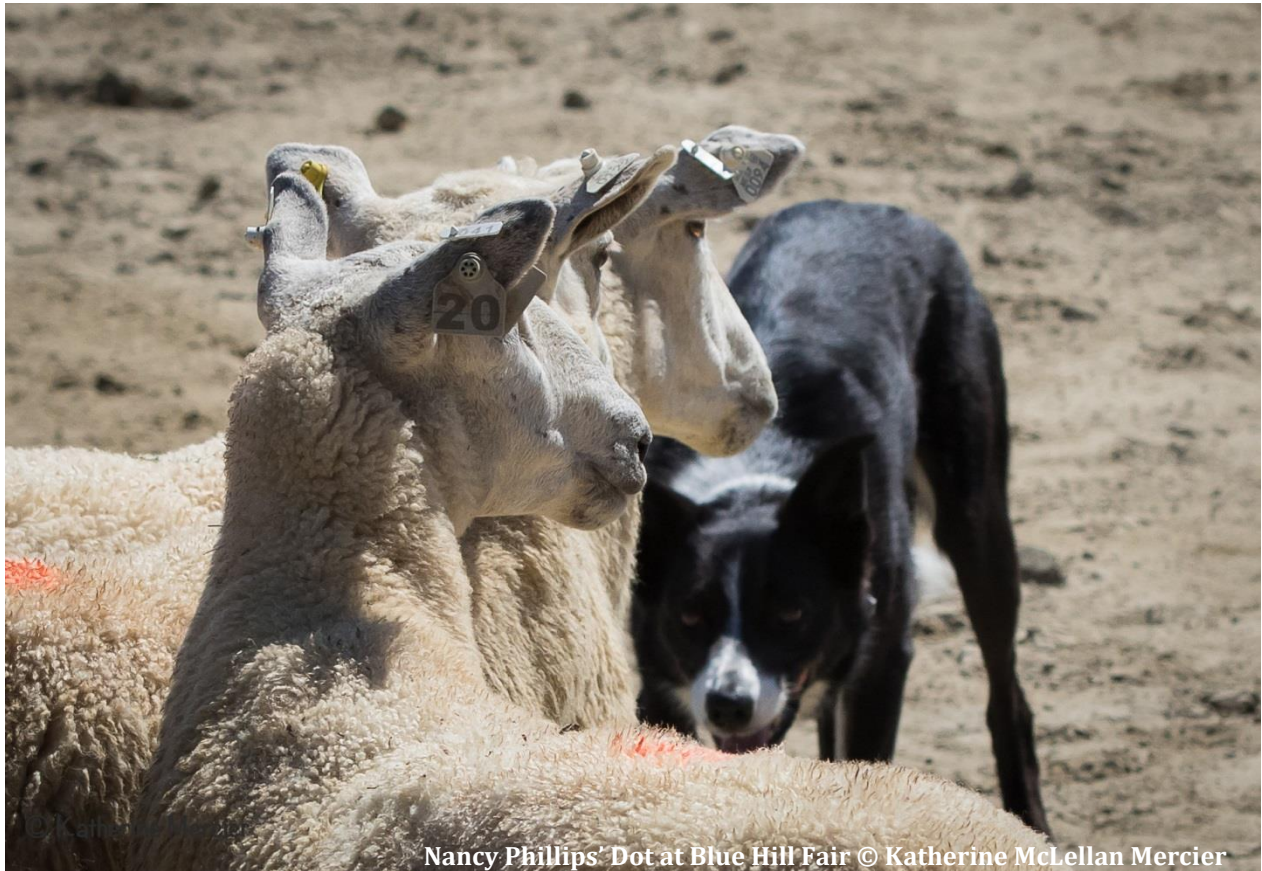




NEBCA News

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



Nancy Phillips' Dot at Blue Hill Fair © Katherine McLellan Mercier

12/1/2015

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.



NEBCA News



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Membership Information: Dues are
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We don't rise to the level of our
expectations. We fall to the level of
our training.

*Archilochos, Greek soldier-poet,
circa 650 BC*

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New England Border Collie Rescue

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the whole, I find the NEBCA community to be a remarkably congenial and supportive group of people. Our friendships and our mutual love and respect for our dogs and their talents make our club exceptional. My comments below are in no way intended to imply that I think anything else. I have, however, been part of a number of conversations this year about what constitutes appropriate behavior at a NEBCA trial and the responsibilities and rights of the club's elected leadership team to address any incident that does occur. Unlike the USBCHA, which has comprehensive

Standards of Conduct in their rules, NEBCA currently has nothing. This puts the Board of Directors in a difficult position if complaints do arise. Using the USBCHA standards as a guide, we are working to develop our own rules. I expect that you will hear more about this before the Annual Membership Meeting in January.

Our hope, of course, is that once we have conduct guidelines in place that the Board will never have to be involved in taking action to enforce them. To this end, I'll end the year with a few observations:

1) Sheepdog trialing is hard! And, it can be very stressful. Almost anything that can go wrong, will go wrong if you stick with the sport long enough. You will sometimes come off of the field feeling disappointed and frustrated. Resolve to keep your emotions in check and learn from your experiences. With patience and perseverance, you will have those rare days when everything comes together for you. And when that happens, it is magical!

2) Many NEBCA trials are very public events. As a handler, you are an ambassador for the club and the sport. We must consistently demonstrate the highest standards of care and treatment of our dogs and our livestock. Any deviation from this will be noticed. Passions run deep when it comes to the welfare of animals, both within and outside of the NEBCA community. We must all respect this fact and tolerate nothing that could invite anybody to question our commitment it.

3) Talk to each other. This is not a sport that many of us can be successful at without the help and support of others. Hopefully, every one of us has friends and mentors that we listen to and respect. We should immerse ourselves in the NEBCA culture and tap into the knowledge and experience of our veteran handlers. As long as we do this, I expect that questions of "proper conduct" at our events will be exceedingly rare.

And with that, I'll get off of my soapbox. Have great holidays! Get out and train your dogs, whenever the weather allows. And, I'll look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting. - 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 # 4 - 7 year old dog, nice feel for sheep. Mostly this dog has very good moves on his stock. Can move small and large groups. Will grip or flank to get stubborn sheep moving. Prefers to keep things moving at a brisk trot. This dog is not easily biddable, drilling causes him to run wide or not come forward when asked. He is difficult to stop and can slice flanks. He is not always willing to give up pressure. His problem is tension. Despite being consistently able to move sheep he is not comfortable face to face. No reliable calm nose grip, instead an inappropriate grip and ride in a situation that may or may not have required a grip to move the stock.

Warren Mick's Comments

With working dogs, as for many things, a picture (or video) is worth a thousand words. I say that since one issue (or several) could have different causes and be the result of a more fundamental problem. Subtleties that are difficult to put into words can be important. Part of the description of this dog's faults sounds contradictory. Slicing flanks and keeping things moving at a trot does not equate to "good moves on his stock". In my book, "good moves" means pace, proper flanks and a willingness stop moving. Perhaps in this case, "good moves" means only that the dog can keep sheep together - certainly important, but not enough.

Two points that are consistent are tension and being hard to stop. Dogs that are hard to stop become tense simply because they've been scolded for it so much. They connect the command with the penalty. And furthermore, when working a dog that's hard to stop, people often tend to be louder and harsher. The command in essence becomes part correction, which adds to the dog's tension. A vicious cycle. The handler can break the cycle today but at seven years changing the dog won't be quick or easy. Yet I believe possible. An article in the Fall 2013 NEBCA News discusses some do's and don'ts for stopping. (Article: <http://www.nebca.net/news2000s/fall2013.pdf> page 17)

Dogs that won't face sheep are generally weak (or to put it nicely, lack confidence). Unfortunately, much of this is in the dog. Some improvement in confidence can be fostered in a young dog (under 2). The amount improvement is limited however and likely carved in stone by 3-4. A dog's confidence improves when they succeed and win battles. The reverse is also true and much more important. When your dog can't move sheep, backs down, or worse, gets chased by a bold ewe, it does near irreparable damage to their confidence. So careful control of the situations the dog gets in and the type of sheep worked is crucial. Never let a young dog get beat by the sheep.

In regard to the inappropriate gripping, weaker dogs are more prone to this but tension is also a factor. We've all seen the handler struggling to maintain control of a dog with increasingly intense commands and at some point the dog simply loses its cool and flies in. This is a tension release. The previous two paragraphs discuss what I'd try to reduce tension but as mentioned, the road to recovery will take some time.

Finally, regarding the slicing flanks. Tight flanks bump the sheep instead of just turning them. They unsettle the sheep which in turn makes the dog feel less in control adding to tension. They are also much less precise. Since the dog is coming closer to the sheep as it flanks, each step around has a greater effect on how much the sheep turn. A slicing flank often results in under or overturning the sheep. In response, the handler must flank again one way or the other to get the desired result. The handler is also likely to be throwing in big stops to try to stop the dog at just



Faulty Dog continued

the right point as well as even more stops to slow the dog and sheep down. Over-commanding adds to tension, not to mention also stifling a dog's instincts and its understanding of the task at hand.

To sum up, my prescription is: fix the flanks and the stop, both will help reduce tension. Reducing tension will help control the gripping and help bring out what confidence the dog does have.

Carol Campion's Comments

The opening statement says this dog has "nice feel for sheep" however the following descriptions contradict this. I don't believe a dog can have "nice feel" and have the following said of it, "Will grip or flank to get stubborn sheep moving. Prefers to keep things moving at a brisk trot. This dog is not easily biddable, drilling causes him to run wide or not come forward when asked. He is difficult to stop and can slice flanks"

If this dog was presented to me with this original description and I then saw the poor flanks, the gripping etc., I would suggest the owner take it back and work on communication and basics, but at its age, it will be hard to alter this dog, as it has ingrained habits not easily changed. Once a dog learns a method of working and is allowed to continue with that method, it thinks it is doing the right thing and what is expected of it. So change will come hard.

Possibly in its foundation training, this dog was not taught to give proper room to the sheep, thus working too closely and pushing too hard, not pacing. If too close, the dogs cannot read the sheep as well as if at a distance. Working too closely and pushing too hard also annoys the sheep. It appears to be power, but power is effective from a distance. I am also guessing proper flanks were not trained before advancing along with this dog. It was then put in situations, or got itself into situations where it was too close or needed clean flanks and did not know how to do this. Clean flanks are flanks that tell the dog to let go of its hold on the sheep- clean flanks release the sheep. The stronger the eye of the dog, the more they "hold the sheep" thus the more importance of this aspect of flank training. If this dog had been taught this at an early age, it would respond differently. Dogs are always showing us what they believe or know.

I think that this dog's performance problems originally boil down to miscommunication between the handler and the dog and then advancing without a solid foundation exacerbated the problems. This happens when the owner assumes the dog understands certain things that the dog was really not clear on, or has developed another meaning for. The dog guesses what was really being asked of it and formed habits and a work method based on this. Handler and dog each had a different idea what the commands meant and what was expected in different situations. So miscommunication ensued and the ability to have a partnership based on accurate communication isn't there now. The ability to support the dog isn't there. There was never a real understanding of what the commands meant and it happened accidentally by assuming the dog knew certain elements, when really it did not.

