



NEBCA News

The Official Publication of the North East Border Collie Association, Inc.



Chord ©Maria Amodei

6/1/2017

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 35, Issue 2

www.nebca.net

Summer 2017



NEBCA News



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NEBCA News Mailing Dates

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
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please contact The Secretary,
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Strafford, VT 05070.

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"Training often fails because people
expect way too much of the animal
and way too little of themselves."

— Bob Bailey

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Trialing season is on! I write this shortly after returning from the MA Sheep & Wool Festival trial in Cummington, MA. I thought about what to write here while watching dogs run there.



First, I thought it might be fun to write something about conversations overheard under the handlers' tent. I actually took notes for a while, but the most profound question I came away with was "should I have ice cream before or after my run?". The answer, of course, was "both". So, we'll dispense with that idea and I'll share several somewhat more serious thoughts and observations I came home with.

Two of the very talented dogs I saw at the trial were rescues. It is hard enough to turn the best bred and

raised dogs into good trialers. To do it with a rescue is impressive and a real testament to what a good trainer can do with enough patience and determination.

Two of the big winners for the weekend were kelpies. They don't work quite like the border collies that usually dominate our trials. But, a good one certainly can be effective. I like seeing them out there.

A NEBCA membership meeting was held on Saturday evening. A critical issue that was raised was the availability of sheep for trials. We currently rely on a very small handful of extremely dedicated members to provide the flocks used at most of our events. This is a very expensive and labor intensive proposition. We should all remember to express our gratitude to these people at every opportunity. But, we can't expect them to do it forever. As an organization, we need to start looking for alternatives. The board was asked to start a discussion, both within their ranks and with the broader membership, about how we are going to deal with this. This is a tough one. If you have any thoughts to contribute, please make your voice heard.

At the meeting, the board of directors presented the trial managers, Denise Leonard, George Northrop and Kate Collins, with awards in recognition of the fact that they have put on the MA Sheep & Wool Festival trial for more than 30 years. They have had to deal with a lot of challenges to keep this event going at this site for so long and certainly deserve the recognition.

Finally, this will be the last newsletter created by Maria Amodei. NEBCA newsletter editor is a big job and she has been doing it extremely well for the last 2 ½ years. Thank you, Maria! Of course, it takes a team to replace Maria. And, I think we have a good one. Beginning with the Autumn edition, Sallie Butler will manage the newsletter content. Nancy Joyce Simmons will do the layout. Mollie King, who has previous NEBCA newsletter experience, will help them both. We can all look forward to seeing what they create together.

- 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 #10—Consistent Open dog. Quiet mover, settles stock, good pace, biddable, good stop. This dog has a nice opening shape to his flanks but tends to drop back behind the stock to push prematurely. The main problem is the top of the outrun. He often cuts across the top of the outrun early, thus making contact and lifting hard. There is no racing or diving, just capping his top with more of a straight line than an arc, lifting the stock hard and abruptly. Then he brings them quietly.

Barbara Leverett's Comments

On the trial field I would expect this dog to be losing a couple of pts off of each phase of his out work. Since his fetch is calm and he has a quiet nature, most times he will be able to straighten the sheep out to get the fetch gates. From this description I would guess he isn't covering his sheep completely and using side pressure to get things going. This is often not apparent when working small numbers and the sheep wanting to come down the fetch line no matter if he is correct or not. I feel not covering correctly is one of the deadly sins. Improving this will help all phases of work.

My first step would be to go back and improve the way the dog covers. Practical work can help this quite a bit. I bet if this dog was put on a group of heavy lambs he would find himself amongst them. Not a comfortable position for a dog to be in. Let the dog make this mistake several times and things will soon look different. Work on getting big groups out of corners and off of the fence will also help the problem of not covering. Covering the sheep is not necessarily 12:00. I like to see the dog pass the outside hip of the furthest sheep.

While starting my young dogs I like to do work on a fence line where the dog scoops the sheep off the fence and has to catch them as the sheep squirt out into the field. I like to do this with pressure away from the fence line so the sheep move fast. This will encourage the dog to swing deeper. Then I let the dog push them back to me standing on the fence line. I soon begin to stop the dog between the sheep and the fence and with the sheep moving briskly towards a pressure point I send the dog to cover and I follow the dog on its arc to change the balance point to me causing him to cover further. I do this a lot and in different places in the field so the pressure will be different.

Another training exercise would be to send the dog to pick up sheep that are settled close to the fence line. Send him on an outrun along the fence with about 50 ft. between the sheep and the fence. As the dog passes between the sheep and fence it will cause the sheep to swing away and the dog will be more inclined to cover them. This works best with the pressure being out in the middle of the field. Gradually lessen the space between the fence and the sheep.

Teaching this dog a side specific widening command while holding sheep in a corner can develop a tool to be used on a short outrun. I like to use a Keep and Out so as to avoid the dog getting wide on all flanks. These commands can then be used on the top half of the outrun. Remember to give the command calmly but forcefully and timing is important. You must give it before the dog flattens out, otherwise you will make matters worse.



Faulty Dog continued

I don't think it is wise to tamper with the top of the outrun and lift too early in the dog's training. If he can do all the exercises mentioned earlier and is very committed to his outrun I would start teaching taking commands on the outrun. At some point every dog should learn a pull in and a widening command for the outrun. I would teach this to the dog on the first half of the outrun to get him listening to the commands. Once the dog learns this, and likes it, I would begin to use it on the second part of the outrun. When teaching the widening out command, also remember to teach pulling in, this way the dog learns to listen for the command. I use my flank whistles here, not a new command. I modify them using a drawn out whistle for my widening command and a shorter quick whistle for my pull in.

