

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 March 30, 2:00 P.M.
 at The Dog School in Williston

MARCH

2008

SEND LETTERS AND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWS BY THE 25TH OF THE MONTH TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK, OR E-MAIL: MAYAMCK@PSHIFT.COM

Membership Meeting

The Steering Committee encourages everyone to attend the Spring Meeting on March 30, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dog School in Williston. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please vote by proxy as we need enough members voting in person or by proxy to meet the quorum requirements. The Fall Minutes are on the website and may be found in the December newsletter.

Proxy Voting Forms

There are two ways to designate a proxy vote:

1. You can vote by sending the Secretary (Kim Rubin) an email indicating your vote on those item(s) indicated in the agenda which require a vote (see form #1). If you don't have email, you can mail your vote to Kim (email: som13@aol.com; mailing address: 142 Fitzsimonds Road, Jericho, VT 05465); OR

2. You can designate a NOMAD member who will be at the meeting to act as your proxy. Your proxy MUST bring a completed copy of form #2 to the meeting AND the Secretary must receive a copy of form #2 prior to the meeting (either by email or mail).

If you designate a proxy vote by either method but then attend the meeting, your proxy vote will be void, and you will be able to vote in person. Proxy designations are only valid for the current meeting. Kim must receive your proxy forms at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Thanks!

Form 1: If you are sending your vote to the secretary, please use the following form:

I _____ (insert your name) am unable to attend the March 30, 2008 NOMAD meeting and wish to submit my proxy vote for those items on the published agenda which require a vote.

I vote (write in yes or no) on

_____ Approval of the Fall 2007 Membership Meeting Minutes

Signature and date.

Please print your name here.

Form 2: If you designate someone to act as your proxy, please use the following form:

I _____ (insert your name) am unable to attend the March 30, 2008 NOMAD meeting, and I therefore designate _____ (name of NOMAD member to act as your proxy) as my proxy for this meeting. I authorize my proxy to vote on any and all items which require a vote at the meeting.

Signature and date.

Please print your name here.

Spring Meeting Agenda:

Minutes from Fall Meeting**

2007 Financial Summary

Old Business

Committee Reports

- a. 2008 trials update: CATS/NOMAD, USDAA, NADAC
- b. Equipment Committee
- c. Seminar Committee
- d. Membership Committee
- e. Demo Committee
- f. Training Committee
- g. Practice Committee
- h. Other committee reports, if necessary.

New Business

Appoint Nominating Committee

Any new business raised from the floor.

Directions to The Dog School in Williston

From I-89 turn at exit 12 toward Taft Corners. Turn left on Marshall Ave. Cross S. Brownell Road. Turn right on the next road which is Leroy Rd.. Go 1/10 mile, it's on your right.

From Kennedy Dr. turn on Kimball Ave and continue where it turns into Marshall Ave. From Kennedy Dr., Leroy Rd. is 1½ miles. Turn left on Leroy Rd. and it's 1/10 mile on your right.

PLEASE NOTE

The last winter barn practice is Saturday March 22, 2008. There is NO practice on March 29. We plan on moving the equipment out of the barn on March 22 following practice (assuming the trailer is not snowbound then.)

Update on CAMP Nomad 2008

To the delight of the seminar committee, the response by Nomaders to Nomad Camp was overwhelming. Over 30 registration forms were received with just the Feb 1st post-mark and more followed. Yahoo!!! Due to the substantial subsidy by the club to the camp, the committee decided to expand the camp to three instructors and 30 working teams. There will be 3 levels and each group will "play" with each instructor for one day. Auditing will remain free for all Nomaders. The 3rd instructor will be Karen Holik. The seminar committee will be asking for your patience and help for this expanded undertaking. The Camp will be held at the Von Trapp Family Lodge, thank you Lynne. It will accommodate 3 rings. More details on logistics will be forth coming. The final list of registrants will also be released very soon. Unfortunately there will be a waiting list as the committee decided to keep the class size to 10 each as originally planned. Thanks to all for your patience while the committee sorted out the plan of action. Thanks to the committee for working together so quickly to establish a plan of action.