I would try to set up some schooling situations and I would gently use body language along with commands, as dogs read body language first. Often, dogs get slow or too wide when they don't know what they're being corrected for. I'd go back to basics and if need be, change the words and commands to start with a clean slate. I'd do it in short sessions and I would recommend the handler being as consistent as possible. Being really consistent is the only way to tell if you are being successful in changing the dog.

This is an older dog and change may not come. But it is always worth trying and whatever training techniques are learned can be used on another dog's the future.

So to summarize, make sure your dog knows what you are asking of it. Take the time to train the mechanics and don't stretch the dog past its comfort level before the foundation is in place.



CHERYL JAGGER WILLIAMS

Cheryl Jagger Williams has been involved with sheep but not Border Collies since she was a child. Her father, Walt Jagger, was a pioneer in sheepdog trialing in this country with a special interest in developing younger dogs, and today the Walt Jagger Memorial Trophy is awarded to the top Nursery dog in North America at the United States Border Collie Handlers Association (USBCHA) Finals each year. She lives in Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Dick, also a formidable competitor. Between them, they have had up to four dogs in the top twenty USBCHA points each year.



“We always had sheep, but my brothers, sister and I were “the dogs” that herded them until we all went to college,” is what Cheryl will say about her early exposure to sheep. Those of us who have been the “dog” know what she is talking about and probably appreciate the talents of the Border Collie more than others. When Cheryl’s father Walt lost his “sheep crew” because they all went to college, he replaced them with Border Collies. One of the dogs he acquired was Freckles.

Freckles had been turned off of sheep. Walt decided she needed a “woman’s touch” and decided that

Cheryl & Fleet 2015 World Trial Joyce Geier

Cheryl was the woman for the job. So, in 1980 Freckles was offered to Cheryl. At the time, Cheryl had a career in nursing and fought the idea “kicking and screaming.” Walt persisted and with patience, time and mentoring from Walt, Cheryl was able to make a successful Open trial dog of Freckles and so started the addiction we are all familiar with. Her brother describes this period as that when she “went to the dogs.”

At this time, there were no videos, very few books, no clinics, and few female handlers—just people who would tell you “you will work it out.” It took them a short time to figure out that most of these folks did not actually know how to train, as they had always purchased trained dogs. So, Walt and Cheryl decided that they would make a commitment to helping new handlers.

It was frustrating at the time as there were so few women in the sport that the men would not always respect the women handlers. That has changed immensely! Dick says men are the minority now!

In addition to her dad Walt, Bruce Fogt was Cheryl’s mentor at that time. She shadowed him and learned a great deal about trialing and training and hosted Bruce’s first training clinic at Sheepy Hollow Farm. She began training other people’s dogs as well as her own. In a short time, the dog training blossomed to a full-time business and Cheryl gave up nursing to train dogs. Over the years, she has trained hundreds of dogs for personal use, as well as for competition. She has done training clinics, demonstrations, judging clinics, and sheepdog trials for over thirty years.

Cheryl decided there was no place to get items with Border Collies as the main focus. So she started “The Shepherdess Shoppe” containing items such as clothing with Border Collies embroidered on them, some Border Fine Arts items from overseas, as well as many other smaller items. This was a very big help in paying for entry fees at the trials. After several successful years of trucking these items to trials and sending out mail orders, she decided she



Cheryl Jagger Williams continued

had to go “bigger” or sell out. It was taking away from her time with the dogs. Cheryl says, “Christmas was crazy. All I was doing was shipping items all over.” So she sold the business and went to training dogs full time.

The first Finals she competed in were with Nell in Kentucky. Nell qualified third on the first qualifying run and then ended up eleventh overall in the Finals. Though they had never done an international shed before, Nell and Cheryl came very close to completing it. Cheryl was thrilled and determined that she would no longer miss the Nationals if she could in any way get there.

Preparing for the Finals is always a real tough thing, being from “the East.” Since Cheryl and Dick do not have large fields, they do a great deal of close work, such as penning, getting close to sheep in small areas, taking wide flanks, close flanks, pen and barn work, and so on. All of this work helps the dogs in their confidence to work other kinds of sheep, unlike the hair sheep we see at trials in the East. They try to get to larger fields as many times as possible. Since they have only hair sheep, they try to go to other people’s farms and work their wool sheep, especially if they have been lightly dogged. Cheryl and Dick always try to get to the Canadian Trials at Kingston, as the island wool sheep are a great challenge. It is a good preparation for the sheep out west. Though nothing they have even resembles range sheep, they try to get the dogs to have a better pace on the sheep and stay off further than they are used to here in the east. They will need wider flanks on western sheep and will need to walk directly into them. This work takes a different kind of practice. They do practice the double lift, but not too close to competition time, as the dog will attempt a look back prematurely if you are not careful.

Cheryl has had many good dogs through the years. Her Kim and Nell won the Fall Foliage several times. Her Spot won it once. She has won the NEBCA High Points several times. Nell, Kim, Spot, Fleet and Toby made the double lift finals at the Bluegrass several times, in Kingston, the national finals and the Canadian Nationals, NEBCA Fall Foliage finals well as Rural Hill in North Carolina. Cheryl’s Rudy won the Canadian National Nursery. She has been in the top ten with her dogs in NEBCA and in the USBCHA points almost every year since she started running dogs.

Lately her dog Fleet has won the Pa. State Championship, the Gatesville trial in Texas, has been in the top ten in the USBCHA and NEBCA High Points and the Fall Foliage trial in Harford, Pa. and was a participant in the World Trial held in Tain, Scotland last year.

Judging has always been an interest to her and Dick. She has run judging clinics for years at her home in Hop Bottom to help new people get started judging as well as give people information they can use in running their dogs better. Cheryl and Dick have judged many trials including Oatlands in Virginia, the Bluegrass in Kentucky, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia; Moultrie, GA; Twin Oak Ranch, TN; Renaissance Farm, Ontario; Okeechobee, FL; C-54, FL; Lady Lake, FL; Borders on Paradise, PA; On the Lamb, New Mexico, etc.

Walt and Cheryl started the Pa. State Championship Stock Dog Trials in Hop Bottom in 1982. Dick joined the pack and they ran consecutively for 33 years until retiring this year. The trials have been imitated all over the United States and Canada as it was one of the largest and considered prestigious trials in its beginnings. In addition Cheryl and Dick have hosted the Suwannee River Stock Dog Trial in Florida for the past seven years.

Cheryl feels blessed to be able to attend all of the Trials and Finals with her husband Dick. “We travel together and work together and support each other through all of the trials and tribulations. Dick is also a very strong competitor in the sheepdog trials. I always say he is my ‘best student.’ We can work together on outruns and checking each other’s training.”





Cheryl Jagger Williams continued

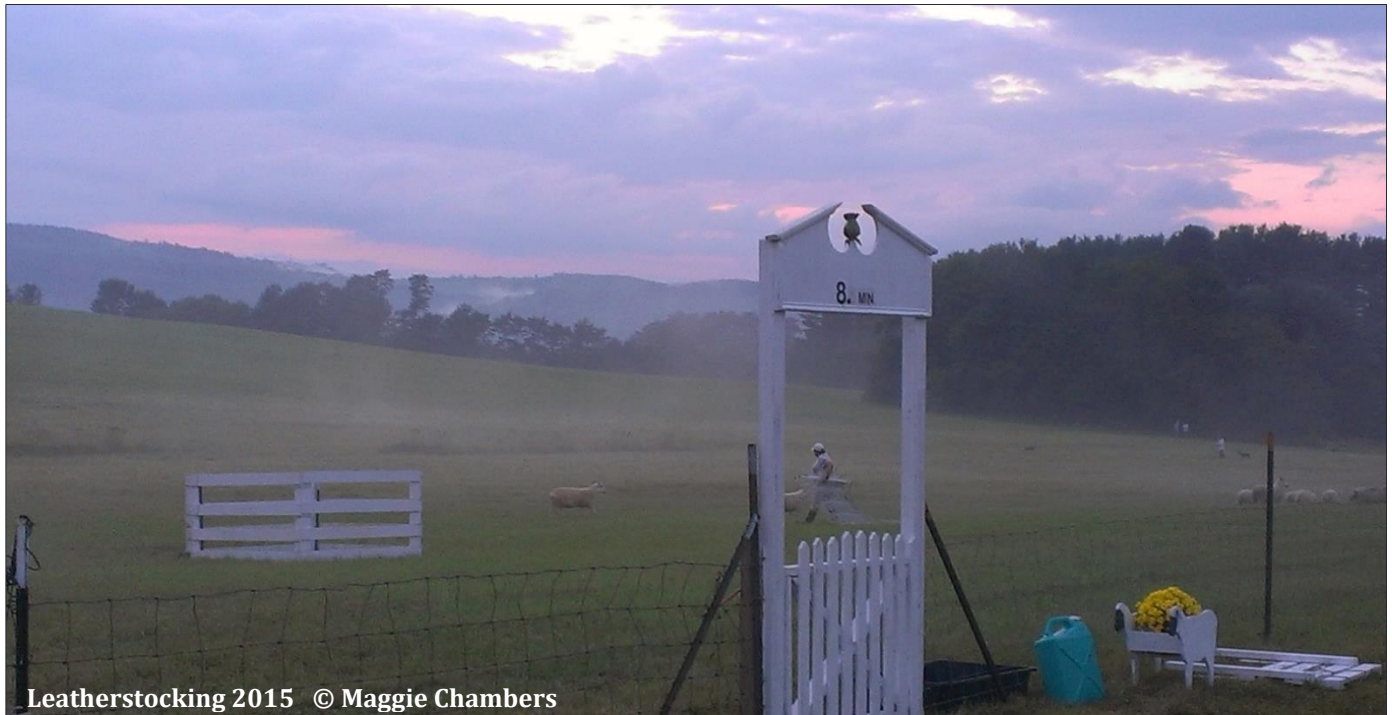
The Northeast Border Collie Association is important to Cheryl as it was to her father and her husband Dick. Cheryl served as president for two separate terms and Dick served as President one term. She has always been involved in the organization on committees and sings its' praises throughout the country in her travels. She helped originate the novice program and helped setup the bylaws. She has been on the Open trials committee several times, worked on programs like the brochure to increase membership for the club. Walt and Dick have also worked on the Open trials committee and been very active in all aspects of the trials and the Fall Foliage Championship.

HISTORY OF LEATHERSTOCKING SDT

Heather Millen

My father, Chalmers Means, along with Barb and Bernie Armata were the original founders of the Leatherstocking SDT twenty years ago. They started trialing at about the same time in 1991 and would train together. There weren't a lot of trials around and they were encouraged to put on their own trial. (We were planning to trial as well, but he beat us to it as we were just starting career/family in NY.)

Well Dad bit right into this, looking for a site. He was recently retired (professor at State University College of NY at Oneonta) and had lots of time to devote to this. He wanted a class act, with many spectators, much like Fosterfields SDT in NJ. He really wanted the trial to be an educational venue as teaching and storytelling were an integral part of his life. Once his site was found, he spent many hours making gates, carving thistles, etc.



