



NEBCA News

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



Barbara Armata

During harsh Arctic weather in the Northeast, Bette and Barbara Armata found OK training weather in...Oklahoma.

The mission of the North East Border Collie Association is to promote and to 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.

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NEBCA Bylaws & Rules at

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

If members require hard copies,
please contact The Secretary,
Martha Walke, PO Box 66,
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NEBCA Membership

Use the form on page 11!

Annual Renewals due January 1st
\$25 per individual, or
\$30 per farm/family

To join or renew, send your name,
address and dues to: The Secretary,
NEBCA, Martha Walke, PO Box 66,
S. Strafford, VT 05070

OR submit online at
<http://nebca.net/membershipChoice2017.html>

New members may join at any
time. After October 1, you will
automatically be paid through the
following calendar year.

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From the President - Chris Bowen



The NEBCA Annual Meeting was held Saturday, January 20. As usual, it was a productive meeting with lots of interesting conversation. For the second year, we offered members the opportunity to participate remotely. Over 40% of the people who attended were at

one of the three remote sites. While it isn't quite the same as seeing friends in person, and it does impact the pot luck options, this seems to work fairly well. Given the geographic area across which our membership is spread, it makes great sense. I expect that it will continue in the future.

One comment at the meeting that concerned me came from a long time trial manager who expressed the opinion that handlers today are not nearly as willing to step up and help out at trials as they used to be. This should not be! Please remember that trial managers do a HUGE amount of work in order to make our events happen. And, they don't do it because there is money to be made in putting on sheepdog trials! They do it out of love for our dogs and our sport and the community that they hope is as devoted to it as they are. Trials can't be successful without all of us working to help out. So, let's all make New Year's resolutions to sign up for every job that we are able to do on every entry form. And, don't be afraid to try something you've never done before. Finally, when the trial is over, don't leave without tracking down your hosts and saying thank you. It matters!

With the beginning of a new year, we have some people leaving our committees and new ones coming on. Thank you to Rob Drummond, Fiona Robertson, Barbara Armata, Wendy Warner, Sara Reiter, Steve Wetmore, and Sally Molloy who have completed terms on the trial committees or board of directors and are coming off. Congratulations to Ellen Fowler and Barbara Leverett who were elected to the Board of Directors. And, thank you to

Michael Nunan who will be joining the Open Trials Committee and Peggy Flanagan, Sheila Crepeau and Amy Hersberger who are joining the Novice Trials Committee. I think that both of our 2018 year-end events are in good hands.

While it is still January as I write this, the days are getting noticeably longer. Icy fields are limiting my training options, but a new puppy I've recently added to my pack is keeping me busy and well entertained. Spring, and a new NEBCA trialing season will be here soon. See you then!



Maria Mick's 15-year-old Kit listens to Annual Meeting.

Barbara Armata

Erratum

In the Winter 2017 Newsletter, Page 13, the caption for the top left photo should read, "Pro-Novice Champion Chris Bowen and Chance, also Long Road Award." The class was mis-identified at "Novice Champion."

Training the Gaps Training the Stronger-Eyed Dog

By Roger Deschambeault

With a moderately stronger-eyed dog, there is over-focus near sheep. The dog stops and stares, frozen. He's mesmerized, whatever the reason. The training goal is to keep the dog moving and flowing.

The training goal is to keep the dog moving and flowing

The first and essential requirement is to develop a good, trusting relationship with the dog.

Next is training. A good exercise is to have the dog pull sheep from a corner, while you are nearby. When the dog stops as it approaches the sheep, you're nearby and can give your correction, such as, "Hey!" to break the dog's over-focus. You may need to follow with your flank command to encourage the dog onward.

It doesn't take but a correction or two for the dog to realize that he can pick up the sheep -- there is no need to stop.

Video Learning

Calm Handling of Livestock

Thanks to Deb Duarte and Nancy Phillips

Curt Pate from Alberta, filmed at the Alberta Farm Animal Care Conference Workshop in Olds, Alberta, on March 22, 2016, discussed calm handling of livestock.

The concepts also apply to working sheep with stockdogs.

Tips for effectively moving livestock, 7 minutes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ond0iTzWYHA>

Demonstration of handling sheep, 12 minutes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKqLSkfppXQ>

Another path to the videos above and related demonstrations is to type into the YouTube search box, Curt Pate. The two videos listed above will appear among a series on handling livestock.



Sharon Nunan's sheep visited the Pennsylvania Farm Show's Points-and-Time sheepdog trial, organized by Emily Falk and Sue Asten. First-day winners were Champion Lori Cunningham and Matt, Reserve Champion Amanda Milliken and Quark. After double-elimination, overall winners were Champion Amanda Milliken and Quark, Reserve Champion Amanda Milliken and Dorey.

