, Stonebridge Novice Trial, Caora Open trial, Cascade Farm Trial in July, Grass Creek, and Merck Forest. The survey was posted on social media sites and in the NEBCA news. Only two surveys were mailed in. The rest of the surveys were handed back to Nancy Phillips or Stephen Wetmore.

Some of the questions were open ended, since we were looking to see what first came in to mind. A more structured survey might give more information. Some of the information was condensed. For example, if someone said three to four hours of travel, it was counted as four hours. The question about a handlers' dinner was left out on some surveys. Not everyone answered all the questions. There will be a margin of error, because of the hand tabulation and interpretation some of the handwriting.

The results:

56 open handlers and 14 novice handlers completed the Fall Foliage Survey. There are over 200 members in NEBCA. 40 of the open handlers have competed in the FF ranging from once to more than ten times.

14 people said their favorite FF was the Monastery because of the sheep and field. Other trials that received comments were: Leatherstocking, Cascade Farm, Old Chatham, Amherst, Shuttleworth, and JP Lalonde's. This year's Fall Foliage at the Harford Fairgrounds was not part of the survey.

45 handlers said the FF was a goal and most people said the FF is an important NEBCA activity. Only five handlers said it was not. 58 people said that NEBCA should continue to fund part of the FF, but several people posted only if the funds were available.

Most people (46) said the location of the trial impacted their decision to attend. There was a range of how far people were willing to drive from two to fifteen hours. Twenty-four people were grouped in a 4 to 6 hour range and another 13 were willing to drive eight to ten hours. 33 people said the trial should continue to rotate throughout the NEBCA





Fall Foliage Survey continued...

regions and five said “No”. The rest of the handlers did not comment on the question.

29 people said the sheep impacted their decision to attend, while 23 said “no”. The topic on what do you like for sheep brought out a variety of responses. We tried to group them by key words. The most common terms were: undogged (13), not too dogged (7), lightly dogged (7), challenging (5), fresh (5), uniform/even (10), enough sheep (5), commercial sheep (5) and wool (10).

56 people said a double lift should be included in the FF and four said if possible.

40 handlers said cash prizes were not important, while 13 handlers said yes they were.



Mich Ferraro & Clive - © Kate Collins

The next question asked, “What was a reasonable entry fee?” Since the wording didn’t clarify per dog per trial, it’s hard to tell if the handlers stated per dog per trial or overall. But, here are the results, which ranged from \$25 to \$150. \$50 was the most common response (19), nine people said \$60 - \$75 and eight people said \$100.

A variety of a key words were stated in regards to the kind of amenities one would want at a FF. This was an open-ended question, so other people may agree to items they did not post. They are: plenty of room to exercise dogs (12), handlers’ tent (13), food vendor (13), clean and nearby port-a-potty (11), good sheep (11), good/big field (8), parking (6), camping area (5) and handlers’ dinner (6). When asked about a dinner 28 handlers said there should be one, six said “no” and 1 was “indifferent”.

The last question was an open-ended question about anything else the handler wanted to say. A variety of responses were stated. The most common statements talked about keeping the tradition because it provided an incentive for handlers to do better and work towards the National finals.

If you would like to review the tabulated results, they are posted in the membership section of the NEBCA website.



SORTING AND SHEDDING, THOUGHTS FROM THE WORLD TRIAL

By Maria Amodei

"If the three ladies with collars would kindly walk out of the ring, I'd be very much obliged." - Babe

Actually, I just wanted one lady with a collar to step away with me, and it was not happening. We could not get a red collar sorted to either end of the group. We were hampered by one opinionated ewe with no collar who took a fair bit of attention from both me and the dog to keep in the ring, but mostly we just did not have the skills to make the sort and single happen. It was remarkably frustrating as we only needed a mediocre single score to add to the rest of the run to make the semi-final round.

The next couple days I watched the marked sheds with sharp focus, inspiration burned into me by the recent failure. The sheep had opinions and often leaned hard on the dogs. These girls gave plenty of opportunities for teams to showcase their skills. Though there was variety in the packets of stock and skills of the dog/handler teams, a pattern did emerge. The handlers were using their dog more than I'm used to seeing. The first thing I noticed was handlers aborting the shed if a ewe scurried from one side to the other before the dog came through. This was not dramatic, just a quick stop, completely relaxed, then back to the sort. Or sometimes a small flank to put the last minute traveler to the desired side, then have the dog continue through. I'm more accustomed to seeing the dogs keeping the stock in the ring, and the handler doing much of the sorting, then calling the dog through in a fairly grand gesture. What I was watching at the World Trial was handlers using their dog quite often, small flanks and adjustments to shuffle the sheep. To be sure, the nature of these sheep facilitated this way of using the dog, but I think the major difference was that the dogs and handlers were accustomed to working the stock this way: closer, relaxed, a series of small adjustments. These dogs all had good flanks and none were on a hair trigger to come through. This kept the stock relaxed and workable between dog and handler. It allowed teams to more actively sort the stock, and when they had the packet sorted correctly the dog was already in contact and able to confirm control of the desired stock quietly. Using the dog more quietly and consistently, in particular using the dog to create the break in the packet, meant that when the dog was called through it had already established control of the desired stock as a separate group. Far less drama, just walk them away.