The seminar committee members are Fran Bartholomew, Kit Erskine, Sharon Nolan, Lynne VonTrapp, John Sims, Diane Boss, Kathy Fretz, Fiona Robertson and Billie Marsh.



Billie Marsh, Seminar Committee

NOMAD's Steering Committee

Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

President

Lynne von Trapp _____ 253-7673

Vice-President

Cynthia Gilliland _____ 295-2659

Treasurer

Linda Ladd _____ 879-3461

Secretary

Kim Rubin _____ 899-3382

e-mail: som13@aol.com

Members at Large

Don Denette _____ 872-8767

Kim Ingraham _____ 223-1429

Patty McMahan _____ 434-3423

BRAGS

February 16-17, Breeze Thru Agility CPE Trial, Brattleboro, VT

Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

Level 5 Standard, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 5 Wildcard, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 5 Snooker, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 5 Fullhouse, 16 in _____ 2nd and Q

Level 5 Standard, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 5 Colors, 16 in.- _____ 1st and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie

Level 3 Standard, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 2 Snooker, 16 in. _____ 3rd and Q,
new title CL2-S

Level 3 Jumpers, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 2 FullHouse, 16 in _____ 1st and Q,
new title CL2-F & completes CL2

Level 3 Colors , 16 in _____ 3rd and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Ivy

Level 1 Jackpot, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q,
new title CL1-S

Level 1 Wildcard, 16 in _____ 2nd and Q,
new title CL1-H & completes CL1

Level 2 Snooker, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Level 2 Jumpers, 16 in _____ 1st and Q

Cheryl & Hattie

12" Jackpot Level 5 _____ 4th

12" Standard Level 4 _____ 1st & Q

12" Snooker Level 5 _____ 3rd & Q

12" Wildcard Level 5 _____ 1st & Q

12" Snooker Level 5 _____ 3rd & Q

12" Colors Level 5 _____ 1st & Q

12" Fullhouse Level 5 _____ 3rd & Q

12" Jumpers Level 5 _____ 1st & Q

12" Standard Level 4 _____ 3rd

Cheryl & Izzy

12" Wildcard Level 2 _____ st & Q

12" Snooker Level 2 _____ 1st

12" Colors Level 2 _____ 2nd & Q

12" Jumpers Level 2 _____ 2nd & Q

This was Izzy's first trial, she worked really well with her Mom and had some nice stays at the start line!

<http://nomadagility.com/>

Are You Training or Are You Testing?

By Lisa Barrett

When we go to NOMAD practice at the barn on Saturdays, we have a choice: we can TEST our dogs, which means we want to find out how well the dog knows a particular skill or a list of skills, or, we can TRAIN, which means we are teaching the dog a new skill or strengthening a known skill. Most of us intend to use NOMAD practice time to teach our dogs new skills, or to teach them to transfer known skills to the new environment of the barn.

But as I look around at what we are all doing at practice, I see almost everyone testing instead of teaching. I find myself thoughtlessly throwing my little dog into situations she doesn't understand, and somehow we muddle through. We don't even know what we are testing! We direct the dog through a sequence or course that we think or hope the dog can do. This is a test. If the dog makes a mistake, we try it again. Remember the old definition of insanity? It's repeating the same thing but expecting a different outcome. Sometimes our dogs guess what we want, but usually they haven't learned anything useful.

My advice to myself and to everyone else at barn practice is this Be a thoughtful trainer!. Think about what your dog really understands. If I want to test, I need to ask myself exactly what I am testing. What and how will I teach my dog if the dog "fails" the test? If I want to increase my dog's skills or understanding, then I'll be training. To train, I need to break the behavior I want into little tiny steps so my dog can be successful every time. And I need to reward my dog generously at every step!

Here's an example of some choices we need to make:

The sequence has an "obstacle discrimination," where the tunnel curls under the A-frame. The A-Frame and tunnel entrances present a choice to the dog. But they present many, many choices to the human.

What skills do you want your dog to have?

1. Do you want your dog to recognize a different word for "Tunnel" and "A-Frame?"

2. Do you want your dog to recognize your different body cues for "the obstacle closer to the handler" and "the obstacle farther from the handler?"
3. Do you want the dog to understand a "push" away from you?
4. Do you want the dog to understand a "pull" toward you?
5. Do you want your dog to have a "default behavior" when confronted with a choice between contact obstacle and tunnel?

