



NEBCA News

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



Christine Koval

Carolyn West's Bee doesn't let a little snow in Pennsylvania stop her training

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
\$30 per individual, or
\$35 per farm/family

Those wishing to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter by US mail please add \$10 for this convenience. Otherwise the newsletter is available on the website.

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL COLUMN

By Sallie Butler, Editor Emeritus

Spring!

Spring weather promises training and trialing activities, clinics and travel; our ambition has been bolstered by Winter's handler-training experiences made possible by the Webinar Committee's on-line programs provided by experts, some of whom we would have had no chance from which to otherwise learn, owing to distance or availability.

Hooray !

Are we ready to renew our dedication to our magnificent dogs by prepping for SHEEP TIME? Anticipation...of seeing our colleagues and their new dogs (I can't wait to see Editor-friend Pam Mueller again and meet young Gnat). Will we find sublime peace while working, training, thinking, observing our doggos in the paddocks??? Watching details about the wonders and wonderfulness of sheep and dogs in communication (which, to me, seems like two Extraterrestrial Intelligences chatting: "Straight away, ladies." "Ewwwe, no, I'll get my hoofs wet." "March, hup hup hup tup..." "Yes, Sir Dog..."). It's all here, it's Spring.

2023 NEBCA Top Ten Dogs

At the conclusion of the trial year, NEBCA awards recognition and a small prize to the ten dogs achieving the most Open points in NEBCA trials. We profiled the TOP dog, Christine Koval's Tru, in the Winter 2023 Newsletter. Here to round out the pack are all the Top Ten 2023 NEBCA dog/handler teams. The editor regrets the delay in highlighting their success.

Champion - Tru (Christine Koval)

Reserve Champion - Bean (Fiona Robertson)

3. Tye (Tracy Hinton)

4. Lad (Tracy Hinton)

5. Rope (Lori Cunningham)

6. Tag (Val Henry)

7. Carl (Dave Sharp)

8. Quark (Mich Ferraro)

9. Lucy (Warren Mick)

10. Dice (Brenda Buja)

NEWS FLASH:

THE BIG E trial returns. Sept. 23, Springfield MA
Two Open Points & Time trials on one day. Win some \$\$ to fund your trip to VA Finals (excellent payback). Or just have fun.



Skylar Landis

Spring means lambs! Skylar Landis's Leena goes nose to nose

Our Memories of Roger Millen

Christine Koval

Longtime NEBCA member, Roger Millen, passed away on November 12, 2023. He and his wife, Heather, trialed together and hosted their annual Open/Nursery trial every July 4th weekend, and their famously fun 3-day Novice trial, later in July, at their beautiful Fetch Gate Farm in Virgil, NY. Following, are some heartfelt remembrances.



Roger and Heather Millen hosting the Famous Fetchgate Trial 2018

The first time I met Roger was in July 2007 when he loaded my first sheep into my truck. It was pouring rain, but it was actually fun. Roger made everything fun. He had the gift to make others feel good in his presence. Every moment I spent with Roger remains precious to me. Beyond his strong interest in training dogs and trialing, Roger had numerous interests that enabled him to easily connect with others. His knowledge, his generosity, his humor, and above all his skill for transmitting to others what he had learned through his experience, defined who he was. His indefectible humility made of Roger a special person. I remember he once said: “what I tried to do with Heather at Fetch Gate Farm is to create a sheepdog trial I would look forward to going to.” Heather and Roger succeeded in that endeavor. They were an excellent team – they complemented each other and together created a legacy to be proud of.

Jean- Louis Bigourdan

When I first started trialing and attending trials at Fetch Gate, Roger seemed like such an intimidating man. Over the years, I learned what a funny, generous, kind man he was. I laughed myself silly with Roger at Ox Creek a couple of years ago and I'll treasure that memory (and the video!) always.

Carolyn West



At the Fetchgate Farm Scott Glen Sheep Camp 2010

Roger Millen, *cont.*

Nancy Phillips

Roger and Rock tied for fourth place in the Double Lift at NEBCA Fall Foliage 2013

I'll remember Roger for his laughter, friendship and his passion for border collies. He will be missed, for sure.

Linda Hotchkiss

Roger was such a kind and humorous man with a wonderful laugh, and generous with his time. He was very patient and honest with me in the lessons I took with him, and so fun to chat with at trials. The world has lost a beautiful soul.

Jamie More

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I will miss the kindly banter I had with Roger over the Buffalo Bills vs the Patriots.

Peggy Flanagan

Roger was such a great guy, especially offering several trials each year for all us handlers. He was such an influence to our grandson, Mackenzie, when he ran in the Fetchgate Novice trials.

Jo and Jim Murphy

I got to know Roger and Heather so much better when I moved to Massachusetts in 2017 and started attending NEBCA trials. Roger's kindness and humor were always evident, as well as his love for spreadsheets and making sure his trials ran smoothly and on time. What I remember most about Roger, though, is his laugh... boisterous and undeniable! He is so dearly missed.

