



NEBCA News

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



Skylar Landis

Skylar Landis's Tripp catching a Maryland sunrise

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEBCA Administration.....	2
Editor's column.....	3
Dog Trials Over the Years.....	4-5
Penning with Warren Mick.....	6-7
Meet the Membership.....	8-9
Sugarbush Gap Trial Results.....	10
Training as an Older Handler.....	11
Miscellany.....	12
Novice Finals Notice.....	13
Breeders Directory.....	13
Minutes of Annual Meeting.....	14-16
Hooked on Sheepdog Trialing.....	17
NEBCA Trial Calendar.....	18-19
Next NEBCA Meeting.....	20

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
<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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Editorializing

It's summer, and trials season is upon us. FINALLY, many are saying. Increasingly however NEBCA members are finding ways to extend their trial season by getting in the car/truck/RV and driving south or west to find trials outside our location and season, travelling to Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky and even Utah. Despite complaints about the paucity of trials, there seems to be no shortage of NEBCA trials this summer and fall. While it is true that some long-treasured trials are no more, new ones are popping up in their stead (see the extensive trial calendar on pp 18-19).

As we have lost the MA Sheep and Wool Festival (aka Cummington) trial, the first trial of this year was in early June at Sugarbush Gap Farm. Results are presented on page 10. In lieu of extensive trial results, this issue provides abundant educational and/or interesting reading, along with some administrative information (Minutes of Annual Meeting pp. 14-17).

Continuing a theme started in an earlier issue of reflecting back (or is it telling tall tales?) of NEBCA days of yore, Mary

Ames recounts early days of the Ames' trials on pp. 4-5. Other members with interesting reminiscences are invited to send stories for future issues — these are really wonderful to read.

Warren Mick is one of the hardest working NEBCA members when it comes to teaching and training and he does not disappoint here. Having presented an outstanding webinar on penning for NEBCA, he then transformed that oral information into an article for us all to contemplate (pp. 6-7). Another long-time member well known as an instructor, trainer and mentor, Barb Armata reflects how time, experience and health constraints have combined to modify her training philosophy and techniques. Our Meet the Membership column profiles an energetic up and coming NEBCA member Skylar Landis (8-9). Want to be a profiled Member or have a suggestion of someone you would like to "meet"? Contact the Newsletter Editor. Finally, Mary Thompson shares with us her "why" for sheepdog trialling (p. 17), and some miscellaneous photos of events round out this issue. Happy trialling!

PJ Mueller



Kim Lippolis

Meet the Three Amigos:

We beseech you to NOT FORGET the NEBCA summer meeting, July 10 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Sheep Dog Trials with the Ames Over the Years

By Mary Ames

July 2024 will mark the Ames family's 30th year of continuously hosting a NEBCA event or sheep dog trial. Here is how it all happened.

It all started with one dog. In March of 1992 Bud got his first Border Collie, Sam, from Tom and Carolyn Mohan (founding members of NEBCA). As Walt Jagger said: "Border Collies are like potato chips, nobody can have just one". Bud went on to acquire seven more: Luke, Dirk, Cash, Jeb, Ike, Duke and Kip.

Come that summer, Bud attended several clinics for young pups hosted by the Mohan's, Gabe Merrill and Roger Deschambeault. In 1993 Maurice MacGregor spent a weekend at our farm guiding Bud through commands, helping him to learn how to work with Sam. August of 1994 saw Bud entering his first dog trial at the Quechee Scottish Festival. At that point we knew nothing about NEBCA nor USBCHA. Denise Leonard, whom Bud knew from his days in 4-H showing sheep, told us to join NEBCA which we did right after the trial. Joe Kennedy stopped by our house and convinced us to host our first NEBCA Novice Trial that October, on Ames Mountain Meadow Farm, in Lebanon, NH.

We posted our trial in the mimeograph "newsletter" put out by Nancy Hayes. You paid \$5.00 a year to receive this all important missive. Joe Kennedy agreed to be the judge. Trials were smaller and handlers just showed up and signed up the day of the trial. Handlers I remember attending were Jean Kennedy, Peter van de Carr, Steve Wetmore, Michael Dathe, Betty Levin, Deborah Donahue, Betty and Dave Murray, and Denise Leonard. The big excitement was when Betty Murray's dog knocked her car into neutral and it rolled into the fence and tent nearly puncturing the gas tank. We used Romney sheep which

were not easy to move. Bud tried his hand at setting out but after a few setouts without lifts, Bud was banned from setting out!



Mary Ames

We switched our trials to June and eventually added Open trials. Warren Mick was the judge for the first one. The field was quite the challenge with a pond near the set out, an uphill dog-leg fetch, a long cross drive through shadowy pines. Nothing was flat including the pen. We also had learning trials for Novice handlers. Day One we posed a series of challenges for dog and handler and Day Two was a NEBCA trial. Dave and Mary Ellen Young were the mentors.

