

NOMAD NEWS

Northern Magic Agility Dogs

MAY

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

Kate Carter Becomes Editor at Clean Run

by Lisa Barrett

NOMAD's own Kate Carter is now the assistant managing editor of Clean Run. Thanks to modern electronics, Kate will be working from her home in Waterbury Center. She continues to work as managing editor of Vermont Sports magazine.

Most of us know Kate for her quick smile and fast dogs, and as the organizer of NOMAD's October agility demonstration at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds in Essex Junction. Kate has had three Border Collies, all adopted from Sweet Border Collie Rescue at Glen Highland Farm in upstate New York. Kate trained Lily, her first BC, to be a fine agility dog as well as a wonderful hiking companion. Kate then endured the tragic untimely death of Lil from an auto-immune disease. Since then, Kate has shared her home with Brewster and Phoebe and three black and white cats. Brewster began entering agility trials last summer, and Phoebe has just begun her agility career. Kate hikes, snowshoes, or cross-country skis with both dogs daily.

As most NOMADers know, Clean Run is the national magazine for dog agility enthusiasts, with an international readership of over 10,000. It is published monthly and includes great photos and articles for beginners as well as experts in our sport. If you look at the masthead of your May issue, you will see Kate's name just under Monica Percival's.

Kate comes to this new work at Clean Run with a deep love for our sport as well as all the right job skills. She has worked in publishing for many years. Seventeen years ago, she created Vermont Sports magazine, and was the publisher until she sold it a few years ago. She is the author and photographer of numerous books, including Mountain Bike Vermont, Wildflowers of Vermont, Shrubs and Vines of Vermont, and Wildflowers of Cape Cod and the Islands. Over the years, Kate has been a consistent contributor to Vermont Magazine, and in its March 2008 issue you can read several gardening articles she wrote, and see some examples of her plant photography. When she's not sitting at her desk editing other people's articles or practicing agility with Brewster and Phoebe, she's probably in her vegetable or perennial gardens. She started collecting daylilies a few years ago, and now has over 50 hardy varieties.

Check out Kate's website at www.wildflowersofvermont.com.

Directions to Lisa's From Hinesburg (Rt. 116):

1. Take Mechanicsville Rd. (or CVU road) to Richmond-Hinesburg Rd. (towards Richmond), follow ~ 2.5 miles
2. Go right on Magee Hill Rd. (this is a dirt road across from Pond Brook Rd.)
3. Magee Hill road becomes Sherman Hollow Rd. at 1 mile, follow Sherman Hollow 3 miles to my white mailbox #1350, which is on the left.

If you miss Magee Hill Rd. You can also turn right onto Swamp Rd. Follow until it ends (1/2 mile) and then take a left onto Sherman Hollow Rd. Follow 3 miles to my mailbox #1350 on the left.

My phone is 434-2744.

EQUIPMENT PARTY SATURDAY, MAY 10

On May 10 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. NOMAD will have our annual Equipment Cleanup and Repair PARTY. We know it's hard to find a date when all can help and the weather cooperates, so our fingers are crossed for a good weekend. Refreshments will be available.

The plan is to work and party on Saturday, and hope we can get everything done, since the next day is Mother's Day, a time for honoring or being honored.

The back up weekend is May 31 and June 1.

The party will be at Lisa Barrett's house in Huntington. Scrub brushes, paint and paint brushes will be provided. Anyone can do this. Bring a sense of humor and elbow grease.

NOMAD cannot function without equipment, so this is a very important part of your membership responsibilities. Please mark your calendars now.

Directions to Lisa Barrett's house at 1350 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington:

From Interstate 89:

1. Exit 11 for Richmond.
2. Take US Route 2 east to town of Richmond.
3. At traffic light, turn right onto Bridge Street. Bridge St becomes Huntington Rd. Follow this road for about 5 miles.
4. Turn right onto Sherman Hollow Road (there are also signs for Birds of Vermont Museum and Green Mountain Audubon Nature Center).
5. My driveway is 1.35 miles up Sherman Hollow Road, on the right. White mailbox says 1350.