Warren Mick's Comments

The shape of the outrun at the top is all important. Besides being wide, the dog must be deep enough behind the sheep so that it has no effect on them all the way to balance. Being deep at the top is beneficial in many ways. Most obviously, the sheep are not affected or lifted prematurely. If the sheep lift as the dog is coming across, they are unlikely to lift gently or in the right direction. Lifting in the right direction requires the dog be at balance and coming straight on. Lifting gently requires the dog walking. If the sheep lift as it's coming across, the dog will be running, not walking, which is more unsettling to the sheep. Another benefit of the dog being deep is it gives the dog a chance to collect itself, size up the sheep and the direction to you. The dog will be calmer as it is in control of the situation. It will not have to find balance and gain control on the fly nor have to hear someone bellowing commands in the distance trying to put things right. Yet another benefit is that a few yards over or under shoot of balance will have a much smaller impact on the direction of the lift. Stopping 10 yards off balance is a much smaller angle if the dog is 40 yards behind the sheep versus only 5 yards (14 vs 63 degrees).

There are two common practices that will often cause a dog to be flat on its outrun. One is practicing on sheep that won't stay put and or wait to be lifted. When sheep repeatedly start moving toward the handler during the outrun, dogs will quickly learn to anticipate this and will cut off the top of the outrun in an attempt to catch up with the departing sheep. The solution is simple, do not practice outruns if this is happening. Either get someone to help hold the sheep for you or go somewhere with less trained sheep. The other practice is repeatedly sending the dog for sheep that are close to the edge of the field. Doing so will pattern the dog to come in tight. Always set the sheep well off the edge of the field you're practicing in so the dog has plenty of room to get deep. A simple rule would be to leave 25% of the length of the outrun behind the sheep. So for example, if the outrun is 200 yards (handler to sheep) have at least 50 yards of space from the sheep to the edge of the field, or more. And of course you need to make sure the dog uses it.

Flank and outrun problems are often related and it sounds like this dog is also flat on its flanks. So that's the place to start. If the dog has always been flat on its flanks, it will take some persistence to reshape them. It may be necessary to overdo the depth somewhat to get the point across. On every flank, if there's the slightest hint of curling in stop the dog. Move toward the dog from the direction of the sheep and push it almost straight back from the sheep. If the dog flanks off your attempt to push it back, or it doubles back thinking it went the wrong direction, you've not made your point and you need to adjust your approach. You absolutely do not want the dog to think it's being corrected for going the wrong way. As you walk toward the dog to push it back, use a correction phrase specific to this infraction (e.g. "WHAT are you doing" or "ARE you listening"). Initially, the dog will be responding mainly to your presence and not the verbal correction. Eventually, it will understand the meaning and having a verbal correction specific to a tight flank will be a valuable tool when shaping outruns. If the dog gives ground in a meaningful way, you can then give it a quiet flank command to have it finish going to balance. Do this exercise up close and only on outside flanks (to balance). When you see improvement up close, start doing small outruns with the



Faulty Dog continued

correction process almost the same. The only difference is after stopping the dog you'll need to walk up the field to almost between the dog and sheep before you ask it to back off with your correction phrase and as much body language as needed. This process for reshaping flanks and outruns works well for most dogs. It's pretty simple but the details are important. It's similar to the method described in Bruce Fogt's book, "Lessons from a Stock Dog". If you are not getting the desired result seek some advice or help from someone that has great outrunning dogs.





2017 NOVICE WHISTLE CHALLENGE

Rose Redick

I would like to propose a challenge designed for the Novice Handlers participating in the 2017 Trial Season. The intent is to encourage the novice handlers to introduce the use of the whistle during their training and demonstrate the appropriate use while running in a trial. This is intended to be fun, encourage some new learning either independently or with an instructor and provide a bit of a challenge for all. It also provides a fun activity during the trial season while our open handlers are busy earning points for the Finals in Virginia.

The criteria for the handler is listed below and should not change, however the progress of the introduction of the whistle during the trial season could or should change.

The first event will occur at the Cummington Trial followed at the Taravale Farm Trial in June. I would encourage other trial managers to join in the fun if possible at your trials. .

Handler Criteria

At the Cummington Trial and the Taravale Trial there will be a challenge in each of the novice classes for those handlers who have not run in open or in any level above the current class in which they are running.

The challenge will be introducing the appropriate use of the whistle during the run at a trial.

For the NN handler who has never run in any upper level class the handler who uses the stop whistle the appropriately during their run will be recognized.

For the PN handler who has never run in any upper level class the handler who uses the stop whistle and a flank whistle appropriately will be recognized.

For the Ranch handler who has never run in any upper level class including nursery who uses the stop, and 2 flank whistles appropriately during their run will be recognized.

Each trial manager can determine the recognition and method of choosing the winner. The handler criteria should not change while the level of whistles introduced in each class can change, thus offering a progressive challenge throughout the season.

Again the intent is to encourage learning, some fun and a bit of a challenge with the end result of novice handlers introducing the use of the whistle and gaining another skill.

Start practicing using those whistles!!

NEBCA NEWS NEWS

Maria Amodei

I'm stepping down as your newsletter editor. This is my last issue. I have enjoyed putting the NEBCA News together and taken some pride in the publication. I'm very happy that Sallie Butler has agreed to take over the content, with Nancy Simmons to work on the technical side of the publication. They will bring a fresh perspective and keep us informed and thinking. So for now, that'll do.



SCRIBING BEST PRACTICES.

This document, and sample score sheets, will be added to the NEBCA website after the annual meeting. Again, with many thanks to OBCC for collaborating with NEBCA on this, as well Rose Redick and Mary Ellen Young for coordinating the work and doing the writing, and Tara Dier for permitting use of the original scribe document.

SCRIBING TIPS

Scribing is a great way for inexperienced handlers to help out at a trial and learn about more aspects of trialing. You have the best seat in the house to watch each handler run and can see firsthand how the runs are scored. Your job is to run the clock and write down the scores so the judge doesn't need to take his/her eyes off the run. While an important task it does not require much if any prior experience.

Here are some pointers you will need to know.

You will be provided with a stack of score sheets, a running order and a time clock. Make sure that the dog and handler are as marked on the running order. Most handlers announce their name and their dog's name. However, if you aren't sure who is coming to the post just ask the handler (or the judge or course director).

Most likely someone has been assigned to collect the sheets and post the scores and that person will quietly approach you every few runs. Hand that person the sheets of completed runs

THE CLOCK

Usually the scribe operates the clock/timer. Some judges like to do it themselves and some run their own clock in addition to the official one. The clock/timer runs down to zero from the maximum time allowed. Start the clock the moment the handler sends his/her dog from the post and don't touch it unless the judge tells you to.