In May of 2007, we purchased the land for Cascade Farm in Bath, NH. 2009 saw our first Cascade Farm Trial. NEBCA granted permission to hold the trial the weekend of July 4. There were 3 days of trials, all classes every day. The judges were Lorna Savage, Denise Leonard and Maria Amodei. We held NEBCA Benefit Mother's Day trials for several years. A few years we tried two days double lifts on the whole field and two days of standard trials on half the field. We then switched to two days of

Sheep Dog Trials with the Ames, cont.

trials with the top 20 dogs running in a double lift on the third day. Entries kept increasing so we switched to two trials over three days to allow as many dogs as possible. We also hosted the Fall Foliage and Novice Finals,

Anyone who volunteered for the pen got to know Bud, as that was his hang out unless he was running a dog. He would speak like Donald Duck when things got tough. The stories and jokes at the pen would often be off color and politically incorrect. A special pen crew hat or shirt “Pen Crew – We get dirty” was given to volunteers who went above and beyond at the pen.

For 2024, our 30th anniversary, the July trial has 122 dogs, all levels, Open, Nursery, Ranch, Pronovice, and Novice with two runs over four days. Seventy-three of those entries are at the novice level making the future of NEBCA look bright. In September we will welcome many of those handlers back for the 2024 NEBCA Novice Finals. Don’t miss it.

Ed. Note: Although Bud Ames is sadly no longer with us, the Ames Family, along with a huge crew of volunteers, continues to put on fun and lovely trials at the amazing Cascade Farm in northern NH. All of NEBCA thanks them. If you haven’t ever been, plan a trip.



Mary Ames

The original Ames Farm: Mountain Meadow

Penning

By Warren Mick

To my knowledge, there's never been a clinic on penning. Perhaps that is because penning is considered too limited a topic. Or it might be that here in the East, we rarely see difficult-to-pen sheep, and so limited penning skills are often adequate. When the penning gets tough, however, the teams that lack the necessary skills becomes readily apparent. Such was the case at one Open trial I attended last year, where team after team failed to pen, often making the same mistakes. That was the impetus for the NEBCA webinar on penning I did in March. The webinar included both training and handling information on penning. The following is a synopsis of that webinar.

Part 1 - Strategy and Handling

The pen in a sheepdog trial tests the dog and handlers' ability to move sheep into a confined space where they ordinarily would not want to be or go. The pen and the single/shed are considered close work where the team works cooperatively to manage the sheep. Real life tasks such as moving sheep through gates, loading a trailer, pushing sheep across a stream or wet area, or loading handling system all require the same skills as used in penning. Next to gathering, penning type work is probably the next most common task a dog will need to do on the farm. This is why a pen is part of every trial course, from Novice-Novice class to the National Finals.

To be good at penning, the handler must know the basic strategy and have a fair bit of stock sense. The dog must understand the objective and have the necessary skills. First let's talk strategy.

Sheep are creatures of habit and familiarity. And conversely, they are suspicious of anything new. Sheep that have never been penned or loaded on a trailer can present a real challenge. They view it as a trap, where they become vulnerable to attack. Some will object as if their survival is at stake. After each exposure, however, their familiarity increases and suspicion decreases. Provided the place they enter offers safety, they

will often become much more compliant in just a handful of exposures. Sheep that are run numerous times at a trial, or in many trials, will get progressively easier, if not indeed eager, to be penned. Such is the case at many Northeast trials.

Even when sheep are familiar with the pen, it still takes some care to get them in. The approach must be controlled and from the front so they can see the opening. The sheep should be walking. It also helps if the dog has treated the sheep properly around the course. Rough handling on the fetch and drive, in addition to likely ending in a bad approach, will make the sheep far less trusting of the dog and less likely to consider the pen a safe place.

The exact approach angle and destination is important. You don't want the sheep coming straight in or from the side, but rather somewhere in-between (roughly perpendicular to the gate). The target should be the hinge end of the gate. This angle and target point offers the largest visual barrier to stop the sheep and facilitate their entry into the pen. If the pen is set up facing the return drive line, a small veer off the drive line right before the pen can be used to get a better approach angle. If there is significant pressure behind the pen (e.g. from the exhaust pen) one might also adjust the approach angle in the final approach so that the dog is in a better position to cover the pressure.

Once the sheep are near the opening, the strategy is not to force them in but rather to cut off all other escape routes until they decide going in is their best option. If the sheep are stalled, increases in pressure from the handler and dog must be gradual and controlled.

The gate should be opened to about 135 degrees, half way between 90 and 180. In the UK, one will often see a post placed so the gate can be opened to about this angle but no further so the hinges don't get bent or broken. On flighty sheep, the handler should be at the end of the rope, crook to the side and remain still. On broke sheep, the handler might stand a little closer to the gate and ready to counter any attempt the sheep make to push past them. Sheep breaking past the handler or under the rope can often be avoided by assuming a broad crouching stance and gently shaking the rope. The dog must not be allowed to over-pressure

Penning, by Warren Mick, cont.

the sheep toward the handler or be moving while the handler is trying to block the sheep. In general, the handler and dog should not both be moving at the same time.

