



NEBCA News

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



Pam Mueller

"You talk'in to me?"

Sara Reiter's Chet goes eye to eye with a ewe

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

can be found at

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

If members require hard copies, please contact The Secretary, Martha Walke, P.O. Box 66, S. Strafford, VT 05070

NEBCA Membership

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, P. O. Box 66, S. Strafford, VT 05070
OR submit online at
<http://nebca.net/membershipChoice.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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NEBCA NEWS

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President's Message— Barb Eriksson



Thank you, fellow NEBCA members, for the honor of allowing me to serve as your newest president. I look forward to hearing from you so we can decide together the best course for this organization.

As I write this, the ice and snow prevents me from working my dogs. We've been several weeks now without serious work. But lambing is just around the corner, a sure sign that spring is on the way. I have a new puppy, a handsome lad I named Kite. Nothing like a puppy to inspire dreams of future trials. The past year has been a challenge, with only a few trials and very few opportunities to socialize. I think we're all feeling trial deprived. But, I was inspired by handlers who found ways to safely get together and train and the generosity of members who gave knowledge and/or access to sheep so we could all continue working our dogs and learning.

The Education Committee has put together some excellent offerings on Zoom. I think this is a brilliant idea. I participated in the first one led by Joyce Geier. It will certainly change the way I approach my training once the snow melts.

Stay safe, I look forward to seeing you soon,

Barb



THANK YOU

WARREN — for always being there when we needed you (whether for a good laugh or otherwise)
— The Club

From the Editors

This is the Spring issue, but I doubt many of us are feeling warm wafts of springtime breezes. Much of the NEBCA region seems still caught in both a freezing winter and ongoing COVID pandemic. As such, there is an extreme paucity of trial reports or scores. However, we have endeavored to keep you amused and entertained with a stimulating Newsletter experience. Sallie Butler, using the power of rapid-result COVID-19 tests and (she assures us) following all relevant regulations, managed to elude quarantine and safely travel to Kentucky for a unique clinic (p. 7). Meet some new “future champions” on pages 8 to 11. (Send us your Puppies!) Revisit history on pages 11-14. Dave Young treated us to the story of Growing Up Canadian (pp. 15-16). As always, thank you to the many members who think of the Newsletter as a place to share their talents, experiences and ideas. If you want to see YOUR name in print, we are sure there is something you can concoct to send us.

The 2021 NEBCA Annual Meeting was held by Zoom; if you missed it read the Meeting notes (pp 17-19). The very minimalist Trial Schedule appears on p. 14. Hopefully this will fill out more as the season progresses.

In lieu of in-person events, NEBCA marks COVID days like everyone else: with a series of ZOOM clinics on various topics (don't you wish you had bought stock in Zoom in 2019?). Check the NEBCA website (look under “Clinic Schedule”) to see if there are future events that appeal to you.

And lastly but certainly not least, pages 4-6 showcase Ginny Prince discussing how to bring fun, camaraderie and learning to the sheepdogging experience, with minimal fuss, minimal cost and maximum flare, even in the Time of Covid. I know there are more than a few people who would love to see others following in her footsteps.

Pam & Melanie

The Sheephouse Farm Fun Trials: No Fuss, No Muss, Just Good Times with Sheep and Sheepdogs

By Ginny Prince

I have been thinking for years about how to achieve a number of things: get more experience handling sheep and trial-ing, share my sheep with other handlers in a way that is safe, fair and humane for all concerned, get practice setting out sheep, put on events when I only have 20 sheep and they are not the easiest to work, and afford to feed and care for my sheep.

I was told many times that it was flat-out not possible to put on a small trial and run just 20 or so dogs. So I started experimenting. First I had a yearly invitation-al Halloween fun points trial. The first ones were in the small field at my house where the pressure is really tough. We had a lot of fun but no polished runs. I also hosted a clinic with Maria Amodei on handling pressure.

In 2010 there was blow down of about 12 acres of woods at my neighbors' up the road. A logger did a messy salvage job, leaving over 30 huge piles of stumps, logs and dirt, which promptly started growing up in saplings. My neighbors let me start pasturing sheep on it and gradually cleaning it up to the point where I had a Halloween trial there and two more handling clinics, another with Maria and then one with Warren in 2019. I felt all the handling clinics were really successful, but the field is a little small with a lot of obstacles and rough footing.



Ginny Prince

One of the early Halloween trials featured Mike Nunan as?

