



Renewal time is here. It begins October 1st and runs through December 1st. The 2009 Membership Renewal Form is in the previous two newsletters and on the website: nomadagility.com. If you have any questions, please email me at agilityzone@yahoo.com.  
Nancy Dashnaw, Membership Committee

NOVEMBER

SEND LETTERS AND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWS BY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK, OR E-MAIL: MAYAMCK@PSHIP.FI

## THE NOMAD FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS NOV. 9 AT 2 P.M. AT THE DOG SCHOOL, IN WILLISTON.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. If you can not attend this meeting, please take a moment to vote by proxy. The proxy form is in this newsletter on page 2. All items with a \*\* require a vote. The Spring Meeting minutes may be found in the April, 2008 newsletter, which you can find on NOMAD's website: nomadagilty.com.

### Fall Meeting Agenda:

Minutes from Spring Meeting\*\*  
2009 Budget\*\*

### Old Business:

- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- Equipment Committee
- Seminar Committee
- Trial Committees
- Membership Committee
- Practice Committee
- Summer Practice Committee

Other committee reports, if necessary.

### New Business

Nominating Committee slate of new SC members\*\*  
Linda Ladd, Treasurer (2 year term)  
Kim Ingraham, Member at Large (2 year term)  
Roberta Dumas, Member at Large (1 year term)  
Any new business raised from the floor.

### Kate Carter has agreed to organize a practice Saturday, Nov. 1.

There will be an organized practice from 10:00 till 1:00. We have the barn till 3:00, so you can practice till then. Be sure to put the equipment away snugly in the corner of the arena.

## WINTER PRACTICE NEWS

AT MAPLE CORNER FARM IN JERICHO

### Directions to Maple Corner Farm

Take the Richmond Exit 11 from Interstate 89. Go West on Rt. 117 for just a couple hundred feet. Turn Right onto Gov. Peck Hwy. Go 2 miles till the end. Turn Left onto Browns Trace Rd. Go 0.8 mile to Nashville Rd. Turn Right. Grey-green house is on the corner. Large barn beyond it. Driveway goes between house and barn, down to the arena. Please remember to drive slowly.

**NOMAD winter practices are Saturdays from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.** We have use of the barn until 3:00 p.m., so we will have some time at the end of practice to put equipment away. Please note that as a part of their "pay", winter class instructors have EXCLUSIVE use of the barn from 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. Please do not enter the barn (even to set up a crate or drop off a bag or chair) until 12:30 p.m. If you are attending a class prior to practice, you may leave your crate or other belongings (but NOT YOUR DOG) in the barn during the instructor's barn time, but you and your dog must leave the barn. You may stay outside the barn during that time if you wish, but please be respectful of the instructor's time in the barn. These individuals have graciously offered their time and expertise to help us and are receiving no monetary compensation for their services.

**COST:** Practices will be \$10 each Saturday. If you are running more than one dog and want equal time for each dog, you may pay an additional \$10 for each additional dog (e.g., 2 dogs will be \$20). If you are running more than one dog and want to alternate them (taking the same number of turns as a handler with one dog), practice is \$10 total for your dogs.

NOMAD is offering a season pass for winter practices for \$150 (there are 21 Saturdays from November to March, so it would cost \$210 if you attended every practice and paid individually for each practice). Instructors get a season pass discount of \$30 (their season pass price is \$120).

*Continued on page 3*

**Winter Class information starts on Page 3**

## 2008 Charitable Giving Donation

Kate Carter

The Charitable Giving committee is accepting nominations for the annual recipient of the 2008 NOMAD tax deductible donation. If anyone knows of a dog or canine organization in need, please email me your nomination. Include the name and mailing address of the dog or organization and a few sentences about why you believe your nominee is a worthy candidate. If there is more than one nominee, we will take a vote at the annual meeting in November. The donation in 2007 was \$200 for a K9 Search & Rescue dog in Hinesburg who needed surgery.

Kate Carter

Kate\_carter@comcast.net

## Proxy Voting Forms

The Steering Committee encourages everyone to attend the Fall Meeting on November 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dog School in Williston. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please vote by proxy. If you can not attend the meeting, please take a few minutes to fill out and return the proxy form to Kim Rubin. The Spring Meeting minutes may be found in the April, 2008 newsletter, which you can find on NOMAD's website: nomadagilty.com. 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: HYPERLINK "mailto:som13@aol.com" 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 November 9, 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 2009 budget

\_\_\_\_\_ Approval of the Spring 2008 Membership Meeting Minutes

\_\_\_\_\_ Approval of new Steering Committee members: Linda Ladd, Treasurer (2 year term), Kim Ingraham, Member at Large (2 year term) and Roberta Dumas, Member at Large (1 year term).