To test or train your dog, you need to decide which of the above skills you want your dog to have. Once you have selected the skills and taught the skills, you might want to test the dog's understanding of those skills at the barn.

But if you haven't taught any of those skills, and you simply wave your dog into the discrimination, then you are testing but you don't really know what you are testing. If you wave your arm and say "tunnel!" and the dog ducks into the tunnel on the far side of the A-Frame, you will probably feel successful. But ask yourself why your dog got it:

1. Was it pure luck?
2. Does your dog actually understand the word "Tunnel?" If so, then your dog will run into a nearby tunnel whenever you say that word.
3. Does your dog understand that waving an arm means to take the farther-away obstacle in discrimination?
4. Does your dog understand a special cue to "push" away from you?
5. Is your dog's default behavior to do the tunnel when confronted with a discrimination?
6. Is your dog's default behavior to do the obstacle farthest away from you when confronted with a discrimination?
7. Is your dog responding to some body language that you're not even aware of? (Are your eyes looking at the tunnel? Feet pointing toward the tunnel? Hips pointing toward the tunnel? Shoulders? Did you move faster or slower once the dog looked at the tunnel?)

Oh My! If I haven't taught my dogs any of these things, then what do I do at barn practice? If I just wave my dog into the discrimination, then I'm testing, but don't know what I'm testing!

It takes some thoughtfulness and creativity to turn barn sequences into a learning opportunity. My very green dog, Spicey, has been rewarded for so many contacts that she will ALWAYS choose the contact obstacle when she has a choice. So I might choose to use the discrimination at practice to simply work on my contacts. That way Spicey will be correct every time she chooses the contact obstacle.

Or, I might decide to teach her that the tunnel has lots of value too. I would start with her little paws touching the tunnel. I would treat her just for looking in the tunnel. I would then place a reward at the far end of the tunnel, show her the reward, and take her back to the entrance of the tunnel, setting her up so she doesn't even see the A-frame. I would then send her through the tunnel to the reward. I might continue this by starting her the next time one inch back from the tunnel, then two inches back. If she darts over the A-frame, that tells me I have moved too far too fast, and I'll need to set her up closer to the tunnel and start again. Please note that because of what my little dog does and doesn't understand, I am not even beginning to teach a discrimination in this example. Instead, I am simply teaching that a tunnel next to an A-frame can offer great rewards!

Remember that in dog training, slower is faster. By taking very small steps, we will reach our goals faster than if we skip some steps.

Indoor Winter Training

I went to Sylvia Trkman's Novice Seminar last weekend, and Sylvia pointed out some of the ways we can train indoors in the winter. She teaches her dogs lots of tricks. Sylvia feels tricks can build the dog's ability to learn, teach the dog how much fun training can be, and help teach awareness of the dog's rear feet.

To see Sylvia's very entertaining videos of her dogs' tricks, check out her website at <http://www.sylvia.trkman.net/> Sylvia lures and free-shapes, depending on what she is teaching. As she puts it, she uses whatever works.

Some of Sylvia's tricks look very difficult to teach. Others seem within the reach of mere mortals. I am currently teaching my dogs to run across an aeromat (An inflated rubber disc about 14" in diameter with a nubby surface. The surface is flat but of course wobbles depending on the amount of air in it) and stop with just their hind feet on it. (Good for contact training!) Some good, easy tricks for strengthening are sit pretty, stand on hind legs and walk or twirl, stand on hind legs and lower to sit pretty, then back up again to standing on hind legs. Sylvia teaches her dogs to get all four feet into a bowl. On her videos, you'll see her dogs get four feet into a very small bowl. She says she starts with a very large bowl. My ambition is limited to getting all four feet into a large bowl.

Sylvia teaches the dog to turn tightly over a jump by first teaching a tight turn around an object, such as a traffic cone or a small wastebasket. She also teaches the verbals for "right" and "left" this way.

For even simpler winter training, I wrote some sections about "Living Room Training" in articles entitled "Unleashing Velcro" in Clean Run in early 2003. To summarize one of them, it's fairly simple to teach the dog to go away from you, around an object, and come back to the comfort of your side using just a chair and a target.