The pen cannot be rushed. On unbroke sheep, it can take 2-3 minutes to convince them to go. Often the sheep will not even consider it an option until they are repeatedly thwarted from going to either side. As the sheep turn to enter, the handler must keep the dog from moving or stepping forward themselves too soon. Many a pen has been ruined by such over-eagerness. Quietly walking the gate closed or swinging it using the rope (provided it isn't slammed) both work. Running forward to close the gate is risky.

After closing the gate, one can reposition the dog before letting the sheep out or do it simultaneously. The dog can be flanked around in either direction. If the sheep don't come out, the handler is permitted to enter the pen to usher them out. The rules require the gate to be reclosed and fastened after letting the sheep out. Failing to close the pen gate will usually result in point deductions if done for advantage (such as getting to the shedding ring quicker).

That covers some of the basic strategy and handling for penning. In Part 2, the skills the dog needs for penning will be covered and some exercises to improve them presented. If you have any questions related to Part 1 or 2, let me know and perhaps a part 3 will be added to answer them.

And speaking of penning.....

Christine Koval sent this description of her pen experience with Tru at Soldier Hollow (below): *"It was pretty tough to pen those sheep! I looked at my watch and had about 10 seconds left, and then I hear the crowd counting down really loudly 'SIX—FIVE—FOUR—THREE—TWO'. We got them in and I shut the gate with one second left and the crowd erupted. It was the most amazing experience I've ever had".*



Meet The Membership: Introducing Skylar Landis

"I love the connection between the dog, handler, and sheep. I don't think there's another sport like it out there."

---Skylar Landis

Skylar Landis is a fairly new NEBCA member but already making a mark. Many of us wring our hands about the "greying" of this sport (the handlers not the dogs) but Skylar is quite the exception. She didn't reveal her age but I can tell you she graduated from college in 2016....Up and coming, to say the least. You will be seeing her on the trial field this summer.

Skylar's background is different from many. Her path towards dog sports and dog training began with raising Seeing Eye dogs for the Seeing Eye program in Morristown, NJ, starting when she was nine years old! Over nine years she raised seven puppies. Skylar says "I learned so much about canine behavior, puppy raising, and training throughout those years. I have no doubt I would not be where I am today without that experience."

And where is she? Just outside Chestertown, MD—a unique, historical town on the Eastern Shore, mostly beloved by boaters and beachgoers. Skylar however is not into boats. Here she is able to rent an 11 acre "farmette", with a round pen, three acre field and small training field. Here she has a mixed flock of about 40 North country Cheviots, Border Cheviots, and Katahdin ewes. She is slowly transitioning to a mostly wool flock because she finds them fresher than the hair sheep for training. Although Skylar didn't mention lambing to me, I saw the pictures on Facebook and believe she is lambing out at least some of this flock. Skylar admits the sheep are really there for training the dogs rather than as a livestock enterprise, but the usefulness of her dogs allows her to keep and manage such a large flock.

But how did a suburban girl from NJ get here? Well it started with an internship at Mid-Atlantic Border Collie Rescue (MABCR) in the summer of 2015. In her own words: "While working at MABCR I attended a Jack

Knox clinic with a few of the rescue volunteers. I remember enjoying it but it was all WAY over my head. I didn't get the appeal at all. At the time I was more into agility and nose work.

Kathy Knox does clinics here two times a year so the next one I saw was in November of 2016 after I graduated from college. Sarah of MABCR had offered me the job of running the commercial kennel on the property, which helps fund the Rescue, so I had moved to the farm for this job and to provide general assistance to MABCR. This time at the clinic I remember starting to see the bond between the handler and dog. I was a bit more intrigued. Two dogs in particular really caught my eye with their natural talent and feel -Albert Pritchard's Moss and Morgan Dawkin's Fleet. From that point on I started considering getting a dog. I adopted a puppy in 2017 in hopes he'd be my first herding partner but unfortunately he was a bit more into gripping than working. I worked a few trained dogs while I searched and in 2019 I found Jessie.

I bought Jessie from Sherry Smith as a started 4 yr old. Jess struggled to drive so we took some time to work through that but she was a great dog to get me started. We progressed through Open Ranch together but due to her trial stress as she aged, she was retired at 7 yrs old and now lives the best life



Penning with Tripp

with some friends and their two young boys who spoil her rotten.

In 2020 I bought a puppy from Kathy Knox and started the training journey from the ground up on my own. Tripp's been the best dog to learn with. His natural feel and talent took us to Open in just 2 years."

Skylar joined NEBCA in 2019 or thereabouts but did not attend a NEBCA trial until, amazingly, 2023, where her dog Tate was overall ProNovice Champion at the Flying Bucket trial in NY. This was not her FIRST trial, as she had taken Jessie to Keystone Farm in VA to run in Novice/Novice. She is obviously a "joiner" and a "helper" (we sure need more of those) and has already taken on the role of NEBCA Points Keeper for both Open and Novice points, a job that formerly was spilt between two people. Shortly Skylar will host her first trial, a two day affair offering NN, PN and Ranch.

The Landis household currently contains seven border collies (one Open dog, two Nursery dogs, two "up and comers" and two puppies that just arrived recently) as well as one BC/Cattle dog mix that Skylar adopted from MABCR BBC – Before Border Collies. He is an adventure buddy and constant companion who would like to be a sheepdog but, Skylar says, unfortunately has no skill or feel.