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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 November 9, 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### NOMAD's Steering Committee

Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

**President** (11/07 - 11/09)

Lynne von Trapp \_\_\_\_\_ 253-7673

**Vice-President** (11/07 - 11/09)

Cynthia Gilliland \_\_\_\_\_ 295-2659

**Treasurer** (11/06 - 11/08)

Linda Ladd \_\_\_\_\_ 879-3461

**Secretary** (11/07 - 11/09)

Kim Rubin \_\_\_\_\_ 899-3382

e-mail: som13@aol.com

**Members at Large**

Don Denette (11/07 - 11/09) \_\_\_\_\_ 872-8767

Kim Ingraham (11/07 - 11/08) \_\_\_\_\_ 223-1429

Patty McMahan (11/06 - 11/08) \_\_\_\_\_ 434-3423

<http://nomadagilty.com/>

**FORMAT:** Kit Erskine has graciously offered to facilitate each practice. Practices will run in the same format as last year. At the beginning of practice, you will break into 2 or 3 groups (depending on how many sequences are set up that day) and will move AS A GROUP from sequence to sequence for the first half of practice. Then, we will set up a nested course and run the course by jump height for the second half of practice.

**CANCELLATION/NO CLASSES:** During weeks there are no classes (there are no classes in November); practice will run from 12:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. In the event of inclement weather necessitating cancellation of practice (we do not have to pay for any day when we are unable to use the barn due to the weather), class members will be called by their instructor and we will post the information to the newsgroup. Those members not on the newsgroup should have a newsgroup buddy so that they can find out any late breaking news about the weather and cancellations. If the weather is poor in the morning but looks like it may clear later in the day, we may move classes to 12:30 P.M. and cancel practice for the day. This information will also be posted on the newsgroup.

**PARKING:** Parking may be tight. Please carpool or consider meeting at the Richmond Park and Ride and riding together to the barn.

**GENERAL RULES:** No dogs off leash outside the barn. No dogs off leash in the barn unless working a sequence. Please do not allow your dogs to pee on anything humans touch. Please make sure you pick up your dog's poop, and take it home with you. No poop bags in the Port-a-potty. One turn per handler (unless you have paid for multiple dogs.) Please be courteous of other handlers and their dogs.

If you have any questions, problems, complaints, issues, etc., regarding practice, please contact Kim Rubin (Practice Committee Chair). Ann Ramsay is the barn liaison. Please direct any barn related issues to Ann, and she will speak with Maple Corner Barn.

Ann Ramsay

vtabt@comcast.net

878-5015

## WINTER CLASSES

NOMAD is pleased to offer the following winter classes this season at Maple Corner. Classes are four weeks (except December's classes.) Class descriptions are on page 4.

### Games

**December 6, 13, 20 (8 teams)**

**Instructor: Kit Erskine**

### Prenovice

**January 3, 10, 17, 24 (6 teams)**

**Instructor: Kim Ingraham**

### Distance

**February 7, 14, 21, 28 (6 teams)**

**Instructor: Lisa Barrett**

### Preparing for Trials

**March 7, 14, 21, 28 (8 teams)**

**Instructor: Lynne von Trapp, assisted by Judy Kessler**

To register for a class, complete the attached registration form, indicating your class choice or choices. If registering for more than one class, please rank the classes in order of preference.

### **Please include one check for each class.**

If you do not get into all of the classes you selected, I will shred any extra checks. The cost for December's class is \$45. The cost for all other classes is \$60. Please make checks payable to NOMAD.

**Shared Classes.** Two teams (each team taking 2 weeks of class) may share some classes. If you want to share a class, you are responsible for finding another team to share the class with you. If you are

sharing a class, please sign up for the class with one check and include a form for each of the two teams, indicating which dates each team is attending.

**No refunds will be given.** If you are unable to attend your class, you are responsible for finding another team (of the appropriate level) to take your place. All dogs must be able to work in a group setting.

**Please mail your forms and checks to: Judy Frey, 51 Mountain Road, Westford, VT 05494**

**All registrations must be received by November 24, 2008**

**Classes will start promptly at 10:15 and run to 11:45.** All students should arrive at 10:00 a.m. to help set up for class and get their crates set up. Instructors have EXCLUSIVE use of the barn from 12:00 to 12:30. Members attending lessons and/or members attending practice MAY NOT be in the barn during that time.