Newly Opened Historical Archive for the International Sheep Dog Society

By Sallie Butler

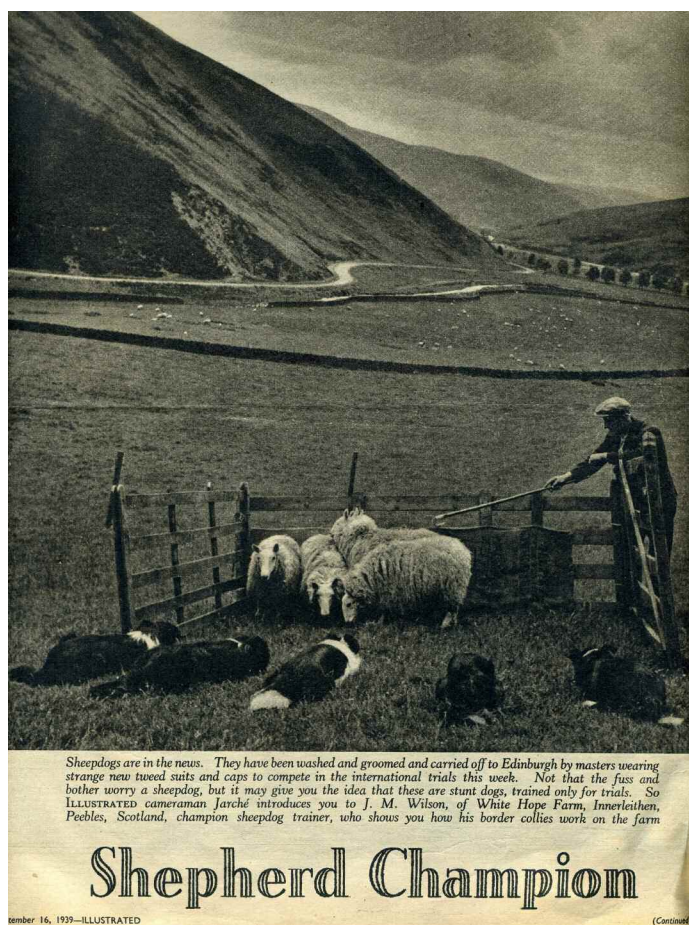
Curious about sheepdogs of the past in UK and Ireland? Venerable dogs perhaps in your current collies' genealogy? Trial winners from the 1870s? Photos of handlers from International events held in the early 20th century?

Certainly, you nod.

Then click to the newly-launched archive of historical material being gathered by the International Sheep Dog Society:
www.isdssheepdogarchive.org.uk

The archive project is a work-in-progress, managed by Kim Gibson, and supported by UK's Heritage Lottery Fund. The digital archive is an

extensive task building on articles, photos, video, interviews and reports on topics ranging from handlers, dogs, shepherds, farming, trials, and authors. Even Happy New Year cards sent to members from the first Secretary of ISDS, James Reid, and given to Barbara Carpenter by David Rees. The Historical Archive of the ISDS will carry forward and grow, and will be worth revisiting often, as material is added. If you know of collections of material relevant to the ISDS, contact Kim Gibson by email, nidderdalesheepdog@gmail.com. Be sure to thank Kim for managing the archive project.



ISDS Sheep Dog Trials 133 From the ISDS Historical Archive, J. M. Wilson demonstrates his border collies for *Illustrated*, 1939



Congratulations for sustained excellence at trials in New York to Champion Barb Levinson and Bob, and Reserve Champion Steve Wetmore and Gile. Both were tops in accumulated scores from Caora, Dancing Ewe and Leatherstocking sheepdog events. Well done!

Tara Dier

Summary of NEBCA Annual General Meeting Minutes

Access complete minutes and financials at <http://www.nebca.net/membersonly.html>

Swanzey, NH

January 20, 2018

Called to order at 10:05AM.

There were 24 members present plus 17 members present at three remote sites.

I. Approval of the minutes from the general meeting at Cooperstown.

M/S: George Northrop/Ginny Prince. To approve the minutes as written. Motion approved.

II. Executive Committee Reports

A. Secretary's Report, Martha Walke

At the end of 2017 there were 264 members compared to 281 at the end of 2016 and 270 at the end of 2015. Of the 264 members, 7 are Lifetime, 206 are Individual and 51 are Family/Farm. There were 42 new members in 2017.

As of Jan. 19, there 159 members who are either new (7), Lifetime (7) or renewed (145). As the trial season approaches, I presume we will see the renewals rise.

B. Treasurer's Report, Denise Leonard

2017 Financials provided. It was noted that 83 memberships were paid with PayPal.

III. BOD Report, Rob Drummond

The BOD has been discussing several issues:

Should NEBCA create a policy to be published about advertising on the NEBCA webpage?

BOD Position is to bring this up for discussion during the Annual Meeting for a general discussion.

Discussion on products being consistent with the NEBCA mission and on oversight.

See New Business for continuation of this.

We have edited the Standard of Conduct and the Grievance Process. It was decided to add a statement in the Standard of Conduct where any reporting of misconduct be filed with the USBCHA first. If the USBCHA deems the complaint to be outside their purview a formal complaint can be made to the NEBCA President and then the NEBCA Grievance Process will be followed. A refundable Filing Fee of \$25.00 will be charged at the time a report is filed (payable to NEBCA). If the grievance is substantiated the filing fee will be refunded. After much discussion concerning where Novice grievances should be sent and the expense involved with filing with USBCHA, it was suggested that this go back to the BOD to be modified to include wording dealing with sanctioning and allowing the BOD to make the decision as to which organization should oversee the grievance.

It has been brought to the BOD's attention that water be available for dogs and livestock at NEBCA events. It was the position of the BOD that making water available to dogs and livestock is a very important issue and reminders of such should be published in the Newsletter and on the Trials page of the NEBCA website on a regular basis. It was the BOD's decision to approach this issue as a general concern rather than pointing out specific trials or events. It was also pointed out in our discussions that for the most part that trial managers have a lot to do putting on trials for us to participate in and do a good job with providing water. But that trial managers could use volunteer help monitoring water tanks, etc., and participants should be willing to help out in such areas.

Discussion followed on trial etiquette noting that the expectations have changed over the years; that the USBCHA has voted that all trials should have water on the field; and that fair trials should have water on the field. Concern over perception by the public.