If the time runs out before the run is complete, usually the judge (but sometimes the scribe) calls Time. If something unexpected happens during a run (e.g. a loose dog on the field, sheep goes down) make a note of the time remaining but leave the clock running.

As soon as a run is complete, reset the clock to be ready for the next handler. Please reset the timer before you do anything else, including tallying the scores of the last run, because the next handler will approach the post promptly. If you aren't ready with the clock when the next handler is at the post, say so and ask the handler to wait until you have it set.

SCORE SHEETS

The scribe keeps track of the judges point deductions and totals these points at the end of the run. Some judges give the clerk the points off at the end of each phase of work. Some judges will give you the points off with each infraction and rely on the scribe to total them up for each phase. Write big and bold. For any changes, cross out the entire incorrect entry and write in the correct number.

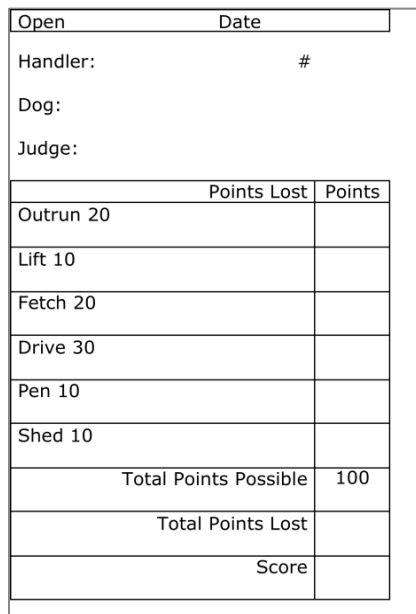
If time expires before a run finishes, write "Time" in the phase of work where time ran out on the left side. All available points for that phase and all subsequent phases will be lost but a total score is still given. If a run ends due to a retirement or disqualification, write "RT" or "DQ" in the phase of work where it occurred on the right side and also in the total score box. There is no need to record the elapsed time if the run is finished before the time runs out.

At the end of the run, total up the points off and subtract from the total available for the final score. Double check it, or make sure whoever takes them from you double checks them. If there is something you aren't sure about in the scores, ask the judge before you give the sheet to the person assigned to collect them. Some trials require

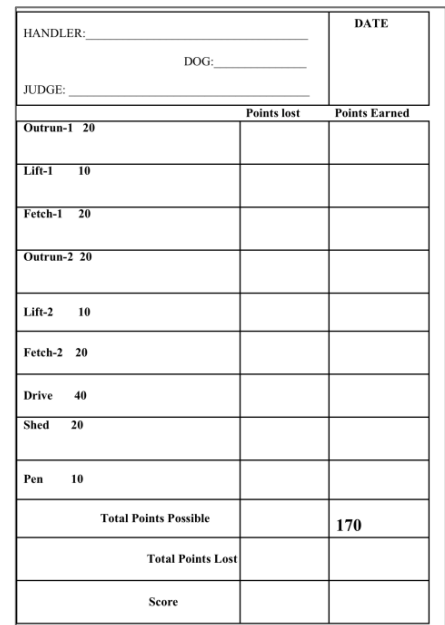


Every trail manager should provide to every person scribing an example of the score sheet for each class and how the points off, retires, D.Q.'s, etc. are to be recorded on the score sheet so that consistency is maintained by everyone scribing and that it is clear to the person recording the scores on the board and the judge how everyone is recording the points off.

Scribe sheet
for standard
Open course



Scribe
sheet for
double
gather



A FEW MORE POINTS

During runs, the scribe should intercept and respond to anyone coming into the judge's tent (e.g. questions, delivering food, etc.)

Scribes should not discuss anything that they observed or heard while scribing with anyone including comments made by the judge.

One more thing... Judging takes concentration. Some judges like to chat, some don't. Take your lead from the judge and don't initiate conversation during a run. If you have questions, save them for between runs or the end of the day. Don't comment on a run or fill the judge in on a dog and handler you know unless they ask. Judges appreciate the help scribes provide and recognize that it is a learning opportunity.

Notes:

With special thanks to Tara Dier, author of the original OBCC scribing guidelines document.

A copy of scribe sheets for each class including the double lift can be found in the File section of the NEBCA yahoo list. You will also find a suggested score board for the classes as well.

"It's the same with kids; you see some of these people with their kids, instead of being a little more engaged and seeing when things are going the wrong direction and redirecting them, they wait till they've done something wrong. Then they want to beat them up, or whip them for something that's already happened and people still do that with horses too. I'll be doing this the rest of my life, trying to convince people that's not the way to go about things." - Buck Brannaman



TRIAL RESULTS

BORDERS ON PARADISE MAY 12-14

Open 1 (91 dogs)											
1	Lambert, Beverly	Nan	93	16	Obernier, Nancy	Jim	74	10	Glen, Jennifer	Try	73
2	Glen, Scott	Anne	91	17	Palmer, John	Dutch	73	11	Davies, Pam	Jet	73
3	Polites, Michael	Taff	88	18	Woolman, Sharon	Ben	73	12	Palmer, John	Dutch	72
4	Levinson, Barbara	Bob	87	19	Davies, Pam	Jet	72	13	Cunningham, Lori	Lefty	72
5	Millen, Heather	Scout	83	Open 2 (84 dogs)				14	Lambert, Beverly	Nan	71
6	Sheninger, Gene	Nick	77	1	Glen, Scott	Alice	94	15	Sheninger, Gene	Nick	71
7	King, Carla	Floss	77	2	Ray, Barbara	Stella	82	16	Levinson, Barbara	Bill	71
8	Schoen, Sue	Cora	77	3	Billadeau, Mark	Lee	82	17	Weeks, Dan	Tilly	70
9	Glen, Jennifer	Mike	77	4	Hinton, Tracy	Lad	81	Nursery (15 dogs)			
10	Lambert, Beverly	Joe	76	5	Lambert, Beverly	Joe	77	1	Cunningham, Lori	Lefty	83
11	Sheninger, Gene	Sweet	75	6	Ray, Barbara	Maverick	77	2	Glen, Scott	Twiz	80
12	Kidd, Viki	Reed	75	7	Brothers, Michelle	Flo	76	3	Glen, Scott	Andy	74
13	Palmer, John	Mara	75	8	Murphy, Jim	Jim	75	4	Cunningham, Lori	Buck	59
14	West, Carolyn	Abe	74	9	Brothers, Michelle	Sky	74				
15	Palmer, Cynthia	Duke	74								