**Cancellations.** If class is canceled, the instructor will call those in the class. In the case of inclement weather early in the morning and better weather later in the day, classes may be moved to 12:30 to 2:00 and practice will be cancelled that day. The instructor will call those in the class to let them know and the membership will be advised about cancelled practice via the newsgroup.

**Directions to Maple Corner Barn are on the front page of this newsletter.**

**Class Descriptions and Registration Form are on Page 4**

# WINTER CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND REGISTRATION FORM

## Games

**December 6, 13, 20 (8 teams)**

**Instructor: Kit Erskine**

Do you know how to create a flowing course for your team when the numbers aren't there? Do you get intimidated by those three red jumps out there? Learn about the strategies for success in my games class. We will cover games in CPE, NADAC, and USDAA. All classes will be modified to meet your level of challenge from pre-novice to advanced. This class may be shared.

## Prenovice

**January 3, 10, 17, 24 (6 teams)**

**Instructor: Kim Ingraham**

Pre-Novice class will be geared toward dogs and handlers who are familiar with all of the equipment. We will focus on cleaning up individual obstacle performance (including contacts, weaves & table work), as well as handling (including work on planning your path and using consistent, timely, and appropriate signals.) I will include foundation exercises and self-directed sequences on the side to keep everyone moving in the sometimes very cold January barn! Perfected contact and weave performance is not required but your dog should be skilled with tunnels, jumps, and short sequences (4-6 obstacles). This class cannot be shared.

**January 31: To be announced**

## Distance

**February 7, 14, 21, 28 (6 teams)**

**Instructor: Lisa Barrett**

You need distance for speed, crosses, and contacts, as well as for Jackpot, Gamblers, Chances, and FAST classes. We'll use targets, thrown rewards, and gradual increments to teach you how to teach your dog to work at an increased distance from you. We'll keep everybody moving to stay warm in this February class. This class cannot be shared.

## Preparing for Trials

**March 7, 14, 21, 28 (8 teams)**

**Instructor: Lynne von Trapp, assisted by Judy Kessler**

For all levels of ability. No trial experience necessary. Helpful for easily distracted dogs already competing. Using simple courses we will practice with distractions, surprises on course, judges standing near obstacles. Measuring offered every class. We'll offer tips on being efficient ring crew, how to set double and triple jumps and how to fill out entry forms as well as what gear is helpful to have. This class may be shared.

**If the class is being shared, please include information for both handlers & their dogs and the dates each team will be taking the class.**

**Please mail your forms and checks to: Judy Frey, 51 Mountain Road, Westford, VT 05494  
All registrations must be received by November 24, 2008**

### **NOMAD 2008/09 CLASS REGISTRATION FORM**

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (in event of class cancellations): \_\_\_\_\_

Classes you would like (in order of preference),  
please include dog's name for each class.

1st \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

3rd \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

4th \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_

If a class is being shared, please include information for both handlers & their dogs  
and the dates each team will be taking the class. Not all classes may be shared.

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, OCT. 28, 2008

In attendance: Lynne von Trapp, Kim Rubin, Cynthia Gilliland, Linda Ladd, Don Denette Kim Ingraham and Patty McMahon

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

## Treasurer's Report

The USDA Trial Committee submitted a budget which projects a net \$390 profit for the 2009 trial. The NADAC Trial Committee has projected a \$1230 profit for their proposed 2009 budget. The Seminar Committee is in the process of setting up two one day seminars. After reviewing the Seminar Committee's proposed budget, the SC decided to raise the fees for each of those seminars to \$60 for working members (from a proposed \$55) and to \$90 for supporting members (from a proposed \$85). The cost to attend these seminars is still lower than it would cost to attend a seminar by the same instructors at another location. The SC also voted to change the cost of winter practice and classes, and these changes are detailed below. The amended 2009 proposed budget will result in a net loss to the club in the amount of \$28.50.

As of October 28, 2008, we had \$10,706 in our money market account and \$6,892.67 in our checking account.

## Winter Classes and Practice

We have use of the Maple Corner Farm Barn from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays from November through April. Kit Erskine will be teaching Games in December. Kim Ingraham will be teaching Pre-novice in January. Lisa Barrett will be teaching Working at a Distance in February. Lynne von Trapp will teach Preparing for Trials in March. We hope to have a one day 1.5 hour class on the fifth Saturday in January for "green dogs" and are working to find instructors for the class. We also are considering offering some one day 1.5 hour classes in April.