The BOD has been discussing the issue of sheep availability for trials. A Sheep Committee has been established to address this issue and will be making a separate report on this issue. The BOD will continue to work with the NEBCA committee formed to pursue this issue.

Summary of NEBCA Annual General Meeting Minutes *continued*

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Trials Committee - Sue Schoen

1. Sally Malloy and Steve Wetmore will be stepping down. *Thanks so much for all your help, you two!!*

Sallie Butler, Barb Levinson and myself continue. We have a couple of new members targeted but cannot confirm yet. I will continue as Chair.

Biggest concern for me is the trials we have lost. I have written to Merck Forest to see if they are willing to revive. We have some newer trials appearing: Joanne Krause's trial, Wendy Warner's trial, and we have Diane Cox looking to put a trial on. I am hoping to get permission from the state to have a trial at my farm but it will be next year (2019). I think the venues are not really the issue, but of course, the sheep. That said, I encourage folk to consider becoming hosts if they have not already done so. Do you participate in the running or functioning of at least one trial a season? I think that should be everyone's goal. Even a small impromptu trial is an addition. Get together with handlers in your area the people you run dogs with - for fun, for novices. Even one day. If everyone got in the habit of making trials happen, we would be better off.

The NEBCA fall foliage was combined with the Leatherstocking Sheepdog trial this year due to the east coast location of the National Finals. The two committees worked well together to put on a very successful trial judged by Joyce Geier. We ran on Mary Ann Duffy and Barb Leverett's lively cheviot cross ewes. Mich Ferraro and Puppa were our Double Lift Champions with Dave Young and Pic in Reserve. Due to a large entry we were unable to offer USBCHA sanctioning. The trial pointed out the benefits of using a great flock of sheep.

2. I have spoken to Warren Mick about the 2018 Fall Foliage being held at Old Chatham over Columbus Day. Mich Ferraro has agreed to the use of her sheep. I will scout for a judge once we have the date and place confirmed. I vote for a USBCHA points trial if it is not over subscribed by NEBCA handlers. I think this adds to the appeal and quality of the trial. This will be determined as we go along. I hope we can match what happened at Leatherstocking last year. It was a challenge combining the two trials, but I think we all feel it was a great success.

B. Novice Trials Committee - Barbara Armata

1. We had a relatively quiet year following our discussions and decisions on the question from Jim Murphy regarding Nursery dogs. The outcome was to not change anything.

Discussions between the committee members took place about changing the points for ranch class. No agreement was reached at this time.

The Novice Finals was another success, in my opinion! Both financially and from reports back from competitors. I believe we gave the Novice handlers a valid test for their dogs which helped sort out the novice champions. We took in \$6145 and spent \$5507, leaving the club on the plus side by \$638. Expenses were a bit higher than 2016; however, I believe the money was well spent.

Thank you to the novice committee - Barbara Eriksson, Wendy Warner and Sara Reiter. We have represented different viewpoints yet continued to work well together. For the past two years, the support and division of labor for putting on the finals was amazing!

I am not staying on for another two years. I don't feel I will be able to devote the needed time to do a good job. Barbara Eriksson still has another year. I believe she has the experience, and definitely the energy, to lead the new novice committee! I intend to support the committee in any way I can, and the novice handlers who are so important to our club and sport.

2. Barbara Eriksson accepted the appointment as Chair and will begin working with the Committee on the 2018 Novice Finals.

V. Newsletter Report, Sallie Butler

Since Maria Amodei retired as Editor in 2017, we have finished two issues, 2017 Autumn and 2017 Winter.

Both issues saw a new layout via Quark Xpress software, for managing readability and photographs, thanks to Lori Tsuruda's efforts.

Summary of NEBCA Annual General Meeting Minutes *continued*

The Winter issue displayed a format change to bound, folded newsletter, with tab closures, and mailed without a covering envelope to US addresses, and sent in a small envelope to Canadian addresses. The format change saved costs both in postage and large envelopes. Moreover, Martha Walke's time previously spent in handling envelopes is freed. The front page in the new, folded format, was wrinkled. We are researching the use of different paper (as long as the cost of paper remains the same). Another option to reduce the thickness of the Newsletter is to shorten it to 16 pages from 20 pages. Note that a 16-page Newsletter would also save paper and printing costs. We plan to continue the folded format of 20 pages for at least the 2018 Spring issue, which is nearly finished, and will be ready to print in early February. The 2018 Spring and future issues should reach members on time.

We are pleased to help produce the NEBCA Newsletter, and thank members for their considerable talents in creating content.

Discussion followed concerning value of the Newsletter to the NEBCA community. It was agreed by the membership present that the Newsletter should not be shortened and that a lighter stock, with a heavier cover page, be re-searched.

VI. Select Committee Reports

A. Merchandise Committee, Joanne Krause

Income for 2017 was \$7,155.50. Income from the Nationals was \$2,441.00. This is included in the total. Expenses for 2017 were \$5,762.66. This includes the expenses for the National Finals (\$2005.00) and for the purchase of totes and a table (\$75.41).

Merchandise Inventory: \$2,354.70. A lot of this is the merchandise that we ordered for the Nationals. Not knowing what we would sell, we ordered all the hats and the fleece jackets that we would carry this year. We will be discounting back items. There are a limited number of sizes and colors and they will be available starting at the Cascade trial.

This coming year we will be carrying the fleece jackets that were sold at the Nationals. We will have to order a limited number of sizes and colors. We sold out of the ball caps at the Nationals and these we will re-order. The other item we will be ordering is the new T-shirt.