Christine Koval

I was lucky that Fetch Gate farms and Roger Millen were so central to my introduction to sheepdog trials. I was very blessed that when I acquired my dog Chet Roger was giving lessons. I had taken lessons with my three older dogs (including my kelpie) - who were frankly somewhat baffling to Roger. But Chet provided a real opportunity for progress and Roger taught us all the way to Open. If a client dog presented a challenge that Roger was not familiar with through his own dogs, he looked around for solutions. I also learned so much from helping at the Fetch Gate trials in the pens and push out and exhaust. I also greatly appreciated Roger's commitment to providing trials for novice handlers – four days of novice trialing each year were very helpful in building skills. Like so many in the sheepdog community, Roger always put a lot of effort into giving back and passing on and helping new handlers succeed. He will be greatly missed.

Sara Reiter

To me, Roger was such a pillar of NEBCA and sheepdogging in the NE it is hard to imagine him gone. My very first Novice trial was the infamous Fetchgate, three wonderful days just for us novices, no Open handlers in sight. Roger and Heather set the standard for what a sheepdog trial should be, and without their supportive environment I do not believe the Novice handler community would have grown as it has. Roger helped me train my first dog Fly and, although he couldn't always figure out what to do with her problems, he was very game, standing out on the hill channeling Scott Glen and saying "why don't you try...". Even though he was very busy working at Cornell he remained generous of his time, knowledge and sheep. I would not have taken that dog from NN to Open without Roger. We also shared a love of the trashy adventure novels by Clive Cussler—I didn't usually admit to possessing this stuff but I saw Roger reading it at a trial and thereafter I would buy one at Costco, read it and give it to Roger. I still have a box packed ready to mail him.....God speed Roger you are missed.

Pam Mueller



Handlers Dinner: Always a highlight of the Fetchgate Farm Trial, with Roger holding forth in a comedic address.

My best memory of Roger is him sitting quietly by his trailer. When I could, I'd stop by to get a laugh out of him. It was infectious. RIP Roger.

Dave Young

I first met Roger and Heather when I came to watch the Open trial in 2010. I had just gotten my first working border collie, Becky, and was hoping to trial someday. I had no experience and luckily began working with Roger that summer. Roger was very patient and could explain things in a way that I understood. He was not dedicated to a particular training method and if something wasn't working, he always had a different method to try. Probably the best thing about Roger is that he was always encouraging and told me that he was confident that I would become an Open handler.

I will always remember poor Roger, at EVERY handler's meeting trying to explain to non-New Yorkers the difference between "Returnables" and "Recyclables", and which barrel was for which. It was a hopeless cause, but he always seemed optimistic that THIS would be the year he got through to everyone!



Roger Millen, *cont.*

One year, for the Novice trial, I made a spectacular cake for the handler's dinner. I spent hours decorating the top with candy. Heather sent Roger to the house to get the cake, and he came flying back with it strapped to the back of the 4-wheeler. He had set a cooler on top of it, crushing the top of the box it was in. When I open it, and saw the whole top of the cake was smashed down, I must have gasped, because Roger came over. He patted me on the back, let out one of his booming laughs and assured me that it would taste the same. How could I be mad??? I'll miss him.

Kim Lippolis

Roger and Heather's Fetchgate trials exemplified their dedication to friends and colleagues who work sheepdogs. We know Roger will be missed by many.

Sallie Butler

Roger was always friendly and inclusive to new handlers. When I first met him, I felt so welcome right away at their trials.

Melanie Behrens

I'm grateful to have had Roger and Heather as long time friends. Their generosity in sharing their beautiful farm has been a gift to the sheepdog community. Lots of memories and lots of laughs. Truly a team. Roger will be missed to Heather: Hope to see you back at the post soon, my friend.

Lori Cunningham



Pals Roger (with Rock) and Dick Williams (with Mirk) share setting out duties and a laugh "at the top end", Fetchgate Farm 2010

Sheep dog trialing in the dark ages or, How I got addicted!

By Denise Leonard

I got my first sheep back when I was 11. This was a Southdown ewe lamb bought from Dwight Miller in Putney VT as a 4H project. I named her Princess. She became quite a pet and the next year saw me getting another ewe lamb and soon I had a small flock. Now back then show sheep looked much different from what they do today and Southdowns were a short stocky breed that tended to put on weight very easily. Nowadays, Southdowns look nothing like those ones I had; the ones currently called Baby Dolls are the closest thing to the Southdown of 50 years ago. At any rate, being a little overzealous feeding my sheep, I often was marked down in the showring for them being too fat.

At the same time, I started shearing sheep for people, one of whom was Betty Levin who had trained and trialed border collies for years. I was mesmerized by her dogs. Between that and having too fat sheep, I decided I needed to get me a working dog to run my sheep around and give them exercise!