Leatherstocking 2015 © Maggie Chambers

The first two trials were held at Wagon Wheel Farm in Cooperstown. He continued to look for a better field and driving around, found the current location. The site is owned by the Clark Foundation who owns plenty of land in the Cooperstown area, along with the Farmers Museum. They embraced the idea of a trial and have been supportive all these years.

We should thank the Armatas for keeping this trial going for so long. Since Dad got out, they've pulled this off year after year despite living an hour away. The committee has changed over the years but they've stuck with it. And we are all thankful for the new management going forward. It would be a shame to lose this beautiful field!



TRIAL RESULTS



Barb Leverett's Bob at Merck © Kate Collins

LEATHERSTOCKING AUG 14-16

NOVICE/NOVICE - 5 dogs

1	Warner, Wendy	Tessa	57
2	Wasielewski, Mary	Bryce	54
3	Shattuck, Pam	Cooper	49
4	Bigourdan, Jean-Louis	Skye	37

Long Road Award: Pam/Cooper

PRO/NOVICE - 26 dogs

1	Reiter, Sara	Chet	66
2	Smart, Bruce	Moss	63
3	Bigourdan, Jean-Louis	Kelso	63
4	Walke, Martha	Jude	60
5	Hartz, Rebecca	Kenna	58
6	Lippolis, Kim	Deke	56
7	Collins, Kate	Tux	53
8	Baker, Kim	Posh	47
9	Leverett, Barb	Roxy	45
10	Chute, Peggy	Olive	45

Long Road Award: Jean-Louis/Kelso

RANCH - 18 dogs

1	Drummond, Rob	Joe	70
2	Chambers, Maggie	Mose	66

3	Duffy, Mary Ann	Jet	64
4	Davies, Pam	Patch	63
5	Lippolis, Kim	Becky	59
6	Baker, Kim	Gibbs	45
7	Lockwood, Sandy	Joy	42
8	Murphy, Jim	Hemp	33
9	Redick, Rosemary	Kensa	31
10	Mueller, Pam	Fly	30

Long Road Award: Maggie/Mose

OPEN/SATURDAY - 73 dogs

1	Lambert, Bev	Nan	87
2	Wetmore, Steve	Floss	86
3	Lambert, Bev	Joe	84
4	Cunningham, Lori	Matt	83
5	Mick, Warren	Eddie	81
6	Mick, Maria	Bodie	81
7	Armata, Barb	Meg	78
8	Polites, Michael	Taff	78
9	Leverett, Barb	Bess	76
10	Leonard, Denise	Maggie	76
11	Hurt, Charlie	Josie	75
12	Drummond, Rob	Casey	74
13	Baker, Kim	Gibbs	74

14	Levinson, Barb	Bob	74
15	Mick, Maria	Nick	73

OPEN/SUNDAY - 66 dogs

1	Leonard, Denise	Emmie	90
2	Armata, Barb	Meg	86
3	Leonard, Denise	Maggie	86
4	Lambert, Bev	Nan	85
5	Polites, Michael	Taff	84
6	Wetmore, Steve	Stu	83
7	Lambert, Bev	Joe	83
8	Leverett, Barb	Bess	82
9	Sheninger, Gene	Ket	81
10	Cunningham, Lori	Matt	79
11	Sheninger, Gene	Nick	79
12	Cunningham, Lori	Gideon	78
13	Wetmore, Steve	Floss	77

Champion: Bev/Nan

Reserve Champion: Bev/Joe

Overall Long Road: Bev/Joe

VT CHAMPIONSHIP SDT AUG 22

Round 1 - 40 dogs

- Dave Young & Pic
- Denise Leonard & Emmie
- Stephen Wetmore & Gile
- Dave Young & Bess
- Maria Amodei & Marcus
- Denise Leonard & Maggie
- Mike Nunan & Cap

- Stephen Wetmore & Floss
- Martha Walke & Cy
- Peter VanDeCar & Leif

Combined R1/R2 - 10 dogs

- Dave Young & Bess
- Denise Leonard & Emmie
- Mike Nunan & Cap

- Peter VanDeCar & Leif
- Denise Leonard & Maggie
- Dave Young & Pic
- Martha Walke & Cy
- Stephen Wetmore & Gile
- Maria Amodei & Marcus
- Stephen Wetmore & Floss



NEBCA News



LONG SHOT FARM BENEFIT TRIAL AUG 29

Saturday Open - 22 dogs											
1	Sherry Sheldon	Chick	80	4	Sandy Hornung	Allie	57	8	Sandy Meilahn	Troy	50
2	Nancy Obernier	Nell	74	5	Pam Helton	Lisa	55	9	Pam Helton	Ellie	42
3	Nancy Simmons	Fly	67	6	Heather Nadelman	Bo	54	10	Eileen Strin	Jib	36
				7	Sandy Meilahn	Pete	52				

TANSTAAFL FARM SDT AUG 29-30

Saturday Novice - 16 dogs											
1	Mary Wasielewski	Bryce	71	3	Martha Walke	Jude	52	6	Wendy Warner	Tessa	61
2	Pamela Shattuck	Cooper	71	4	Beth Murray	Pi	50	7	Sheila Crepeau	Zain	59
3	Glenn Kopp	Bryn	68	5	Pam Hunt	Torrie	45	8	Ellen Fowler	Sweep	53
4	Barbara Eriksson	Doz	68	6	Glenn Kopp	Susie	45	9	Sharon Wirant	Zesty	50
5	Ellen Fowler	Sweep	63	7	Elayne Holbrook	Glenn	36	10	Betty Belliveau	Ava	41
6	Karen Gorman	Nash	53	8	Bill Black	Peig	28				
7	Betty Belliveau	Ava	49	Sunday Novice - 15 dogs				Sunday Pronovice - 7 dogs			
8	Sharon Wirant	Zesty	45	1	Barbara Eriksson	Doz	72	1	Beth Murray	Pi	65
				2	Karen Gorman	Nash	71	2	Ellen Fowler	Celt	64
				3	Mary Wasielewski	Bryce	67	3	Martha Walke	Jude	63
				4	Pamela Shattuck	Cooper	66	4	Glenn Kopp	Susie	56
				5	Glenn Kopp	Bryn	65	5	Bill Black	Peig	45
Saturday Pronovice - 9 dogs											
1	Ellen Fowler	Celt	72								
2	Deb Duarte	Jillie	60								

LANCASTER FAIR SEP 3

Mary Ames

Lancaster Fair Open Points Trial, Trial Managers: Bud & Mary Ames, Judge: Carroll Goodwin

The day started foggy and cool and quickly went to warm and sultry. The trial was held in the horse show ring. The course was a figure eight with 9 obstacles and 3 sheep. Runs began with a wear to the post where time started then ended at the pen. Some groups of sheep were a challenge for the dogs. Just as Fiona and Fen began their run an intense thunderstorm hit the fairgrounds. Everyone ran for cover from the hard hitting horizontal rain and lightning. Runs resumed after the storm passed. Handlers were soaked to the skin and there were deep puddles everywhere. The top 10 handlers ran again after a lunch break for Awards. Fiona and Mirk had two perfect runs!

Thanks go to Lynn for announcing, Carroll and Polly for judging and scribing, Carlene and Bud for working the setout and exhaust, Roger for providing the course, and Lancaster Fair for providing a venue for the trial.

NEBCA Results 27 Point Course - 21 dogs

		Pts	Time
1	Lynn Deschambeault & Flo	27	2:14
2	Fiona Robertson & Mirk	27	2:16
3	Lynn Deschambeault & Dru	27	2:57
4	Roger Deschambeault & Trim	24	2:50
5	Rich Seaman & Roo	24	3:27
6	Fiona Robertson & Fen	24	3:43
7	Sally Butler & Sky	24	3:55
8	Fiona Robertson & Tap		
9	Dave Young & Pic	20	2:11
10	Rich Seaman & Star	19	2:48

Top 10 Combined Scores for Awards

		Pts	Time
1	Fiona Robertson & Mirk	54	5:16
2	Fiona Robertson & Fen	51	6:47
3	Rich Seaman & Roo	51	6:56
4	Roger Deschambeault & Trim	48	6:06
5	Sally Butler & Sky	47	7:06
6	Rich Seaman & Star	46	4:34
7	Lynn Deschambeault & Dru	46	6:55
8	Dave Young & Pic	44	4:27
9	Lynn Deschambeault & Flo	42	5:48
10	Dave Young & Bess	36	4:20



NEBCA NOVICE FINALS SEP 5-6

Pam Davies

Sixty two dogs and fifty handlers from the Northeast US and Canada convened on a perfect Labor Day weekend in Fabius, NY at therapeutically pastoral Thistle Dew farm, home of Brian and MaryAnn Duffy who generously opened their farm to the 2015 Novice Finals. Light fog cooled each morning but cleared for the hot days that were somewhat mitigated by a light breeze. The trial ran efficiently and seemingly effortlessly due to the tireless behind the scenes work from the trial committee and all those that volunteered (or were volunteered) to help. Barb Levinson, Barb Leverett and MaryAnn Duffy smoothly brought out and settled packets of sheep throughout the hot long days, providing consistent set out which allowed each team to have the opportunity to have three runs each class - a total of an 186 runs packed into two days.

The sheep, a mix of woolies provided by Barb Leverett and MaryAnn Duffy, were honest and savvy. If you treated them as nicely, they treated you to a well deserved high scoring run. Some runs ended quickly as the sheep took advantage of an error by the dog, or handler, and decided to make a break for one of the two competing pressures: back up to the hill to their co-conspirators waiting in the shade or down the hill for those in the exhaust...

and the shade. . Dogs sent on the away had to slightly ascend the rolling green hill to come in deep enough behind the sheep to avoid a rather quick trip to the exhaust. Those sent on the come-bye had to find their elusive sweet spot lest their sheep break one way or the other. A suitable challenge for a novice finals!

Under the handlers' tent was THE place to be if you wanted shade (and the

delicious handlers dinner, expertly prepared by Brian Duffy). It was a convivial and supportive group of handlers and a few spectators who dropped by: collective groans for just missed panels and pens, whoops and high fives for those who reached a personal best. The few quiet moments came as scores from ever cheerful and helpful judge, Joyce Geier, were tallied and written up by the indefatigable Rose Reddick.

A sun filled, convivial, and enduring memory to warm all the novice handlers through the coming winter months!