Joanne thanked Kim Lippolis for her help at the Finals and the rest of the committee for all of their work, especially selling merchandise at trials. The committee will meet soon to select a t-shirt design and colors. If you would like to submit a design, please get in touch with Joanne.

B. Calendar Committee, Kate Collins & George Northrop

Printed 300 2018 calendars for a cost of \$819, plus tax. As of 19 January 2018, 25 calendars are unsold. So far, 37 were sold with membership. There is no outstanding debt at this time. The quote from Amherst Copy for printing 300 2019 calendars with the same specifications is \$796. 300 seems to be the number we should print as we sell most of them so we recommend that for 2019.

Note Cards - Same specifications as last printing: white linen card stock, 350 total with 350 linen envelopes, 70 each of five different designs 4.24 x 5.5. Quote for same: \$141.25- notecards + \$70- envelopes = \$211.25 total.

C. Learning Trials Committee, Rose Redick

In 2017 they had a Whistle Challenge at both the Cummington Trial and at Barbara Armata's trial. Both were very successful and the committee has been invited to put on this challenge again at the 2018 Cummington Trial. Wendy Warner and Sara Reiter each had learning trials in 2017.

D. Audit Committee, Warren Mick, Dave Sharp, Chris Bowen

The procedure used was the one developed by Bill Black. A single month is selected, at random, and is used to access the organization's accounting practices and financial condition for the year. The month of June 2017 was selected and reviewed for the current audit.

Summary of NEBCA Annual General Meeting Minutes *continued*

In the opinion of the Audit Committee, The Executive Committee has maintained effective internal control over transactions and financial reporting. These controls include (1) the maintenance of records that accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of NEBCA, and (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements. Based on the review, the Audit Committee believes the organization's current accounting practices are sound and adequate.

The Audit Committee suggests that a review of the yearly balance sheet and the income and expense statements be included in future annual audits.

E. Library Report, Martha Walker

In 2017 there were 21 transactions by 15 members, slightly less than in 2016. We have received the DVD sets of the 2017 National Sheepdog Semi-Finals and the Double-Lift Finals. I have ordered a few items from the ISDS and they should be here in February. The updated library listings should be in the Summer Newsletter. As reported earlier in the year, we had 32 items donated by Michael Heasley, a former member.

F. Database Development, Maria Amodei

The points system is being redone to follow the USBCHA system. This has involved a lot of data clean up, and the goal is to be done by the time the trial season begins this spring. Maria would like to add information that would make it easier to calculate data. The NEBCA Novice points system would be aligned with this system. The handler will be able to update information (not points) making it easier tracking dog information. Each dog will have a personal and unique ID number. Trial managers' reports will be easier to calculate and submit.
M/S: Kate Collins/Maria Amodei.

Move that all committee reports be accepted. Motion approved.

VII. Unfinished Business and Special Orders

A. Elections Results, Martha Walke

The outcome of the BOD election is: Barbara Leverett - 61 votes; Ellen Fowler - 43 votes; Deb Donahue - 37 votes. The new Board members are Barbara Leverett and Ellen Fowler.

B. Sheep Committee Report, Mich Ferraro

There are some positive things on the horizon that I think all of us need to get behind. The sheep used at Leatherstocking were an inspiration to all of us for how changing things around can bring new life.

Some talking points: Good sheep and a good venue are 2 key components. What other things are key to a good trial...handling equipment, other?

New trials:

I think Diane Cox is planning on a new trial. How can we help her?

Old Chatham - We are about to purchase 100 lambs next fall in order to run them at our Caora trial. We are open to renting them to the club and getting Old Chatham back in the spring, but we would need help to put that trial on in April or May of 2019 before our trial. We are also open to renting them to anyone after our trial in July then they get sold.

Are there any other flocks that people know of for rent? Sharing flocks?

Sue Schoen: I would like to add the idea of NEBCA supporting use of new flocks with a small sheep stipend. We discussed the idea of a NEBCA flock years ago when Bill Fosher was Crow Hill Farm, but I know that is tricky. The Monastery is happy to have us back but I know it is a cultural and logistical adventure doing it there. Though I'm pretty sure Mary Ann is game.

I am contacting Merck Forest to see if reviving that trial is possible. It is also possible that Peter Helmingtag will rent us sheep again.

Anyone with any leads - through your auction house or shearer or any neighbors - please keep the thought of new big flocks in mind. Mich and I have thrown around the idea of raising similar breeds and blending during the summer. If anyone else can accomplish this with NEBCA members near them, please consider it.

Summary of NEBCA Annual General Meeting Minutes *continued*

VIII. New Business

A. Continuation of discussion of BOD proposal concerning ads on the NEBCA website.

M/S: Ginny Prince/Steve Wetmore. To ask the BOD to develop a policy for ads. This policy to be presented to the membership for review. M/S: Warren Mick/Maria Amodei. To amend the motion to read: To ask the BOD to develop an overall NEBCA information policy. This policy to be presented to the membership for review. Motion accepted.

B. 2018 Proposed Budget, Denise Leonard

It was noted that the \$500.00 increase in monies for the Fall Foliage is reflective of past events when it was not held in conjunction with another trial.

It was suggested that the Awards and Gifts be reset at the previous amount.

M/S: Maria Amodei/Elizabeth Smith-Fries. Moved to accept the proposed budget as amended. Approved.

C. USBCHA Finals Contribution, Chris Bowen

NEBCA contributed \$5000.00 to the National Finals committee with the request that \$2000.00 be returned from their profits. This request was honored and the monies were returned to NEBCA.