In addition to all her duties with MABCR and the kennel, Skylar offers pet dog training in obedience and manners as well as the

occasional hardened case requiring behavior modification. In her spare time, of which she does not have much, she likes to go hiking, kayaking and paddle-boarding. So, she IS into boats.

Asked if she had a favorite trial, Skylar responded "To date, the Knox's Steve Munson Memorial Trial in Butler, MO has got to be my favorite. The field is gorgeous, the sheep are honest and even, and the drive is one of the longest I've ever seen offered at a trial. We've gone the last two years and hope to be able to go to many more." Not really a fair question since she has not had many years on the trial field. Let's ask her again in five years. On her bucket list of course is to run in the National Finals and at Meeker.

As for a handler she credits with her success thus far, Skylar says "I absolutely consider Kathy and Jack Knox my mentors and will be forever grateful for their friendship, knowledge and the opportunities they have provided me over the last 8 years."

What tip would Skylar give new handlers? "It doesn't matter how well trained or bred your dog is if you can't read your sheep. Take the time to study and interact with sheep without a dog if you want to be better at reading your sheep on a trial field. Put your dog away and go move the sheep yourself."

Asked for her opinion on NEBCA, Skylar had this to say: "NEBCA really fosters and encourages Novice handlers. I haven't seen any other sheepdog organization that has been quite so dedicated to offering trials, clinics, and learning opportunities to

Novices like NEBCA does. I found it to be incredibly hard to get into this sport so having those resources in place are incredibly helpful for the next generation of sheepdog handlers."

Now that you know something about Skylar, step up and introduce yourself. She'll be the young woman with seven border collies in tow.



The Crew of Seven

Sugarbush Gap Learning Trial — Windsor NY**June 9, 2024 Judge: Pam Davies****MORNING TRIAL RESULTS**

Novice novice	8 dogs ran			
1 Deb	Duarte	Gracie		66
2 Nura	Sudi	Spree		58
3 Addi	Von Eynern	Bella		56
4 Kelly	Gould	Rill		55
5 David	Schenck	Skylar		52
6 Lindsay	Shafer	Mamba		43

Pro Novice	12 dogs ran			
1 Kim	Lippolis	Joe		74
2 Chloe	Scott	Una		69
3 Sara	Reiter	Cliff		68
4 Sarah	Mullin	Ricky		66
5 Tom	Hoeber	Arrow		64
6 Teri	Rhodes	Lynx		56
7 Nancy	Ortiz-Sharp	Wind		55
8 Tom	Hoeber	Bow		52
9 Nancy	Ortiz-Sharp	What		51

Ranch	6 dogs ran			
1 Joanne	Thayer	Zsasz		81
2 Chloe	Scott	Cindy		78
3 Sandy	Lockwood	Grace		73
4 Jean	Singleton	Chris		72
5 Sara	Reiter	Zac		70
6 Joanne	Thayer	Pepe		66

AFTERNOON TRIAL RESULTS

Novice novice	7 dogs ran			
1 Deb	Duarte	Gracie		69
2 David	Schenck	Skylar		65
3 Kelly	Gould	Rill		61
4 Addi	Von Eynern	Bella		55
5 Lindsay	Shafer	Mamba		45

Pro Novice	12 dogs ran			
1 Chloe	Scott	Una		67
2 Sarah	Mullin	Ricky		66
3 Tom	Hoeber	Bow		64
4 Kim	Lippolis	Joe		63
5 Nancy	Ortiz-Sharp	Wind		61
6 Sara	Reiter	Cliff		58
7 Teri	Rhodes	Lynx		56
8 Nicole	Palmer	Bran		55
9 Nancy	Ortiz-Sharp	What		48
10 Tom	Hoeber	Arrow		46

Ranch	6 dogs ran			
1 Sara	Reiter	Zac		78
2 Joanne	Thayer	Zsasz		77
3 Chloe	Scott	Cindy		75
4 Jean	Singleton	Chris		73
5 Joanne	Thayer	Pepe		64
6 Sandy	Lockwood	Grace		61

High combined:

NN	Deb	Duarte	Gracie
PN	Kim	Lippolis	Joe
Ranch	Joanne	Thayer	Zsasz

Training as an Older Handler

By Barb Armata

When I was asked to write an article for the newsletter, I thought about what has changed in my training over time. Getting old(er) for me brought mobility challenges that changed how I have to do things. Surprisingly, it has actually been for the better.

Now granted, some of us have aged more gracefully than others! In my case, there is no graceful! My body is showing the wear and tear of my life's work. It became frustrating to me to train my dogs when I could not move readily and swiftly about the field.

I was forced to look for some new ways of accomplishing training yet I still want to utilize my dog's natural ability and instinct. These dogs are so amazing because of this. I certainly don't want to diminish this talent and initially feared that I would if I could not train in the ways I used to. However, this has happily not been the case.

I've developed some newer (to me) methods to deal with lack of mobility. The biggest thing I have found is I'm doing things slower and more methodically. But it turns out this is not a negative: because of this approach, my dogs have a clearer understanding of what I am asking.