BRAGS

Feb.17, CPE, Breeze Thru Agility, VT

Mitzi Sinclair and Jayme

Standard Level 1 _____ first place, Q
Colors Level 1 _____ first place, Q
Jumpers Level 1 _____ first place, Q

April 13, CPE, Breeze Thru Agility, VT

Mitzi Sinclair and Jayme

Standard Level 1 _____ 2nd Place and Q
Full House Level 1 _____ 3rd Place and Q

April 19-20; BOTC AKC trial; Williston, VT

Ashley Fischer and Whoopee

8" Open Standard -- 1st and Q

Ashley Fischer and Daphne

8" Novice Preferred JWW _____ 1st and Q
8" Novice Preferred JWW _____ 1st and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

ExcB Standard, 20 in. _____ 4th and Q
ExcB JWW, 20 in. _____ 4th and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie

NovB Standard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
NovB Standard, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q
and NA title
NovB JWW, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q

TMAK USDA April 19-20, Westford, MA

Lisa and Fly:

16" Advanced Standard _____ 1st and Q
AAD title
16" Grand Prix _____ 1st and Q
16" Masters Jumpers _____ Q

Lisa and Spicey

12" P1 Snooker _____ 3rd
(there were only three dogs!)

Lynne von Trapp and Chance

PIII Standard _____ 3rd and Q and
P-MAD (PIII) title!!

Lynne and Swix

Starters Pairs _____ Q
Starters Standard _____ 4th and Q
Starters Snooker _____ 4th and Q
Starters Standard _____ 3rd and Q
Starters Jumpers _____ 3rd and Q

April 26-27, 2008, K9Logix USDA Trial, Greenfield, MA

Kit and Lil

PLL Gamblers 16" _____ 1st and Q
PLL Snooker 16" _____ 1st and Q and a title

Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

Advanced Pairs, Open _____ 1st and Q
with Diane Fecteau and Keeper
Completes Advanced Pairs title

Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie

P1 Gamblers, 16 in. _____ 4th & Q
P1 Standard, 16 in. _____ 1st & Q
P1 Jumpers, 16 in. _____ 4th & Q

Lynne von Trapp and Swix

Starters Standard _____ 3rd and Q
and standard title
Starters Pairs _____ 1st and Q
Starters Snooker _____ 3rd and Q
Starters Jumpers _____ Q
Starters Gamblers _____ 1st and Q
Starters Snooker _____ 3rd and Q
and snooker title
Starters Jumpers _____ 3rd and Q
and jumpers title
Agility Dog (AD) title

Y-agility, USDA, ASCO farms, East Chatham, NY

Don and Maggie

Starters Pairs _____ 1st and Q

Don and Joshi

PIII gamblers _____ Q
PIII snooker _____ 4th and Q

Outdoor Trial Season Has Arrived!

by Kim Ingraham

I thought it would be beneficial to those new at trialing to see what fellow NOMAD members had to say about what to pack. I'm going to assume that everyone knows to bring the most basic items for you and your dog such as leashes, bowl, food, supplements, meds, treats, clean underwear, etc. Beyond that, here is a compilation of what you had to say.

DOG SPECIFIC ITEMS

- a flexi or long line for exercising your dog in places where you can't let them off leash.
- health certificate including rabies vaccine information
- grooming supplies
- crate and/or x-pen for trial and hotel
- treats and/or toys
- extra bowls for water in hotel and at trial
- doggie first aid kit
- drinking water from home (1 gal./day)
- trial entry confirmation & height card
- extra poop bags
- towels (dry ones for wet/dirty dogs)
- sunscreen & bug/tick repellent
- sheet or other cover for bed(s)

FOR YOU!

- Sun protection including screen, sunglasses & hat

- Human First Aid Kit
- alarm clock
- hotel confirmation & directions to/from hotel and trial site
- Chair
- number clip/holder for your dog's entry number
- Cooler with water or such & food (protein shakes, energy bars, boiled eggs are some suggestions)
- Clipboard to keep necessary paperwork such as driving directions, hotel confirmation, catalog/running order, height cards, course maps, rules, etc. handy and a pen.
- Warm, wet, or cold weather gear including rain gear, mittens/gloves, hat, extra pair of shoes and extra socks. Any time of the year layering is best – what starts out as a cool wet morning can quickly become a very hot day. On any given

day you might start out wearing your Muck shoes, move into your running shoes and by the end of the day be wearing your sandals!