D. Committee Appointments, Chris Bowen

Open Trials Committee - Mike Nunan accepted a position. The committee is waiting to hear from one other person.

Novice Trials Committee - still to be filled.

Learning Trials Committee will remain the same with Rose Redick as chair.

The BOD will elect a chair at a later date.

E. It was agreed to hold the 2018 meetings at Cummington and Leatherstocking.

M/S Steve Wetmore/Maria Amodei. Moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:34PM.

Respectfully submitted

Martha M. Walke, NEBCA Secretary



Maji

NORTHEAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

c/o Martha Walke
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Dues are paid for the calendar year. Anyone joining NEBCA after October 1 will receive membership for the rest of that year and the following year.

Members will:

- receive the NEBCA Newsletter (usually 4 quarterly issues)
- be eligible to participate in NEBCA's year-end trials and points competitions
- be able to borrow items from the lending library
- receive a discount for classified ads in the newsletter & on the website

PAYMENT

☐ Check or Money Order (\$USD) ☐ PayPal (includes processing fees)

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

	<u>Check</u>	<u>PayPal</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	\$26.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual plus Calendar	\$35	\$36.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Farm	\$30	\$31.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Farm plus Calendar	\$40	\$41.50

How would you like to receive the Newsletter? ☐ Electronic ☐ Paper

OPTIONS

Breeders Directory Listings	<u>Check</u>	<u>PayPal</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Calendar	\$10	\$10.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	\$10	\$10.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Website	\$10	\$10.50

TOTAL(Enclosed/Paid via PayPal): _____

Member(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Instructions: Complete form, save it, then mail or email it to Martha Walke with enclosed check or money order or proceed to PayPal payment page http://www.nebca.net/Membership_Paypal.html. Include your PayPal emailed receipt with this membership form to Martha. (You can forward your emailed PayPal receipt to Martha and attach this document.)

Whistle Challenge

By Rose Redick

In 2017 I was asked to organize the learning program for the Novice Classes at the Cummington Trial at the MA Sheep and Wool Festival. I wanted something different from what we had done in the past. I had watched some novice handlers working dogs, but without using whistles. When one handler mentioned the need to start using whistles, it started my design of the whistle challenge.

The primary goals were that the Whistle Challenge be a fun challenge, and establish more communication with both participants' trainers and Open handlers. Many novice handlers are intimidated when it comes to using a whistle, especially in a trial setting. So the criteria for handlers were minimal for each level, and just enough for people to take first steps. Based on the positive reception for the 2017 whistle challenges, here are the initial criteria for novice trials this year (*see box below*).

At the 2017 Cummington Trial, each handler recognized won a small prize, a gift card from Dunkin Donuts, provided by the Learning Trial Committee.

More handlers joined the the second challenge, at the Armatas' Taravale Farm Trial in June 2017, where handlers became comfortable whistling, especially among their peers and with little public attendance. Once again, handlers were recognized with a small prize provided by the Learning Trial Committee.

We asked others to judge the whistle challenge, so that trial judges were left to focus on their responsibilities during runs.

As a result, many novice handlers attempted to use their whistles for the first time in a trial setting. Open handlers and trainers answered questions about whistles and whistling.

This year we encourage the whistle challenge in novice trials, with criteria suited to the trial. Wouldn't it be great to see more handlers entering the whistle challenge?

2018 Novice Whistle Challenge

The intent is to encourage 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 new learning, either independently or with an instructor, and provide a bit of a challenge for all.

Handler Criteria

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 Novice-Novice (NN) handler who has never run in any upper level class, the handler who uses the stop whistle appropriately during his/her run will be recognized.

For the Pro-Novice (PN) handler who has never run in any upper level class, the handler who uses the stop whistle and a flank whistle appropriately during his/her run 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 his/her run will be recognized.

Sallie Butler



Whistles in Different Styles and Materials

Left to right: Plastic (green), T-3 (titanium), Luminator II (aluminum), brass, plastic (blue).

Center: Whistle-in-progress is (an upcycled, 21st century, aluminum can top) based on 19th century drover's whistle

Other varieties, not pictured: Corian, bone

Gluttony of Training

By Carol Campion

A glutton would eat the whole pie instead of a piece of pie. With a long winter now over, and spring with all its opportunity awaiting us, how many of us are guilty of this when training our dogs?

The numerous training groups on Facebook offer insight into just this. Many of the questions often asked on how to fix problems that can be attributed to training mistakes made by asking too much of a young dog too soon—wanting the whole pie instead of pieces of the pie? It is very exciting to have a talented youngster in your hands. But how many of us take and push this pup faster than is productive so that we can enjoy a bigger piece of the pie?

There is nothing more exciting than to have a pup that starts out showing attributes that indicate a real natural talent. A winner! The pup goes to sheep for the first time and upon spying them immediately casts for its sheep seeking the balance point. It shows amazing feel and authority as it proceeds to steer the sheep back to you.

“Wow! I really have something here,” you think! And probably you do!

The next thing you know, this 7-month-old BC is being shown in a video being sent 300 yards for a small flock of sheep. Breathtaking! We all have to agree that there is nothing more exciting. But wait!

Why are the sheep not coming? Where is the dog? What is all the yelling?

Fast forward a month or so. Same handler on Facebook asking: “Why is my dog blowing off my flanks?” “Why is my dog not stopping?” “Why has my dog become disobedient?” “Why is my dog eating muck?”

Because a young dog has a natural outrun does not mean it is ready to be sent to gather a flock of sheep at a large distance. Because a young dog shows an instinct to drive sheep does not mean it is ready to push a flock and take commands to do so. Because a dog will balance the sheep to you and flank to use that balance does not mean it knows its flanks.