My first dog was a rescue Aussie. He had some instinct but because I didn't know what to do he was never very well trained. When he died of heartworms (back then this were a relatively new parasite and giving monthly preventatives was unknown) we got a border collie from Betty Levin and I have never looked back. I ended up with another border collie, Kirk, whom I got from Edgar Gould, but was in the states for resale from Alex McKinven. I think I paid \$75 for him. I trained him the best I could with the help of Betty and started entering sheep dog trials.

Back then there was no NEBCA, no USBCHA and no ABCA. Kirk was registered with the North American Sheep Dog Society. And at that time, one could get a Certificate of Recognition on one's dog. I still have Kirk's printed in gold lettering on beige paper. It reads as follows:

"This is to certify that the purebred, registered, Working Collie, Kirk #16803, owned by Denise Taylor, Canaan, NH., has been developed and trained and can accomplish the work defined and required by this Society to establish Proven Working Ability. In recognition whereof, this dog is hereby officially approved for use as a breeding dog; and when mated with a dog similarly approved, resulting progeny shall be eligible to Registration in the Stud Book of this Society."

Betty had observed Kirk working and needed to fill out a form which described his work and approach to the sheep in terms of fetching, driving and penning with multiple choice options. Shortly thereafter, the North American Sheep Dog Society did away with this certificate.

My first trial I competed in was the Blue Hill Fair, which still has a trial. One made a weekend of it, going to the Blue Hill Fair and competing on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was a semifinals and one went onto the finals on Sunday if one did well enough. Then we all went onto Augusta, ME, for a trial on Labor

Day associated with the Augusta Fireman's field day, which was organized by George Gould using his Lincoln sheep. There was an "overland" sheep drive on horseback using the dogs, from the Gould Farm to the Fireman's field that the festivities were on.

These two trials had in attendance such people as George Conboy, Lewis Pulfer, Ralph Pulfer, Ivan Wier, Lewis Pence, all of whom were good handlers. However, sheep dog handling today is a much refined art from what was then. You could miss panels and still place well. At one of those Maine trials I met a 17 year old handler named Bruce Fogt.

There were not many local trials then. Betty Levin and Ellen Raja organized a trial at Codman Farm in Lincoln, MA and that went on for several years. Sometimes it was open to anyone and a few times you had to qualify with a run the day before the trial. UConn also ran a trial for quite a long time and MA Sheep and Woolcraft Fair incorporated a trial into their festival at Cummington some 40 years ago. This trial endured until recently.

One used to be able to just show up at a trial and run. There weren't so many people wanting to enter that you couldn't get into the trial. There was no pre-drawn running order. We all stood around and pulled numbers out of a hat to determine the order. Time on the course could be as much as 10 minutes for a course that was no bigger than a pro-novice course. One had plenty of time to do the course. There was also no shed at that time. The pen was the last element of the course. Another rule was that bitches in heat ran last. Entry fees were \$5 per run.

Maybe about 5 years after I started running in the few trials there were, NEBCA was formed. Standardization of trials and judging was important then. They started sanctioning trials and eventually started having the Fall Foliage to determine the best dog in the region. We met monthly through the winter and there was much discussion as to whether the top dog should be the winner of the Fall Foliage, for which one had to qualify, or the dog accumulating the most points through the year. It was decided to give awards for both accomplishments with a Supreme Champion being given to the dog that won both. Quite a few years later, the Novice program was started to give newbies a place to start. But before that NEBCA program was initiated, one started in Open.

The sport has certainly grown since those early days when I started. The quality of both the dogs and handling has improved tremendously. But it is just as addicting now as it was then.



Hilary Flower's Olive and Iris—turn the page for story

Meet the Membership: In Which We Learn About

Hilary Flower

Interviewed by Pam Mueller

Hilary Flower is a long time NEBCA member, border collie breeder, trainer and trailer, but you may not have met her. She only pops up randomly at trials because....she lives outside Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. This is near the outer edge of NEBCA territory. Heck it's near the outer edge of everything.

The Flower Farm and Sheep

Hilary and her husband Bill run a 30 acre farm but they have something most farmers don't: they also have a 250 acre island off of Blue Rocks, Nova Scotia where the sheep are often grazed.

At this time the farm has approximately 60 ewes plus this year's lambs. They are Cheviot crosses, with a bit of everything in the making. Over the years Hilary has used Suffolk, Katadin, Texel Rideau Arcott, as a terminal sire along with North Country ram. The North country Cheviot is hardy and can survive over-wintering on the Island and surprisingly the replacement cross lambs have survived very well over-wintering on the Island eating kelp.

Why Border Collies?