1. Start with the seat of the chair facing you and your dog, about 4" in front of you (Figure 1). Reward any movement of the dog toward the chair. If need be, you can place a treat or toy on the chair to get the dog interested in the chair. Reward and have a party for the dog taking even one step away from you to nose-touch the chair. Repeat with the dog on both sides of you. Repeat, gradually removing around to the side of the chair. (Figure 2.)

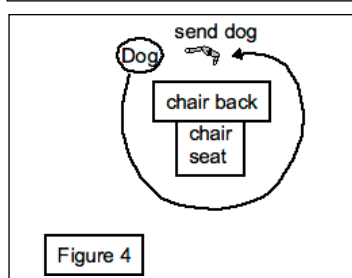
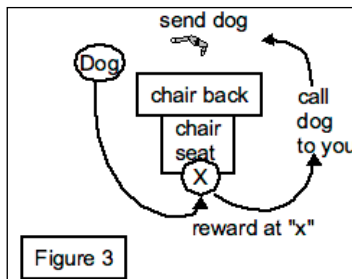
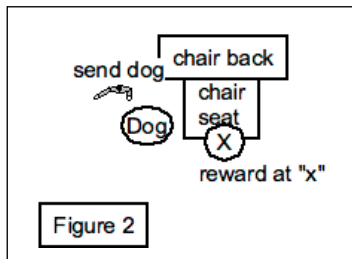
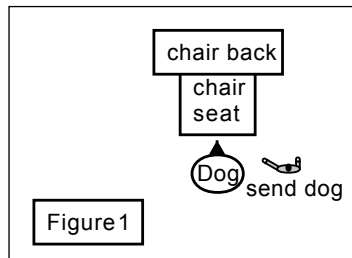
2. Move behind the chair (Figure 3) so that the back of the chair is facing you and your dog. Place your target on the seat of the chair. Induce your dog to go around the chair to the reward on the seat of the chair, then call your dog back to you around the other side of the chair and repeat the exercise. If this is too much for your dog, gradually work your way around the side of the chair until you can be behind the chair.

3. The final "living room" behavior is that your dog will go ahead of you and make a loop around the chair without a reward on the chair seat. The reward comes when the dog returns to you. (Figure 4)

4. Once the dog understands this behavior, practice with the chair in different locations and in different rooms. Add distance, a few inches at a time. Use a different chair.

Remember to increase only one "element of difficulty" at a time. In other words, if you move the chair to a different location, go back to step one.

Sylvia Trkman and her dogs. Please note that the first shot shows a dog standing on it's head/front paws



COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 2008

March 22-23; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Leap Agility Club of Central MA; Mt. Holyoke College Equestrian Center, South Hadley, MA; Opens: 1/16/08; Closes: 3/8/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

March 29-30; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Agile Dogs Agility Training, Greenwich, NY; Limit: 375 runs per day; Opens: 1/15/08; Closes: 3/10/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Debbie Wlodarski; Email: debbie@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net .

APRIL 2008

April 5-6; **ASCA**; Open to all dogs; WASCUNY; High Goal Farm, Greenwich, NY; Classes: Regular, Jumpers, Gamblers; Opens: 2/20/08; Closes: 3/19/08; Limit: 350 per day; Contact: Kathy Fretz, 37 Maxham Rd., Woodstock, VT 05091, 802-457-3693; Email: canya@moonmail.net ; Website: www.wascuny.com .

April 12-13; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Breeze Thru Agility, Brattleboro, VT; Limit: 375 runs per day; Opens: 2/19/08; Closes: 3/31/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Val Reiner, 413-743-9354; Email: krittlers@bcn.net ; Website: www.breezethruagility.com .

April 12-13; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Y Agility; ASCO Farms, Chatham Ctr., NY; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 3/24/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Grand Prix Qualifier; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com ; Website: www.usdaa.com .

April 19-20; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Act-Up Agility Club; Wrentham Developmental Center, Wrentham, MA; Limit: 500 per day; All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Michelle Whall, 144 Lyman St., North Attleboro, MA 02760, 508-699-9276; Email: mickeycw@aol.com ; Website: www.ActUpAgility.com .