Victoria Lamont's Pepper at the Novice Finals © Kate Collins

Novice-Novice

Champion & Long Road-Glenn Kopp-Bryn
Reserve- Debbie West-Ffizz
3- Karen Gorman-Nash
4-Julia Anderson-Sweep
5-Pat Cameron-Rook
6-Barbara Eriksson-Dozen
7-Sharon Gilligan-Sully
8-Diane Thompson-Zeke
9-Sharon Gilligan-Robbie
10- Wendy Warner-Tessa

Pro-Novice

Champion- Kim Lippolis-Deke
Reserve, Long Road and Alex McKinven
Award-Ian Robinson-Eve
3-Pam Davies-Dilys
4-Brenda Buja-Josie
5-Victoria Lamont-Ellie
6-Sara Reiter-Chet
7-Brenda Buja-River
8-Carol Bradford-Dash
9-Roger Millen-Jessie
10- Elayne Holbrook-Glenn

Ranch

Champion and Long Road- Maggie
Chambers-Mose
Reserve-Linda Clark-Lynn
3- Pam Hunt-Styx
4-Tara Dier-Kelly
5-Pam Mueller-Fly
6-Pam Davies-Patch
7-Victoria Lamont-Diz
8-Sandy Lockwood-Joy
9-Kim Lippolis-Becky
10-Mary Ann Duffy-Jet

"Because of the dog's joyfulness, our own is increased. It is no small gift." ~Mary Oliver, *Dog Songs*



BLUE HILL FAIR SEP 5-6

Lynn Deschambeault

There are 2 trials at the Blue Hill Fair, the first on Saturday in the horse show ring is called the Blue Hill Fair Trial and the second is the North East US Sheepdog trial. The sheepdog trials have been THE event at this fair for almost 60 years. Tell anyone in town you are there competing in the trial and you are an instant celebrity! They LOVE the sheepdogs. For years George Gould brought his flock of Dorsets to the trial. When he retired Roger Deschambeault began bringing his flock of Horned Dorsets and supplied sheep for years. Last year the wonderful team of Jim and May Davidson retired as the trial managers. They had started the trial and managed it for all these years. They saw many changes and kept the trial moving forward. They asked me if I would consider running the trial, I said of course! They have the best crew at Blue Hill. They know what to do and when to do it.

Last year Roger said it was his last year bringing sheep. GREAT! What to do about sheep? There aren't that many big flocks of sheep in Maine, or dog broke sheep anyway with an owner who can truck them to Blue Hill which is near Bar Harbor. As luck would have it one of the handlers that comes to the trial lives in Bucks Harbor north of Blue Hill and he has a LOT of sheep, sheep everywhere, at his farm and off the coast on islands scattered about. He offered to supply sheep! Wonderful! I asked if these would be the island sheep which tend to be a bit wild as they are not handled much and he said no they would be the sheep that are at his farm, good! I checked with him off and on throughout the year and all was well, sheep being worked and, yes, he was still bringing them.

Saturday dawned a gorgeous day. The Blue Hill crew came to set the course up, handlers had been arriving since Friday so most were there. I was still waiting for my sheep to arrive..... Finally here comes the Cravens with the new sheep for the Blue Hill Fair! An absolutely gorgeous commercial flock of Border Cheviot ewes who were fit and up to the challenge! The ewes were set out and the TRIAL was on! Wow, they didn't read the memo that I sent saying how nice the previous 50+ years of sheep had been to the dogs. These sheep were tough, taking measure of each dog and challenging most of the dogs. Most would stand nose to nose with the dogs testing their mettle, sometimes the sheep won, the dogs not being accustomed to such bold sheep. Most times the dogs won being allowed a workman like grip by our judge.

On Sunday the sheep were much better having gotten used to the routine. The grandstand was full for the trial. The crew set up jersey barriers along the grandstand and along the chain link fence, all looked secure, just a few spots that were sketchy, we were good to go! The trial started out well, sheep for the most part cooperating, then a sheep discovered one of the spots with no barrier and shoved her head under the fence and forced her way out of the field.



© Katherine Mercier Rob and the Renegade © Katherine Mercier



Blue Hill Fair continued

And off she went with Dave Craven and Tim Molinero in hot pursuit....through the infield of the track and she kept going through the outer parking area with cars pouring into the grounds. DAMN! Well I am also the announcer so the show must go on! We continued then finally I see Dave is back so I go over and YES, they had caught the sheep and she was back in the trailer. PHEW! All is going well and suddenly another ewe spots the bulge in the fence where the previous escapee forced her way out. Unfortunately for her Rob Drummond was on the other side of the fence. He tackled her and my sheep set out crew Richard Merrill carried her to the gate and the show went on!

The crowd loved the new sheep and the challenge they provided. The handlers I hope also enjoyed the weekend. I, for one, was happy we ended the weekend with all the sheep we started with and treated myself to a nice lobster roll and a container of crab meat to take home.

Blue Hill Fair (Sat) - 32 dogs								
1	Tim Molinero & Finn		11	Rich Seaman & Star		6	Steve Wetmore & Stu	
2	Sallie Butler & Skye		12	Tim Molinero & Brecken		7	Gabe Merrill & Tess	
3	Nancy Phillips & Susie		13	Lynn Deschambeault & Dru		8	Dave Young & Pic	
4	Roger Deschambeault & Bob		14	Dave Young & Pic		9	Dave Young & Jack	
5	Rob Drummond & Joe		15	Lynn Deschambeault & Mij		10	Lynn Deschambeault & Flo	
6	Steve Wetmore & Floss		NE US Sheepdog Trial (Sun)			11	Roger Deschambeault & Trim	
7	Roger Deschambeault & Trim		1	Rob Drummond & Sammy		12	Rich Seaman & Roo	
8	Gabe Merrill & Tess		2	Rob Drummond & Casey		13	Roger Deschambeault & Bob	
9	David Craven & Gwen		3	Tom Leigh & Asia		14	Nancy Phillips & Susie	
10	Rich Seaman & Roo		4	Lynn Deschambeault & Dru		15	Nancy Phillips & Dot	
			5	David Craven & Gwen				

PIPEDREAM FARM SDT SEP 18-20

Ranch (21 dogs)				Open 1 (52 dogs)				Open 2 (52 dogs)			
1	Doug Brewer	Ben 1	81	1	Peggy Wilkinson	Liz	91	1	Renee Billadeau	B.J.	98
2	Linda Tesdahl	Royce	78	2	Roger Millen	Rock	90	2	Mark Billadeau	Nell	98
3	Mark Billadeau	Eve	77	3	Mark Billadeau	Nell	89	3	Carla King	Shawn	96
4	Sam Furman	Max	76	4	Charlie Hurt	Josey	84	4	Linda Tesdahl	Glyn	95
5	Victoria Wilcox	Jake	70	5	Linda Tesdahl	Glyn	84	5	Heather Millen	Scout	95
6	Nancy Patriarco	Peg	69	6	Mark Billadeau	Peg	82	6	Maria Mick	Nick	93
7	Maggie Chambers	Mose	61	7	Renee Billadeau	Bette	82	7	Michael Polites	Taff	93
8	Emily Falk	Lena	55	8	Linda Tesdah	Gus	81	8	Renee Billadeau	Bette	92
9	Scott Lechlitter	Imp. Rob	53	9	Chris Bowen	Bella	81	9	Linda Tesdahl	Juno	92
10	Peter Hall	Deke	51	10	Carla King	Floss	75	10	Peggy Wilkinson	Liz	91
				11	Renee Billadeau	B.J.	75	11	Mark Billadeau	Peg	88
Pro-Novice (13 dogs)				<p>You can never rely on a horse that is educated by fear. There will always be something that he fears more than you. But, when he trusts you, he will ask you what to do when he is afraid.</p> <p><i>Antoine de Pluvinel 1555-1620</i></p>							
1	Sharon Nunan	Rock	65								
2	Lauren Seabolt	Bonny	54								
3	Ilene Caroom	Ffan	46								
4	Todd Layfield	Tim	46								
5	Ann Lincoln	Meg	45								

NH HIGHLAND GAMES SEP 18

36 dogs								
1	Steve Wetmore & Floss		4	Dave Young & Pic		9	Martha Walke & Cy	
2	Steve Wetmore & Stu		5	Dave Young & Bess		10	Roger Deschambeault & Roy	
3	Sallie Butler & Skye		6	Pam Davies & Jet			(Gabe Merrill's Roy)	
			7	Mike Nunan & Kip				
			8	Mike Nunan & Cap				



NEBCA News



INDIAN RIVER SDT SEP 26-29

Open 1 (62 dogs)				7	Marianna Schreeder	Shep	62	3	Victoria Lamont	Ellie	73	66
1	John Palmer	Spec	92	8	Pam Gardner	Kena	62	4	Jim Valley	Charlotte	66	62
2	Lorna Savage	Kaylee	85	9	Mary Thompson	Jake	60	5	Victoria Lamont	Pepper	66	60
3	Viki Kidd	Macy	85	10	Cathie Vodden	Rose	58	6	Lynn Johnston	Finn	65	58
4	Mark Billadeau	Nell	84	Ranch 3 (17 dogs)				7	John Palmer	Dutch	63	58
5	Carol Guy	Will	83	1	Marianna Schreeder	Amy	78	8	Roger Millen	Jessie	62	55
6	Marianna Schreeder	Lass	82	2	Cathie Vodden	Rose	78	9	Marie Sawford	Jill	61	54
7	Marianna Schreeder	Nel	81	3	Jim Valley	Twix	76	10	Dick Williams	Ray	59	55
8	Jim Valley	Dot	80	4	Kathy Farkos	Win	73	Pro-Novice 2 (30 dogs)				NEBCA
9	Werner Reitboeck	Roy	80	5	Mary Thompson	Mia	68	1	Mary Thompson	Teagan	89	79
10	Helen Dunning	Cap	78	6	Pam Gardner	Kena	64	2	Werner Reitboeck	Molly	81	73
11	Renee Billadeau	Bette	76	7	Mary Thompson	Jake	63	3	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	77	70
12	Kevan Gretton	Clint	76	8	Willy Southard	Taz	63	4	Chris Knowlton	Spot	71	65
13	Dick Williams	Dave	75	9	Marianna Schreeder	Shep	60	5	Kathy Farkos	Halle	66	59
Open 2 (61 dogs)				10	John Palmer	Dave	58	6	Kelly Knowlton	Bryn	64	57
1	Tracy Hinton	Soot	87	Ranch 4 (14 dogs)				7	Victoria Lamont	Pepper	62	56
2	Mike Schragel	Zak	85	1	Marianna Schreeder	Amy	82	8	John Palmer	Dutch	58	52
3	John Palmer	Spec	83	2	Mark Billadeau	Eve	80	9	Nancy Liptak	Ben	57	52
4	Helen Dunning	Cap	81	3	John Palmer	Dave	79	10	Marie Sawford	Jill	56	52
5	Kevan Gretton	Clint	80	4	Jim Valley	Twix	77	Pro-Nov 3 (20 dogs)				NEBCA
6	Dave Young	Bess	80	5	Mary Thompson	Mia	77	1	Mary Thompson	Teagan	78	71
7	Viki Kidd	Macy	79	6	Mary Thompson	Jake	76	2	Jim Valley	Charlotte	77	70
8	Paul Tucker	Reb	78	7	Cathie Vodden	Roo	76	3	Eleanor Peavey	Emmy	76	69
9	Dave Young	Pic	78	8	Marianna Schreeder	Shep	71	4	Roger Millen	Jessie	74	66
10	John Palmer	Preacher	77	9	Cathie Vodden	Rose	71	5	Tracy Hinton	Lad	71	63
11	Jim Valley	Dot	76	10	Peter Hall	Deke	70	6	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	70	63
12	Wendy Villarreal	Hannah	76	Novice 1 (4 dogs)				7	John Palmer	Dutch	67	63
13	Renee Billadeau	Bette	75	1	Chad Marquis	Apex	55	8	Kathy Farkos	Halle	65	61
Ranch 1 (17 dogs)				2	Stacey Rember	Shep	36	9	Ann Lincoln	Meg	63	59
1	Mark Billadeau	Eve	78	3	Lene Band	Penny	8	10	Cathie Vodden	Finn	61	57
2	Cathie Vodden	Roo	75	Novice 2 (4 dogs)				Pro-Nov 4 (19 dogs)				NEBCA
3	Marianna Schreeder	Amy	74	1	Kristen Bryant	Bea	41	1	Jim Valley	Charlotte	79	72
4	Jim Valley	Twix	71	Novice 3 (5 dogs)				2	Mary Thompson	Teagan	77	70
5	Marianna Schreeder	Shep	69	1	Kristen Bryant	Bea	71	3	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	70	66
6	Victoria Lamont	Diz	62	2	Stacey Rember	Shep	62	4	Kathy Farkos	Halle	67	60
7	John Palmer	Dave	60	3	Chad Marquis	Apex	56	5	Cathie Vodden	Finn	66	62
8	Mary Thompson	Jake	60	4	Lene Band	Penny	56	6	Eleanor Peavey	Emmy	58	51
9	Kathy Farkos	Win	59	Novice 4 (5 dogs)				7	Lene Band	Gypsy	57	53
10	Mary Thompson	Mia	52	1	Kristen Bryant	Bea	74	8	Tracy Hinton	Lad	51	42
Ranch 2 (17 dogs)				2	Chad Marquis	Apex	67	9	Marie Sawford	Jill	47	47
1	Marianna Schreeder	Amy	72	3	Stacey Rember	Shep	61	10	John Palmer	Dutch	45	45
2	Mark Billadeau	Eve	65	4	Lene Band	Penny	51	Pro-Novice 1 (29 dogs)				NEBCA
3	Jim Valley	Twix	65					1	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	80	72
4	Cathie Vodden	Roo	64					2	Tracy Hinton	Lad	78	69
5	Pam Gardner	Rowan	64									
6	Mary Thompson	Mia	63									