Wherever I go, I am always rubbernecking at the landscape, checking out cool scenery, nice farms, trailheads for hiking, places for tree skiing, and fields where I could hold a sheepdog trial. I struck it rich when I found a beautiful field in my town that fit all the criteria for a trial. The number one attribute is the owner; she's an angel, super excited to have activities that allow people to enjoy her land in an environmentally friendly way with a nod to time honored agricultural practices. She manages the property for recreation and wildlife so we don't have to work around haying, only pollinators, and she didn't mind if I constructed a small semi permanent handling pen. The field is only about 5 miles from my place and is spectacularly scenic. There are miles of hiking trails, a small pond for dogs to cool off in, good parking even in wet weather and rolling moderately hilly terrain offering an inviting outrun opportunity. There is good cell service and a big barn where people have events, and in 2019 I capitalized on one of these, holding a fun trial

when there was a porta potty in place for a wedding. To top off all the positives, when I mentioned the idea of an outhouse the owner was all over it, so now there is an architectural wonder of a privy on site permanently, eliminating the need to rent a porta potty.

For 2020 everything was in place for me to hold low budget fun trials, since the last piece of the puzzle, getting a trailer to haul 20 sheep, had fallen into place. Enter COVID 19.

When trying new things I like to start small and build. This worked with managing COVID 19 risks. The landowner and I discussed keeping the number of handlers extra small and setting outhouse protocol. I had



Ginny Prince

Holly Fincher and Maat participated in a Handling Clinic with Warren

already built the handling pen so that just one person and a dog can manage the sheep. I started with two trials in August, on the 1st and 8th. Since there were no disasters and my dogs and I enjoyed putting them on I held two more, on September 26th and October 3rd. Because of the dearth of trials this year and the small number of handlers I could accommodate, I reserved the later trials for people who hadn't had a chance to run previously (except for the wonderful people whom I drafted to help me run the trial). The format was that each handler could have two runs for one dog or two dogs running once each.

I set things up to require a minimum of labor on the trial days. I only needed volunteers to put up and take down snow fence along the road that borders one side of the field. There is not a lot of traffic on the road, what there is usually goes slow, and I kept the course a reasonable distance away, but I wanted to make sure a really wide outrunning dog wouldn't go into the road.

I set up the course so nothing had to be moved for different classes. The fetch and drive panels were the same for all classes, with a cross drive panel for ranch and open. Pronovice did a short cross-drive with a pull through the fetch. There were color-coded pool noodles on fiberglass fence posts for the different handler's posts and set out spots for each class (credit to Mary Ames for the pool noodle idea!) The set out and exhaust pens were at one location to simplify pressure and sheep management.

We have had so many wonderful big trials in NEBCA. Trial hosts have set the bar really high, providing catered dinners, breakfast snacks, large tents, great fields, big flocks of healthy challenging sheep, etc. The downside of this is that it's intimidating for a first time trial host to think of meeting that standard. So I decided: just set the bar low! No frills: no prizes, no food, no water for humans, no shade tents, just the essentials. Entries by email closing a week before the trial, fees paid at the trial. Handlers figure out the running order themselves and judge each other, typing scores on their smart phones and using "reply all" to email the scores to everyone so they maintain social distancing and avoid common use of scoring materials. I wanted to keep a judged trial format because I have noticed that in points trials sheep handling often deteriorates. I also thought it was a great chance for people to experience the judging perspective.

Here are some excerpts from my fun trial format "Instructions to Handlers":

"When you go on the field tell the person with the radio which course you're going to run. He/she will radio to the setout person so your sheep can be set at the appropriate spot...

You may leave the post AT ANY TIME to help your dog and still complete the run. This includes walking out from the post to get closer to the set out, wearing around the course etc. I encourage you to leave the post and help your dog at the first sign of need ***or if you anticipate trouble***. The sheep are hardheaded North Country cheviot crosses and good at reading indecision in a dog. Moreover the field is not fenced and I don't want to lose any sheep.

The trial manager will have a horn. One honk of the horn means GO HELP YOUR DOG. More than one honk of the horn means GET CONTROL OF YOUR DOG IMMEDIATELY AND LEAVE THE FIELD. "



Look at the stunning field Ginny managed to "borrow" for a trial!

A few handlers took full advantage of the opportunity to leave the post proactively and set their dog up for success. I'm hoping that next year the idea will have taken hold with more handlers. It is a different mindset from an official trial where the handler has to stay glued to the post.

I advertised the trial on our town list serve and around a dozen spectators attended each trial. The list serve posting had a link to information about the course and trialing in general that Joanne posted on the NEBCA trial page for me, so that spectators could understand and enjoy what was going on and remain COVID-safe.

It's true, small trials and fun trials don't allow you to win prize money or many points towards nationals. However, they are a terrific way to have fun and gain experience. Not many people have enough sheep to run a big trial, but lots of people have enough sheep to do what I did last summer. In 2021 I hope to hold some fun trials again. I plan to do something similar if we are still restricted by COVID, or probably a Monday afternoon/evening trial series if things are back to normal. I encourage others to do something like this and I for one would like to see the NEBCA trial committees allow sanctioning of small trials. Please contact me if you are thinking of having a small or fun trial and have questions about any of the logistical details I have worked through so far!