Only thing I'm limited with doing on my own is starting the basics on a youngster. But once they can quietly balance and call off, I can take over.

I was always told a correction has to be immediate. Years ago that meant running hard at the dog and getting after him, being right on top of him. Can I still train the dog if I'm not physically able to do that? Yes! I have found I can lie the dog down, walk calmly to the dog and show him what I want. This gives the dog time to understand, not just react to my movement. Win-win!

If the dog does not stop, I will stay near the sheep and block him. I don't have to move as much but can still

show the dog he can't have his sheep. Then I can take the dog from the sheep as his correction. Reset the situation and start again.

I will use my crook...or cane as the case may be....pointing the direction I want the dog to go. I have it just where the tip crosses the balance line which is just enough "pressure" to get a dog to bend their head and shoulders out. It's a non-threatening way to get the "give". Again, I don't have to do a lot of movement on my part.

Once my dog understands this, I can just use the palm of my hand to get the same reaction. It is useful at the pen or shedding. The main point is the dog is not just reacting to a threatening movement but given time to think and learn what I am asking. I show them what I want slowly and, hopefully, clearly. It keeps me on my game of coming up with scenarios to teach them different aspects to their job.



Barb Armata

Since doing a lot of walking while driving is difficult for me, I use an ATV to go along next to the dog. It doesn't take long for a dog to accept this.

There's always a solution if you look for it! Now training can still be fun for me and the dogs may even be happier and learning better!

Carol Champion hosted three weekend clinics this summer at her lovely Bittersweet Farm in Hampton, CT. Here she uses a fence to help Sharon Barrette introduce her dog Clyde to shedding.

If you want to visit Carol's farm, be sure to check out her Novice trial coming up in October.

Don Laferty



Ginny Prince

NEBCA members Paul Batz, Christine Koval, Mich Ferraro, Bev Lambert and Amanda Milliken attended the prestigious, by invitation only, Soldier Hollow Classic Sheepdog Championship in Midway, UT over Memorial Day. Mich, Bev and Amanda all made it into the Double Lift, where Bev and her dog Lee were Bronze Medalists. Congratulations to all.

Christine Koval's Tru: Made it around the course at Soldier Hollow! What a good dog.

HEAR YE HEAR YE:

The NEBCA Novice Finals are fast approaching. As we enter the trial season, it is the time to start obtaining the necessary points to enter this year's Novice Finals.

To be eligible to compete in the Novice Finals, the handler must be a member of NEBCA. The handler / dog team must have earned at least three points in NEBCA Novice trials since the previous year's Novice Finals and have earned those points while a member of NEBCA.

THE 2024 Novice Finals will be held at the beautiful Cascade Farm in Bath, NH on August 31/September 1 weekend with three runs over two days. There is sure to be a Handler's Dinner, lots of awards and opportunities for swimming in the river.

Keep an eye on the Trial Schedule page for the entry form. For more information regarding Novice Finals eligibility, please refer to the Novice Trial Guidelines on the website.

For more information contact one of the Novice Trial Committee members. Contact information can be found on page two of this newsletter or on the NEBCA website.

2022 NEBCA Breeders' Directory

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2024 NEBCA Annual Meeting

March 2, 2024

Via Zoom

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:05PM. Forty nine (49) members present plus eleven (11) proxies.
- II. Basic procedures to follow for a Zoom meeting were reviewed.
- III. The minutes from the Fall meeting were moved for approval (CW/GP). 39 approved; 1 opposed; 4 abstained.
The minutes were approved.
- IV. Executive Committee Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report (Martha Walke) – At the end of 2023 there were 350 members compared to 269 at the end of 2022. As of March 2, 2024, there are 270 members: 5 Life; 224 Individual; 36 Farm/Family. Of these, 42 are new members. There are 125 members who have not renewed. All current members have been added/updated in the Points System. There has been one new donation to the Education Committee in Bud Ames' memory. Discussion re who has/has not renewed and areas from. Motion to accept report (MS/DL); approved with 1 abstention.
 - B. Treasurer's Report (Denise Leonard) – See attached financials. Total balance up due to webinars; reduced cost of annual trials; and donations in Bud's memory. New treasurer will have to deal with compatibility of Quicken to other programs. There will be a smooth transition to the new treasurer.
Motion to accept treasurer's report (DS/BA); approved unanimously.
- V. BOD Report (Carolyn West) – BOD member Blake Anderson is working on a NEBCA policy for the website with regard to membership benefits. There has been some feedback from Warren Mick and Dave Sharp. The policy will be reviewed by the BOD before being published on the website.
The BOD received an email from Dana Erikson concerning cyber security and the publishing of a member list on the website. This will be discussed further by the BOD.
The BOD was contacted by a member with concerns regarding paying for the webinars that are then free, through the NEBCA library, for viewing. This will be taken up by the new BOD.
- VI. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Open Trials Committee (Kim Lippolis) – Current committee members are Kim Lippolis, Chair; Dominick Frabrizio; Cynthia Palmer; Laurie Sargent; Sue Schoen and Barbara Eriksson. New members, Dominick and Cynthia, were welcomed and Val Henry and Paul Batz, whose terms have expired, were thanked for their hard work and enthusiasm.
Current 2024 trials sanctioned: Caora Farm SDT; Cascade Farm SDT; May Brook Farm SDT; Handy Dog Summer SDT; Kingston 80 Acres SDT and Grass Creek SDT; Handy Dog Fall SDT. Due to the National Finals being on the east coast, the Fall Foliage SDT is still under discussion.
 - B. Novice Trials Committee (Karen Gorman) – Current members are Julia Anderson, Chair; Karen Gorman; Teri Rhodes; Sharon Barrett and Theone Thayer. Elizabeth Smith-Fries was thanked for her work on the committee. Current trials sanctioned: Belle Rose Trial; Summer Handy Dog Trial. The Fall Handy Dog Trial was not sanctioned due to its dates and distance. Discussion followed.
Novice guidelines will be clarified on the website.
- VII. Newsletter Report (Pam Mueller) – The Spring Newsletter is on the website and the print version is at the printers and should be sent in 7-10 days. Only 65 printed copies were requested due to the new \$10 charge,