Growing up in the UK, Hilary watched One Man and His Dog on Sunday evenings and thereby developed an interest in working dogs from an early age but, being more interested in horses at the time, she squandered what could have been great opportunities to learn from handlers around her in Wales. When she met her Canadian husband he had a few sheep living on the island and would round them up by foot as a young man. As the flock grew larger and the Flower team grew older, they realized this was not going to work. A Border Collie was needed! And so they went looking but:

"Not a lot of farmers are using their dogs on sheep farms here in Nova Scotia, so there is not much choice of pups/bloodlines to buy from. No Facebook or internet auctions back then! However, I did see an add for BC pups in our local paper: \$50. Off we go to look at the pups, not sure what we should be look-

ing for as far as a pup for working sheep. Bill chose the pup; he was bold and friendly and ended up being Bill's dog, he didn't care too much for me. He was a hard dog and you couldn't wreck his day. Looking back, we asked a lot from this dog.... trying to train on undogged sheep that had been chased by coyotes, no fences on the island (we were living full time on the Island then) the only help we had were books. My first book was "Anybody can do it" by Pope Robinson. Martin Penfold had a basic video of training a border collie which was helpful. Of course I had to have my own dog to work; a friend of mine who lived in the USA found me a nice little female "Kate". She was from Walt Jaggers lines, very easy to train and honest, she taught me a lot. I did trial her a little, mostly used her on the farm, she was a real nice dog."

Are the dogs for the sheep or are the sheep for the dogs on the Flower farm? A bit of both now. At first the dogs were just for help in handling the sheep, but now there are fewer sheep and the sheep are for the dogs. Hilary says "I like to have fresh replacements and lambing time is a good gauge to see what kind of dogs I have."

Hilary joined NEBCA a long time ago, around 1999. A photo of Bill's "Sara" was in the 2001 NEBCA calendar. Her activity and membership lapsed for a few years as the kids consumed all her time with sailing/riding etc. She still kept the dogs just didn't have time to travel to trials. She has been on the Open Committee for two



The Flower Pack

years but really does not aspire to organizational or political aspects of the club. She does however put on a NEBCA trial each summer, and travels (a long way!) to trials in the US and Canada as much as she is able, with the average travel time to a trial being a 17 hour drive.

Currently there are 10 border collies in the Flower household. Hilary's husband Bill uses dogs on the farm but although he trialed in the past with his dog Sara and did well, he is too busy and not passionate enough about the sport to continue trialing. He just "likes to get the job done", Hilary says, although she admits he has better timing and stock sense than she does! Her daughter Emily likewise can work a dog to get chores done but has no desire to trial

Favorite trials: "Love the challenge of Shepherds Crook Open. Ox Creek is a lovely field. Kingston is a very classy trial with challenging sheep. Cascade is a beautiful venue!" (Ed note: there you go, readers, resounding endorsements of four classic NEBCA trials. If you have not been to them, start planning)

When I asked Hilary what her "real" job is, she had this to say:

"Yikes, where to start! I have two kids and a husband. Worked on a yacht for years. Ran a B&B for 9 years. We have a Fishing Charter business that runs trips daily off the coast of Nova Scotia. I work with training and handling

various animals, mostly providing trained animals for background in film. Oh yes, part time farmer and dog trainer. "

However, her number one passion these days is sheepdogs!

What Hilary likes about NEBCA:

"For me NEBCA has been a great educator as far as the Webinars in the winter months. I have really enjoyed them.

And,

I like the system of classes and points. It prevents people from procrastinating in the lower levels yet makes moving to Open easier with the option to run Ranch on a bigger course until one earns points in Open."

Although she won't admit to having any superpowers, what she wishes for is "better timing and quicker reactions would be something I would like if anyone has any suggestions". (I suspect a lot of us join her in this desire).

One more thing you probably did not know about Hilary: in the distant past she attended cooking school, and with those chef credentials she landed a job on a yacht!

The Flowers own Eastern Points Farm along the Lunenburg Harbour in beautiful Nova Scotia .



2023 SHEEPHOUSE TRIALS— Cornish, New Hampshire

The Sheephouse trials are an evolving process of determining how to host trials with a small number of sheep and minimal overhead costs. This year the trials took place over four days in order to offer handlers two runs in each class. Limiting classes to 10-12 dogs allowed the 20 ewes and 10 robust lambs to, for the most part, be run only twice each day though some sheep ran three times. Only ewes ran for the Novice Novice class, which with 5 dogs running twice meant the sheep ran twice at most.

The entire field could not be mowed due to excessive rainfall but still allowed for plenty of space for the dogs to get around the sheep with a 250 yd outrun for Open. The sheep were even and predictable and worked well for dogs who started out with a good outrun and lift. The sheep heavily penalized stopping short or being tight by either leaving the course or having to be convinced to cooperate the rest of the way around.

Sheephouse rules were in effect for all classes: handlers may leave the post at any time to help their dog and finish the course without a score. Waiting for a wreck results in DQ and immediately retiring. After leaving the post the handler must still make a reasonable effort to guide the sheep around the proper course so failure to do so is grounds for the judge to require the handler to take their dog off the field immediately.

Barbara Eriksson judged the PN and NN classes while Sally Molloy judged the Ranch and Open runs. Thank you everyone who helped as well as all who competed. Special thanks to Laurie Sargent for helping me with setout.