OUTDOOR GEAR

- Tent or some other shade for your dog(s) something big enough for humans is good too! Note: If you use guide wires for your tent be sure to have some short pieces of brightly colored tape so no one (including you!) trips over your guide wires!
- Tarps/sunscreens – Depending on your tent you might consider purchasing sides or just buying a tarp. Solid tarps are great for wet weather and also shield the sun, but they don't let much air flow thru. Mesh reflective tarps reflect the sun and allow some air circulation.
- Chair for you and/or your dog
- Crate/x-pen for your dog(s) – consider a

MINUTES, NOMAD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Sorry--I left this out of last month's newsletter. –Caroline (your editor)

March 11, 2007

Steering Committee Meeting

6:12 meeting called to order. In attendance: Lynne von Trapp, Cynthia Gililand, Kim Rubin, Linda Ladd, Patty McMahan, Don Denette.

Treasurers Report

Kim I. and two NOMAD members are conducting our audit. It should be completed shortly. Linda has sent deposits to all 3 Camp NOMAD instructors. The application and fee have been sent to NADAC for our trial. Because we did not use the barn for practice on March 1 due to the weather, NOMAD is owed \$125 (the weekly fee) since we already paid Stephanie Brinkman for the month of March. We are unable to use the barn on March 29 since Stephanie has another group utilizing the space on that date. If Kit is unable to dig the trailer out of the snow by March 22, we will have to leave the equipment at the barn. We will have to pay a flat fee of \$50 for the month of April to store the equipment at the barn. If we need to store the equipment, we will ask Stephanie to give us a check for \$75 (\$125 (weekly fee) minus the \$50 storage fee.) If we can get the equipment out of the barn on March 22, then we'll ask Stephanie to cut us a check for \$125.

Currently, our operating account has a balance of \$5576.70, and the Money Market account has a balance of \$11,668.14. CATS did approve running the CATS·NOMAD funds through our bank account. Linda will provide them with an accounting of the funds.

We are making money on practices this year because we budgeted an average of 5 people for each practice, and we are doing well beyond that.

Equipment Committee

(Patty provided report but she is NOT the chair. Anyone who would like to be the chair can contact the Steering Committee).

We spent \$263 for tunnel bag repairs,

which involved converting the Velcro straps to D-rings. The equipment committee asked the Steering Committee for approval to purchase a garden cart to help haul equipment at practices and other NOMAD events. The cart will be kept in the storage area in barn. During the summer, we can store it with the other equipment, either at Roberta's or at Lisa's house. Kit advised the Equipment Committee that the cart will fit in the bed of the truck.

We need to use our equipment for our USDAA trial and we need to check the equipment list to determine exactly what the judge wants. The Equipment Committee discussed all the equipment in need of repair. The teeter board is crumbling. Kit will buy the board for teeter, and Roberta will paint and sand it. The dog walk slats need replacing, and Kit will take care of it. We need to replace some hinges on the weave poles. We need to order new jump cups, and we are going to replace the jumps that have bolts in them and replace with jump cups. We need more wing jumps, but we can wait to purchase them. The big tent pole which bent during the tornado-like wind gusts during our NADAC trial needs to be repaired or replaced. The Equipment Committee discussed dates for cleaning and painting of equipment. It was decided to have a cleaning and painting party on May 10 and 11. We will use May 31 and June 1 as a backup date and as a date to use to finish anything that does not get taken care of the first weekend. Linda and Don suggested a barbeque. Beer is a necessity. The party will be at Lisa's house. Times and directions will be announced later.

The Steering Committee voted to authorize the Equipment Committee to spend up to \$275 for a purchase of a garden cart.

Lessons / practice Committee

Practices are going well this year. People seem to like the structured format, and attendance has been significantly higher than at the Jericho barn in years past.

Demos Committee – no report.

Training Committee: (Patty gave the report but please note she is not chair

of this committee. Anyone interested in chairing this committee, please let the Steering Committee know. First come, first served!)

The committee was created to see how the club could improve fundamental skill performance and awareness among the membership about the need for foundation skills like solid contact performance. There was some concern that new members are not well prepared for barn practice in terms of skills. Often, they are very new to agility, are overwhelmed at the barn, and have been introduced to equipment but just barely. So, the question was raised: what can we do to help them? One of the suggestions is to have training committee write a letter and send to various training centers to suggest improvements. Is 12 weeks of class enough for our requirements to join NOMAD? Don said it depends on instructor. Kim R. thinks that it is rare that a green agility handler joins NOMAD after only twelve weeks of class. The training Committee suggested holding a foundation skills class over the summer at Roberta's field. With respect to local training centers, the Steering Committee agreed that it is best to keep our focus on our members and what we are doing. The Training Committee also suggested putting together a Welcome Packet of agility information, including information about the importance of foundation skills, for new members. The Steering Committee felt this was an excellent idea.