The view from the set out pens

Pictures of Ginny's borrowed trial field, guaranteed to make you long for sunshine, green grass and dog trials.

Photos by Ginny Prince



The view from the Handler's Post



The Fetch Line

NEBCA Travellers Travel: Even in a Pandemic!

Kentucky Training

By Sallie Butler

A sheepdog clinic was held on Mike and Patty Stewart's farm in central-western Kentucky December 12-13, 2020. With COVID-compliance rules in effect – distance between participants, frequent sanitizing of hands and surfaces, and wearing of masks – handlers new and experienced, sheepdogs from puppies to mature, saw a variety of lessons and left with ideas for progress. Asked if Mike could summarize an important point for beginner students, he instantly replied, "Patience." And, "Always help your dog." We were schooled in forgiving ourselves and

This clinic even featured "Puppy's Intro to Cows"



Rebecca Bell

our dogs, for example, when we unintentionally miss the balance point but wish to command a dog to Lie Down. Let the dog continue to flank around, and be ready to ask the dog to Down at balance. "Praise your dog," was oft-repeated encouragement. Each team got homework, and in follow-up phone chats, Mike continued to offer insight.



Rebecca Bell

Sallie Butler's Orion plays a good bluff in Sheep Poker



Sallie Butler

Helping to recapture some escaped sheep that are fortuitously between a wall and a fence gives a six month old pup an idea of driving



Sallie Butler

Mike Stewart shows Sally Butler's young kelpie Sirius how to enter a gap between sheep

Pandemic Puppies!

The “stay at home” orders imposed by COVID-19 caused vast swaths of the population to go out and get a puppy, and NEBCA members were not immune. Since we cannot meet new puppies hanging around the handlers tent as we normally would, here is a virtual introduction to some future NEBCA champions. If you would like to have your puppy featured in a future issue, send a photograph with DOB and sire/dam to the Editor.



Peggy Flanagan

Peggy Flanagan's **CAMDEN** aka
Cam

DOB 7/21/20

Peggy's Angus x Zelia (Sarah Vining)

*"I adore my Angus, hoping to get a
do-over with Camden"*

FINN Mick

DOB 9/24/20

*"A hairy little puppy
that is incorrigible.
And wiggly."*



Maria Mick

Bill (Haley Hunewill) X Denwyn Lilah (Michelle Howard)



Melanie Behrens' **PLM HERO** when he was just tiny

DOB 3/25/20

PLM Syd (Thad Fleming)

X

Brae (Bryan White)

"Hero is a mischievous puppy who is quite talented on sheep, in carrying shoes and chewing wood."

Christine Koval's

JOE

Aka *babybcjoebiden*

DOB 9/16/20

Gabe (Emily Falk)

X

Groesfaen Skye

(Nicole Rhodes)



Joe is a very special dog to Christine; not only did she breed his sire Gabe, but Joe traces back to her very first BC Rook, who launched her career in sheepdogs



Debbie Mailliet

REX & FANCY

Maillet

DOB 11/13/20

Scotia Fraya X Kinloch Zayn

Note the *very Canadian* names, chosen because:

“the world’s largest **T. Rex** fossil” was found in Saskatchewanand “Crosby’s **Fancy** Molasses Company” was founded in New Brunswick in 1880, just round the corner from home



Sallie Butler

NUNKI Butler DOB 7/2/20 *Griffon’s Cynch x Beloka Raffy*

Seen here trying out for the part made famous by Clint Eastwood in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*



Hardrock Topyc

DOB 12/30/2020

Kirk X Val

"It's right behind me, isn't it?"

Owned by Paul Batz

**MORE PANDEMIC PUPPY PIX COMING
IN NEXT ISSUE – IF YOU SEND THEM!**



Paul Batz

LOOKIN' BACK: Our feature that replays noteworthy items from the past

Trust

By Barbara Armata

Reprinted from NEBCA News, Summer 2016 pp. 10-11

It's a two way street, this "trust" thing. The most common mistake I see is the handler not trusting the dog to lie down. And the dog has no trust in the handler to tell him the correct position to lie down. So, it's a fail all around.

Let's start with the outrun. The handler is yelling lie down when the dog is nowhere near the position to stop on balance to bring the sheep. They are so worried the dog won't stop, they start early with this command. It might be at

Trust by Barb Armata, cont.

9:00 on the come by side or 3:00 on the way to me. Of course, the dog is going to run through this command because it is not given at a proper time. Also, the dog is learning NOT to lie down when told.

But, you say, the dog should lie down whenever you say it! That may be, once the dog trusts you. But say he listens at that position, the handler would then yell, "no, come by!" or "way to me!!" because the handler has realized lying down was not really what they wanted. Confusion for the dog... "but you told me to lie down!"

Since these dogs have such a sense of balance, one should use it! Most dogs will turn onto the sheep at the correct point to bring the sheep to you. As soon as the dog turns, the handler should say "lie down". It will be an immediate response as the dog feels this is correct. Dog trusts handler to tell them at correct time; handler learns to trust dog to stop!