Class will run from 10:15 a.m. sharp until 11:45 a.m., but all students should arrive promptly at 10:00 a.m. to help set up for class. Instructors will get exclusive use of the barn from 12:00 to 12:30 as part of their "pay" for teaching. (Instructors also get a free practice for each day that they teach a class.) Kit has graciously offered to facilitate each practice. Practices will run from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (giving us some time at the end of

practice to put away the equipment). Practices will run like they did last year, with the first half of class being devoted to working on the two or three sequences set up (handlers will move as a group from one sequence to another) and then we'll set up a course to run for the second half of practice. During weeks there are no classes; practice will run from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather necessitating cancellation of practice (we do not have to pay for any day when we are unable to use the barn due to the weather), class members will be called by their instructor and we will post the information to the newsgroup. Those members not on the newsgroup should have a newsgroup buddy so that they can find out any late breaking news about the weather and cancellations. If the weather is poor in the morning but looks like it may clear later in the day, we may move classes to 12:30 p.m. and cancel practice for the day. This information will also be posted on the newsgroup.

The SC discussed fees for practices and classes at length. We all realized while we do not want to raise prices, many of our prices have been very low for years. We also need to recoup the cost of the barn and it is not fair for club members who live too far from the barn to travel for practice to subsidize the barn. As a result of our discussions, the SC determined that classes will be \$60 for a four week class (\$15 per class). Practices will cost \$10 per practice. If people were renting practice spaces on their own, the cost is \$30 for one hour, and therefore, our prices are still a good deal for our members. NOMAD is offering a season pass for winter practices for \$150 (there are 21 Saturdays from November to March, so it would cost \$210 if you attended every practice and paid individually for each practice). Instructors get a season pass discount of \$30 (their season pass price is \$120). If members would like to run a second dog for the same number of runs as their first dog, they may pay an additional \$10 for their second dog (a total of \$20, adding \$10 for each additional dog after that). If you want to run a second

dog but alternate your dogs' turns (taking the same number of turns as a person with only one dog) practice is \$10.

Parking may be tight. Please carpool or consider meeting at the Richmond Park and Ride and riding together to the barn. No dogs off leash outside the barn. NO dogs off leash in the barn unless working a sequence. Please do not allow your dogs to pee on anything humans touch. Please make sure you pick up your dog's poop and take it home with you. No poop bags in the Port-a-potty. One turn per handler (unless you have paid for multiple dogs). Ann Ramsay is our barn liaison.

## Camp NOMAD

Camp Nomad will be from August 21 to 24, 2009. Camp will run three consecutive of those four days (either Friday to Sunday or Saturday to Monday). We are asking the same three instructors back. The Trapp Family Lodge is reserved for NOMAD. There will be 30 working teams at a cost of \$350 each. The Seminar Committee is asking the club for a \$1500 subsidy (last year the subsidy was \$3,900). The SC would like the Seminar Committee to create a plan (and submit it to the SC) for the process they are going to use to accept members for spaces in the Camp.

## LogoWear

Do we want to keep inventory on hand? We decided that we did not. Kim I. suggested we offer NOMAD logo wear orders twice a year: screen printing in the spring and embroidery in the fall.

## Audit

Kim I. has graciously agreed to do the audit again and will recruit two members to join her.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kim Rubin, Secretary

# COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Compiled by Cheryl French as of 10/23/08

Includes only those listings who's closing date is still in the future.

## NOVEMBER 2008

**Nov. 22-23; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Breeze Thru Agility; Conway, MA; Limit: 375 runs per day; Closes: 11/10/08; Contact: Val Reiner, 413-743-9354; Email: kriters@bcn.net ; Website: www.breezethruagility.com .

**Nov. 29-30; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Y Agility; Hidden Pond Stables, 85 Dutchess Hill Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY; Closes: 11/10/08; Limit: Unlimited; 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 .

## DECEMBER 2008

**Dec. 4-7; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; Yankee Golden Retriever Club; Boston, MA; Opens: 10/8/08; Closes: 11/11/08; Limit: 330 runs per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Dec. 5-7; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym Agility; All Dogs Gym, Manchester, NH; Closes: 11/14/08; Secretary: Judy Davis; Email: tss@trialservices.com ; Website: www.trialsecretary.com .