April 19-20; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Talcott Mountain Agile K9s; Westfield Fairgrounds, Westfield, MA; Opens: 2/1/08; Closes: 3/26/08; Limit: Unlimited; All Classes/All Levels; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.trialsecretary.com .

April 19-20; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Burlington Obedience Training Club; Sports & Fitness Edge, Williston, VT; Opens: 2/11/08; Closes: 4/5/08; Limit: 330 per day; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Janet Induni, 43 Lost Nation Rd., Essex Jct., VT 05452, 802-879-6526; Email: jinduni@comcast.net ; Website: www.botcv.com .

April 19-20; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Scottish Terrier Club of New England; Wrentham, MA; Opens: 2/6/08; Closes: 3/30/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

Compiled by Cheryl French as of 2/21/08

April 26-27; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Addicted to Agility; Wrentham Developmental Center, Wrentham, MA; Limit: 500 per day; All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Michelle Whall, 144 Lyman St., North Attleboro, MA 02760, 508-699-9276; Email: mickeycw@aol.com ; Website: www.Addictedtoagility.com .

April 26-27; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; K9Logix, Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA; Opens: 3/1/08; Closes: 4/11/08; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Performance; Level Restrictions: Starters/PI and Advanced/PII only ; Contact: Sharon Wirant, K9Logix, 59 Aldrich Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; Email: events@k9logix.com ; Website: www.k9logix.com .

April 26-27; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Bo-Gee Agility; Deerfield, NH. Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 4/11/08; Contact: Judy Davis; Email: tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.bo-gee.com .

MAY 2008

May 3-4; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; ACE Agility Club; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Closes: 4/11/08; Limit: Unlimited; Contact: Nancy Obara; Email: ray.wheeler@the-spa.com .

May 3-4; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Talcott Mountain Agility Club, Westfield Fairgrounds, Westfield, MA; Opens: 2/27/08; Closes: 4/12/08; Classes: Standard, JWW, FAST; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

May 3-4; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA; Limit: Unknown; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

May 10-11; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Providence County Kennel Club, Inc.; Wrentham Developmental Center; Wrentham, MA; Opens: 3/5/08; Closes: 4/26/08; Classes: Standard, JWW, FAST; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

May 10-11; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Closes: 4/18/08; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Steeplechase Qualifier, Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay; Level Restrictions: Starters/PI and Advanced/PII only; Contact: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services; Website: www.alldogsgym.com ; Email: tss@trialsecretary.com .

May 10-11; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; JAZZ Agility Club; High Goal Farm, Greenwich, NY; Opens: 3/24/08; Closes: 4/21/08; Limit: 375 per Judge; All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Julie Belles;

Email: crkjkkd@aol.com ; Website: www.jazzagilityclub.com .

May 10-11; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; North-east Agility Enthusiasts; Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY; Limit: Unknown; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

May 16-18; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; SoBAD; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Opens: 4/4/08; Closes: 4/28/08; Limit: 700 per day; Contact: Val Reiner, 31 New State Rd., Savoy, MA 01256; Email: krittlers@bcn.net ; Website: sobadagility.com .

May 17-18; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; LRCGB & CSSC; Wrentham Developmental Center, Wrentham, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Opens: 3/5/08; Closes: 4/30/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

May 17-18; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; NEAT; Wakeda Campgrounds, Hampton Falls, NH; Open: 3/1/08; Closes: 4/30/08; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Grand Prix Qualifier, Performance, Junior Handler; Contact: Tina Bayer, PO Box 494, Stratham, NH 03885-0494; Email: NEATTrial@verizon.net ; Website: www.neatclub.com .

May 24-25; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Miniature Australian Shepherd Club; Westminster, VT; Opens: 4/19/08, random draw; Limit: 350 runs per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Trial Secretary: Sue Fontaine, 536 So. Willow St., Manchester, NH 03103, 603-672-7322; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net ; Website: www.k9cpe.com .

May 24-26; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; LEAP Agility Club of Central MA; Dufresne Park, Granby, MA; Opens: 3/12/08; Closes: 5/10/08; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

May 24-26; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Y Agility; Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 5/5/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Grand Prix Qualifier, DT Qualifier; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com .