NEBCA News



EASTERN STATES SDT SEP 28

Trial 1 (35 dogs)			Pts	Time	Trial 2 (35 dogs)			Pts	Time
1	Gene Sheninger	Sweet	24	2:08	1	Warren Mick	Eddie	24	1:49
2	Stephen Wetmore	Floss	24	2:21	2	Stephen Wetmore	Floss	24	2:01
3	Julie Williams	Joe	24	2:25	3	Stephen Wetmore	Gile	24	2:09
4	Maria Amodei	Marcus	24	2:27	4	Lynn Deschambeault	Flo	24	2:16
5	Richard Seaman	Star	23	1:43	5	Richard Seaman	Star	24	2:27
6	Maria Amodei	Levi	23	1:55	6	Peter Van De Car	Bear	24	2:30
7	Lynn Deschambeault	Dru	23	3:04	7	Sallie Butler	Sky	24	2:46
8	Warren Mick	Eddie	22	2:17	8	Pam Davies	Dilys	24	2:53
9	Maria Amodei	Song	22	2:29	9	Maria Mick	Kit	23	1:43
10	Sallie Butler	Sky	21	1:43	10	Gene Sheninger	Nick	23	2:12

SHEPHERD'S CROOK OCT 1-4

Thursday Open (63 dogs)			6	Dave Young	Pic	85	2	Chad Marquis	Apex	46				
1	Amanda Milliken	Monty	91	7	Denise Leonard	Emmie	84	3	Kristin Bryant	Bea	43			
2	Amanda Milliken	Howell	90	8	Mary Thompson	Paris	82	4	Lene Band	Penny	43			
3	Bev Lambert	River	90	9	Mark Billadeau	Nell	81							
4	Viki Kidd	Macy	84	10	Tracy Hinton	Soot	81	Friday Novice 2 (4 dogs)						
5	Bev Lambert	Nan	82	11	Lorna Savage	Kaylee	77	1	Stacey Rember	Shep	48			
6	Mary Thompson	Paris	82						2	Chad Marquis	Apex	47		
7	Marianna Schreeder	Lass	80	Friday Ranch 1 (19 dogs)					3	Lene Band	Penny	29		
8	John Palmer	Spec	80	1	Marianna Schreeder	Amy	74							
9	Dick Williams	Dave	79	2	Mark Billadeau	Eve	70	Friday Pro Nov 1 (26 dogs)					OBCC	NEBCA
10	Tracy Hinton	Soot	79	3	Kathy Farkos	Win	68		Amanda	Puppa	75	67		
11	Dave Young	Bess	78	4	Mary Thompson	Mia	62	1	Milliken					
12	Paul Tucker	Reb	77	5	Victoria Lamont	Diz	60	2	Victoria Lamont	Ellie	61	58		
13	Lorna Savage	Kaylee	76	6	Cathie Vodden	Rose	55	3	Mary Thompson	Teagan	56	52		
				7	Denise Leonard	Chloe	53	4	Cathie Vodden	Finn	47	47		
Saturday Open (59 dogs)				8	James Valley	Twix	52	5	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	47	46		
1	Renee Billadeau	Bette	89	9	Mary Thompson	Jake	47	6	Helen Dunning	Kate	46	40		
2	Paul Tucker	Reb	88	10	Jim Murphy	Hemp	46	7	James Valley	Charlotte	41	38		
3	Bev Lambert	River	87						8	Lene Band	Gypsy	34	34	
4	Bev Lambert	Nan	80	Friday Ranch 2 (17 dogs)					9	Tracy Hinton	Lad	33	31	
5	Andrea deKenedy	Moss	77	1	Marianna Schreeder	Amy	82	10	John Palmer	Dutch	32	32		
6	Dick Williams	Dave	77	2	James Valley	Twix	76							
7	Marianna Schreeder	Nell	76	3	Victoria Lamont	Diz	74	Friday Pro Nov 2 (25 dogs)					OBCC	NEBCA
8	Viki Kidd	Merle	75	4	Kathy Farkos	Win	72	1	Mary Thompson	Teagan	79	72		
9	Marianna Schreeder	Lass	74	5	Marianna Schreeder	Shep	63	2	Victoria Lamont	Ellie	74	67		
10	James Valley	Dot	73	6	Mary Thompson	Jake	63	3	James Valley	Charlotte	68	62		
11	Mary Thompson	Paris	73	7	Mary Thompson	Mia	61	4	Amanda Milliken	Puppa	66	59		
12	Tracy Hinton	Soot	73	8	Eleanor Peavy	Lad	56	5	Anne Wheatley	Dusk	64	55		
				9	Denise Leonard	Chloe	49	6	John Palmer	Dutch	57	48		
Sunday Open (52 dogs)				10	Cathie Vodden	Roo	47	7	Kathy Farkos	Halle	56	51		
1	John Palmer	Preacher	90						8	Dick Williams	Roy	51	45	
2	Marianna Schreeder	Nell	89						9	Tracy Hinton	Lad	50	43	
3	Bev Lambert	Nan	89	Friday Novice 1 (4 dogs)					10	Eleanor Peavy	Emmy	47	47	
4	Viki Kidd	Macy	87	1	Stacey Rember	Shep	48							
5	Bev Lambert	River	86											



NEBCA News



WOOLLY WINDS SDT OCT 3-4

Saturday Novice			
1	Jamie More	Kestral	58
2	Ellen Fowler	Sweep	49
3	Bridget Griffin	Chelsea	47
4	Deb Sherman	Nellie	28
Saturday Pro-Novice			
1	Glenn Kopp	Brynn	68
2	Peggy Chute	Olive	64
3	Sara Reiter	Speck	62
4	Ellen Fowler	Celt	50
Saturday Ranch			
1	Sandy Lockwood	Joy	64

2	Merry Klimek	Wren	61
3	Liz Shaw	Jura	44
Sunday Novice			
1	Ellen Fowler	Sweep	59
2	Deb Duarte	Remi	53
3	Jamie More	Kestral	52
4	Deb Sherman	Nellie	30
Sunday Pro-Novice			
1	Peggy Chute	Olive	74
2	Glenn Kopp	Brynn	65
3	Rebecca Hartz	Kenna	56
4	Ellen Fowler	Celt	54

5	Clara Stites	Kip	49
6	Sara Reiter	Chet	43
7	Rebecca Hartz	Bella	42
8	Sara Reiter	Speck	62
9	Deb Durarte	Jillie	29
Sunday Ranch			
1	Merry Klimek	Wren	55
2	Sandy Lockwood	Joy	44
3	Deb Donahue	Britt	44
4	Judianne Davis-Van Nostrand	Teeca	32

FRYEBURG FAIR SDT OCT 4

Gabe Merrill

The weather was very good for the first of October. I was afraid that we would be getting the rain that had been predicated for that weekend. It cleared up and was very nice.

We had a new flock of sheep this year, a nice flock of Katahdins furnished by Roger Deschambeault.

They were a bit more lively than the Dorsets, but they worked fine. Not too many managed to

put them across the bridge. Fiona managed to get them across though very nicely. Making it look easy.

We had one sheep decide that she did not want to play anymore, going through the fence running over to the track and was captured.

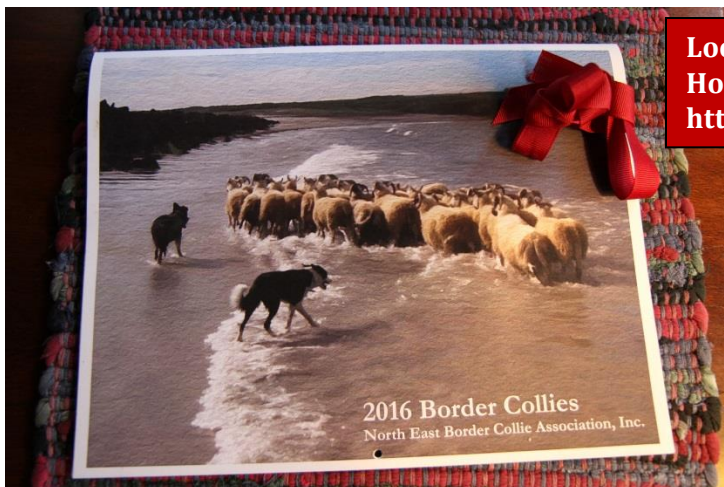
There was a large crowd all day. We ran 35 open dogs and 5 Nursery.