Next is the fetch. Once again, trust the dog's natural instinct to bring the sheep straight to you. What happens often is the handler wants a small correction but tells the dog in a big way: "come bye" and the dog sweeps come bye only to be told immediately "no, way to me!" And so the pendulum begins. All dogs, at some point, may need direction to fix a line to you. It's important to do this in small increments. You don't want to frustrate the dog by flinging him back and forth. The dog won't have a clue as to what you are trying to achieve. If you are having problems with this, watch more experienced handlers and how they handle the fetch. And, of course, go to lessons and clinics!

Now you have established a trusting relationship with out-runs and fetches. Now, there are a multitude of things a dog must learn to do that aren't as natural. You can't expect your dog to "know" how to get sheep off of a fence. Some have no qualms doing this tight work. Most, though, will fling themselves through between sheep and fence. It's tight and makes a dog nervous. Take the time to show the dog how to go slowly between sheep and fence. Make sure there isn't a nasty ewe that wants to pound the dog at this time! With patience, this will become another area of trust. Your dog will realize you are not putting him into a bad place.

Any time a training situation arises, think how to show the dog what you want. Showing and asking, not forcing. More trust will be built. If you find yourself in over your head, these are the times to just pull up stakes and stop. Quit for the day. You may feel the dog isn't getting what you are

asking. You might be surprised, when the next day, your dog does exactly what you were trying to achieve the day before. Tincture of time might be all it takes!

Same thing on the trial field; if things aren't going well, best to call it a day! More will be achieved by stopping than continuing down a wrong road. The trial has identified a problem; now go home and work it out! Instead of destroying trust, you will have a better chance of keeping it.

An example of building trust over time: my Kate wouldn't grip on the nose. I knew she had it in her but she didn't have the confidence in herself. I couldn't hold a sheep for her to grip; she wouldn't come in as she thought she was doing something wrong. I kept building her up by having her catch running sheep, heading them to bring them back to me.

I would lay her down if a sheep was stomping at her. The laying down took the pressure off the sheep but kept Kate from backing down. She trusted me not to get her hurt! Usually, with waiting, the sheep would turn. Kate won. Over time, she would trust me and herself. Just last month, Kate had to bring back a ewe with lambs; she held her patience but as it became necessary, she gripped that ewe's nose and turned her.

Trust! It's a wonderful thing and it builds a wonderful working relationship that will last. There are dogs out there that are made to be obedient; but in a situation where it's necessary for them to do something on their own, they aren't able to do so. The handler is in charge. The dog can only respond, as no two-way street of trust was ever established. I don't see these dogs having a lasting career.

But, you say, the top handlers are whistling and whistling! Yes, in competition, accuracy is important. There is the element of obedience to many commands, but you'll also see the trust when a dog is bringing the sheep straight as an arrow without a command. Also, the dog that is told where to be on the drive and then holds that line and pace without another command. It's a beautiful thing! The handler trusting their dog to continue with what was asked and the dog trusting its handler and responding in kind.

Pioneering Scottish Shepherd in New England

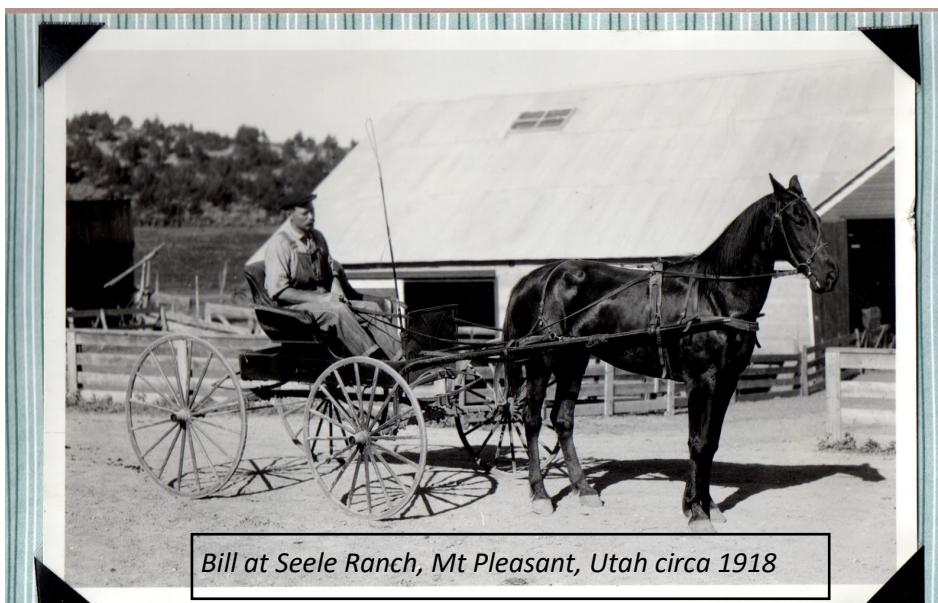
By Joe Evans

Reprinted from NEBCA News

December 2010

At the turn of the last century, The New England Farm Stock Company established itself in Greenfield, Mass - seemingly a cooperative of investors and farmers.