Seminar/Camp NOMAD

Due to the overwhelming day one postmark response to Camp NOMAD, the Seminar Committee was left with the unenviable position of having to turn 10 people away or scramble to add another instructor. Luckily for us, the Seminar Committee came through with a third instructor. At Elicia's suggestion we asked Karen Holik, and she accepted. We will have three rings, and each ring will work with each instructor for one day. Lunch will be provided. Friday night dinner will be at Lynne's house. We have to leave on Saturday afternoon from 3:30 until 5:00 due to a wedding at the Trapp Family Lodge during that time. The Seminar

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Committee does not need any more money from the club to underwrite. Three club members are currently on the waitlist for Camp.

Membership Committee (In need of a chair!!!!!!)

Nan is having trouble finding mentors needed for the buddy program. We'll send a sign up form around at the spring meeting. It doesn't take that much time and would be useful for new members.

Trial Updates

CATS·NOMAD: The one unresolved issue we had was the accounting issue (do we have a separate bank account?). We are going to run everything through our accounting system and our bank account, and give them statements. Lynne has three people who said they want to stay at Elliot's and Jane's and perhaps 2 more. Kim ordered the ribbons.

USDAA trial: Our premium will be out shortly.

NADAC trial: We have a judge and we have confirmed the trial will be at Topnotch again (due to Lynne's sharp negotiating skills).

Summer Practice

The Steering Committee would like to see summer practices being supported by the people who use it just like the winter barn is supported by those who use it. If we have any classes or formal training sessions, a small fee will be collected for those events as well. In order to streamline her accounting, Linda asked that Roberta send her the money as she collects it rather than waiting until the end of the summer and then deducting it from the mowing fees. Don agreed to work with Roberta to come up with an amount for summer practice fees. Our goal is to have the equipment to Roberta's field by May 20.

Date of next SC meeting: 6:00 p.m., Tuesday May 6 at Linda's office in Waterbury.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Kim Rubin, Secretary.

cool mat to or other appropriate bedding to help keep them comfortable, especially if using an xpen and it's sitting on the grass.

- Mat – ground mat for under crates, etc.
- Stakes and something to hammer them in with
- Rope/bungees/clips to tie down tarps, secure tent, etc. in various sizes.
- Tool Kit – including a hammer, duct tape, multi-tool, swiss army knife & survey tape

KEEPING COOL

- It is important to mention that ice cold is not the best solution. If your dog is overheating it is better to soak them in cool water, not ice cold and to be sure that the water is in contact with the skin.
- Squirt bottle or garden sprayer to wet your dog down.
- Drinking water for your dog and yourself.
- Water for cooling not every site has water available to cool dogs.
- Cool mats for your dog's crate/xpen. There are even gel freezer packs that

Next month I'll share some helpful hints from fellow members for traveling and trialing. If you have a trick that has saved you time or just made life a little more convenient email it to Kim at agilpaws@hotmail.com

slide into a cotton sleeve which some dogs enjoy lying on.

- Cooling blankets are also available or a bath towel soaked in cold water makes an easy substitute.
- Smaller dogs can even take a dip in a cooler!
- Fans, either battery operated or rechargeable, are easy to pack and come in all shapes and sizes.
- Hats are a must for us! Keeping your head covered on a hot day can keep you cooler, not to mention the protection from the sun's harmful rays!

MISCELLANEOUS

- Many included a few extraneous items they liked to include such as a book, sketchbook, reading glasses, weather radio, can opener, cork screw/bottle opener, cell phone charger, head lamp or flashlight, video camera... I'm sure you have your own list of things you just can't travel without!
- And overwhelmingly the most important thing to pack on your way to a trial is... your DOG!

USDAA CLASSES—AN EXPLANATION

by Lisa Barrett

For **Pairs**, you can either pair with a dog who jumps 22" or 26", or you can enter as a "draw". If you enter as a "draw" (without a designated partner) the trial secretary will pair you with someone. Many people enter as a draw most of the time.