These dogs need time to develop. Even the very precocious. They need time that enables you to be sure they understand what you are asking of them.

Take the time to break down the training into palatable pieces. The talent won't go away. But it will be a much more glorious display when the dog understands you and the harmony of teamwork can shine.

So don't be a glutton. Only take on as much as you and your dog can digest at one time! All the pieces of the pie soon come together and voila! You have the whole pie to enjoy!



Tim Molinero

Lisa and Tim Molinero's flock of Gulf Coast Native sheep graze in New England summertime shade. The breed is deemed "Critical" in Livestock Conservancy's priority list of heritage breeds.

Heartstone Farm's First Season of Trial Sheep

by Tim and Lisa Molinero

We noticed there are fewer flocks of sheep available for trials in New England. We committed to creating a flock that would be suitable to replace some of these flocks, but wanted to continue our farm's mission of raising and breeding heritage animals. We currently had (and still do) a small flock of Babydoll Southdowns. We knew we needed a breed that was resistant to the hot summers, but still able to endure the cold New England winters. Most importantly, they had to respond appropriately when being worked by herding dogs.

After much research, we found the Gulf Coast Native sheep. We were informed that these sheep worked well with dogs due in part to their strong "flocking instinct," a key factor in their survival as a breed.

The history of the Gulf Coast Native goes back to the early explorers and settlers to the New World in the 1500s. Their exact genetics are hard to trace, but the breed foundation comes from the first

Spanish explorers. Their fine wool suggests a contribution from pre-Merino types.

Gulf Coast sheep were used across the Southeast by missionaries, Native Americans and European settlers. The sheep were shaped primarily by natural selection, becoming well adapted to the heat and humidity of the environment. These sheep fit their challenging environment so well that for centuries they were the only sheep to be found in the deep South, providing wool and meat for home production. These sheep were often left out on pasture year round and only gathered up once a year to separate the lambs and shear them. The development of anti-parasite medications in the twentieth century allowed the introduction of larger, more productive sheep breeds in the Southeast and the Gulf Coast sheep fell out of "fashion."

As an adaptation to the heat and humidity, Gulf Coast sheep lack wool on their faces, legs, and bellies. Most sheep are white; however, there are

some individuals that are black, brown, and even spotted faces and legs. Most rams and some ewes are horned, although both sexes may also be polled. They also vary in size with rams weighing 120-200 pounds and ewes 90-160 pounds.

Gulf Coast sheep breed and lamb year round. The ewes make excellent mothers, pasture lambing without assistance. Lambs are vigorous and grow rapidly. They also have a well-documented resistance to gut parasites, foot rot, and other diseases that commonly affect sheep. Their vitality in the heat, their breeding as "range" sheep, and their ease of keeping helped us to make the decision to use Gulf Coast sheep. We also spoke with several herding dog people in the south who all spoke highly of these sheep. The challenge became to find these sheep that are listed on the Livestock Conservancy critical list, meaning there are less than 2000 registered in the United States and less than 200 new registrations per year.

We acquired some ewe lambs and a ram lamb from Connecticut, several adult ewes, ewe lambs and a lamb ram from Texas, and ewe lambs, ewes, and a ram lamb from Georgia.

We were fortunate to have an opportunity to lease land from a 80+acre hay farm about ten minutes from our house. This gives us plenty of room to work the sheep and make sure they are in shape for the trials. We used them for a few "fun trials" in 2016, and we were thrilled with their performance with strange dogs.

With several barns added to our farm, it was time to bring the sheep back from their summer pasture and wait for the lambs. In February, a few hours after a barn check, Lisa opened the barn to find a lamb all licked off and nursing. With breeding just the older ewes, we ended up with 13 ewes lambing easily, for 15 total lambs. We need the simplicity of easy-lambing since we both work full time.

We were invited to and did display nursing lambs with their mothers at one of the top Spring museum exhibitions in the United States, the Baby Animals exhibit at Strawberry Banke. The museum was excited to showcase this rare breed, and compensated us nicely.

With workouts for sheep and dogs just beginning, it was time for the Gulf Coast first official trial in May at the NH Farm Museum. It was the first trial on this field and it truly offered some unique challenges with a run-in in one corner. The wet spring made mud patches as well, especially the one blocking the entrance to the exhaust pen. The sheep acted appropriately, depending on the pressure of the dog, with the mistake that we did not separate their lambs far enough away so some of the mothers could still hear them. The mothers ran well and challenged the dogs, but we did have some perfect scores, proving the course was not impossible.

Fifteen sheep spent a weekend at a nearby farm for an Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) sanctioned herding event. Due to our busy schedules, we were unable to go to that trial, but the feedback was positive and it was noted the sheep did not slow down as the day wore on. We were not sure if that is good or bad, but they are already asking us about sheep for next year.

We sorted out lambs and drove ewes to the Ossipee Fair (Hiram, ME) for an early July event. The arena was small, but the sheep worked well with none of the sheep attempting to leave the ring. The heat of the day did not slow the sheep at all. During lunch break, they were happy to mow the field some.



Tim Molinero

Gulf Coast ewes ready for a visit to Blue Hill Fair in Maine.