RESULTS

PRONOVICE 1 August 26

- 1 Jay Best and Shep, Long Road winner
- 2 Denise Leonard and Nick, overall champs
- 3 Joanne Murphy and Abby

PRONOVICE 2 August 26

1. Denise Leonard and Lark
2. Dana Eriksson and Dove
3. Joanne Murphy and Spice

NOVICE/NOVICE 1 August 27

- 1 Wayne Simon and Faye
- 2 Sharon Barrette and Virgil
- 3 Nicole Palmer and Bran
- 4 Addi von Eynern and Bella

NOVICE/NOVICE 2 August 27

1. Sharon Barrette and Virgil, Overall champs
2. Nicole Palmer and Bran
3. Linda Bohm and Roo
4. Wayne Simon and Cody
5. Addi von Eynern and Bella, Long Road Award Winner

RANCH 1 Sept. 2

- 1 Pat Cameron and Kane
- 2 Pam Wataha and Dax
- 3 Eileen Wilentz and Beck
- 4 Linda Rogers and Ffate

RANCH 2 Sept 2

1. Pat Cameron and Kane, overall champs
2. Sharon Barrette and Clyde
3. Jean-Louis Bigourdan and Kit
4. Eileen Eilentz and Beck

OPEN 1 Sept. 3

- 1 Chris Bowen and Griff
- 2 Ginny Prince and June
- 3 Denise Leonard and Lark
- 4 Pam Wataha and Ace
- 5 Deb Donahue and Jess
- 6 Laurie Sargent and Chip

OPEN 2 Sept. 3

1. Chris Bowen and Griff, overall champs
2. Deb Donahue and Jess
3. Ginny Prince and Grace
4. Carol Weigand and Brody
5. Denise Leonard and Lark, Long Road Award Winner
6. Laurie Sargent and Chip

May Brook Farm New Year's Open Trial Dec 30 2023 Pittsfield MA

Twenty-seven handlers with 42 dogs braved the wintery weather to descend upon Sue Schoen's Massachusetts farm for a day of trialing. Although it is general Newsletter policy to publish results for only the qualifying dogs (top 20%) for Open trials, on this occasion we publish scores for all who completed the course in honor of their efforts to brave the weather. Those with RT/DQs are not listed to preserve their dignity.

Place	Handler	Dog	Score
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1.	Mich Ferraro	Quark	94
2.	Christine Koval	Nick	90
3.	Amanda Milliken	Tui	84
4.	Ginny Prince	Grace	83
5.	Sue Schoen	Cori	81
6.	Dominick Frabizio	Gael	80
7.	Maria Amodei	Pan	78
8.	Chris Bowen	Griff	75
9.	Kim Lippolis	Deke	74
10.	Teri Rhodes	Zuben	70
11.	Gene Sheninger	Aron	67
12.	Melanie Behrens	Kit	67
13.	Christine Koval	Tru	64
14.	Amanda Milliken	Dar	64
15.	Denise Leonard	Lark	64
16.	Ginny Prince	June	64
17.	Dave Goyer	Dan	60
18.	Laurie Sargent	Chip	57
19.	Danielle Eriksen	Finn	56
20.	Teri Rhodes	Rudy	55
21.	Mich Ferraro	Pike	45
22.	Simon Thorrold	Quinn	42
23.	Sharon Barrette	Clyde	34

Christine Koval



The winning run: Mich Ferraro and a tight post turn with Quark

Christine Koval



Dominick Frabizio and Gael at the pen

2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show Open Sheepdog Trial

Submitted by Carolyn West

The PA Farm Show SDT was held January 6-7, 2024 in Harrisburg, PA at the PA Farm Show complex. Though the trial is held indoors, handlers (and the sheep) had to battle a snowstorm to get to Harrisburg. The Katahdin sheep were supplied by Gene Sheninger and Teri Rhodes and were very even and a challenge to pen. Judge Herman Cook did a great job helping set the course and judging 38 runs on Saturday night and again on Sunday morning, then 10 runs for the final round. This is the only USBCHA/NEBCA sanctioned trial left in Pennsylvania and the trial organizers, Emily Falk and Carolyn West, are thankful for everyone who made the snowy trek to Harrisburg this year!

In the first class, Michelle Brothers and Mac had the fastest run with full points in 1 minute and 45 seconds, beating 37 other handlers. In the second class, Amanda Milliken and Dar laid down a smoking run for full points in 1 minute and 8 seconds! Both winning runs were 20 seconds faster than the second place runs. Great job Michelle and Amanda!

For the final round, handlers and dogs with the top 10 combined scores came back for another run. Once again, Amanda and Dar won with a time of 1 minute and 8 seconds – 40 seconds faster than the second place run by Mike Perry and Dakota Lee. Congratulations to Amanda and Mike!