CASCADE FARM BENEFIT MAY 13-14

Judge: Annette Haithcox Pro-Novice 1 (18 Dogs)											
1	Denise Leonard	Lark	70	1	Warren Mick	Lucy	87	7	Denise Leonard	Bel	63
2	Nancy Phillips	Dewy	65	2	Dave Young	Pic	86	8	Lynn Deschambeault	Rob	62
3	Mary Brighoff	Sid	64	3	Dave Young	Bess	86	9	Kate Collins	Lily	61
4	George Northrop	Tot	59	4	Fiona Robertson	Mirk	85	10	Peggy Flanagan	Rory	53
5	Mary Ann Duffy	Jill	58	5	Denise Leonard	Maggie	85	Ranch 2 (9 Dogs)			
6	Kate Collins	Pearl	58	6	Steve Wetmore	Floss	84	1	Barbara Leverett	Becca	81
7	Deborah Donahue	Cap	57	7	Annette Haithcox	River	83	2	Maria Amodei	Poe	71
8	Werner Reitboeck	Dotti	56	8	Maria Mick	Bodie	83	3	Linda Clark	Lyn	70
9	Peggy Flanagan	Angus	55	9	Maria Amodei	Levi	83	4	Ellen Fowler	Celt	57
10	Peggy Flanagan	Rory	50	10	Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	82	Judge: Sherry Farster Open 2 (31 dogs)			
Ranch 1 (10 Dogs)				USBCHA Nursery (8 Dogs)				1	Maria Amodei	Marcus	92
1	Kim Lippolis	Deke	82	1	Maria Amodei	Poe	76	2	Steve Wetmore	Stu	91
2	Maria Amodei	Poe	58	2	Dave Young	Tagh	75	3	Warren Mick	Lucy	91
3	Sara Reiter	Chet	57	Judge: Annette Haithcox Pro-Novice 2 (14 Dogs)				4	Annette Haithcox	River	90
4	Fiona Robertson	meG	56	1	Mary Brighoff	Sid	77	5	Dave Young	Pic	90
5	Barbara Leverett	Becca	55	2	Maria Amodei	Drum	75	6	Annette Haithcox	Top	87
6	Sara Reiter	Speck	42	3	Mary Ann Duffy	Jill	69	7	Barbara Leverett	Bob	87
Judge: Sherry Farster Open 1 (33 dogs)				4	Denise Leonard	Lark	66	8	Werner Reitboeck	Sigi	86
						Scotia		9	Denise Leonard	Maggie	85
				5	Werner Reitboeck	Dotti	66	10	Maria Mick	Bodie	82
				6	Nancy Phillips	Dewey	66				



MASS SHEEP AND WOOL SDT MAY 26-28

Friday, May 26, 2017

Novice 1 (14 dogs)

1	Hershberger, Amy B.	Intrepid Sue*	66
2	Tsuruda, Lori	Pepper	62
3	Eriksson, Barbara	Brook	57
4	Eriksen, Danielle	Dove*	53
5	Holmgren, Bob	Del*	50
6	Weigand, Carol	Brody*	44
7	Barrette, Sharon	Bella*	40
8	Perley, Melissa	Bronte	37

Novice 2 (14 dogs)

1	Eriksen, Danielle	Dove*	75
2	Weigand, Carol	Brody*	74
3	Eriksson, Barbara	Brook	73
4	Hershberger, Amy B.	Intrepid Sue*	72
5	Barrette, Sharon	Bella*	69
6	Tsuruda, Lori	Pepper	67
7	Powers, Teresa	Chaos*	65
8	Perley, Melissa	Bronte	49
9	Anderson, Blake	Euchre*	42

Novice/Novice Champion -

Amy Hershberger and Intrepid Sue

Novice/Novice Reserve Champion -

Barbara Eriksson and Brook

Novice/Novice Long Road -

Amy Hershberger and Intrepid Sue

Pro-Novice 1 (27 dogs)

1	Duffy, Mary Ann	Jill	78
2	Johnson, Eric	Blade*	75
3	Davies, Pam	Floss*	74
4	Brighoff, Mary	Sid*	72
5	More, Jamie	Kestral*	72
6	Collins, Kate	Pearl	69
7	Bowen, Chris	Chance*	69
8	Perley, Melissa	Sam	68
9	Crepeau, Sheila	Zain	67
10	Leonard, Denise	Bel*	67

Pro-Novice 2 (27 dogs)

1	Duffy, Mary Ann	Jill	77
2	Brighoff, Mary	Sid*	76

3	Johnson, Eric	Blade*	75
4	Bowen, Chris	Chance*	75
5	Gorman, Karen	Nashville	74
6	Collins, Kate	Pearl	73
7	Leonard, Denise	Lark*	72
8	Snowden, Victoria	Prim	71
9	Perley, Melissa	Sam	71
10	Wataha, Pam	Ace*	71

ProNovice Champion -

Mary Ann Duffy and Jill

ProNovice Reserve Champion -

Eric Johnson and Blade

ProNovice Long Road -

Eric Johnson and Blade

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Ranch 1 (21 dogs)

1	Duffy, Mary Ann	Jill	67
2	Robertson, Fiona	meG*	67
3	Clark, Linda	Lyn	66
4	Lippolis, Kim	Deke	65
5	Phillips, Nancy	Dewy	57
6	Leonard, Denise	Bel*	56
7	Pietraszewska, Valerie	Bennie	51
8	Fowler, Ellen	Celt*	51
9	King, Molly	Allie	47

Nursery 1 (5 dogs)