As soon as I got home I was out working on sorting with a large group of sheep. I found it was mostly a matter of changing my mind set, putting the dramatic flourish of calling my dog running through out of my mind and thinking only of making small moves to sort the group between me and the dog. I was surprised how quickly the dogs adopted the new style. Often I did not actually split the sheep, wanting to keep them fresh for practice. When I did call the dog, it was simply a continuation of the quiet work. The sheep separated easily. I'd set out tasks, get two of the three blackface and 2 other sheep on one side and the rest of the flock on the other, next day it might be getting a group of all Tunis sorted to one side. It was enjoyable and low stress. I am eager to get back to it once the snow goes.



Drawing Maria Amodei



BIG FIELDS, TOUGH SHEEP AND REALLY NICE PEOPLE

How I spent my vacation, by Virginia Prince

I have seen the October Ontario trials in the NEBCA schedule for years and was always curious about them. This past year I started asking around to see if anyone had attended and could give me the low down. Finally I found that Emily Yazwinski had been there, and had nothing but good things to say, as did Jean Louis Biordan. He described the courses as big, with long outruns and a cross drive for Pro Novice. I am badly in need of trialing experience, and because I could go to 3 (actually 6 runs for each of my 2 dogs) trials in 5 days I decided to go. Since we are working hard on the skills needed to move up to Ranch, the cross drive aspect was a good thing.

When my scheduled time off arrived I packed up my RV (12 year old pick up truck), weeded the syringes, needles and controlled drugs out of my vet kit (for the border crossings), hunted up rabies certificates and passport, activated international cell data service, moved the sheep to fresh grass and headed out. It takes about 9 hours to get to the neighborhood east of Toronto, where the 3 trials are located ½ to about an hour apart. I arrived at Swaledale and set up camp just before dark while everyone was at the handler dinner so I didn't meet anyone till the next morning.

One of the things Emily and Jean Louis stressed was how friendly people are in Ontario. Sure enough, the first people I saw were the familiar faces of Mary Ellen and Dave Young, welcoming as always. The next person I met was Carol Guy, and then Cynthia Palmer – if you know them you'll realize that I immediately felt among friends. And what a field!! It seemed like about 50 acres, dotted with a few trees and sloping down gently to the handler's area.



Swaledale Field - © Virginia Prince

All the sheep for these trials were good sized commercial wool flocks running on their home turf. The Swaledale flock had a mix of breeds and some lambs that preferred stopping and eating to moving from a dog. In addition there was a very strong draw to the exhaust, which was also the home barnyard. My dogs' solution to dealing with the various headstrong sheep behaviors was to bite them, which controlled the sheep but drew the usual comment from the judge.

Unfortunately, while running to fix the collapsing pen, Dave Young broke his ankle. This was not only painful but also terribly frustrating for Dave (who returned later in the day in a cast) and also delayed the trial. Because of the large number of runs and short daylight, the last novice-novice go ran in the deepening dusk. Since I was in no hurry to get to the next trial (Palmer's trial had 2 days of open then novice classes on the 3rd day) I stayed to watch the novices run in the dark (somebody needs to be there to make them nervous), and have a mellow start the following day.

After a lovely hike around the Swaledale sugar bush, and leisurely chatting with Hugh, one of the farm owners, about all things sheep, I packed up and headed to the next trial at Cynthia and John Palmer's farm.

The Palmer's trial is on a huge flat field with their vigorous mixed wool sheep. Here I had ample time to watch open runs, hang out, go bushwhacking in the Palmer's woodlot (John waited till I came back to tell me the story of Cynthia getting lost there) and meet more great people, including Vicki Kidd and Hillary Flower. I was fascinated grilling Hillary on all the facets of grazing sheep on an island in the Atlantic. What a wealth of information!

No one but me cared at all that I could only contribute a box of jumbo sourdough pretzels to the sumptuous potluck.



Big Fields continued...

At the Palmer's trial there seemed to be many completed runs. I think a big factor was the setup of the exhaust, which was about 75 yards or more from the handlers post, in the opposite direction of the barn and the sheep in it were hidden from view by a solid wall of round bales. As a result it was relatively straightforward to keep the sheep from thinking of exiting before their time.