Open 1, Jan 6, 2024 (place/handler/dog/points/time) 38 dogs ran

Francois LeBlanc

1	Michelle Brothers	Mac	18	1:45
2	Francois LeBlanc	Peat	18	2:05
3	Amanda Milliken	Dar	18	2:05
4	Carolyn West	Min	18	2:15
5	Teri Rhodes	Zuben	18	2:21
6	Amanda Milliken	Tui	18	2:28
7	Merry Klimek	Hope	18	2:30
8	Dominick Frabizio	Mick	18	2:31
9	Ron Madison	Bert	18	2:38
10	Beth Murray	Audrey	18	2:40



Mike Perry's Dakota Lee

Open 2, Jan 7, 2024

38 dogs ran

1	Amanda Milliken	Dar	15	1:08
2	Carolyn West	Min	15	1:28
3	Ron Madison	Blaze	15	1:34
4	Victoria Booth	Thatcher	15	1:35
5	Mike Perry	Dakota Lee	15	1:38
6	Teri Rhodes	Rudy	15	1:40
7	Peggy Chute	Twizzler	15	1:42
8	Theone Thayer	Jan	15	1:43
9	Francois LeBlanc	Peat	15	1:43
10	Amanda Milliken	Tui	15	1:45



Etterick Tripp keeps an eye on the action

Siykar Landis

Farm Show, cont.

Final Round

1	Amanda Milliken	Dar	15	1:08
2	Mike Perry	Dakota Lee	15	1:48
3	Sue Schoen	Cori	15	1:50
4	Amanda Milliken	Tui	15	1:52
5	Carolyn West	Min	15	2:09
6	Teri Rhodes	Zuban	15	2:09
7	Francois LeBlanc	Peat	15	2:14
8	Teri Rhodes	Rudy	15	2:23
9	Beth Murray	Audrey	15	2:32
10	Dominick Frabizio	Mick	15	2:59

Carolyn West



Winner Final Round: Amanda Millken and Dar
with Emily Falk, trial co-chair



Francois LeBlanc

The Carolyn West Method: Cool and calm with Min

HOW TO PEN THE FARM SHOW SHEEP

The Merry Klimek Method: Maximum Style

Francois LeBlanc



NEBCA Fall Meeting

November 1, 2023 via Zoom

Call to order at 7:03PM. Forty two (42) members present online.

1. Procedures were reviewed by Barbara Eriksson.

2. Motion (Carolyn West/Maria Amodei) to accept the Spring meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

3. Executive Committee Reports

A. Secretary's Report (Martha Walke) – Currently there are 345 members plus 5 Life members for a total of 350 members. In the Fall of 2022, the general membership numbered 269. Of our 345 general members, 292 are registered as Individual members and 53 are registered as Farm/Family members. There were 100 new members in 2023. As of Nov. 1, 2023, 14 members have renewed for 2024 and 3 new members have joined for 2024.

There have been 3 outside donations, in Bud Ames' memory, to the Learning Trials overseen by the Education Committee. These donations totaled \$750. Both Rose Redick and I have written thank you notes to these donors.

B. Treasurer's Report (Denise Leonard) – The report is posted on the NEBCA website.

The Education Committee's income from the 2023 webinars was \$5000.00. The old committee was thanked and the new committee given a vote of confidence.

4. BOD Report (Carolyn West) – There was nothing to report at this time.

5. Standing Committee Reports

A. Open Trials Committee (Kim Lippolis) – The Committee members are Paul Batz, Val Henry, Kim Lippolis, Laurie Sargent, Sue Schoen and Barbara Eriksson.

The following trials have been approved for NEBCA sanctioning:

Caora Farm Double Lift Trial (11/3-5, 2023)

May Brook Farm New Year's Trial (12/30/2023)

PA Farm Show Trial (1/6-7, 2024)

Fetch Gate Farm Trial 2.0 (7/4-7/2024)

Congratulations to the NEBCA 2023 High Points Top Ten

Champion – Christine Koval and Tru

Reserve Champion – Fiona Robertson and Bean

Tracy Hinton and Tye

Tracy Hinton and Lad

Lori Cunningham and Rope

Val Henry and Tag

Dave Sharp and Carl

Mich Ferraro and Quark

Warren Mick and Lucy

Brenda Buja and Dice

The Fall Foliage Championship took place at Ox Creek Farm 10/13-15, 2023. The entire Committee worked very hard and it showed. Many people made positive comments about the event. Gordon Watt did a fantastic job of judging, preferring being under a pop-up (despite the bad weather on Sat. and Sun.) in order to stand up to judge each run. Sixty dogs ran in each Open Trial. Of the 15 handlers who qualified for the double lift, 3 were 'first timers'. As was pointed out by Chris Bowen, there were

no DQs or RTs in the double lift trial! Congratulations to Paul Batz and Reyn, Champions and Long Road winner, and to John Palmer and Mara, Reserve Champions.

B. Novice Trials Committee (Elizabeth Smith-Fries) – There have been 12 Novice trials held, for the 2023 points year, since the NEBCA Spring Meeting.