May 31-June 1; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Addicted to Agility; Wrentham Developmental Center, Wrentham, MA; Limit: 500 per day; All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Michelle Whall, 144 Lyman St., North Attleboro, MA 02760, 508-699-9276; Email: mickeycw@aol.com ; Website: www.Addictedtoagility.com .

Continued on page 6

May 31-June 1; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Contact Agility Club; Veterans Park, Carmel, NY; Closes: 5/16/08; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Grand Prix Qualifier, Steeplechase Qualifier;

May 31-June 1; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Norwegian Elkhound Minutemen Assoc., Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds, Chelmsford, MA; Open: 3/12/08; Closes: 5/14/08; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

JUNE 2008

June 6-8; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; CATS&NOMAD; Wheelock Park, Keene, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 5/20/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Team Relay, Grand Prix Qualifier, Steeplechase Qualifier, DT Qualifier; Trial Secretary: Val Reiner, 31 New State Rd., Savoy, MA 01256, 413-743-9354; Email: krittlers@bcn.net ; Websites: www.canineagility.org or www.nomadagility.com .

June 6-8; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Southern Berkshire Golden Retriever Club; Westfield, MA; Open: 4/16/08; Closes: 5/17/08; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

June 9-10; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club; Westford, MA; Open: 4/16/08; Closes: 5/24/08; Classes: Standard, JWW, FAST; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

June 14-15; **ASCA**; Open to all dogs; ASNE; Westfield Fair Grounds, Westfield, MA; Opens: 4/14/08; Closes: 5/27/08; Limit: 350 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Standard, Regular,

Jumpers, Gamblers; Contact: Jon/Aline Hoadley, 26 North Gate Drive, Harwinton, CT 06891, 860-485-2639; Email: colorsofsummer@charter.net .

June 14-15; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Northshore Kennel Club; Topsfield, MA; Open: 4/16/08; Closes: 5/24/08; Classes: Standard, JWW, FAST; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

June 14-16; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Southern Adirondack Agility Club; High Goal Farm, Greenwich, NY; Opens: 4/16/08; Closes: 5/24/08; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

June 14-15; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; AgileDogs Agility Training, Shatford Park, New Lebanon, NY; Limit: 700 per day; Closes: 5/27/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: debbie@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trials.htm .

June 14-15; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA; Limit: Unknown; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

June 14-15; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; NOMAD; TopNotch Meadow, Stowe, VT; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Gamblers, Jumpers, Snooker, Pairs Relay; Level Restrictions: Starters/PI & Advanced/PII only; Contact: Val Reiner, 31 New State Rd., Savoy, MA 01256, 413-743-9354; Email: krittlers@bcn.net ; Websites: www.nomadagility.com .

June 21-22; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Bo-Gee Agility; Deerfield, NH; Contact: Judy Davis; Email: tss@trialesecretary.com ; Website: www.bo-gee.com .

June 20-22; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Collie Club of Maine; Cumberland, ME; Open: 4/14/08; Closes: 5/31/08; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

June 20-22; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Y Agility; The Blackthorne Resort, East Durham, NY; Closes: 6/2/08; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Standard, Jumpers, Gamblersm Snooker, Pairs Relay, Grand Prix Qualifier, Steeplechase Qualifier; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com .

June 28-29; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym & Inn, Manchester, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Grand Prix Qualifier; Level Restrictions: Advanced/PII & Masters/PIII only; Contact: Judy Davis; Email: tss@trialesecretary.com ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

June 28-29; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Muddy Paws Agility Club; Westminster, VT; Closes: 6/10/08; Limit: 350 runs per day; Contact: Kim Stumph; Email: goodturn@conknet.com ; Website: www.mymuddypaws.com .

June 28-29; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Albany Obedience Club; Glenmont, NY; Open: 4/30/08; Closes: 6/14/08; Classes: Standard, JWW; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

The above listed events are in the following states within a reasonable driving distance for most of us: MA, ME, NH, NY and VT. Please note for some events full information is not yet available. Please contact Cheryl French (Cheryl.P.French@comcast.net) with any corrections of the events. Sources include www.cleanrun.com, www.akc.org, www.trialesecretary.com, www.pawprinttrials.com and various other sources.