**Dec. 6-7; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Riverside K-9 LLC; Nashua, NH; Contact: Valori Duff; Email: valwaussies@comcast.net ; Website: www.riversidek9.com .

**Dec. 27-28; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Agile Dogs Agility Training; Greenwich, NY; Contact: Debbie Wlodarski, 518/346/7988; Email: debbie@agiledogs.net; Website: www.agiledogs.net .

**Dec. 28; CPE;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym; Manchester, NH; Contact Sue Fontaine, 603-627-7322; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com or www.k9cpe.com .

## JANUARY 2009

**Jan. 1-4; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; BARK-NH!; PhanZone Sports Center, 142 Rte. 111, Hampstead, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Closes: 12/19/2008; Event Secretary Valori Duff, 252 Boynton Dr., Hampstead, NH; Website: www.usdaa.com .

**Jan. 3-4; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; Beardie Club of America; Amherst, NH; Opens: 11/12/08; Closes: 12/13/08; Limit: 330 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Jan. 10-11; CPE;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym, Manchester, NH; Limit: 400 runs per day; Closes: 12/19/08; Contact: Sue Fontaine, 603-627-7322; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

**Jan. 10-12; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; Southern Adirondack Agility Club; Greenwich, NY; Opens: 11/12/08; Closes: 12/20/08; Limit: 400 per day;

Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Jan. 17-18; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; American Bullmastiff Assoc.; Amherst, NH; Opens: 12/12/08; Closes: 1/3/09; Limit: 330 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Jan. 24-25; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Riverside K-9 LLC; Nashua, NH; Limit: 400 runs per day; Games only Trial; Closes: 1/2/09; Contact: Valori Duff; Email: valwaussies@comcast.net; Website: www.riversidek9.com .

**Jan. 31-Feb 1; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; Tartan Gordan Setter Club; Amherst, NH; Opens: 12/15/08; Closes: 1/10/09; Limit: 330 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

## FEBRUARY 2009

**Feb. 7-8; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; American Bullmastiff Assoc.; Amherst, NH; Opens: 12/29/08; Closes: 1/24/09; Limit: 330 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Feb. 7-8; CPE;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym, Manchester, NH; Limit: 400 runs Sat, 375 runs Sun; Closes: 1/16/09; Contact: Sue Fontaine, 603-627-7322; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

**Feb. 21-22; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Riverside K-9 LLC; Nashua, NH; Limit: 400 runs per day; Closes: 2/2/09; Contact: Valori Duff; Email: valwaussies@comcast.net; Website: www.riversidek9.com .

**Feb. 28-March 1; AKC;** Open to all pure breeds; Southern Adirondack Agility Club; Greenwich, NY; Opens: 1/7/09; Closes: 2/7/09; Limit: 330 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; 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.

# BRAGS

## Oct 10-11, Hilltown Hounds, CPE, Conway Mass

### Diane Boss and Tag

Standard L4 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Fullhouse L4 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Jumpers L5 - \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

## Oct 19-20, Bo-Gee CPE trial, Deerfield, NH

### Judy Kessler and Monte

Full House, L1, Enthusiast \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

### Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

Level 5 FullHouse, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 4th and Q

### Cynthia Gilliland and Ivy

Level 3 Standard, 16 in. - \_\_\_\_\_ 4th and Q  
Level 2 FullHouse, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q,  
completes CL2 title and qualification to enter the 2009 CPE Nationals

## October 25-26, Muddy Paws CPE, Westminster, VT

### Mitzi Sinclair and Jayme

Full House, level 2, \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q  
Completion of Level 2 title

### Tux and Caroline McKinney

20" Jumpers L3 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
20" Colors L2 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
20" Standard L3 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
20" Snooker L1 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
20" Jackpot L2 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
20" FullHouse L2 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

### Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

Level 5 Standard, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Level 5 Colors, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q,  
Completes ChCL- Colors class championship  
Level 5 Jumpers, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q,  
Completes ChJU- Jumpers class championship  
Level 5 Standard, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

### Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie

Level 4 Snooker, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q  
Level 4 Standard, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Level 4 Jackpot, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ Q

### Cynthia Gilliland and Ivy

Level 3 Jumpers, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Level 3 FullHouse, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

### Diane Boss and Tag

Snooker - L4 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Fullhouse L5 \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Jackpot L4 \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q **FINALLY!!**

# TRAINING

*From: Lisa Barret*

This was posted to the Clean Run list by Michael Tefts (who successfully runs Basset Hounds!). I have asked him for permission to print in our newsletter.