For the last classes I went out to see the set out pen, which was modeled on the Dave Fetterman design and worked well. There was one young woman running the show there, whose name I sadly forget, but very competent, fun and with a great attitude. It just seemed natural to stay to the end and help out since she had been working hard all 3 days, besides I always enjoy working with the sheep. As a result I packed up when the trial finished and had an adventure finding my way in the dark to the last trial (I got lost in some nameless Canadian city where my GPS didn't work.) The Map Quest printout the ever-organized Cynthia had handed out saved me.

I often say that I learn more about sheep at trials than I ever did in vet school or from books. Shepherd's Crook was a great example of this. Kevin Greton, the owner of the farm, runs a couple hundred Rideau Arcot sheep (a breed developed by the Canadian equivalent of our cooperative extension. These sheep can lamb 3 times in 2 years, have exceptional mothering and as one handler told me "would just as soon run you and your dog over.") Kevin is another of the great people I met, and he gave me an in depth tour of his operation and added substantially to my store of sheep husbandry info, particularly the ever lengthening list of ways sheep think of to die.

Weather all week had been warm and comfortable, but Friday, the novice day, the wind kicked up over this nearly flat countryside, and blew a steady 15-20 mph all day. Fortunately it was blowing from the post towards the field, but it probably contributed to the contrariness of the sheep. There were more letters than numbers. Once again my guys dealt with sheep taking off for the exhaust (a runway to the home barn) by gripping, but we got a lot of experience under our belt. I consoled myself that we had decent to good outruns on these big fields, some semblance of cross driving and my dogs didn't back down. Another great thing was the wind driven rain started after our runs.

I stayed overnight, hunkering down with the warm dogs in my dry truck but thankful to just have the one night of wet camping. I watched some open runs before leaving in the morning, noting that the open teams were having a challenging time, plus they had no one covering the exhaust for them!

There was plenty to think of on the drive home – the hospitality, lessons learned, targets for training, and how the border guard wasn't fazed by the smelly wet mess filling the back of my truck. I drove diagonally through the entire Adirondack Park on my return route, at the height of foliage season. What a great finale for my educational vacation!

1991

Handler	Dog	20 Outrun	10 Lift	20 Turn	30 Drive	10 Chase	10 Pen	10 Held	10 Score
BEVERLY	LARK	19	10	19	26	10	10	10	101
FAT	BARF	20	9	18 1/2	21	0	10	10	82.5
LYNN	MINDY	19	8	10	19 1/2	0	10	10	76.5
JOHN	TOPY	20	9	18	0	0	0	0	47
STEVE	MIXX	17	5	2	28 1/2	6	6	10	74.5
ROGER	TJEN	20	10	18 1/2	26	8	10	10	102.5
BECKY	FLY	16	8	20	27	0	10	10	91
GABE	ZANE	16	6	12	0	0	10	0	44
WALT	QUEEN	20	10	20	26	0	5	10	91
BETTY	BRYNN	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	20
MIKE	JILL	18	8	18	24 1/2	0	8	6	82.5
DAVE	CAP	20	9	10	25	0	8	10	82
GENE	NAP	20	10	20	23	0	10	10	93
DEBBIE	LACEY	20	0	20	0	0	0	0	40
BEV	JET	19	10	19	26	0	10	10	94
LYNN	DANDY	20	10	17	26 1/2	10	10	9	102 1/2
STEVE	FLOSS	18	5	2	6	0	0	0	31
ROGER	SUE	19	10	20	26 1/2	10	10	10	105 1/2
BECKY	QUEEN	19	8	18	20	2	10	10	87
WALT	DOR	20	10	20	25 1/2	0	8	10	93 1/2
BETTY	KELTY	20	10	20	27	0	10	10	97
MIKE	BEN	20	10	20	24	0	8	9	91
DAVE	GILL	20	10	20	24	0	0	0	74
GENE	BONNIE	19	8	11	22	0	10	0	70
STEVE	BEN	20	10	18	25 1/2	8	10	8	99 1/2
ROGER	CAP	19	10	19	24	10	10	6	93

Check out the handlers and scores from Fryeburg Fair in 1991! Thanks Gabe Merrill for this photo.



© Emma Kundro

TO THE SHEEP DOG HANDLERS AND EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS BLUE HILL FAIR SHEEP DOG TRIALS

Dear Friends,

We want to take this opportunity to at least try to extend our deepest appreciation to every one of you who have made the Blue Hill Fair Sheep Dog Trials what they have become since we began them in 1956. Because of your support and fine performances over the decades this Labor Day weekend event has become two trials: Blue Hill Fair Sheep Dog Trials on Saturdays, and U.S. Northeast Sheep Dog Trials on Sundays.

Over the years you have come from the mid-west, Florida and Canada as well as New England. For some it is a long trek to Maine. You have brought joy and wonder to thousands of Blue Hill Fair-goers with your fine work and your beautiful dogs.