A Time for Change is NOW!

By Lanny Bassham, s reprinted by permission. mentalmanagement.com

If you are like most competitors you have been enjoying a well-needed rest from competition issues since the holidays. But, as the new season approaches some decisions might be in order. First, do you need to change anything; equipment, training schedule or mental game and when is the best time to do it? I submit that the best time is now. If you want to maximize your competition results for the coming year now is the time to make that change. Here are a few tips to aid you in doing just that.

Begin by a careful evaluation of last year. You must first determine if you have anything that needs changing. This can be accomplished in multiple areas of concern such as equipment, skill, competitions or mental game so let's look at a couple of those.

Equipment is very sport-specific and since we have readers in a wide variety of sports and performance arenas I will hold off on recommendations for equipment change.

Let's look at skill a minute. Does your technical ability grow during the off-season or does it deteriorate? Well, again that depends on your level of experience and on your habits during this period. There is a training principle that says that we tend to forget what we do wrong faster than we forget what we do right. So, taking a short break might just help your skill. However this may be discounted if you are taking a long break and your competition is getting better during this period. How do you get better? Take a lesson from an instructor and practice, practice, practice. You should know what works for you and be honest about it.

How about evaluating the benefit of the competitions you attended last year? This is a relatively easy task if you have been keeping a performance journal during the year. Simply look at the entries you have recorded in your journal and the answers to this question will be answered. But, if you do not keep a journal you must rely on your memory and the longer you take to make decisions the greater the probability that you will benefit little from the attempt. It is not uncommon for shooters to mentally go on vacation after the final competition of the year and not to think too much about the next year until a few weeks prior to the first season's competition. That is way too late! Journal or not here are several questions you need to answer about last year. What competitions were a benefit to me and why and what competitions might I do well to avoid this year and why? Once this is done you can plan for the up-coming year with confidence.

Finally, let's look at your mental game as you prepare for the new season. Is your mental game a variable or a constant? There are a lot of variables in all sports and performance ranging from weather, to judging, to equipment, to other competitors but, your mental game should be a constant. When you change your mental game based on circumstances you are not controlling your mental game the circumstances are controlling you. If you do not have a defined mental thinking system for competition now is the time to develop one.

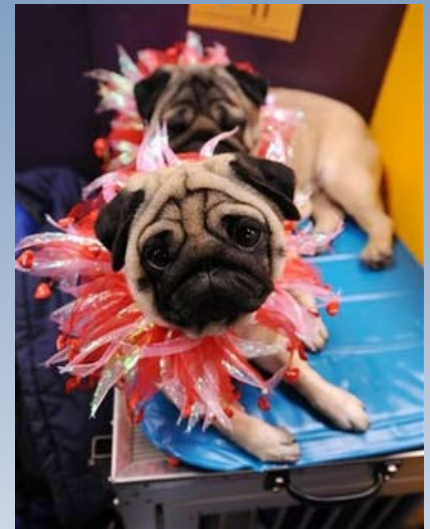
My suggestion is to try to remember what you were thinking about when you were performing well last year. Normally, performers find that they were not thinking too much at all. Some on the other hand find that they compete best when concentrating at a higher level of focus. You need to determine what works best for you. You cannot duplicate a thing until you have defined it. Once your mental game is defined your job is to run these thoughts every time, in every competition and in practice. When you run a defined mental system you can achieve mental consistency in competitions in spite of your environment. This part of the program is not so easy to implement. The environment is constantly pulling you to pay attention to it and to alter your thoughts based on it.

So, how is your preparation for the new season coming along? Do you need new equipment, a skill upgrade or a defined mental game? If you need to change some things now is definitely the time to do it.

NOMADERS IN THE NEWS



Jamie Shaw was featured in Business People Vermont Magazine dogs from L to R are: Kobe (Shiloh Shepherd), Pippit (papillon who belongs to Halle), Wyatt (blindterrier mix), and Jigs, BC.



Ashley Fischer's Spike at Westminster Dog Show



c/o Caroline McKinney
911 Elmore Mt. Rd.
Morrisville, VT 05661

Send letters and articles
by the 22nd of the month.
mayamck@pshiff.com