1	Robertson, Fiona	meG*	67
2	Bowen, Chris	Chance*	60
3	Simmons, Nancy	Diesel*	58
4	Young, Dave	Tagh*	56

Open 1 (50 dogs)

1	Butler, Sallie	Roo	88
2	Leverett, Barbara	Bess	86
3	Leverett, Barbara	Bob*	81
4	Robertson, Fiona	Mirk	80
5	Prince, Ginny	Dar*	78
6	Wetmore, Steve	Gile*	77
7	Davies, Pam	Jet	75
8	Young, Dave	Bess*	75
9	Leonard, Denise	Maggie*	74
10	Davies, Pam	Dilys*	74

Sunday, May 28, 2017

Ranch 2 (22 dogs)

1	Leverett, Barbara	Becca*	80
2	Pietraszewska, Valerie	Bennie	78
3	Fowler, Ellen	Celt*	73
4	Phillips, Nancy	Dewy	72
5	Mueller, Pam	Fly	69
6	Robertson, Fiona	meG*	59
7	Leonard, Denise	Lark*	58
8	Clark, Linda	Lyn	56
9	Leonard, Denise	Bel*	51
10	Lippolis, Kim	Deke	49

Nursery 2 (5 dogs)

1	Young, Dave	Tagh*	79
2	Simmons, Nancy	Diesel*	61
3	Robertson, Fiona	meG*	59

Open 2 (45 dogs)

1	Wetmore, Steve	Gile*	96
2	Wetmore, Steve	Floss*	92
3	Nunan, Michael	Cap	90
4	Davies, Pam	Teilo	87
5	Davies, Pam	Jet	82
6	Hunt, Pam	Styx	81
7	Young, Dave	Pic*	81
8	Robertson, Fiona	Fen*	80
9	Schoen, Susan	Cora*	80
10	Schoen, Susan	Spy*	76

Ranch Champion -

Valerie Pietraszewska and Bennie

Ranch Reserve Champion -

Nancy Phillips and Dewy

Ranch Long Road -

Ellen Fowler and Celt

Open Champion -

Stephen Wetmore and Gile

Open Reserve Champion -

Pam Davies and Jet

Open Long Road -

Stephen Wetmore and Gile



OVER THE TOP

Puppies are furry little bundles of hope. We raise them and love them and wallow in joyful anticipation of our new little champion. We dream of confident, calm and natural dogs, easy to start, keen to work but mindful of the handler and the job. Maybe we take them to stock a few times and as pups they look good, wanting to circle the stock. Then we decide to start real training. Spot is a bit older now, more confidence, more legs, more everything. Spot is wild. Those calm training sessions we dreamed of feel more like something from the coliseum. It is easy to get into an adversarial pattern with a wild dog. We need to protect the stock, the dog, and ourselves which means we need to exert some control. Here are some tips to managing the wild child training to bring that youngster around.

Lori Cunningham's Comments

It's easy to say "put him up for a bit and let him mature." If Spot was really young, and acting like a juvenile delinquent off sheep as well as in training, I'd suggest that. It's not uncommon to hear of someone having problems with a wild child pup and then notice that the youngster is as disobedient off sheep as when he's working. Sometimes we are all kennel blind. I am certainly not one for crazy strict obedience, but I do insist on a reliable recall off sheep fairly early. Although it might temporarily disappear in the early training stages, it's wise to have a solid foundation on a non-negotiable recall laid, the beginnings of accountability.

I don't use "puppy sheep" for starting my youngsters, so if Spot is wild and disobedient, things can get crazy quickly. Still, I think a pup is better off in the long run learning the cause and effect of its behavior from the very beginning. Frequently, I see people working youngsters on knee knocker puppy sheep and I think that the dead sheep contribute to blow out behavior rather than prevent it. Sheep that don't respond honestly coupled with an uber controlling handler, grouching and constantly demanding lie downs to keep the sheep from stepping on their toes and knocking them over causes a lot of pressure on a pup who gets frustrated and learns nothing. Pretty much the opposite of what a want-to-be forward thinking trainer is trying to achieve.

While we need to protect the stock from real harm, we also need to have realistic expectations and understand sheep will get nipped and harassed occasionally while training youngsters. Some people are over the top protective of their sheep. Probably not the places to work Spot during his formative training, adding more stress to both the dog and his handler.

The first thing I do with wild pups is "go small" but not necessarily in a small space like a round pen. While I think a pen can have a place and I use one for very young pups, a round pen provides little release of pressure for either the dog or the sheep, and again, I think can actually work against the goal of advancing training and better control.

My favorite place to work a wild youngster is at a gate in the middle of a fence line between two fields. While I work the dog at hand, there is ample space for pressure release and we don't feel crowded. The gates I use are mounted to open only one way, hitting a post if pushed the opposite. Thus, I only have to manage one side. Doing up close work, essentially mimicking "sorting" accomplishes several things: I'm close enough to effect the action by my physical presence. I can offer body language to reinforce learning flank commands and can put pressure to back the dog off. Spot is learning to be close to sheep, honing his balance and learning to cover. I can let some sheep thru the gate and Spot learns he can let sheep go, and soon after, cover them without foolishly chasing. I can back off the fence and flank him around. Spot learns to come in between the sheep and a fence line. When a pup is being reasonably thoughtful with these little jobs, I'll pull him off and allow short outruns to scoop the sheep off the fence, and do some balance work, or have the youngster fetch them to me along the fenceline, then I'll step out and send them the opposite way, a nice calm way to practice casts and pace.



Over the Top continued

The most important thing to remember is that it's hard to settle an excited young dog if you are acting like a nut yourself. Some people use up close work as I describe to jazz up their dogs. I find it settles them if you keep the right attitude and expect the same from your pup. Stay calm and be prepared to take some mistakes in stride. Spot can learn a lot by fixing the messes he makes if the handler keeps a cool head and helps him. Most of our dogs really want to be good. Give Spot some little "jobs" that make sense, let him learn what self-control feels like and I suspect he will start to come around.