Organized by the Greenfield Board of Trade, the company owned 7,000 sheep, mostly Rambouillets. The ewes were shipped from the West as were some of the rams that were



Bill at Seele Ranch, Mt Pleasant, Utah circa 1918

crossed with others imported from Scotland. These sheep "were placed on shares with farmers in western Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire." The company made the initial capital investment, the farmers received "their share of the wool and increase for caring for the flocks."

The American sheep industry watched this experiment with interest. One of the principle challenges was to prevent losses to packs of uncontrolled dogs that terrorized the sheep-farming communities in New England at the time. Massachusetts law determined that farmers should be compensated by the counties for sheep killed by roving dogs out of funds generated from the dog license fees. The problem lay in the farmers' lack of success in collecting their compensation as claims were subject to investigation that were mostly inconclusive. The New England Farm Stock company believed they could solve this problem by importing a professional shepherd and his highly trained sheepdogs. (It was a commonly held misconception that Border collies could act as guard dogs as well as herders.) The man they chose was William Millar from the village of Eagle in Renfrewshire just south of Glasgow in Scotland.

In 1906, Bill Millar with two of his Border collies and a beardie emigrated to the Leyden hills of Western Massachusetts between Bernardston and Greenfield. Like his father and grand-father before him, Mr. Millar was born a shepherd. Whistling and commanding collie dogs was integral to the Millars work. Millar's brother, Alexander was the International Supreme Champion in 1925 as well as the Scottish National Champion a number of times. Millar's arrival was keenly anticipated. His expertise was to support the effort to bring prosperity to the blighted hill town sections of the region. Whether he succeeded in that is not clear.

However, Bill Millar became something of a local celebrity in the agricultural community. His leading sheepdog was Pate (renamed Pete over here), a talented two year old dog worth \$60. His bitch Fleet was valued at \$50. He also worked with his bearded collie, Bruce. Millar was dismissive of local sheepdogs. He felt they were "practically good for nothing for caring for sheep." In his opinion, some were only good "as pets. You have to have the right breed and the right training in order get the right kind of shepherd dog." His ability to work with his dogs, Pete in particular, attracted much attention. He was featured in a lengthy article in The Boston Globe in 1906.

Pioneering Scottish Shepherd Bill Millar, cont.

It didn't take Millar long to establish himself on the nascent sheepdog trialing circuit either. At the 1907 Vermont State Fair he beat Walter Burns, a stockyard worker who had dominated trials and exhibitions in both eastern Canada and New England. Millar's arrival heralded a greater concentration on breeding and training Border collies for the tasks of shepherding and trialing.

Millar stayed in New England for seven years before moving to Idaho as a shepherd and a "fitter." In those days, fitters were the superstars of the sheep world, their primary task being to prepare rams for shows and auctions. Their activities often set high prices for their charges - a Rambouillet ram fitted by Millar fetched a record \$6,200 at a Salt Lake City auction in 1918. Millar lived a long life training, working and selling sheepdogs right up to the 1950s. No doubt his legacy can still be felt here in the northeast. *Acknowledgments: Penny Tose, Mr. & Mrs. Bert William "Bill" Sorensen family papers, The Boston Daily Globe, July 8, 1906*

NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE 2021

Visit the NEBCA webpage for more information

<i>Date</i>	<i>Sheepdog Trial Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact Person</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
June 24-27	Caora Farm	235 Sharon Road Millerton New York	Michele Ferraro & Kak Weathers Martha Walke, entries	518-592-1320
July 3-5	Cascade Farm	370 Pettyboro Road Bath, New Hampshire	Mary Ames	603-838-2018

More to come? We can only hope.

TRAINING TIP of the month

Training distance

by Julie Hill

"There is an important difference between keeping the dog off the sheep by use of the **stop** command and educating the dog to *pull back on his energy* so as not to upset the sheep.

To achieve this, the individual handler needs to be super-sensitive to the sheep and their emotional state. In other words, sheep should be the main focus."

Reprinted from *International Sheepdog News*, May-June 2020, p. 29.



Karen Gorman

"Yo! Please don't upset me!"

A Passion for Sheepdogs: One Man's Story

Text and photos by Dave Young

The decrease in trials over the past year has led me to pondering the question, "Why do I have such a passion for this sheepdog lifestyle?"

So here's a bit of a history lesson.