Starters courses are usually very different from **Advanced** and **Masters** courses. Starters courses are focused on obstacle performance and require only one or two changes of side. Advanced and Masters courses require increasingly sophisticated handling and timing. In Starters, refusals are not faulted, and the weave poles are not faulted as long as the dog eventually gets them all done. In Starters, the Standard Course time is generous to allow for multiple attempts at weave poles, table, and other obstacles.

Any dog at any level can enter USDAA **Tournament classes**. "Tournament Standard," Tournament Gamblers, Tournament Jumpers, and Tournament Snooker can be entered individually, although they are primarily components of the Team Tournament. The Team Tournament courses are usually at a difficulty level between Advanced and Masters. Tournament Gamblers is usually the most accessible course for new competitors. The "Gamble" usually requires time management more than the distance skills needed in Masters Gamblers.

The Grand Prix Qualifier is open to all dogs at any level. It's usually a fairly tricky handling course, but there's no reason not to run it other than the risk of frustration!

With all this said, you can expect to have ring conflicts between the Tournament classes and the Starters classes. This means you will likely need to memorize two different courses at once and calculate when you need to be at which ring. Your course walkthrough times might be very short because you can end up having to walk both courses in the same time slot. Personally, I would have found this harrowing at one of my first trials, but we are all different. Go for it if you think you would like it.

Focus on Solutions, Not Problems

by Heather Sumlin

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It is common for people to think about problems and quite tempting to dwell on them, discuss them with your spouse, share them with friends, etc. Many of us spend a lot of time thinking "poor me" or "why me". The question is does this way of thinking prove to be productive and beneficial or does it prolong the problem's existence?

When I grew up my parents were ultra positive almost to the point of complete annoyance to me as a teenager. My parents ran 4 businesses at one time when I was young which makes me realize I must not be near as productive as an adult as they were. They owned a horse ranch, an International Shooting School, Mental Management Systems and a large networking business. There was no challenge too small for my folks and despite obvious challenges and hurdles they faced, they never gave me an impression that there was stress or worry in the home. They never talked about problems that I remember and I never felt like anything in life was impossible or unreachable because of it.

Another benefit to growing up in the home I did is I met some of the most amazing and successful people when I was young and their influence has helped me greatly. What I noticed the most from my childhood as well as from current teachings around the office is that problems are not the issue, focusing on problems is the issue. When we stop for a moment to think about how we can move the boulders in our path, solutions present themselves. If we dwell on the problem the boulder remains. Focusing on solutions creates a vision of hope and motivation to find an answer. Instead of stating "I can't do this" start asking yourself "How can I make this happen" and allow yourself to believe you will find the open window.

So the challenge this month is to focus on solutions and try your best to not dwell on problems but seek for answers to solving them.

PROOFING

from Carla Medved and the Training Committee

Well, the trial season has started for this year and it sounds like many of our members are already having success. This may be beginners luck or maybe handlers have done a lot of what I try to do in my training (not always successfully I must say), and that is proofing.

This work is very useful in a start line stay, down contacts, down on the table, crossing behind on the contact obstacles, staying in the weaves until the end and other areas of agility. It means you require your dog to maintain a certain behavior regardless of what you are doing, where you are in relation to the dog, and distractions around you in the ring.

You must first decide on the criteria for each behavior and then ask the dog for the behavior with increasingly more difficult distractions presented to the dog and variations of where you will be on course while the behavior is maintained. Along with this you need to think about how you will mark the instance if the dog does not perform

in the manner you expect. If you leave your dog in a stay and he breaks and starts the course and you continue the run, you might decide to do a running start the next time until you have a chance to proof it in practice.

I speak from great experience when I say that every time your criteria is not met in the ring you will have to work the behavior many more times in practice to bring the behavior back to 100%.

When you are practicing, even at home without much equipment, try moving farther away for your start line. Have a helper ask you to give your dogs name while you are in your lead out, or bend down to tie your shoe. These things may happen at a trial.

Can you be behind your dog and still have him get his contact? Can you be several feet away as you would be if you were behind a gamble line?

Always more practice "food for thought". Have fun.