Warren Mick's Comments

Starting this type of dog requires a fair amount of experience. Foremost, so that no one gets hurt in the process but also so that the dog gets as clean a start as possible. An extended period of chaos will likely create issues that will be long lasting. If you're new or have only trained a few dogs, it would be worth getting help or at least advice from someone with much more experience to keep you from giving up too soon or fighting an uphill battle. It might be that the dog is willful or lacks some critical herding instincts that will prevent it from ever being a reliable worker. Maybe it has too much prey drive or lacks the balance and eye required in a herding dog. On the other hand, the dog may simply be extremely keen or a bit headstrong. Some dogs are so desperate to work they become their own worst enemy. Their frantic efforts to gain control panics the stock making control impossible. They're also so focused on the stock it's difficult for the trainer to shape what the dog is doing. If the trainer becomes frantic in the attempt to establish some order, it may amplify the dog's actions. Needless to say, it's a delicate balance to firmly but calmly get the dog settled down and working.

Getting a keen dog, or any dog, off to a good start requires setting yourself up for success. The sheep and the training area are the two most important ingredients. The sheep need to be very broke to dogs, calm and not afraid of people. They need to stay together well and not be spooky or defensive. You will need to stay near the sheep all the time so they must be sheep that will come and stay near you. Reactive, people shy breeds such as cheviots are not suitable. Kathdins, Dorsets and crossbreeds tend to be good for starting dogs but even these must be very familiar with herding dogs. Young lambs, rams, ewes with full udders, freshly shorn sheep should not be used. Usually 3-5 sheep is about right. More and you will not be able to defend them when the dog is on the other side or move though the group to push the dog off.

A round pen about 20 yds in diameter is the easiest and safest place to start a dog. Having no corners prevents sheep from getting stuck and the size means you will never have to go far to get to the sheep or the dog. In a larger area, the sheep are more likely to make a break for safety if they get away from you. My round pen is made from woven wire and T-posts and took me a few hours to put up. If you don't have a round pen, a small fenced paddock can be used. Use some panels to block off the corners. Any training area must totally clear and open with no obstacles or hazards like a hay feeder, trees, farm equipment or anything that could be run into by dog or sheep and nothing for the sheep to escape around.

A few other things will help when you put the new dog on the sheep. Even if your sheep are very calm and broke, work them a few minutes in training area with an experienced dog, circling and wearing, just as you'll do with the new dog. This will get them familiar with the routine, the boundaries of the pen, and also to stay with you for safety. Put the new dog on a long line mainly to permit catching the dog if needed. About 15-20 feet of ¼" rope will not get tangled when the dog is circling the sheep. To insure a good first approach by the dog, loop the line through the fence to keep the dog from moving until you get to the sheep. There are numerous training aids people use; crooks, poles, lunge whips, rattle panels, flags, rakes, feed bags, a bottle of pebbles. Any can be of help but what's most important is how they're used. Their purpose is to help block the dog from a direct assault on the sheep, to help get it to change direction or to startle the dog to move or stay off but never to hit the dog. If the dog sees these aids



Over the Top continued

too frequently, their impact will soon diminish so they should be used sparingly. Most important is the dog respects your space and knows it cannot run past or through you. It must also know to yield to you (give ground) if you move toward it with your dominant persona. There's a good video by Julie Hill where she describes how body position can be inviting or dominant.

The objectives of the beginning work is the same as any other dog; finding balance, changing directions, staying off the sheep. You must stay close to the sheep to insure order and protect them and you will control and direct everything with your position, saying little. Five to ten minutes of calm controlled work is plenty for a session. If the dog knows lie-down, you can start using it after a few sessions. A clean break to end each session is important whence the long line will be of most value. Often, if you had to work hard to keep the dog out for several minutes, the dog will be understandably hesitant to come to you or stay put while you approach it. Don't get upset, it'll make it worse. Instead, work the sheep to the fence, and stand in front of them blocking the dog until it gives up. It might be wise to have another person available in case you need help catching the dog.

Stay working in the small pen until the dog is working calmly, balancing, changing directions, stopping on command and calling off reliably. If you can keep things orderly and calm you will likely see some improvement with each session and in a few weeks (working daily) you may be ready for some small field work. I've seen over the top dogs totally transformed if provided the right environment, one where you can totally control what happens and thereby give the dog the chance to learn how to work properly.

Maria Amodei's Comments

If a pup is young I'll just put it up, but by 12-14 months it is time to start them. Waiting longer may well make starting them more difficult as they move into adolescence. I'll usually use a small solid fenced pen to start youngsters, enough room for a little gather but not so much room for the action to get away from me. I prefer to start with 6-10 sheep that are dogged enough to respond appropriately but not so dogged as to be trying to knock me over. Sheep that clutch to the handler make it hard to setup so the dog can balance them to you. When the stock is swirling around you the balance is also swirling around you, frustrating and confusing to new dogs.

The most important tools when starting a hot youngster are stock sense, good timing, and personal calm. These are far more important than any tricks, tools, pen sizes, or type of sheep. If they are not part of your training toolbox yet you may want to get help those first few sessions.

Your early objectives will be to get the dog to back off to your pressure. I don't worry about stops or commands, just impress upon the dog that it needs to yield to me when I step to one side to turn them or through the stock to back them off. If needed I'll put the sheep on the fence and get between the stock and the dog. Don't try to chase the dog off the stock, but move the opposite direction towards their head. Your effect on the dog from behind will only make them wilder, from the front you can start working on slowing/stopping.

Sometimes you need to be harsh to get a wild dog's attention. This does not mean the dog is "hard". Once you have the dog's attention back way off.

The best advice I got on starting hot dogs was from Roger Deschambeault. Keep your training sheep in the training paddock and work the dog 5-6 times a day. The first couple sessions each day you are just working the edge, after that the dog starts learning. Often I can start a dog on a Friday afternoon and have the worst of the crazies done by late Sunday. There are dogs that benefit from this method for a couple weeks.

Many dogs escalate with a swishing whip or crooks so be careful how you use one. I'll use a long whip that you can float out over the sheep quietly so it is just something distracting by their face. I find this a quiet way to get



Over the Top continued

them to give the stock a bit of room without my having to push into them or get more involved. Leaning into the dog hard often invites them to lean back and try harder to get around you to the stock. It goes back to that calm attitude.