I was raised on an isolated street of small homes set aside for WWII veterans. My parents constantly encouraged us to get out of the house and into the surrounding woods and pastures. For as long as I can remember, I dreamed of a creative life that included farming, deep woods and dogs. When I was very young, but old enough to understand the function of a hay baler, I would pack lawn cuttings into a wagon to make bales for the rabbits. We kids would scamper off to the woods and build forest camps ranging from the very primitive to complex log cabins. Unknowing landlords generously supplied us with logs and other materials. Once school was out we would pack up our gear, bring the dogs and sleep out in these camps. When



young we fished and as we grew older, we hunted.

My introduction to agriculture came from spending summer weeks at a cousin's farm at the foot of Mount Megantic. He farmed with horses and milked by hand. No better way to learn to love the smell of the farm than have your head pushed into the wet leg of a cow whilst milking her. A few years later I quit school and hopped a train to southwestern Ontario and lied my way into a job milking 120 cows in a parlour. After a few months, I quit that job and was hired by Mary Ellen's father on his dairy farm back in Quebec.

Now I had it all: A beautiful farm tucked in a deep valley. Farming, fishing, a couple of dogs, winter logging, hunting and trapping! What else could you ask for? Well, I still

wanted something. I finished up my suspended high school studies and went on to MacDonald College. I had hoped to study wildlife management but a lack of formal science background forced me to choose a diploma program in agriculture instead. No regrets. The farming side of me was satisfied. I was fortunate to work for the University for a year, which financed a self-directed trip to New Zealand. Three months of hitchhiking around milking cows and docking lambs: the trip of a lifetime and for years I yearned to return there. Mary Ellen and I were married 18 months later and we were all set to go to NZ. Sadly the dollar tanked in value, forcing us to cancel our trip. We had to adjust. So, back to milking Canadian cows.

For a couple of years we milked other people's cows. Even though the money was good and we really enjoyed managing high-producing cows, they were not our cows. A door opened. Bishop's University needed a lackey. I can do that! I got a foot in the door. So began a stable, well paying, extremely interesting and challenging career. From raking leaves and painting lines on the football field, my job evolved into a cabinetmaker. My creative mind was satisfied. The university was wonderful to me, allowing me to run on my own with some complex projects. A nasty back injury and two surgeries put me off work for six months. During that time my old faithful dog Jason was put down. Being as I was laid up yet still well enough to



University lecturn: A piece of Dave's handiwork

get on Mary Ellen's nerves, she finally suggested that we get a pup to keep me quiet and as company for Mary Ellen's rough collie Chani. The phrase "How about a border collie? They're smart!" will resonate in my mind until my final breath. So it happened. An 8 week old fur ball was picked from a litter at Alex Mckiniven's farm. Ben was named after a Huntaway in NZ that I had admired. With gobs of time on my hand, I spoiled Ben rotten and discovered him to be incredibly smart. So smart I thought it would be neat to show him to Alex.

Little did I know.

One evening we drove to the farm. Alex was there with all his dogs tied out at the edge of a field. He put a few of them through their paces. Afterwards he said in his deep Scottish accent, "Give him a wee go." So Ben and I walk out to the field. Alex said to just give him a shhhhh! Ok. Shhhhhhh. Off Ben goes on what was a great out run. "Now, tell him, lie down." "Lie down," I yelled. Bang. Down he went. Before I could ask him to walk up I was hooked. I cannot describe the feeling that came over me. A drug made of the outdoors, livestock, the unknown, and dogs all at once. All hiding behind a single door that had opened just a crack.

The next couple of years were a scramble of getting sheep, fencing, training, and trialing. Mary Ellen had a dog as well. One evening while playing bridge I asked Fred, an uncle of Mary Ellen's, if he thought that the neighbour's small place would be for sale. Not sure of the answer, he replied, "Why not our place?" We were gobsmacked. Deal! But we had to wait...quietly... four quiet years.

Once we moved, long-held dreams slowly began to materialize. It's quite amazing how a plan can evolve. Money, the major factor, along with time and other resources (equipment, skill level, materials, to name a few) seemed to have their own agenda. The approach to one project entailed the completion of two or more other jobs. The driving force



Autumn Maples shimmer at the Young family farm

in our approach was what would be best for the dogs. Everything, then and now, is about the dogs. More sheep meant barn renovation from cattle to sheep. Fencing was required to be moved to open pastures instead of the woods. We turned all the hay fields to pasture and have relied upon purchasing our hay from two neighbours. Absolutely no regrets there. Five hundred straw bales and 400 dry bales are delivered and piled by one neighbour, while the 100 round silage bales are delivered and piled by another. I can build some stuff, weld a bit, but I am no mechanic. Our equipment is a 50 year old Oliver, a blade, bush hog, and a snowblower.

The trouble with passion is that it is never easy. You are always adjusting. Like a long marriage, there are good and not so good days. You work through it. You put some things on hold. Some things may never be visited again. There is grief with passion. Waves of grief come for days after the passing of a dog. Not so much for a ewe, as shit happens with livestock. They can die on their own or by our hand. These are things which we must accept. You can hardly prepare in advance, but those choices often must be made in an instant.