MUTTS



WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Training

KAREN PRYOR:

<http://www.clickertraining.com/>
library (see last page)

Toys and Equipment

<http://www.atomicagility.com>

<http://www.pathcom.com/~crasher/>

[http://www.helpingudders.com/
TugsinDetail.htm](http://www.helpingudders.com/TugsinDetail.htm)

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 McMahon _____ 434-3423

<http://nomadagility.com/>

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Compiled by Cheryl French as of 4/20/08

MAY 2008

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 24-25; **ASCA**; Open to all dogs; ASCNE; Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Contoocook, NH; Opens: 4/2/08; Closes: 5/7/08; Limit: 350 per day; Classes: Jumpers, Gamblers, Regular; Contact: Jean Janotta, 24 Country View Drive, Raymond, NH 03077, 603-895-5436; Email: jjanotta@verizon.net ; Website: www.ascne.org .

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 .

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 .

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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: kritters@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; Trapp Family Lodge, 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: kritters@bcn.net ; Websites: www.nomadagility.com .

June 21-22; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Bo-Gee Agility; Deerfield, NH; Contact: Judy Davis; Email: tss@trialsecretary.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, Gamblers, 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@trialsecretary.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 Stump; 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 .

JULY 2008

July 4-6; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Washington County Fairgrounds, Greenwich, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

July 5-6; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; AgileDogs Agility Training; Shatford Park, New Lebanon, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, DT Qualifier; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trials.htm .

July 5-6; **AKC**; Open to pure bred; Yankee Golden Retriever Club, Derry, NH; Limit: 660 runs;

Opens: 5/28/08; Closes: 6/14/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

July 12-13; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym; Manchester, NH; Limit: 440 runs Sat./350 runs Sun.; Closes: 6/20/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Kimberly Stumph, 603-938-2447; Email: goodturn@conknet.com ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

July 11-13; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; Riverside Canine Center; Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds, Westford, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 6/25/08; Contact: Valori Duff, 252 Boynton St., Manchester, NH 03102, 603-289-5169; Website: usdaa.com .

July 19-20; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Y Agility; Sugar Bush Farm, Stephentown, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com .

July 19-20; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Breeze Thru Agility; Brattleboro, VT; Limit: 375 runs per day; Closes: 7/8/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Val Reiner, 413-743-9354; Email: kritters@bcn.net ; Website: www.breezethruagility.com .

July 19-20; **AKC**; Open to all pure bred; Collie Club of New England; Granby, MA; Limit: 660 runs; Open: 5/14/08; Closes: 6/28/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

July 25-27; **AKC**; Open to all pure bred; Green MT Golden Retriever Club, Williston, VT; Limit: 330 runs; Open: 5/21/08; Closes: 7/12/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

AUGUST 2008

Aug. 2-3; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; LEAP Agility; Westfield Fairgrounds, Westfield, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Website: www.leapagility.com .

Aug. 2-3; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; CATS; Monadnock Humane Society; Swanzey, NH; Limit: 450; Classes: Touch N Go, Tunnelers, Weavers/ All Levels; Email: lava@webryders.net ; Website: www.canineagility.org .

Aug. 9-10; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Hidden Acres Campground, Dummerston, VT; Limit: Unlimited; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

Aug. 9-10; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Agile Dogs Agility Training; Adams, MA.

Aug. 9-10; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym; Manchester, NH; Closes: 7/18/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Limit: 400 runs Sat./350 runs Sun.; Contact: Sue Fountaine, 603-627-7322; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

Aug. 9-10; **AKC**; Open to all pure bred; Tartan Gordon Setter Club; Amherst, NH; Classes: Std, JWW, FAST; Limit: 330 runs; Open: 6/11/08; Closes: 7/19/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

Aug. 16-17; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Y Agility; Shatford Park, New Lebanon, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com .

Aug. 16-17; **NADAC**; Open to all dogs; NOMAD; Stowe, VT; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: http://nomadagility.com

Aug. 24; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; ACE Agility Club; Westfield Fairground, Westfield, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Level Restrictions: Starters/PI and Jr Handlers only; Contact: Nancy Obara; Email: ray.wheeler@the-spa.com .

Aug. 30-31; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; ARFF Agility Club; Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds, Westford, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Steeplechase Qualifier, Performance Speed Jumping; Trial Secretary: Trial Secretary Services; Email: tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.trialsecretary.com .

Aug. 30-31; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Paws 4 Fun; East Montpelier, VT; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Limit: 325 runs per day; Opens: 7/1/08; Closes: 8/18/08; Contact: Cheryl French; Email: Cheryl.P.French@comcast.net ; Website: http://agilpaws.tripod.com .