Heartstone Farm's First Season of Trial Sheep *continued from pages 14 & 15*

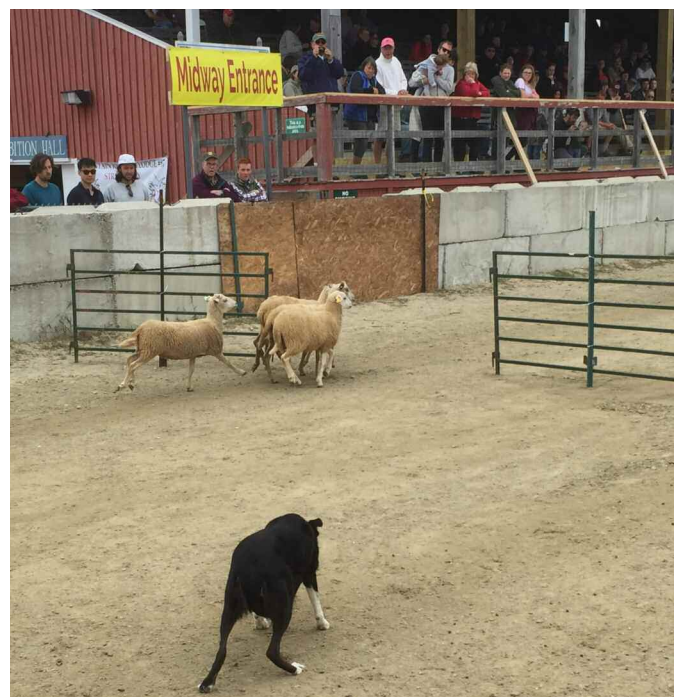
The sheep had some time off to get ready for their busy September/October schedule. They were able to spend time on green pasture and gain weight lost during the winter, on a beautiful farm about ten minutes from our house. We rotate their pasture using electronet, but we do not trust it to keep predators out at night, especially in the Spring and Fall when food can become more scarce. They are put into the trailer every night to keep safe and let out every morning. We supplement with free mineral and grain each morning. Graining helps to prepare sheep for setout at the fair trials, where a dog is too much for the small arena and so is not used to hold sheep.

We believe the sheep are more relaxed when we hook up the red Ford and travel down the road, since they are used to living on the trailer. It also makes loading and unloading quite easy.

We arrived at Blue Hill the evening before. They worked well throughout the day, with a few unsuccessful attempts at jumping out the arena. Penning proved more difficult than we expected, but not impossible. After spending the night under the stars, we moved to the narrow race track for the second trial. The sheep again were great, although one jumped out of the tiny arena. The sheep could be persuaded to step over the bridge that has been a staple of the Blue Hill trial course for many years.

We performed a one-day local demo. This proved challenging. It was a beautiful, sunny day. The several demos tired the three dogs. Setting up the electronet, pens and obstacles strained us as well. The sheep, on the other hand, showed their southern roots, and worked steadily all day.

The last trial of the season was the Fryeburg Fair. The girls were in tip-top shape and ready to go. The weather was perfect. They worked well and



Tim Molinero

A border collie deftly controls four sheep as they are successfully maneuvered through one of the trial's gates at Blue Hill Fair in Maine.

put on a great show for the large audience that we had there. They even worked well for the limited novice class held there.

With the wrap-up of the season, 29 ewes were put in with unrelated rams. The sheep are looking healthy and are heading back to our farm for the winter. We hope in March to be making Maple Syrup and watching the new lambs appear. We are looking forward to another year of trialing with these rare sheep and education the public of the importance of heritage breeds and the work of the Livestock Conservancy.

Retire Your Trial Run and Win!

Editor's Note: At a recent trial, my less-experienced dog faced a challenging ewe, persuaded her to calm, turn and rejoin the other ewes. I happily beamed, "I'm retiring!" to the judge as we exhausted the sheep. I halted the run to praise my dog for her good work, and leave that success in her mind, without over-writing success with whatever might have happened in the stress of finishing the run. We had won, with a score of RT. The calculation was easy, because I had remembered reading the following article.

Originally published in NEBCA Newsletter, Summer 2009, p. 8

The Post

By Maria Amodei and Kate Collins

You stand at the post, dog by your side, sheep at the set out, and a clear vision of quiet handling perfection in your mind. You quietly send your dog, seeing the sweep of the perfect outrun as you speak. You are ready, but for what?

You have had the great misfortune to become addicted to a sport where your plans can easily fall victim to contrary sheep, your dog's abilities and state of mind, the wind, the heat, or anything else Mother Nature feels like tossing in your path that day. Worse still, since we are dealing with living beings from three species, as things go wrong at least one if not all species will begin to escalate and take the scene from bad to worse. It is these very challenges that make handling sheepdogs so complex and rewarding.

How did things get started wrong in the first place? It could be as simple as a late command on your part or not stopping on your dog's part, allowing the sheep to get headed to somewhere they really want to go. Suddenly the concept of speed has thrust its ugly head into your perfect vision. Suddenly the job of managing the stock is much harder. Your dog is feeling this and may be worried about controlling the stock. You are feeling this and get worried about controlling your dog and the stock, which only creates more worry on the part of your dog as your commands escalate. The stock feels the edge seeping in and they decide that it is NOT a good time to settle, and instead pick up the pace or fight or split.

If by some miracle you have not been in this situation, you surely have seen it on the trial field.

So what do you do when things start going wrong? First you need to remember your responsibilities. When you walk out to the post you are responsible for the welfare of the stock and the

welfare of your dog. This is first and foremost. If your dog has already lost its cool, this is probably not the time to be trying some fast flanks to catch escaping sheep. Look at your dog. Is it calm, listening and working, or frantic and slicing? Listen to your own voice. Are you still able to give calm commands? If your stop and flank commands are escalating they sound like a cry of FIRE to your dog and will heat things up even more.