Nursery (5 dogs)

1. Roger Deschambeault & Jill

Open (35 dogs)

1. Fiona Robertson & Mirk
2. Rob Drummond & Casey
3. Roger Deschambeault & Nell
4. Fiona Robertson & Fen
5. Roger Deschambeault & Trim
6. Maria Amodei & Marcus
7. Steve Wetmore & Stu
8. Peter VandeCar & Leif
9. Maria Amodei & Levi
10. Martha Walke & Cy
11. Sallie Butler & Roo
12. Pam Davies & Jet
13. Lynn Deschambeault & Flo
14. Gabrielle Merrill & Tess
15. Sallie Butler & Skye



Looking for the perfect holiday gift!
How about a NEBCA calendar?
<http://www.nebca.net/calendars.html>

Tending sheep on a November evening. Early dark robs the colors and leaves only contrast. The sheep pull fresh wads of grass, squeaking and munching sounds clear in the cold air. They are only light outlines against the dark evergreens that make the horizon. A filigree of maple trees stands against the sky, like nets waiting to catch the stars. *Maria Amodei*



NEBCA News



NEBCA FALL FOLIAGE FINALS OCT 10-12

Oct 10 (58 dogs)			Oct 11 (57 dogs)			Double Lift		
1	Mich Ferraro	Mawde	1	Warren Mick	Eddie	1	Warren Mick	Eddie
2	Amanda Milliken	Monty	2	Amanda Milliken	Howell	2	Amanda Milliken	Howell
3	Roger Millen	Rock	3	Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	3	Amanda Milliken	Monty
4	Amanda Milliken	Howell	4	Maria Mick	Nick	4	Mich Ferraro	Mawde
5	Barbara Armata	Meg	5	Maria Amodei	Levi	5	Michael Polites	Taff
6	Jim Murphy	Jim	6	Barbara Leverett	Bess	6	Maria Amodei	Song
7	Denise Leonard	Maggie	7	Michael Polites	Taff	7	Barbara Leverett	Bess
8	Michael Polites	Taff	8	Heather Millen	Scout	8	Maria Amodei	Levi
9	Maria Amodei	Levi	9	Steve Wetmore	Gile	9	Barbara Armata	Meg
10	Steve Wetmore	Gile	10	Roger Millen	Rock	10	Steve Wetmore	Gile
11	Maria Amodei	Song	11	Cheryl Jagger-Williams	Fleet	11	Maria Mick	Nick
12	Warren Mick	Eddie				12	Jim Murphy	Jim
						13	Nancy Ortiz-Sharp	Mirk
						14	Roger Millen	Rock
						15	Denise Leonard	Maggie



Fall Foliage Champion: Warren Mick and Eddie

Fall Foliage Reserve Champion: Amanda Milliken and Howell

Don't miss your 2016 NEBCA Calendar! You can purchase it on the NEBCA website.

<http://www.nebca.net/calendars.html>



NEBCA News



MILFERNS SDT 25 OCT

Novice 1 (7 dogs)

1	Rachel Hamilton	Grendl	60
2	Francois LeBlanc	Joy	58
3	Rachel Hamilton	Ares	42
4	Patrick Gosselin	Max	30

Novice 2 (7 dogs)

1	Jerry Hamilton	Beowulf	69
2	Francois LeBlanc	Joy	61
3	Julia Anderson	Sweep	56
4	Rachel Hamilton	Grendl	45

Pro Novice 1 (12 dogs)

1	Brenda Buja	Josie	63
2	Brenda Buja	Gabe	60

3	Brenda Buja	River	57
4	Deb Maillet	Typhoon	53
5	Fred Hamilton	Cash	53
6	Hilary Flower	Tan	51
7	Alexa Jaffurs	Jen	48
8	Fred Hamilton	Cap	47
9	Paula Reardon	Orka	43

Pro Novice 2 (9 dogs)

1	Fred Hamilton	Cash	73
2	Paula Reardon	Faith	66
3	Hilary Flower	Tan	62
4	JP Maillet	Hurricane	61
5	Paula Reardon	Jock	50

6	Brenda Buja	Gabe	42
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Ranch 1 (5 dogs)

1	Brenda Buja	Josie	74
2	Hilary Flower	Floss	69
3	Fred Hamilton	Georgie	56
4	Brenda Buja	River	51

Ranch 1 (5 dogs)

1	Brenda Buja	Josie	77
2	Fred Hamilton	Taff	75
3	Fred Hamilton	Georgie	73
4	Hilary Flower	Floss	64
5	Brenda Buja	River	60

LONG SHOT SDT OCT 30 -NOV 1

Open 1 (30 dogs)

1	Fiona Robertson	Mirk	78
2	Nancy Sharp	Mercury	77
3	Fiona Robertson	Fen	74
4	Dave Sharp	Cymro	73
5	Denise Leonard	Maggie	73
6	Julie Poudrier	Lark	72
7	Nancy Obernier	Nell	70
8	Barbara Levinson	Bob	68
9	Sharon Nunan	Will	67
10	Denise Leonard	Emmie	67

Open 2 (33 dogs)

1	Julie Poudrier	Lark	93
2	Nancy Starkey	Rye	84
3	Walt Zeiser	Rose	84
4	Nancy Obernier	Jim	82
5	Walt Zeiser	Dot	81

6	Nancy Obernier	Nell	81
7	Denise Leonard	Emmie	80
8	Doug Brewer	Ben	80
9	Morgan Dawkins	Jack	79
10	Nancy Sharp	Mercury	76

Ranch 1 (11 dogs)

1	Nancy Obernier	Jim	57
2	Rosemary Redick	Ross	52
3	Rosemary Redick	Kensa	50

Ranch 2 (13 dogs)

1	Morgan Dawkins	Gilly	68
2	Doug Brewer	Ben I	64
3	Pam Helton	June	42
4	Morgan Dawkins	Jack	41
5	Peggy Simpson	Boone	40

Pro Novice 1 (13 Dogs)

1	Nancy Starkey	Nan	69
2	Nancy Obernier	Lisa	69
3	Barbara Kuckenberg	Aero	62
4	Sharon Gilligan	Sully	61
5	Mark Soper	Gyp	59
6	Pam Gardner	Dell	56
7	Ilene Caroom.	Ffan	52
8	Judy Gambill	Finn	50
9	Don Desarius	Panda	50

Pro Novice 2 (11 dogs)

1	Nancy Starkey	Nan	65
2	Ilene Caroom	Ffan	56
3	Nancy Obernier	Liz	54
4	Todd Layfield	Tim	47
5	Pam Gardner	Dell	44
6	Sharon Nunan	Rick	28

BUTTERNUT CREEK SDT OCT 31-NOV 1

October 31 (39 dogs)

1	Bev Lambert	Nan	93
2	Amanda Milliken	Dorey	91
3	Mary Lou Campbell	Dyna	90
4	Bev Lambert	Joe	89
5	Amanda Milliken	Monty	88
6	Amanda Milliken	Howell	87
7	John Palmer	Spec	86

8	Werner Reitboeck	Roy	86
9	Sue Schoen	Peat	85
10	Barbara Ray	Maverick	83

November 1 (36 dogs)

1	Amanda Milliken	Howell	97
2	Mary Lou Campbell	Dyna	94
3	Bev Lambert	Joe	92
4	Kathy Keats	Craig	90

5	Mary Thompson	Beauty	89
6	Bev Lambert	Nan	89
7	Mary Thompson	Paris	89
8	Amanda Milliken	Dorey	89
9	Sue Schoen	Peat	88
10	Sally Molloy	Sid	87



MINUTES

NEBCA Membership Meeting - Leatherstocking Trial, Cooperstown, NY, August 15, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:18PM. 32 members present.

1. Minutes from the Cummington meeting were read.
Moved and seconded to accept them. Approved.

2. Executive Committee Reports

A. Secretary's Report - Martha Walke

There were 14 new members this summer, most opting for the paper Newsletter. Our totals are: 6 life memberships; 61 family memberships; 191 individual memberships - for a total of 258 memberships.

B. Treasurer's Report \$28,249.58 in accounts. - Denise Leonard

Chris Bowen thanked Denise for taking over this position.

Our income is better than our expenditures., but our total is just sufficient!

Treasurer's report accepted.

Ongoing discussion of how to get new members.

3. BOD - Nothing to report.

4. Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Trials Committee Report - Sue Schoen

Mich Ferraro is the new chair (as Denise became our treasurer). The venue for the Fall Foliage is the Old Chatham Shepherding Co., Chatham, NY. This site is conducive for the double lift. The judge will be Dee Penatzer from NC. A new flock of 120 will be used. NEBCA qualified handlers will be able to run in the double lift.

B. Novice Trials Committee - Pam Davies

At this date there are 42 paper entries for the trial which takes place Sept. 5 & 6. There will be 50/55 runs each day which will allow for 3 runs per dog per class. They are on budget due to the donation of site (Thistle Dew Farm, Fabius, NY) and sheep by Mary Ann Duffy and Barbara Leverett. The judge, Joyce Geier, is also donating her time.

C. Learning Trials Committee - Wendy Warner (read by Chris Bowen)

Many handlers had learning opportunities at trials during the year. There is one more learning trial this year at Denise Leonard's farm. Nothing, as yet, has been set up for mentoring at the Novice Finals. Handler progress and learning clinic benefits are evidenced by improved scores and course management. The committee will continue to provide opportunities for handlers to grow and improve. The committee is open to new ideas and suggestions.

5. Newsletter Report - Chris Bowen for Maria Amodei

The print version of the Fall issue will be available the end of August. The electronic version is available now, thanks to Joanne Murphy. Maria will stay on as editor for another year and Martha Walke will mail the paper version to members.

6. Select Committee Reports

A. Merchandise Committee - Betsy Drummond

The members of this newly formed committee are Betsy Drummond, Joanne Krause, Barbara Eriksson and Kim Lippolis. The committee's objectives are: 1) to solicit/select the design(s) for future merchandise; 2) select the merchandise; 3) order and inventory; 4) set the pricing; 5) determine which trials to vend at; and 6) coordinate the transportation of goods as well as coordinate the volunteers willing to help man the booth/sell at selected trials. Volunteers are critical to the success of the merchandise sales. Handlers who are willing to stand behind the the table at trials for reasonable periods of time will be necessary in order to keep the effort viable. In the near future the committee will be discussing how to cope with on-line sales (if at all).

B. Calendar Committee - George Northrop

2016 calendars are available. Buy yours! George will send calendars, upon request, to any venues.

C. Library Report - Martha Walke: Nothing to report.

D. Membership Committee - Warren Mick: Nothing to report.

7. New Business

A. A nominating committee needs to be formed to solicit for 2 BOD positions.

B. The 28 years of the Leatherstocking Sheepdog Trials, the vision of Chalmer Means, and Bernie and Barbara Armata for their continuous diligence in running the trial were recognized.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, January 16, 2016 (weather permitting) at a site to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Walke, Secretary



WINTER WORK

Winter, whether you love it or hate it the cold months disrupt training. But you and your dogs don't need to sit in the house going slowly insane. Here are some activities you can do to keep fit, entertained, and improve your communication with your dogs.

Barbara Leverett

I have been asked to share my experiences on giving my dogs winter exercise. Most winters I have 5-7 dogs to keep sane through 4 months of poor footing to shoulder deep snow. By keeping the dogs sane I mean eliminating herding of each other or body slamming, each of which can cause injuries when the footing is poor. For several years I put up a round pen in my large pole barn and did some indoor training. The footing was great and it was nice to be out of the wind but after about a month of this I became bored. It certainly didn't keep the dogs fit but for some of the younger dogs it was beneficial. One year we plowed a pathway for about 500 yds. This was great for driving practice but got filled in with snow after 3 days.

For probably ten years I would x-country ski with the dogs but as my pack got bigger it became more difficult to keep them from scenting and disappearing after deer. Forcing the dogs to remain behind me just caused them to walk on the back of my skis. So then I switched to skijoring. This kept the dogs in front of me hooked up to me very similar to sled dog mushing. I loved it, the dogs loved it and I went from the slowest skier in the family to the fastest. We would usually break trail for the rest of the family so everyone got more skiing in. I could use anywhere from 2-5 dogs at a time. If conditions got too icy I would go to a bike trail along a river which was totally flat. Snow quality still caused me to end the season early or have to take days off.