If the dog refuses to yield to your physical pressure and tries to dive around you to get to the stock you can either use a corner or fence line with the stock behind you, or use the long line. In the corner you have less area to cover to block the dog. If they are still outrunning you consider whether you are slicing your flanks. You may need to square your flanks in how you are moving on the dog so you block their heads rather than chasing them. If you can't block the dog with the sheep on the fence or in a corner and you are using square flanks yourself, then grab that line. If you can't get the line, use a longer one. Grab that line and reel them in and force them back. In this case the line is to keep them from going around you. Don't pull them back, push them back in front of you.

And do it all calmly! Because if you get excited you are just throwing gasoline on the fire. Good luck!

NEGATIVITY

Sue Main and Gwyn Jones

I was asked to elaborate on negativity and how we can influence it in our dogs. I found it very difficult to put into words so had a chat with Gwyn to see if he had any ideas. This is what we have come up with and I hope it explains what we mean.

Negativity can come from the dog and/or the handler. Some dogs can pick up on a handler's negativity quite easily and can be similar to authority in a person's manner and voice in that good authority is positive and poor authority is negative.

If a dog is trained and trained and trained it becomes less positive, more relaxed but more disinterested or negative. Too much pressure can also do it. This can show in the way it responds to commands...tends to slow up and work half-heartedly. Its general work can become slow and lethargic sometimes giving the handler the impression that the dog is calm and working quietly.

There is a difference between taking the edge off a dog and reducing the adrenaline levels to going beyond this stage to the point of lethargy setting in. The more sensitive dog is more likely to react than the more positive harder dog.

Another way it can affect the dog is by the handler being very negative. As I said earlier in a similar way to authority but in the voice. This is often mistaken for quiet handling. I have seen a lady wanting to handle quietly but it wasn't just the volume that affected the dog it was the way in which she gave her commands. The commands were quiet, negative and drawn out instead of quiet and sharp or positive. This affected all of her dogs not just one. They became very lethargic in their work...very negative.

I did it with Lace years ago and couldn't understand why she was going off on her outrun as if tomorrow would do. She was walking to her flanks which I thought was great but she didn't up a gear when I asked for it... she was basically sick of work and my negative handling was adding to it all. I had been doing nothing but training and had also gone down the quiet, negative route.

The up side of this is that you can turn it round quite easily. Easy up on the continual training. Mix it with some general farm work, Change the gears up and down. Make it all fun again and keep the dog fresh. Be more positive in your voice and handling. Don't expect the dog to walk and be steady all of the time. Allow it to push and feel its sheep....allow it to work them.

I hope we have helped to clarify what we perceive as negativity.



WE BRING COMFORT

Deb Mickey

I've had border collies for over 25 years and with them tend a small flock of sheep and causally compete in sheepdog trials. I currently live with 3 border collies: Annie; Cait; and Nell. My dogs and I do many other things and one of them is provide pet therapy for a hospice organization. Below is one of our more rewarding experiences.

We read all the time about the amazing things dogs do for people and how intuitive dogs are to our emotions. As a life-long dog lover I never doubted these stories but a recent event provided me proof.



I volunteer for Celtic Hospice and Home Health with my two registered therapy dogs, Cait and Nell. For the past two years we have visited those in hospice who would like to feel the softness of a dog's coat, the gentle lick of a dog's tongue, or just gaze into a dog's warm eyes. It's been very rewarding. We are assigned specific hospice clients and I rotate between taking Cait and Nell when visiting our new friends.

Within the last 6 months I've lost three of my hospice friends but it was only with the passing of the third I able to attend one of their funeral services. Hannah* was my first hospice friend; the one I knew the longest. My dogs and I would spend time in the afternoons at her home with her and her caretaker son Tom*. Both loved the dogs but it was Tom who seemed to enjoy the dogs' visits the most. With encouragement from my

Celtic volunteer coordinator, I decided to take both Cait and Nell to Hannah's service.

I was a little nervous to do so – I knew dogs had attended funeral services before – this was a first for us and I wasn't sure how we would be received. But I brushed both dogs, put on their therapy dog bandanas and tags along with their Celtic ID badges and off we went. I needn't have worried. We brought comfort.

Tom's eyes widen and brightened when we walked in, his wife smiled broadly, and the others looked on fondly. They all commented how much Hannah had enjoyed the dogs' past visits. The dogs went from person to person. Nell sitting, leaning against their legs with her head flung back looking at their faces, and Cait sitting squarely in front inviting them to pet her. The dogs visited everyone in this small gathering and then we sat down for the service, I sat on the aisle just behind and off to the side of Tom while Nell tucked herself under the chair next to me.

Cait laid down in the aisle but right before the service started she got up and moved beside Tom so he could stroke her head, then she came back to me. As the service went on, every now and then, I would feel her leash grow taut; she was repeatedly visiting the woman behind us across the aisle who would silently fondle Cait's head. Finally Cait laid down beside me until just before the end of the service. During this most emotional part she got up and again moved next to Tom but she didn't stop there. She continued until she was in front of Tom and his wife and they both bent forward to caress and pet her, and there she stayed until the end. She brought them comfort.

How do these dogs know what we need? It is a mystery we'll never solve. But I know on this day, in their own special way, two ordinary dogs eased those in pain and brought comfort. It is so rewarding.

** The names of my Celtic friend and her son have been changed to honor their privacy*



2015 BREEDERS DIRECTORY

Maria Amodei

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

Barbara and Bernie Armata

Taravale Farm & Kennel, LLC
1165 Esperance Road
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518-875-6471
taffaway@aol.com
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Kate Collins & George Northrop

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george01368@yahoo.com
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518-568-2833
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Spring Valley Farm
70 Wetmore Road
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466
swetmore51@gmail.com

Richard & Cheryl Williams

Cullymont & Sheepy Hollow
Farms
4825 State Rte. 2002
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-289-4733; cell 570-499-0318
cullymont@epix.net

**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.



Denise Leonard, George Northrop, and Kate Collins with the award presented thanking them for 30 years of the Mass Sheep and Wool trial.