Be honest with yourself about the chances of you and your dog resolving the situation and settling the stock in your current respective states of mind.

...

When the stock is splitting and/or running and your dog is not stopping and slicing flanks or repeatedly unable to perform the commands as given, then it is time to retire. Take a deep breath, leave the post, and go help the dog get the stock off the field. This will teach you how to be calm under pressure, teach your dog that you can be counted on to step in as a good partner when the going gets tough, and teach your dog that it can regain control of the stock quietly as you will have helped the dog do so. If your dog has truly lost its cool, you need to collect him then ask the exhaust person to retrieve the sheep since it may take a few minutes for your dog to settle.

Retiring will spare the sheep unnecessary stress and risk. Retiring will earn the respect of fellow handlers as you will have shown the stockmanship and sportsmanship to leave the post and help quietly resolve the situation. Retiring will allow you to go back to that vision of quiet control that you came to the post with, allowing you and your dog to finish with good work.

NEBCA FinancialsAccess complete financials at <http://www.nebca.net/membersonly.html>

	Budget 2018	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	% Deviation
<u>INCOME</u>				2017
Membership Dues	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,455	8
Calendars	2,800	2,800	2,437	-13
Breeder's Directory	300	450	258	-43
Advertisements	100	100	176	76
Merchandise	6,000	5,500	7,156	30
Library	200	250	111	-56
Interest	55	50	55	10
Rental of Equipment	50	50	40	-20
Miscellaneous	-	-	115	
Total Income	\$ 15,905	\$ 15,200	\$ 16,803	11
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Calendars	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,027	-32
Pamphlets	350	350	1,924	450
Newsletter	2,000	2,500	5,551	122
Merchandise purchased	4,000	4,000	2,434	-39
Fall Foliage Contribution	2,500	2,000	(638)	-132
Novice Finals Contribution	2,000	2,000	625	-69
Insurance	650	650	136	-79
Library	350	350	743	112
Administrative	600	600	131	-78
PayPal transaction fees	150	45	50	11
Advertisement	50	200	716	258
Awards/Gifts	350	350	30	-91
Learning Trials	400	400	3,000	650
National Finals Donation	-	3,000	61	-98
Total Expenses	\$ 14,600	\$ 17,945	\$ 15,790	-12
 Net Income (loss)	 \$ 1,305	 \$ (2,745)	 \$ 1,013	

Balance in bank account at year's end

\$ 41,800

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
rleverett@frontiernet.net

NEBCA Merchandise Update

New NEBCA Merchandise will be available at the Cascade Trial in May.

Discounted items will also be available in limited sizes and colors, so shop soon.

2018 Breeders Directory

Barbara & Bernie Armata

Taravale Farm and Kennel, LLC
1165 Esperance Rd.
Esperance, NY 12066
518-875-6471
taffaway@aol.com

Linda Clarke

981 SR 1001
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
570-690-5204
charlouray@frontiernet.net

Mich Ferraro & Kak Weathers

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

Lowell & Patricia Kallen

464 Senevet Rd.
Woodstock, CT 06281
757-371-6822
patricia628@earthlink.net

Steve Wetmore

Spring Valley Farm
70 Wetmore Rd.
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466
swetmore51@gmail.com

Dick & Cheryl Jagger Williams

Culleymont & Sheepy Hollow Farms
4825 State Route 2002
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-289-4733; 570-499-0318 (cell)
culleymont@epix.net

Note: Not all breeders listed here are necessarily handlers.

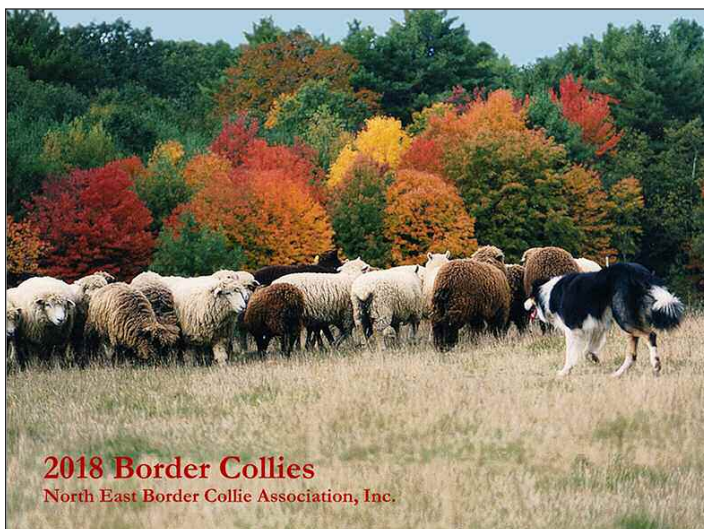
This listing of Border Collie breeders is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the North East Border Collie Association (NEBCA).

When making inquiries into purchasing a pup, NEBCA strongly recommends selecting from sound, proven, working stock. We suggest that you see both parents work. If you are unable to see the parents working at a farm, do attend trials and see them working there. Also watch for trials results and seek the advice of experienced handlers.

NEBCA
P.O. Box 66
South Strafford, VT 05070

Don't Forget to Renew Your NEBCA Membership!
Form on page 11.

The NEBCA Board of Directors reminds all trial managers and volunteers that water must be available for both dogs and livestock at all NEBCA events.



Buy NEBCA 2018 Calendars

Only \$10 each +Shipping* (\$2.65 US/\$4.15 Canada)

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Two Ways to Buy:

Contact George Northrop
978-249-4407 or george01368@yahoo.com

or

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

*If you order calendars and renew your NEBCA membership at same time (page 11), calendars **ship free**.