## MORE SPEED, PLEASE

What is the difference between trying to get a slow dog to runner faster or an average or fast dog to run faster? IMHO nothing except there is usually more motivation and risk taking, the acceptance of the compromises that must occur in training to accomplish the goal, by handler of slower dogs. I would also be cautious of what you wish for; a dog with no regard for its own safety on course is an injury waiting to happen. A bit of caution is not a bad thing.

There are three basic areas that affect a dog's speed on course, physical ability, training and handler ability.

One needs to be realistic. It is not generally possible to get an average speed dog to run insanely fast, simply because they can't. Just as you can't turn a backyard softball player into a world-class sprinter. Cross-training, specific exercises to build speed and conditioning to maintain that speed though an entire course, can make a difference, but in the end it is actually only minor compared to what can general be accomplished focusing on other areas like training and improving handling. At best with prolonged and dedicated training one could expect to realistic see only a couple then tenth improvement in yps by focus exclusively on the dog physical ability to run.

When it comes to saying a particular dog is fast or slow on course I prefer not have it be in absolute terms of the dogs actual speed but rather how fast it runs a course compared to its physical ability. A dog that runs a course at 3.20 yps. but its top speed with no obstacles while chasing a squirrel is 3.25 yps, is fast, while a dog that runs a course at 3.5 yps but has a max speed 6.5 yps is slow.

Training is one of the biggest areas in which performance can be improved. More often than not, a slow dog's performance is the result of the slow execution of one or two obstacles. The dog that takes forever on the down side of the contact because it is confused about where and when on a 2o2o contact performance,

stops at the pivot point of the teeter, or has poor drive or foot work in the weaves, is a prime example. One needs to look objectively at in trial obstacle performances and see how this performance stacks up against the competition and take the time to retrain those obstacles that need it. Motivation is often assumed to be the key in speeding up the dog. Just find that magical motivator and speed issues simply vanish. It just doesn't work that way. For one, you need to have that speed when the magical motivator is nowhere to be found. Lack of speed, cautiousness can often be traced to training:

1. Speed is not often a training criterion. It goes unrewarded. It is way too often assumed. Yes, it means getting a stopwatch out and using it. For example when training a dog walk one starts with a plank a couple inches off the ground. When the dog masters walking across it consistently without falling off what's the next step? Often it is raising the plank instead of making speed important criterion as well. It is better to make speed the new criterion. If it takes the dog on average 5 seconds to cross the plank reward for times less than 5 seconds then four, etc. I also find it better to reward motion with motion. I do not to reward a dog for speed by stopping it. This is where a toy or thrown food is better than rewarding the dog after the fact from your hand.

2. The other area of training often overlooked is teaching the dog to extend its stride length where appropriate. Two strides that cover the same length over the ground are slower than a single stride by the same dog.

Handling is another often overlooked aspect of speeding up a dog that is slower on course than it should be.

1. One reason dogs are "cautious" on course is because the human is unpredictable. Being late with signals, not having a consistent handling system or a handling system that relies on context or multiple

cues is going to create a dog that is more cautious because it can not trust the signal (cue) of the handler at a given moment. It needs a longer frame of reference to confirm what the human wants.

2. How many handlers when walking a course actually consider the dog's path. What type of handling on a particular challenge results in fewer strides for the dogs? Often the choice of how to handle a sequence is not what is fastest but what is easiest or takes the least effort on the part of the handler.

3. The difference between first place and a non-placing qualifier is often one wide turn. This is not the dog's fault, but simply the handler not being where they needed to be or not giving an appropriate cue to the dog.

4. The dog often sets the pace on course and the human follows. In this case all that is required to speed up a dog is getting out of your own comfort level and throwing caution to the wind and going for it. That is, have the handler set the pace not the dog. There is a reason as mention in another popular thread all the top handler seem to be fit, trim and fast. It is because running fast is one of the easiest ways to speed the dogs up. The potential for actually speeding up the top speed of the average agility dog is minimal because most are relatively fit. This is not the case with the handlers, however. Taking the time to improves ones fitness and speed will translate into faster times on course as well,

There is not a single magic formula that will speed up all dogs but if one takes a honest look at the areas mentioned above, and honestly assess where they stack up vs. the competition, they are well on their way to determining the areas to concentrate on to get the biggest bang out of the training time put in.

Proud owner of the late great  
"Worlds Slowest Agility Dog"



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