The Novice Finals, held at Paul Batz's Ox Creek Farm, were very successful. Barb and Bernie Armata ably judged the best 2 of 3 runs each handler had. The committee is very grateful to all who volunteered, especially those who helped with set-out.

The results of the Novice Finals by class:

Ranch Class – Maria Mick & Sylvie, Champions; Hilary Flower & Iris, Reserve.

ProNovice – Mason Hotter & Laddie, Champions; Daniel Turcotte & Denver, Reserve.

Novice – Mike Perry & Dakota Lee, Champions; Linda Rogers & Stache, Reserve.

6. Newsletter Report (Pam Mueller) – The next issue of the Newsletter will contain the ballot for BOD officers (Sec't. ed: with the Proxy form on the reverse) as well as the membership form for renewals. If you do not receive the printed version by mail then you will need to go to the NEBCA website and download these forms.

Please note that this issue, Winter 2023, will be the last issue that is mailed free of charge to members. If you wish to continue receiving a printed Newsletter, mailed to your home, you will need to pay the new fee of \$10 annually. This is payable with your membership renewal.

7. Select Committee Reports

A. **Merchandise Committee** (Kim Lippolis) – After discussion, the Committee has decided to use an online T-shirt company and has set up an account with Bonfire.com (www.bonfire.com/store/nebca-merchandise/). This is the company the Novice Committee used for their Novice Finals' T-shirts.

There are four different short sleeve Ts (\$20-\$25), 2 different long sleeve Ts (\$26-\$30) and a pullover hoodie sweatshirt (\$34). The profit, per item, for NEBCA ranges from \$1. to \$4.50. Shipping is based on what you order. All orders will be processed and shipped next business day and should be received in 8-14 business days. Items for Christmas gifts should be ordered by Dec. 1. The link to order will be posted on the NEBCA website and NEBCA Facebook group and sent to the mailing list. A huge thanks to Lori Tsuruda for investigating different sites, setting up the Bonfire account and selecting merchandise to get this up and running. The committee will follow sales and profit over the year to see if adjustments are needed.

There will still be embroidered hats available to purchase at some trials.

B. **Calendar Committee** (Mary Smith) – There were 200 2024 calendars printed at a cost of \$752.96. This cost also included some graphics work and some shipping. The committee has sold 83 calendars for a base revenue of \$830 (this does not include postage). They sent out 20 free calendars to the Life Members and to the photographers with photographs in the calendar and to each Calendar Committee member.

The committee requests that photos and drawings for the 2025 calendar be sent to NEBCAcalendar@gmail.com by February 1, 2024. Kate Collins' sister Barbara has offered to continue doing the graphics for the 2025 calendar which will allow the committee to hand a print ready file to the printer. Our goal is to have calendars in hand by the end of May in order to have them available for purchase at more trials.

Kate Collins was invaluable for mentoring this committee. We gained a lot of experience this year.

C. **Education Committee** (Rose Redick) – The members of the Committee are Rose Redick, Liz Shaw, Judy Gambill and Dominick Frabrizio. We have exchanged some thoughts about the future of the Committee and are in the process of formalizing some of

these ideas. If members have thoughts and/or suggestions concerning the future of this committee, please let one of the members know about them. We look forward to hearing from members and to providing some educational opportunities this coming year.

We have been working on creating, in Bud Ames' memory and to support the Learning Trials, a Handlers Guide, in either a printed or downloadable form. We are brainstorming ideas now and would appreciate any ideas from members.

D. Library Report (Sheila Crepeau) – The use of the library has been slow. There have been 5 items loaned to 5 members, 2 of whom are first time borrowers. We have copies of the 2023 webinars for members to borrow.

E. Finance Committee (Chris Bowen) – Nothing to report.

F. Webinar Committee Report (Sara Reiter) – The new Committee is working to develop the 2024 webinar season. We started with a survey via a link posted on the NEBCA Shepdog group and the Groups IO NEBCA email. A summary of the 63 responses received:

When – majority of respondents prefer January and February, maybe March, on Friday or Sunday evenings with a target length of one and a half hours (note that the timing of the webinars is often determined by the presenter).

Topics – most favored webinars focused on specific topics, particularly with local presenters. There was particular enthusiasm about the use of videos to illustrate points as well as for conversations with nationally and internationally known figures, especially with questions submitted in advance. Webinars covering trial etiquette, judging, entering and putting on trials and advice to novice handlers from experienced handlers. Some, but less, interest in sheep, pasture and predator management.

There was appreciation expressed for the variety of topics in past seasons and suggestions were made about administration.

The Committee will work to organize the 2024 webinars. Please contact Committee members with additional suggestions and/or concerns.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Concern was expressed for the lack of action by the Finance Committee Considering the reason it was formed.