2017 TRIAL SCHEDULE

DATE	TRIAL	LOCATION	CLASSES	CONTACT	INFO/ENTRY
Jun 3	NH Farm Museum SDT	Milton, NH(1305 White Mountain Highway)	One Open Points Trial, Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Tim and Lisa Molinero 603-765-9443	Information
Jun 4-5	Fetch Gate Spring Nursery SDT	Cortland, NY Motels	Two USBCHA Nursery USBCHA	Roger & Heather Millen 607-745-1883	Entry Word PDF
Jun 10-11	Bobtail SDT	Turbotville,PA	Two Open, One Nursery, & ProNovice USBCHA/NEBCA	Dave Fetterman 570-742-3527	Entry Word PDF
Jun 10-11	Taravale Novice Trial	Esperance, NY	NN, PN, Ranch NEBCA	Barbara Armata 518-875-6471	Entry Word PDF
Jun 15-18	Caora Farm SDT	235 Sharon Rd, Millerton NY 12546	Two Open, USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Michele Ferraro & Kak Weathers 518-592-1320 Martha Walke, Entries	Entry Word PDF
Jun 24	Tanstaaff Farm	Greenfield, MA	Two Novice & Pronovice with an educational component NEBCA	Denise Leonard 413-773-5232 Chris Bowen 603-358-0147	Entry Word PDF
Jun 30- 1 Jul	Holstein Agro Expo Time & Points SDT	Holstein, ON	Two Open, Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Viki Kidd 416-277-4313 www.holsteinagroexpo.com	Entry Word PDF
Jul 1- 3	Cascade Farm SDT	370 Pettyboro Road, Bath, NH	Two Open, Ranch, Pronovice, Novice USBCHA/NEBCA	Mary Ames 603-838-2018	Double Lift 3 Jul Entry PDF Word
Jul 1- 4	Fetch Gate Farm SDT	Cortland, NY Motels	Novice, ProNovice, Ranch & Two Open, Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Roger & Heather Millen 607-745-1883	BaerTest Entry Word PDF
July 2-3	Handy Dog SDT Novice & Nursery	St. Agatha, ON	Two Nursery, Novice, Pronovice, Ranch OBCC/NEBCA/USBCHA	Victoria Lamont 519-497-0765	Information Entry Word PDF
Jul 6	Ossipee Valley Fair SDT	South Hiram,ME	Two Open Points & Nursery NEBCA/USBCHA	Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898	Enter Day of Trial
Jul 8- 9	Dancing Ewe Farm SDT	Granville, NY	Two Open One Nursery USBCHA, NEBCA	Joanne Krause 518-642-1580	Information Entry Word PDF
Jul 22-23	Shepherd's Crook Summer Nov SDT	Woodville, Ontario	3 Ranch, PN, NN & 2 Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Viki Kidd 416-277-4313	dd Entry Word PDF
Jul 22-23	Spring Valley Open SDT	Strafford, VT	Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA	Steve Wetmore 802-765-4466	Entry Word PDF
Jul 28-30	Fetch Gate Farm Novice SDT	Cortland, NY Motels	Three Novice & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Roger & Heather Millen 607-745-1883	Entry Word PDF
Aug 3-6	80 Acres, Kingston, Ontario	Marclen Rd, Kingston, Ontario GPS	Two Open, One Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Beverly Lambert 860-742-5300	Entry Word PDF
Aug 7-13	Kingston Sheep Dog Trials	Grass Creek Park Kingston, Ontario GPS	CBCA National Championships Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Amanda Milliken 613-531-9405	Nursery Aug 7 Double Lift Aug 13 Entry
Aug 26	Queechee SDT	Queechee, VT	One Open, ProNovice and Ranch NEBCA	Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898	
Aug 26-28	Leatherstocking & Fall Foliage Prelim	Cooperstown, NY	Two Open USBCHA/NEBCA	LSDT:.. Barbara Leverett 518- 568-2833 / Fall Foliage.. Sue Schoen 413-344-9514	Aug 28 Fall Foliage Double Lift



NEBCA News



DATE	TRIAL	LOCATION	CLASSES	CONTACT	INFO/ENTRY
Aug 31	Lancaster Fair SDT	Lancaster, NH	One Open Points & Nursery NEBCA/USBCHA	Mary Ames 603-838-2018	
Sep 2	Blue Hill Fair Open SDT	Blue Hill, ME	One Open Points NEBCA	Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898	Enter Day of Trial
Sep 3	Northeast US Open SDT	Blue Hill, ME	One Open Points NEBCA	Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898	Enter Sep 2
Sep 15	NH Highland Games Open SDT	NHHG Loon Mt, Lincoln, NH	One Open Points NEBCA	Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898	Must Preregister for Pass
Sep 15-17	Pipedream Farm SDT	9416 Mt Tabor Rd Middletown, MD 21769	Two Open, Nursery, One Novice, ProNovice, Ranch USBCHA/NEBCA	Mark & Renee Billadeau 301-293-2797	
Sep 22-24	Long Shot Trial	Church Hill, MD HOTELS	Two Open, Ranch, ProNovice & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Sherry Smith 410-758-3363	
Oct 1	Fryeburg Fair SDT	Fryeburg Fairgrounds, Maine	One Open Points & Nursery NEBCA	Gabrielle Merrill 207-935-2520	
Oct 7-9	Shepherd's Crook Triple Crown SDT	Woodville, Ontario	2 Open, Novice, & Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Viki Kidd 416-277-4313	
Oct 10-12	Indian River Triple Crown	Indian River, ON Accommodations	Two Novice, PN, Ranch & Open USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Cynthia Palmer 705-295-3351	Information
Oct 13-15	Swaledale Triple Crown	Blackstock, ON	Two Open, Novice, Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC	Sheri Purcell 289-314-0999	
Nov 4-6	Long Shot Trial	Church Hill, MD HOTELS	Two Open, Ranch, ProNovice & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Sherry Smith 410-758-3363	
Dec 1-3	Long Shot Trial	Church Hill, MD HOTELS	Two Open, Ranch, ProNovice & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA	Sherry Smith	

LOOK BACK! Spring is here with lots of trials. The trial schedule starts one page back.

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

Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!

Benjamin Franklin