down from 155. Discussion followed.

VIII. Select Committee Reports

A. Merchandise Committee (Kim Lippolis) – The Bonfire website for NEBCA merchandise started in November and focused mainly on t-shirts. New items will be considered for 2024. The profit through December was \$34.77. Thanks to Lori Tsuruda for her help in getting this set up and running.

B. Calendar Committee (Mary Smith) – In 2023 there were 200 calendars printed (170 sold; 20 given away; 10 left in stock). Income from sales was \$1677; expenses were \$1446; net income was \$231. Their budget was \$1200 and their \$246 over budget was due to the additional calendars printed and for graphics cost. They request an increase in their budget of \$300 for a \$1500 2025 budget.

This is a new committee and they were late in getting calendars out due to communication issues. Volunteers needed to take and sell calendars at trials. Contact Diane Geer if willing to help with this. Currently, they have a lot of photographs and drawings for the 2025 calendar.

C. Education Committee (Rose Redick) – Current members are Rose Redick, Chair; Jean Barrett; Judy Gambill and Dominick Frabizio. They are discussing ideas and plans for the upcoming season and will announce them when finalized.

D. Library Report (Sheila Crepeau) – Since the last meeting there have been 4 transactions from 3 members. Materials can be returned via media mail. New fees will be presented at the next NEBCA meeting.

Discussion of webinars availability to all; formerly, paid presenters to purchase their webinar (two were free); current webinars not available in library. Comments and ideas should be addressed to the committee.

E. Webinar Committee (Joan Teebagy) – All going well with one more to be presented. Experimenting with having interactive presentations geared toward novice handlers. Encourage members to present their ideas to the committee. New committee doing an excellent job.

F. Finance Committee Report (Chris Bowen) – Worked with Open and Novice Trial committees to develop a proposal for use of NEBCA funds to support new trials. Presented below.

Discussed baseline minimum balance to be maintained. Decided on \$30,000 as a conservative amount that would protect NEBCA's financial health. Surplus monies should only be used to support events that support NEBCA's mission.

Addressed concerns whether IRS status allows NEBCA to make a profit on merchandise sales. Not a problem unless money is raised by nonmembers.

Committee supported Treasurer in developing the 2025 budget, presented below.

IX. Unfinished business – none

X. New Business

A. Election Results (Concy Smith) – Election Committee members Concy Smith, Sheila Crepeau and Mary Smith reported the results for the 2 new BOD members:

Ballots received: 52; total votes: 104; results: Chris Bowen (23); Maggie Chambers (22); Warren Mick (45); Elizabeth Smith-Fries (14). The 2 new BOD members are Warren Mick and Chris Bowen.

B. Support for 2024 National Finals – Motion made (RR/SS) that the Finance Committee review donations and then propose an amount to donate with specifics to be worked out by the BOD and the Finance Committee. Discussion followed. Two friendly amendments were not accepted by Rose Redick. Vote called. Ayes, 25; nays, 26; abstain, 2. Motion failed.

Motion (SS/CK) that NEBCA come up with sponsorships of from \$3000-\$5000 and any profit made by the Finals Committee be returned to NEBCA with the Finance Committee and the BOD to work out the specifics. Discussion followed. One amendment not accepted by Sue Schoen. Call for vote. Ayes, 37; nays, 8; abstain, 2. Motion passed.

C. Support for new NEBCA trials (Chris Bowen) – This proposal is presented by the Finance Committee, Open Trials Committee and the Novice Trials Committee.

We propose focusing funding efforts for 2024 on new trials with new sheep, supporting individuals willing to make the effort to put on a new trial and realizing the need to be reasonable in the amount committed to this program during its first year. We propose that \$6000 be the maximum that NEBCA spend on this effort in 2024 and that a new committee, New Trials Committee, be formed to evaluate opportunities, recommend financial support and support the team putting on the trial. The committee will create guidelines and actual monetary awards will be determined on a case-by-case basis with awareness towards protection against new trial cancellations.

Discussion followed. A motion (CB/ES-F) was made to accept the proposal as written by the Finance Committee and Open and Novice Trials committees. Unanimous approval.