I did skijoring for 6 years but started finding the speed a little more challenging and my fear of falling increased after breaking some ribs doing farm chores. What I needed was brakes. I looked into back country skies that had a metal edge to them but grew concerned that the sharp edges could injure a dog if we had a pile up. Around this time Maria Amodei was starting mushing with her dogs and I saw how much fun she was having and saw that she had brakes. I figured it was now or never. Not wanting to spend much money, I got most of my equipment used and fell in love with my sled. It has two types of brakes, one can be used to slow things down and the other will stop things dead, along with a lie down command on the dogs. Getting them to slow down when needed was always the biggest challenge.

In the early winter when the snow pack wasn't deep enough around my farm, I loaded the sled and as many dogs as I can fit in my SUV and drove up to the Adirondack park and found a seasonal road to sled on. The snowmobilers would use these roads when the snow base was lacking in the forest trails. This made an excellent wide trail for me and the dogs to get started on. I would limit the dogs to a 3 mile trip for the first few weeks and then when they would show me they weren't getting tired I would add in a couple of 7 mile trips a week. Of course last winter we had plenty of snow and I found myself going out at least 5 days a week. I was able to go out well into March since the trails were the last to melt since they were well packed.

My outdoor temperature limit was that it had to be above 10 degrees. Below ten degrees and my dogs would be trying to keep their feet warm by balancing on two legs. Some days the wind would be so bad I could hardly see but once into the woods and protected areas the day would seem much warmer. I never had a day that I wish I hadn't of gone out.

No injuries to the dogs in both skijoring and sledding, since most of the time they are trotting in a straight line. No twisting or turning in deep snow as they do when they are racing around playing. My only regret is that I didn't start mushing sooner. This winter I plan on borrowing a few extra dogs just so we can go on longer trips.



Winter Work continued

Joyce Geier

Winter is what we make of it. The reality is that, after an intense competitive season that stresses both the body and mind, our dogs are ready for a bit of a break and a change of pace. They are ready to slow down a bit, to just relax into chores and real work, and let all those unnoticed minor injuries heal. And yet, we can't "drop" them out of work entirely or allow their fitness to fall off.

That, then, is the winter balance: allowing physical and mental recovery, while keeping them fit, working, and learning. The goal is to bring them back onto the trial field or into the next heavy work season fit, sound, happy, and performing better than ever.

My winter program isn't perfect, but here's what I do.

When I'm into the last few, smaller trials of the year, I run the dogs "easy". My goal is for the dog to remember trials as enjoyable partnerships – and for me to do a final catalog for areas needing improvement.

At home, the dogs go onto a "dog on duty" daily rotation, and whatever dog is "on duty" gets that day's work. (Yes, it can be quite entertaining when a youngster draws complex chores, but hey, it's great learning for them.)

Essentially, any training that is needed happens during the duty rotation, even if I have to create some work to teach a new skill or fix a problem.

I also take the dogs for chiropractic and rehab checkups; dust off the treadmill and put each dog on it two or three times a week to square up their gait and balance their muscles; and schedule any routine vet work for sometime during the winter. Some dogs have specific fitness exercises, and these are done as well.

Snow is wonderful training tool! Youngsters that have driving basics but are ready for the next steps get most of the feeding chores, where they start the winter holding sheep off of feeders, progress to driving them away from feeders, and finally pushing them through deep snow. The dog learns to push on a drive; to cover while driving (preventing break-backs to the feeder), and ultimately to feel REALLY great about pushing sheep around.

Snow is also a very large chalkboard, and I'll use a fresh snowfall to fine tune flanks and (short) outrun shapes. The pawprints show exactly what the dog did.....it's hard to remain blind to poor flanks or tops when the record is right there to see and study.

I'll also step up the dog's non-sheep hobby a bit. Every dog needs a down-time hobby (or two). My favorites are any form of scent work (keeps the mind occupied but doesn't overly stress the body), snow-shoeing (long walks in the snow keep the dogs fresh and improve fitness), and visiting anyplace that allows dogs (socialization is a great thing).

As the snow melts and the winter winds down, it's time to do the yearly physical and blood work, step up the sprinting muscles, confirm endurance, and refresh the trial handling – and then it's back on the road we go.

Maria Amodei

I think winter actually gives a nice break in training but I do like to keep the dogs fit. I'll take them out in the woods hiking as long as the footing is good. When the snow comes I run them in a dog sled. This way we all have fun and I don't find myself wanting to kill them in the house. In fact they just flop on the floor and sleep after a good sled run. My biggest challenge in winter is ice. The dog yard can get very icy and a pack of BCs still wants to play. I've found I can run the dog sled on groomed snowmobile trails and keep the dogs mellow so they are less inclined to frolic in the icy backyard.

There are training tasks that can be done in winter. Winter is good for teaching dogs to push, as deep snow makes the stock reluctant to move. The dog has plenty of opportunity to push the stock along. I keep these sessions very



Winter Work (Maria Amodei) continued

short. The sheep really don't feel like wading through the snow and the dog will learn more from a short strip of success than slogging the flock for a greater distance. In fact I've found many skills can be taught very well in super short successful sessions. Winter also means the whole flock is together in smaller enclosures. This gives opportunities for close work for any dogs that need help staying calm and sure working in close quarters. Again, short sessions. The main work that happens in winter for me is holding sheep back so I can get feed out. If I'm not in a hurry I'll use a dog that is just learning to drive. Pushing hungry sheep back certainly cements the understanding of keeping sheep away from the handler. If I am in a hurry or have to open a gate to bring in hay with a vehicle then I'll use a more experienced dog at least while the gate is still open.

Then there are the long dark winter evenings. Winter is when I go digging through my supplies to find my clicker. I teach puppies to sit or lie down. I teach older dogs to backup or some other utterly useless tricks. I teach the long coated dogs to wear booties by putting the booties on then having them do tricks for cheese. They learn to ignore the booties pretty quickly when I have cheese. The tricks themselves may have little value, but the dogs and I enjoy ourselves thoroughly. It keeps them happily engaged with me and thinking about what it is I want. A fun way to sharpen our mutual communication skills.

Barbara Levinson

Winter – love it or hate it, it poses interesting challenges if you have border collies. During the year, it's sheep work, training and trialing but once winter comes our relationship takes a different path for a few months. And that path might vary from dog to dog. For the young dogs, or dogs new to me, I enroll in classes that get us out and get us working together in a close relationship. Depending on the dog, I might start with a basic obedience class. I am not looking for an obedience star. I just want to spend some with the dog in a busy, yet controlled setting – lots of dogs, lots of people. If my dog is not particularly dexterous – doesn't quite handle himself in an agile way, a basic Agility course is an excellent chance for him to practice proprioception and taking quick verbal cues. The idea is to have fun one on one time and to enhance the bond.

A constant factor in wintering my border collies is conditioning. My plan encompasses floor exercises for stretching, strength, balance and proprioception. A land treadmill proves invaluable when snow is on the ground and its dark early. Swimming is also a fantastic way to condition. The underwater treadmill is a great option for controlled resistance training and maintaining condition. However, here in New Jersey I have another option. In central NJ there are many racehorse barns. Some are barns that rent out stalls to trainers and the facility offers amenities, one of which is an indoor heated swimming pool for the horses. The horses swim in the very early morning so they open the pool during the day to dogs. The pool is shaped like a keyhole and the skinny portion is a ramp allowing easy access. They have life vests for the dogs and long lines, as well as wash racks with warm water etc. I try to book time when there are no Labradors or any retrievers there to keep as much control over the swim as possible. There is a walk all the way around the pool so you can walk with the dog as he swims.

I spend a fair amount of time walking my dogs in downtown Morristown in the winter. Morristown is a great walking town. Numerous stores and restaurants, churches and a green in the center of town. Many people are walking dogs and of course, there is the Seeing Eye which trains dogs on the street every day. Walking downtown allows them to see and hear everyday sights and sounds-- flags waving, loud vehicles, groups of people walking toward us -- we can work through any fear; its exercise for all involved and the sidewalks are walkable as our usual walking trails are snow covered until spring. Some stores allow dogs and invite us in, and on occasion I will bring one with me to the hairdresser or the chiropractor. For dogs who spend most of their time with me working sheep, this gives them experience in other non-dog, non-working situations and ultimately provides calm balance in their everyday life here.



2015 BREEDERS DIRECTORY

Maria Amodei

North Face Farm
PO Box 43
Dunstable, MA 01827
978-649-6736
maria@northfacefarm.com
www.northfacefarm.com

Barbara and Bernie Armata

Taravale Farm
1165 Esperance Road
Esperance, NY 12066
taffaway@aol.com
<http://taravalekennel.com>

Kate Collins & George Northrop

Aurora Ranch
PO Box 119, Taft Hill Road
Royalston, MA 01368
976-249-4407
george01368@yahoo.com

Rob & Betsy Drummond

Liberty Tree Farm
200 Stowe Mountain Rd.
Hillsboro, NH 03244
603-478-0846
rob@brailsfordco.com

Mich Ferraro & Kak Weathers

235 Sharon Rd.
Millerton, NY 12546
518-592-1320
michveteq@gmail.com
weathersk@caryinstitute.org

Joyce Geier

Sand Creek Farm
P.O. Box 208
Mendon, NY 14506
585-737-5596
sandcreekfarm@mac.com

Beverly Lambert & Doug McDonough

280 Hebron Rd.
Andover, CT 06232
860-922-9531
blambert2@mac.com
<http://www.beverlylambert.com>

Barbara Leverett

1512 Burrell Rd
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-2833
rlleverett@frontiernet.net

Dave & Annie Palmer

443 Mateer Rd.
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-582-9200
bootleggerfarm@epix.net

Gene Sheninger

301 Rocky Run Rd
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
973-615-9053
els8586@gmail.com

Steve Wetmore

Spring Valley Farm
70 Wetmore Road
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466
swwet@valley.net

Richard & Cheryl Williams

Culleymont Farm
RR 1, Box 1374
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-289-4733

**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.

NEBCA ANNUAL MEETING JAN 16 2016

The NEBCA Annual General Meeting will be held January 16, 2016 (snow date Jan 23), at Manor House on the Hadley Farm part of the UMass Amherst campus. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. sharp. There will be a pot luck lunch. **GPS Address:** 111 North Maple Street, Hadley, MA 01035

From the North

- Route 91 - Exit 24, for MA 10 and RT 5 north
- Turn right onto MA 116 South 6.6 miles
- Turn right onto Meadow Street at the light, (sign for N Amherst, rt 63 to your left at that light)
- Road turns into Roosevelt Street and then North Maple, stay straight
- Manor House on left close to the road, sign says Hadley Farm

From the South

- Route 91 - Exit 19 for MA 9, turn right, follow 9 east 4.1 miles
- Turn left onto North Maple Street at light, Home Depot on your left, (turn is after Mt Farms mall on the right) and Trader Joes is beyond the turn on the right, 1.3 miles
- Manor House on right near the road, sign says Hadley Farm



BORDER COLLIES TO THE RESCUE!

Kelly Pontbriand

Border Collies are well-known for their abilities to herd sheep and other livestock. Their speed, agility and intelligence make them popular choices for many types of dog activities in addition to the herding work. The high drive and workaholic nature of most Border Collies also makes them a good choice for search and rescue work.