The great thing about passion is that it has brought all of us who read this together. Albeit 2020 is the exception, some form of normalcy will return. The handlers' tent will be full again. Loud. Full of laughter. Collective moans for a missed panel or shed. We will walk the line at dawn again. Imagining that we are the sheep on a perfect cross drive. A life time of passion, regardless of the road we took, has got us here. Passion will continue to guide us.

Ed. Note: Inquiring minds want to know, did they ever get back to New Zealand??



Always plenty of work on a farm in the winter

NEBCA Annual Meeting, Minutes

January 16, 2021 (via ZOOM)

I. Meeting called to order at 10AM.

Present: 57 members (41 on ZOOM; 16 proxies).

II. Procedures for the meeting were reviewed.

III. The minutes from the June 30th, 2020, ZOOM meeting were approved as written.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

A. **Secretary's Report** (Martha Walke) - At the end of 2020 there were 250 members compared to 248 at the end of 2019 and 249 at the end of 2018. We appear to be slowly growing. As of January 15th, there are 162 members: 7 Lifetime members and 155 who have joined or renewed (129 Individual memberships and 20 Farm/Family memberships). There are, to date, 10 new members. All members who have renewed/joined have been renewed in the Points System. You can check this at www.trialpoints.com.

B. **Treasurer's Report** (Denise Leonard) - Totals were reviewed and it was noted that due to the loss of income from merchandise sales and the lack of expenses for both the Novice Finals and the Fall Foliage, the end of year numbers are about the same as for 2019. The report was approved.

V. Board of Directors Report (Annie Palmer)

There were three actions taken by the BOD. (1) Canceling the sanctioning of trials due to Covid-19, mirroring what the USBCHA was doing regarding trials. (2) Issuing of guidelines for how to run a trial during the pandemic. These are posted on the website. (3) Authorizing money to be paid to trial hosts to alleviate expenses incurred related to ordained health precautions and income loss due to the lower number of participants.

Werner Reitboeck and Annie Palmer were thanked for their years of service on the BOD.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. **Open Trials Committee** (Warren Mick) - Due to lack of trials, not much was done. The committee assisted with those trials that did happen. The 2019 High Points prizes were purchased and delivered to Roger Millen (Champion) and Mary Thompson (Reserve). There has been no decision concerning the 2021 Fall Foliage. With the Nat'l. Finals being held in VA in October, it would have to be moved to a month earlier.

Three committee members, Mich Ferraro, Paul Batz and Michael Nunan, are on for another year and Christine Koval and Diane Cox are willing to stay on if reappointed.

B. **Novice Trials Committee** (Sheila Crepeau) - The committee sanctioned Hilary Flower's trial and the Eastern Quebec Conference Trials. They would like to hold a 2021 Novice Finals but are waiting to see what the Open Committee does. They agreed to carry over all points earned in 2019 to 2020 but no decision has been to carry these again into 2021. There is a problem with the Novice Points. Sheila and Maria Amodei will work on this. The committee will remain the same.

VII. Newsletter Report (Pam Mueller)

Despite the lack of trials to report on, a 20 page Newsletter was produced each quarter in 2020 with a wide range of content. Sallie Butler retired as editor but continues to provide assistance. The job of editor, coupled with layout and design, has been taken on by Pam Mueller with the assistance of Melanie Behrens helping to round up content.

The Newsletter came in under budget for three of the four issues and the budget request for 2021 remains the same.

VII. Select Committee Reports

A. **Merchandise Committee** (Kim Lippolis) - Due to the pandemic, the NEBCA merchandise was not distributed nor sold at any trials. Hopefully, that will change in 2021 with the advent of a new trial season. The old merchandise from previous years will be discounted. The committee is looking into new items and are considering taking pre-paid orders, allowing members to select size

and color. The committee thanks all those who help with the set up, sales and take down of the merchandise at trials. The current committee consists of Joanne Krause, Kim Lippolis, Liz Shaw and Ed Walker.

B. Calendar Committee (Kate Collins & George Northrop) - Due to the cancellation of trials, the print run for the 2021 calendar was reduced from 300 to 150. These were sold out by mid-December and another 50 were printed of which about half have been sold. The quote from the printer for 200 calendars for 2022 is \$649 with tax to be added.

The current committee members are Kate Collis, George Northrop, Val Pietraszewski and Elizabeth Smith-Fries. They are looking for people to take over the production and distribution of the calendar, having done this since 1996. Sheila Crepeau is considering this. Please email photos for the 2022 calendar to katecollins64@gmail.com.