D. Breeding Information and vote (Martha Walke) – New information to be reviewed and edited before being posted on the website.

E. Update on website (Annie-Claude Laniel and Geneviève Pronovost) – Jo Murphy was thanked for her 30+ years of service in upkeeping the NEBCA website. Heather Nadelman was thanked for her work in migrating the information to a new website.

Working on a new platform; reviewing everything, redesigning and making user friendly with the help of Heather and Dominick Frabizio.

F. 2025 Proposed Budget (Denise Leonard) Motion (MA/ES-F) to accept 2025 budget. Voice vote; motion passes with one abstention.

Motion (MA/PF) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Walke, Secretary

*Paul Batz and Mya
working on the
shed at Soldier Hollow*



Dana Rice

Why I'm Hooked on the Sport of Sheepdog Trialing:

A Poignant Reminder

By Mary Thompson

Sometimes I catch myself sitting under the handler's tent on a cold, blustery day, in the middle of no-man's-land, wondering just why I keep doing this "sheepdog" thing! Gosh, you sit around all day waiting for your run, watching, waiting, watching, catching up on sheepdog news...waiting!! What drives me to spend hundreds of dollars, endless hours and physical exertion, not to mention mental stress to attend every possible trial that I can?! From early spring to late fall, practise, practise, clean the van and trailer, load the water, food, clothes...Oh yeah the dogs. Have you got your crook, whistle, directions, money? When should I leave? What's the best route? It's an endless whirlwind of activity and sometimes the end result of not placing makes you wonder: WHY? I was fortunate to be reminded of the reason behind my personal obsession with trialing this past summer at the prestigious Grass Creek Trial, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. I was relaxing under the handler's tent, munching on the chocolate lady's sweets, and watching the second round of the Open Class. A well dressed handler came to the post with a black and white rough coated dog of advanced years. This team is well known in the sport, the handler calm, quiet, a perfectionist, with a non-expressive demeanour, the dog obedient and talented...I

mentally wished them a good run. I watched as the dog cast out on a beautiful pear shaped line, and gently brought the stock to the handler's feet and after a quick, tight turn began the drive. So far so good and they already had a decent score from the first run so that another finish would probably put them in the double lift. This is not an easy feat at Grass Creek as the sheep are quite notorious for their unpredictability and many teams fall victim to "heartbreak ridge" and lose their sheep on the turn at the post. I continued watching as the handler directed the dog around the drive portion - so slowly, so carefully... Perhaps too slowly - time was ticking by. They made it to the pen and yes! With a little cautious manoeuvring on the dog's part, the sheep go in. There was not much time left now. I mentally urged them on: hurry! Into the shedding ring - get setup...She calls her dog in and completes a beautiful shed! Wow! And now comes the clarity... This handler who normally takes everything in stride, rarely showing any emotion, carefully gets down on one knee, calling the old dog over to her. He sat obediently and she put one arm around him - hugging and speaking quietly to him. No fanfare, no acknowledgment of the cheering crowd...The hair on my arms stood up, and a tear squeezes from the corner of my eye. What a poignant reminder. This is the reason I'm hooked on this sport! It's not the ribbons, the money, the glory. It's the bond that exists between my dog and I...It's the ability of an aging collie to put in a terrific run and bring a happy skip to the step, and a smile to his owner's face.

Between training sessions during the May sheepdog clinic in Kentucky with Michael Stewart, Sallie Butler's kelpie Orion escorted the Angus bull, "Mr. One Ton", to the barn for a vet check. Orion's career as a cattle dog began in desperation when sheep were being worked by another dog at a previous clinic and Orion sneaked into the cattle paddock for extra livestock experience. Lessons on cattle ensued. He may of course be channeling his Australian outback heritage.



Sallie Butler

NEBCA TRIAL CALENDAR 2024

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

Date	Trial Name	Location	Classes Offered	Host/Contact	Phone/Text
Jun-22-23	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 11	Ossipee Valley Fair	291 S Hiram Rd Hiram, ME	2 Open Points and time	Lynn Deschambeault	207-256-0999
July 12-14	May Brook Farm	Pittsfield, MA	2 Nursery 2 Open	Sue Schoen	413-344-9574
July 13-14	MORASH Sheepdog Trial	2645 Clarence Rd Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia	NN, PN, Ranch Two runs each class per day	Ashley Crocker	902-840-1136
July 19-21	Ox Creek Novice SDT	Canandaigua, NY	3 NN, PN, Ranch	Carolyn West Paul Batz	860-729-0550 585-2980789
July 20-21	Handy Dog Summer Trial	St. Agatha, ON	NN, PN, Ranch, Nursery, Open	Victoria Lamont	519-497-0765
July 26-28	Dancing Ewe SDT	Granville, NY	Nursery, Open	Joanne Krause	518-642-1580
Aug 3-5	80 Acres	Kingston, ON	2 Open	Amanda Milliken	613-540-4845
Aug 7-11	Kingston Sheepdog Trials	Kingston, ON	2 Open Double Lift Sunday	Amanda Milliken	613-540-4845
Aug 17-19	Ox Creek August SDT	Canandaigua, NY	2 Open, Nursery 1 NN, PN, Ranch	Carolyn West Paul Batz	860-729-0550 585-2980789
Aug 23-25	Hood's Farm Novice SDT	Ashville, NY	3 NN, PN, Ranch, Nursery	Jean barrett	716-270-9718
Aug 24-25	Festival du Chien de Troupeau	Bergerie du Loup Blanc, Bale Saint-Paul Quebec	NN, PN, Ranch 2 runs each per day	Francois Leblanc	418-435-8902
Aug 31	Blue Hill Fair	Blue Hill, ME	2 Open Points and Time	Lynn Deschambeault	207-256-0999
Sept 1	NE US Sheepdog Trial	Blue Hill, ME	1 Open Points and time	Lynn Deschambeault	207-256-0999