I became interested in training a dog for search and rescue in 1985. My husband and I were National Park Service rangers and our work often involved searching for lost hikers. When I decided to start training my own search and rescue dog, I chose a Labrador Retriever. At that time, the majority of search dogs in the United States were German Shepherd Dogs, Labrador Retrievers, and Golden Retrievers. After a lack of success in training the lab for search work, I attended several search dog seminars and talked to numerous search dog handlers. One handler from California said that he was thinking of trying a Border Collie for search work. That's when I began to consider finding a Border Collie for my next search dog.

When I began my pre-internet search for handlers who were using Border Collies for search work, I only found two people with BC search dogs in the United States. The owner of one of these dogs offered to send me the pick of a litter sired by her search dog. A small black and white female was shipped from Memphis, Tennessee to Bangor, Maine a few weeks later and "Sweep" immediately began her training for search work.

Many expressed doubt when they first saw me in the field with this petite 32 pound Border Collie. On her first mission, Sweep found an important piece of evidence in a search for a lost woman in the forest along the border of Maine and Canada. Doubts were soon erased as her career progressed and she made several life-saving finds. Other handlers began to consider the Border Collie as their next search dog after watching Sweep do her work.

Since that time, I have trained, certified, and partnered with three other wonderful Border Collies: Trace, Dessa, and Tycho. I am currently training my fifth Border Collie, Drift, for trailing work. Like other breeds, not all individuals of the Border Collie breed are suitable for search work. With Border Collies, I have discovered that it is best to start with a puppy that comes from a litter where both parents are successful with herding work.

Training for search and rescue begins as soon as the puppy arrives in his new home. Socialization and exposure to many different environments is the most important part of the pup's early training. The development of the reward system is also crucial during the early days. Most search dogs are rewarded with a game of tug or fetch, so the dog's drive and motivation to play with a toy needs to be developed at this time.

As the socialization and motivational work continues, games of hide and seek are added. These games get the puppy used to searching and finding humans and articles with human scent. Search dogs are trained to locate human scent in two different ways.

An airscent or area dog is trained to locate airborne human scent and follow it to the source. Once the dog locates



Kelly and Sweep, 1987



Border Collies to the Rescue continued

the source, he returns to the handler and gives an indication that he has a find. Barking and jumping on the handler are commonly trained indications for a find. Once the dog leads the handler to the source, the reward is brought out and the tug or fetch games begin.

Tracking or trailing is the second way that a dog can be trained to locate humans. The trailing dog is trained to follow the scent that is deposited on the ground as a person travels through an area. Since the trailing dog is trained to be scent-specific, he is usually started at the place where the subject was last seen or known to be located.

It generally takes about 350 hours to prepare a dog and handler team for search and rescue. The handler must be trained in wilderness navigation (day and night) with a compass and GPS, search techniques and strategies, CPR and first aid, crime scene preservation, wilderness survival, and Incident Command System. In addition to the trailing and area search disciplines, the dog may also be trained and certified in evidence, water, and cadaver search.

Once the team has completed the certifications and becomes operational, they must be ready to respond at any time of the day or night. Many searches take place in the dark or under poor weather conditions. The team must be prepared to work under all types of conditions and be emotionally ready to encounter injured or deceased people.

Over the past 30 years, my Border Collies and I have assisted with searches for lost people in Maine, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, and Washington. We have descended into caves, climbed mountains, flown in helicopters, encountered bears, bison, and rattlesnakes, and rafted through rapids. I have worked with many other handlers with other breeds over the years, but Border Collies always stand out due to their high drive, intelligence and ability to do many different jobs.

I can't tell you how many miles I have travelled following a Border Collie during these searches and countless hours of training. I can tell you that the sweep of each dog's tail that I have had the honor to work with will be an image that will always remain in my mind. I can't imagine having a better partner than a Border Collie.

Editor's Note: Kelly is a member of Maine Search and Rescue Dogs (MESARD). <http://www.mesard.org/> Visit their website to learn more about SAR dogs. Please consider supporting your local SAR team, if not for the shared love of working with dogs, then as appreciation for their tremendous skill and dedication to serving the community.



Kelly and Tycho



Dessa makes a find



RETIRING LAD

Jenny Glen

Those who know more than me in this sport tell you never to buy your next dog as a puppy. Buy a one year old, buy a two year old but a puppy is risky. How do you know if it's going to suit you, or even work at all? But I guess I'm not a good listener because I got Laddie when he was just 7 weeks old. I was familiar with his lines and had owned others in his family so I thought it was worth the risk. I'm sure you are not surprised to hear me say it was love at first sight. I adored that little fluffy tri colored puppy and took him everywhere I went. He was quite popular at the trials we went to that spring with his little speckled belly. A year later,



Lad at 10 © Jenny Glen

my husband worked Lad for me for his first month of training. He was a quick study and it was a seamless transition to my style of handling when he was given back to me. Lad and I clicked right away and at first I was surprised at how easily we won our first nursery classes, but then came to expect it as Lad's biddability was reliable. He stood out at the Nursery Finals that year and won the Most Promising Nursery Dog award. I liked to call it the "Despite Your Handler Award" because I wasn't skilled enough to get us any higher than 15th place, but Laddie was noticed by the judges anyway. Just before his nursery finals, I moved him up into open and his first open was at Soldier Hollow. It's a difficult trial even for experienced dogs and I'd be lying if I said he didn't struggle on the outrun. But he always took the help I offered and never argued and he found his sheep. When our run was over, the judge told me I could just go put him in his truck if I wanted. Laddie always made me proud.

The years passed and Laddie remained reliable. He gave me confidence every time I went to the post that either he, or my other dog, Hemp would give me a fighting chance of doing well. All too soon they both started showing grey hairs around their eyebrows. I knew the R word, "retirement", was getting closer but they were still running well so I kept them going, past eight, past nine. At 10, I knew it had to be their last year. Hemp's body was already causing him to limp and he wasn't going to make it to the finals. His retirement came midsummer when I realized I just couldn't keep running him when he kept coming off the field lame. Laddie was feeling fit, even outrunning my 2 year old when running with the quad, but his mind was slowing him down. It started with him hesitating on flanks when he used to love to be told he could flank, and then it progressed to just stopping and staring as the sheep ran away. He still wanted to work, he just didn't seem to want to be told to work anymore. So I knew it was time to end his career too.

It was hard to fathom anything beyond Hemp and Lad. It was as if there was a big dark abyss on the other side of them. This is what I do. Sheepherding. And they were who I did it with. They DEFINED me. My youngsters coming up were so different and unknown. I knew Lad and Hemp and knew what they could do for me and how to ask for it.



Retiring Lad continued

There is a deeper bond with a working dog than a pet and owner will ever experience but now it all had changed and I kept seeing the end coming. When I sent him on his outrun at the Bluegrass, something I had done 16 times in our past, I thought, "This is the last time he will run up that field." At Dr. Ben's, I thought, "This is the last shed he will nail on these sheep" and it made me very sad.

I picked the date. Soldier Hollow. I thought it was fitting that his first open trial should be his last. He happily walked through the crowds, knowing where he was and what was going to happen next. We waited in the blind and I watched the dogs running before us. It was warm, it was windy, and the sheep were pushing on the dogs. Some weren't getting them down the field. Some weren't getting them around on the drive. I frantically thought, "How can I make his last run be with dignity if he couldn't push them around on the drive?" I finally came up with a plan. As I walked to the post, I couldn't help but start crying. This wasn't just the last time I took him to the post at Soldier Hollow, this was the last time he ever went to the post. I stopped at the judge's stand where Lyle Lad waited to mark my run, and I explained why I was crying while we waited for our sheep to be set. She told me she totally understood and to remember all the good things he had done for me on the field. Then she started to cry. I moved up to the post, set him up, and sent him. He went off with the confidence of the Lad of old (young). Up the large hill and onto the dirt road that told me he was on the right path. Past the bushes and trees and came in at the top, right on target. With a little encouragement, he lifted them and started them down the hill. They were pushing on him to go over to my right and sneak into the cabin on the field to make a dash back up to the set out pens. Lad thwarted their plan but was unable to get them back on line again to make the panels. Not caring about who was watching or about any kind of score, but hoping he'd hear the support in my voice, I started encouraging him, "Come on, Laddie, ATTA BOY!" He pushed back on them and got them to my feet. Together, we pushed them around the post and I told him to lie down and let them go. I turned to Lyle, and told her that was good for us bent down and petted him, and told him "That'll do, Lad. Go get wet." He joyfully ran to the water tub while his sheep were exhausted and I went to him and helped wet him down and told him what a wonderful job he had done. I had decided not to do the drive. It was the only way I could think of to give him his dignity. So we called his outrun lift, fetch, and post turn his victory lap.

And Laddie was retired.

2015 TRIAL SCHEDULE

DATE	TRIAL	LOCATION	CLASSES	CONTACT	INFO/ENTRIES
Dec 12-13	Long Shot SDT	Church Hill, MD HOTELS	Open, Ranch, Pronovice Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Sherry Smith 410-708-2428	Information ENTRY: Word PDF

NEBCA CLASSIFIED ADS

\$5 per issue for up to 10 lines; \$1 per line over 10 lines. \$15 for one year.

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

rlleverett@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



AVOIDING THOSE BAD DAYS

Denny Emerson, *Tamarack Hill Farm* (used with permission)

Few riders haven't had one, a day when either you, or your horse, or both of you are "having a bad day" of one kind or another.

Say you are tired, or hassled at work, or have had an argument with someone, or frustrated by your car that wouldn't start---It doesn't take much....

Or say your horse is high from being stuck inside in the rain, or stiff from a long workout the previous day, or spooking at the loud leaf blower---It doesn't take much.

And, say, that you had planned to work on something, like walk-trot transitions, or shoulder in, or flying changes, or cantering circles, whatever.

And you can feel it starting to bubble up, that tension, frustration, anxiety, anger, resistance, stiffness, all those negatives, either within you, or within your horse, or within both of you.

And you know exactly where it can lead, to an increasingly adversarial session, that snowball effect, so that the worse it gets, the worse it gets.

And the problem with getting into a fight with a horse is that with many horses, the damage doesn't just evaporate by the next day, and if you say, "I apologize", it means nothing to a horse.

You are going to have to apologize by the way you ride him, and if you really scared or hurt him, that may take many days, and on each of those days, because he doesn't quite trust you, he will likely feel "resistant" and you are going to have to be doubly careful that you don't get into another altercation, and now be even deeper in the hole.

So what can you do to avoid those bad days?

You can make a plan on a good day about what you will do on a bad day, so as to not make the bad day worse. You can just get off and put him away. You can get off and lunge him, but not in an angry, fast way. You can go for a walk, if he isn't going to jig and shy, and make you more annoyed. You can ask a friend or your trainer to get on if you can't find the key to the problem.

In other words, acknowledge right up front, that your path is not going to be one unending progression where "Every day, in every way, we're getting better and better", because it isn't how things work. So decide coping strategies for those potentially downward spiraling days before they happen, so when they do happen, which they absolutely will, you can prevent a bad day from becoming a whole lot worse, with negative repercussions that last well past the actual day.