B. The Merchandise Committee was asked why there were no other options besides clothing. Suggestions were made about mugs, which would have to be done in batches; tote bags (too small); designing a decal and/or magnet, maybe as a fundraiser. Sky-lar Landis mentioned her working relationship with Sticker Mill (practical and mail in envelopes) and offered to work with NEBCA to get a decal produced by them. It was suggested that the Finance Committee be consulted before anything was done.

C. Tom Trent listed some of the presenters being considered by the Webinar Committee: Emma Gray, Mark Elliott, Gordon Watt, Bill Berhow, Joni Tietjen, Haley Hunewill and Derek Scrimgeour. Also being considered is a veterinarian discussing injuries, a novice oriented webinar, and a session on sheep management. Suggestions from NEBCA members would be appreciated.

9. New Business

A. It was suggested by Werner Reitboeck that trial judges be announced on NEBCA trial entry forms. This was what was the norm but lately has fallen to become TBA. The USBCHA suggests a judge be named 2 to 3 months before the trial when the entry is also made available.

B. Member Directory – Lori Tsuruda moved that a Membership Committee be formed to absorb the work that membership creates. (no second)

Discussion of the following:

- would have to meet the strict Canadian guidelines for sharing of personal information;
- member information could be put on a NEBCA Eventbrite account;
- NEBCA is a small organization and at risk of cyber attacks; big organizations are cyber fortresses; we have a flimsy password and it is not changed frequently enough; hackers are groups, often paid by foreign countries, to get contact lists; need a more robust website; one level for member access another for executive access;

- to help the club, put it on a more secure website;
- can contact members through the list serve and the Points System which has the member names and states.

Moved (Lori Tsuruda/Joan Teebagy) that a Membership Committee be organized by the Executive Committee.

Discussion:

- too broad and no direction for the committee;
- let the BOD review all of this and create a Membership Committee;
- the BOD should organize this and give the Membership Committee brief involving the scope of work the committee is to do.

A Friendly Amendment was made by Lori Tsuruda to ask the BOD to form and task a Membership Committee with specific guidelines. Unanimous vote in favor.

Motion to adjourn (Maria Amodei/Debbie West). Unanimous vote in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Walke, Secretary

Sallie Butler

Torrents of rain that fell here this winter meant a neighbor had two Hereford cows caught on the wrong side of the flooded paddock needing to be loaded on a trailer for return to the farm. As Kelpie Sirius headed out for the task, Malibu Barbie apparently jetted over to provide fashion advice on putting one's best paw forward.



WHAT TO WATCH: Netflix REVIEW:

If you have Netflix and have not yet tuned in to “Muster Dogs” — go look now. OK so it’s about Kelpies but still it is very fun to watch. It’s a reality show/contest of sorts. Five Australian farmers who ranch (cattle or sheep) with working dogs are each given a puppy (littermates) from a working kennel and charged with training up the dog in 9 months. The show tracks their progress in four episodes. Reportedly this show was so popular they have done another series with border collies but the kelpie version alone is highly entertaining and even educational, especially for those of us (all of us?) who have little idea how working dogs are trained and used in Australia.

NEBCA TRIAL CALENDAR 2024

Date	Trial Name	Location	Classes Offered	Host/Contact	Phone/Text
June 1-2	Belle Rose Novice Trial	Chestertown MD	2 Ranch, 2 PN, 2 NN	Skylar Landis	717-577-0927
June 27-30	Caora Farm	Millerton, NY	2 Open 2 Nursery	Mich Ferraro and Kak Weathers	518-592-1320
July 4-7	Fetchgate Farm	Cortland, NY	2 Open 3 Nursery	Carolyn West	860-729-0550
July 4-7	Cascade Farm	Bath, NH	2 Open, Ranch, PN, NN, Nursery	Mary Ames	603-838-2018
July 12-14	May Brook Farm	Pittsfield, MA	2 Nursery 2 Open	Sue Schoen	413-344-9574
July 20-21	Handy Dog Summer Trial	St. Agatha, ON	NN, PN, Ranch, Nursery, Open	Victoria Lamont	519-497-0765
Aug 3-5	80 Acres	Kingston, ON	2 Open	Amanda Milliken	613-540-4845
Sept. 6-8	Handy Dog Fall Trial	St. Agatha, ON	NN, PN, Ranch, Open, Nursery	Victoria Lamont	519-497-0765
Sept 23	The Big E	Springfield, MA	2 Open (points & time)	Pam Mueller	607-342-4291

See NEBCA website for more info, clickable entry links, and most up-to-date information

2022 NEBCA Breeders' Directory

Pam Davies
Hafod Farm, 204 County Rd. 513
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
908-361-1335
pamdavies30@gmail.com

Caroline Gordon
630 Route 94
Newton, NJ 07860
732-841-1462
Portland 7108812@yahoo.com

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

NEBCA
257 Athol Richmond Road
Royalston, MA 01368

NEBCA ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday March 2, 6 pm via ZOOM



*Skylar Landis's VH Jesse
on a snowy day in
Chestertown MD*

*Let's say goodbye to
winter!*

Skylar Landis