C. Education Committee (Rose Redick) - The committee members are Rose Redick (Chair), Chris Bowen and Liz Shaw. They have been working this year to help members host and attend clinics which are offered to NEBCA members first with non-members offered places if the clinic does not fill. There were 6 clinics offered, three in the northeast US and three in Canada, and about \$850 was utilized to support the host and offset costs. Currently the committee is offering online clinics using Zoom. All information concerning these clinics will be posted on the NEBCA website. A discussion ensued about other methods of getting clinic information to members. Heather Nadelman will work on setting up an email list for announcements, available to members only.

The committee will remain the same and is requesting \$800 for 2021.

D. Library Report (Martha Walke) - In 2020 there were 24 transactions made by 14 members. Bill Black has donated to the library, in memory of Ellen Rusconi-Black, five books and a set of articles by Kent Kuykendall. These will be added to the list of library holdings posted on the website.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Election Results

President - Barbara Eriksson

Vice President - Peggy Flanagan

Secretary - Martha Walke

Treasurer - Denise Leonard

BOD - Hilary Flower & Stacey Rember

XI. New Business

A. Proposed Budget (Denise Leonard) - Except for a few items, the budget is basically carried over from 2020. See attachment.

B. Motion to Support the 2021 USBCHA National Finals

For the 2017 National Finals, NEBCA allocated \$5000. Of this, \$3000 was an outright gift and \$2000 was to be reimbursed if a profit was made. Along with this we requested to be able to place the NEBCA banner on the pen; a prime site for a NEBCA vendor; and a full page ad in the program. The motion presented by Denise Leonard asked for this same dispersal of monies for the 2021 National Finals. Discussion followed on different wordings reflecting different positions on the total amount and the dispersal of it as well as special requests. The motion was not seconded and Denise withdrew it favor of Warren Mick's proposed motion:

NEBCA will donate \$2000 to the 2021 USBCHA National Finals to be held in Middletown, Virginia, Oct. 5 - 10, with another donation of \$2000 if the 2021 National Finals actually occurs, provided NEBCA is allowed to put their banner on the pen, have a prime vendor site, and a full page ad in the program.

This motion was seconded by Sally Molloy and Debbie West.

Discussion followed. Motion was put to a vote and passed on unanimous consent. The proposed 2021 budget will be adjusted to reflect this \$4000 expenditure.

C. Committee Appointments

1. Audit Committee - Chris Bowen and Elizabeth Smith-Fries were appointed.

2. Open Trial Committee - New members will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

D. Other New Business

1. Motion by Maria Amodai:

Have Heather Nadelman set up a sub-group to Sheepdog-I as a NEBCA messaging conduit for notifications.

Motion seconded by Elizabeth Smith-Fries. Motion passed on unanimous consent.

2. Liz Shaw asked that members look at the NEBCA website for Education Committee sponsored clinic announcements.

3. Melanie Behrens requested that ideas for content in the Newsletter be sent to Pam Mueller at pjmueller1@gmail.com.

E. 2021 Meeting Dates

Suggested dates: May 21 at 6PM via Zoom

August 27 at 6PM via Zoom

If there are any changes, they will be announced via email and confirmed on the website and in the Newsletter.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Walke, NEBCA Secretary

2021 NEBCA Operating Budget**Estimated/ Proposed****INCOME**

Membership Dues	\$6000
Calendars	\$2000
Breeders Directory	\$120
Advertisements	\$50
Merchandise	\$4000
Library	\$100
Interest	\$75
Rental of Equipment	\$50
TOTAL	\$14416

EXPENSES

Calendar	\$1200
Pamphlets	\$350
Newsletter	\$2000
Merchandise	\$1500
Fall Foliage	\$3000
Novice Finals	\$2700
Insurance	\$650
Library	\$350
Administrative	\$650
Paypal Transaction Fees	\$175
Bank Charge	\$50
Awards/Gifts	\$350
Learning Trials	\$1000
Donation to National Finals	\$4000
TOTAL	\$17,975
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$3550)

2021 NEBCA Breeders' Directory★ **Hafod Farm**

★ Pam Davies
★ 204 Rte. 513
★ Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
★ 908-361-1335
★ pamdaves30@gmail.com

★ **Caora Farm**

★ Mich Ferraro & Kak Weathers
★ 235 Sharon Rd.
★ Millerton, NY 12546
★ 518-592-1320
★ michveteq@gmail.com

★ **Wayside Farm**

★ Gene Sheninger & Teri Rhodes
★ 470 Schooleys Mountain Rd. #144
★ Hackettstown, NJ 07840
★ 973-615-9053
★ els8586@gmail.com



The Canadian Border Collie Association is pleased to announce the release of the documentary film "Amanda Milliken In Conversation". The film is an intimate portrait which offers a rare glimpse into Amanda's thinking on breeding, training and handling sheep dogs.

It can be found here: <https://www.canadianbordercollies.org/showcase-amanda>

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

Next NEBCA Meeting on May 21, 2021
6 pm via ZOOM



Maria Mick

“Irving” watches
his flock at the Mick
Farm in Altamont, NY