We have been blessed by your friendship, and honored by your presence. It was with profound regret that due to health issues we had to give up our fifty-seven years of managing these trials. We are grateful for Lynn Deschambeault's graciousness in taking over the trials' management, and to Roger Deschambeault for all the years of bringing the trial sheep, Carroll Goodwin for judging, and to each and every dog handler. Wish there was space to name you for you will all be forever in our hearts, as well as the cherished, beautiful gift of the farewell Memory Book all of you so thoughtfully gave us. It is a life time treasure!

Now is our time for receiving the message: "That'll Do".

With our blessings and deepest thanks, Jim and May Davidson

GISELA (GUSSIE) GEIER

I'm sad to write that my mother passed away peacefully Sunday, February 8, after medical complications from hip surgery. Many of you knew her from under the handler's tent at trials, although her travels in the last two years did decline fairly dramatically. She spent her career teaching and was also quite active in later years with her Shelties, Cindy, Chaco, and Shylo. Or, should I say, Chaco CDX HT and High in Trial winner. Although she never opted to run one of the BCs in a sheepdog trial, she greatly enjoyed watching, handling from the sidelines, and presiding over all the events held at our farm. *Joyce Geier*



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References available. Lessons also.

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merlynn@fairpoint.net



Bud Ames & Jeb - © Sarah Ames Deuell



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570-289-4733

Note: Not all breeders listed here are necessarily handlers.

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.



Fina - © Sharon Perkins



Winter Shepherding in Norway, Johnny Eliassen's Bessie - © Johnny Eliassen

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Next issue we'll look at shepherding and trialing in Norway.

The Faulty Dog – will look at strategies and training methods for wide running dogs

Not a member yet? Don't miss another issue of the NEBCA News. <http://www.nebca.net/membership.pdf>



Winter Shepherding in New England - © Maria Amodei



2015 TRIAL SCHEDULE

DATE	TRIAL	LOCATION	CLASSES	CONTACT	INFO/FORMS
May 8-10	Borders on Paradise SDT	Turbotville, PA	2 Open Over 3 days & 1 Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Dave Fetterman 570-742-3527	Pending
May 9-10	Cascade Farm SDT	370 Pettyboro Road, Bath, NH	Two ProNovice, Ranch, Open & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Mary Ames 603-838-2018	Pending
May 30-31	Bobtail SDT	Turbotville, PA	Two Open, Nursery, & ProNovice NoPayback USBCHA/NEBCA	Dave Fetterman 570-742-3527	Pending
May 22-24	MA Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT	Fairgrounds, 97 Fairgrounds Rd Cummington, MA	Two Novice & Open One USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Kate Collins & George Northrop 978-249-4407 Entries Martha Walke 802-765-4935	The field is guaranteed to be mowed
May 31-1 Jun	Fetch Gate Spring Nursery SDT	Cortland, NY	Two USBCHA Nursery USBCHA	Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584	Information
Jun 13-14	Stonebridge Farm SDT	Clarke Road Ganesvort, NY	NN, PN, Ranch Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Rose Redick 518-465-6808 Warren Mick 518-861-5854	Pending
Jun 25-28	Caora Farm SDT	235 Sharon Rd, Millerton NY	Two Open, USBCHA Nursery USBCHA	Michele Ferraro & Kak Weathers 518-592-1320	ENTRY Word PDF
Jul 2-5	Fetch Gate Farm SDT	Cortland, NY	Novice, PN, Ranch, Nursery & Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA	Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584	Information
Jul 3-5	Cascade Farm SDT	370 Pettyboro Road, Bath, NH	Two Open, Novice, Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Mary Ames 603-838-2018	DbILift 5 Jul Pending
Jul 11-12	Shepherd's Crook Benefit SDT	Woodville, Ontario	3 Ranch, PN, NN & 2 Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Viki Kidd 416-277-4313	Information
Jul 24-26	Fetch Gate Farm Novice SDT	Cortland, NY	Three Novice & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584	Pending
Jul 25-26	Spring Valley Open SDT	Strafford, VT	Two Open & Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Steve Wetmore 802-765-4466	Pending
Aug 14-16	Leatherstocking SDT	Cooperstown, NY	One Novice & Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA	Barbara Armata 518-875-6471	Information
Aug 22	Vermont State Championship SDT	Scottish Festival Queechee, VT	One Open & Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Steve Wetmore 802-765-4466	Pending
Sep 5-6	Long Shot Trial	Church Hill, MD HOTELS	Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA	Sherry Smith 410-708-2428	Pending
Sep 25-27 Oct 30-Nov 1 Dec 12-13	Long Shot Trial	Church Hill, MD HOTELS	Open, Ranch, Pronovice USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Sherry Smith 410-708-2428	Pending