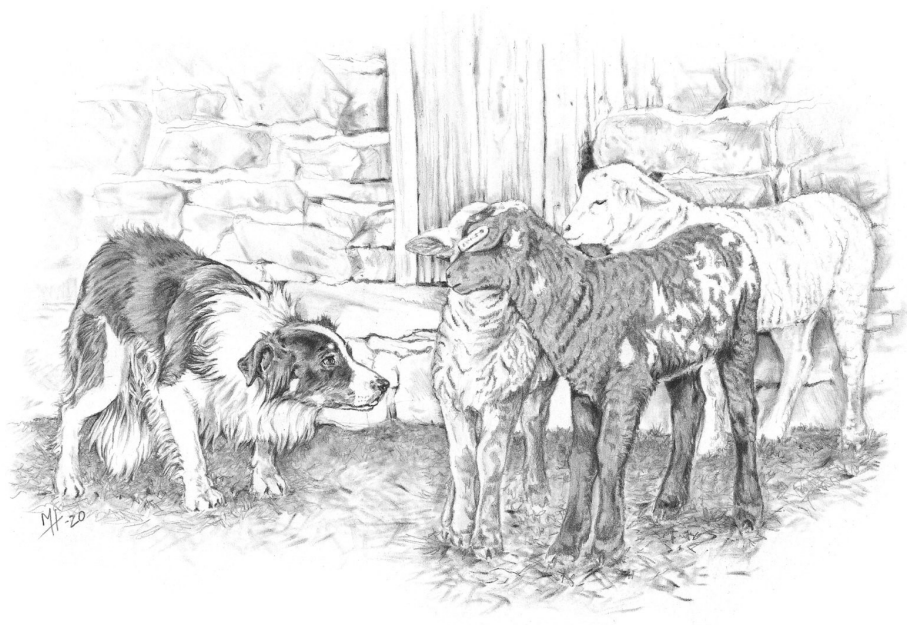
NEBCA Trial Calendar cont.

Aug 31- Sept 1	NEBCA NOVICE FINALS	Cascade Farm Bath, NH	NN, PN, Ranch	See Novice Trials Committee pg 2	
Sept 2	Morse Brook Farm	Westminster, VT	PN, Ranch	Liz Shaw	802-376-6280
Sept. 6-8	Handy Dog Fall Trial	St. Agatha, ON	NN, PN, Ranch, Open, Nursery	Victoria Lamont	519-497-0765
Sept 14- 16	Ox Creek September SDT	Canandaigua, NY	2 Open 2 Nursery 1 NN, PN, Ranch	Carolyn West Paul Batz	860-729-0550 585-2980789
Sept. 20	NE Highland Games	60 Loon Mtn Rd Lincoln, NH	1 Open Points & time	Lynn Deschambeault	207-256-0999
Sept 21- 22	ABCQ Trial	Spencerville Ontario,CA	2 NN 2 PN	Patrick Gosselin	581-777-8957
Sept 23	The Big E	Springfield, MA	2 Open Points & time	Pam Mueller	607-342-4291
Sept 29	Fryeburg Fair	Fryeburg, ME	1 Open Points & time	Lynn Deschambeault	207-256-0999
Oct 10	Topsfield Fair	Topsfield MA	2 Open Points & time	Lynn Deschambeault	207-256-0999
Oct 11- 13	Shepherd's Crook	Woodville, Ontario CA	2 Open 2 Nursery 2 NN, PN, Ranch	Vikki Kidd	416-277-4313
Oct 18- 20	Kitley Corners Farm Fall Trial	835 Kitley Lane Jasper, Ontario CA	2 NN, PN, Ranch 1 Open, Nursery	Celeste Iacroy	613-284-6611
Oct 19- 20	Bittersweet Farm Fall Novice Trial	Hampton, CT	2 each NN, PN, Ranch, Nursery	Carol Champion	
Nov 1-3	NEBCA FALL FOLIAGE	Caora Farm Millerton, NY	2 Open Double Lift (qualified NEBCA members)	Kim Lippolis Martha Walke	607-655-1139 978-807-9421

NEBCA
257 Athol Richmond Road
Royalston, MA 01368

NEBCA SUMMER MEETING

July 10, 6:30 pm via ZOOM



Lena vs The Lambs

Mason Hotter