Aug. 30-Sept. 1; **NADAC**; Northeast Agility Enthusiasts; Hidden Acres Campground, Dummerston, VT; Limit: Unlimited; Contact: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

Aug. 30-Sept. 1; **AKC**; Open to all pure bred; Eastern English Springer Spaniel Club; Granby, MA; Limit: 750 runs; Open: TBD; Closes: TBD; 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.trialsecretary.com, www.pawprinttrials.com and various other sources.

CAMP NOMAD UPDATE

Camp Nomad dates have officially been changed to Aug. 23, 24 and 25. There are no other changes to the camp format and groups you have been assigned to will remind the same also.

The final payment for camp is due by June 1, 2008. You should send a check made out to NOMAD to Fran Bartholomew, 64 Wallace Farm Rd., Norwich, VT 05055. Working members owe \$170 and supporting members owe \$220 as final payment for camp.

Thanks to all of you for being flexible as we worked around schedule changes at Trapp Family Lodge.

NOMAD Practice on Thursday nights

I invite NOMADers to come to my yard for practice on Thursday evenings, from 6:30 till dark. I have all the standard equipment divided between my front yard and my back yard, and I'll set up some sequences.

It looks as if the club equipment won't be available at Roberta's till mid-May, so we can practice in my yard in the meantime. We'll be collecting \$5 per person to go toward the cost of maintaining NOMAD's equipment.

I live at 1350 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON GRASS, AS YOUR CAR MAY SINK.

My phone is 434-2744, and my e-mail is HYPERLINK "mailto:mytmuts@yahoo.com" mytmuts@yahoo.com.

Directions to my house are in this newsletter on the front page.

FROM KAREN PRYOR'S WEB SITE ([HTTP://WWW.CLICKERTRAINING.COM/LIBRARY](http://www.clickertraining.com/library)) USING VARIABLE RATIO OF REINFORCEMENT

So that's a place where a variable ratio of click/treat to offered behavior occurs: when you are selectively reinforcing better or stronger or different behavior. It may happen again when you are adding the cue. Some behaviors may be reinforced and some not; from the animal's standpoint, it is not sure why, and it must be a little resilient about those missed clicks to figure out how to meet the new criterion. And again, when the behavior becomes part of a longer repertoire or rolled into daily life, and natural reinforcers take over, reinforcement may be erratic, and consequently (in my view) on a variable ratio schedule. Yet the behavior is maintained.

Once a simple behavior has been learned, a long and unpredictable schedule can in fact maintain behavior that you DON'T want, with incredible power. People inadvertently train cats to get them up in the night, dogs to pull like freight trains, and children to have tantrums, by holding out for some of the time and then giving in, feeding the cat, going along where the dog wants to go, or buying the candy in the supermarket, on an irregular basis. Casinos, believe me, use the power of the variable ratio schedule to develop behaviors, such as playing slot machines, that are very resistant to extinction, despite highly variable and unpredictable reinforcement.

So—where do you deliberately use a variable ratio schedule of reinforcement? In raising criteria. For building resistance to extinction during shaping. For extending duration and distance of a behavior (ping-ponging, as Morgan Spector and Corally Burmaster say).

Where do you NOT use it?

NEVER purely for a maintenance tool. Behaviors that occur in just the same way with the same level of difficulty each time are better maintained by continuous reinforcement, or by reinforcing in various combinations with other behaviors, than by deliberately letting satisfactory behavior go unreinforced.

NEVER for maintaining chains. I once had the privilege of co-presenting a workshop with Debi Davis and saw her service dog, a papillon, jump down from her lap to pick up and bring back to her a dollar bill she had dropped. Debi promptly clicked and treated, and then told me people routinely remonstrated with her for doing that, saying that the behavior should NOT be reinforced every time. But this was a chained behavior involving multiple steps. The environment provided the cue for each step of the chain. (See money fall, jump down. Reach money, pick it up. Got the money? Take it back to Debi, etc.) Each cue reinforced the behavior that preceded it. But failing to reinforce the whole chain at the end of it would inevitably lead to pieces of the chain beginning to extinguish down the road. Debi was right. Pay the pup for that great job!

NEVER for discrimination problems such as scent articles. If you are asking the dog to make a choice between two objects or stimuli, you have to tell him when he's right; putting him on "twofers" just punishes correct answers.

Oscillating between continuous and intermittent reinforcement allows you to raise criteria extremely fast.

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