

Ramblings from the Prez, Lynne von Trapp

When Chance and I started in agility 6 years ago, I was bitten by the agility bug and happily resigned myself to years of care and nurturing for this lifelong affliction. Many of you have also lived with the symptoms for years and years, and newer members are noticing the onset of suspicious symptoms of their own: practicing front and rear crosses while walking through crowds without a dog; excitement before classes; nervousness before trials; dreaming of running courses after a trial; thoughts on your next agility dog; names for your next agility dog; thinking of crate configurations for your vehicle.

I was fortunate to come upon agility at a time in my life when I could participate in many NOMAD activities: lessons, practice, trials, and leadership. I am even more fortunate to serve on the Steering Committee with very able members. We said goodbye to two long-serving SC members at the fall membership meeting — Kit Erskine and Karen Clark. Kit had served the 6-year maximum limit on the board, four of them as president. Karen's 2-year term as VP was up, and she concurrently served as seminar committee chair. Karen is now at a time in her life when she needs to step back from NOMAD activities to address another exciting opportunity.

Thank you so much, Kit and Karen, for your years of help and guidance to NOMAD, and especially for your help to me over the past two years. I appreciated your support as I sometimes stumbled up the steep learning curve of the presidency. I am also deeply grateful to our over-qualified, highly efficient lawyer-secretary Kim Rubin, and member at large and creative thinker Don Denette for re-upping their positions. We will also continue to have the sage advice of Patty McMahon, since she her term continues for another year. Our unflappable treasurer Linda Ladd will continue to keep us updated to the latest minute on NOMAD's financial standing, cheerfully and competently looking for ways to improve the bottom line.

We welcome new SC members Cynthia Gilliland as VP and Kim Ingraham as member at large. Cynthia brings a wealth of club history and experience through quiet leadership positions to the SC. Kim, although a relative newbie to NOMAD, brings experience from years of training, competing and judging in the agility world. I look forward to another two years of working with a collaborative, forward-looking SC.

NOMAD is a diverse group united by our love for dogs and agility. Some years some members have plenty of time to volunteer. Some years some members need to step back and balance their lives with other responsibilities and loves. As a volunteer group, we take what members can give when the time is right and adjust when a member needs to step back.

To quote Henry Ford: **"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."**

I look forward to another two years as president as NOMADers continue to work together to change and grow to meet our club's needs. Some changes for this year: one barn, one day, for winter lessons and practice; two one-ring trials in Stowe; a combination extravaganza trial with CATS in Keene; and CAMP NOMAD in Stowe. See you there!

Charitable Giving

By Kate Carter

I'm sure you will all be excited to hear we have a new committee—Charitable Giving. Fortunately this committee doesn't need to be staffed by more than one person, and I have volunteered for the job. It is my understanding that a similar committee existed when NOMAD was first formed and it fell by the wayside, so this isn't really a new committee, but one that is being resurrected.

At the fall meeting, Patty McMahon requested that NOMAD make a donation to Tiger, a K9 search and rescue dog owned by Hinesburg Police Officer Barbara Brisson, who had raised and trained Tiger from puppyhood. Tiger had been diagnosed with a severed stomach valve that filled his chest with fluid. Surgery to repair the valve was in excess of \$4,000. The Hinesburg Police Department set up a fund to help Brisson pay for the surgery. A motion was made to donate \$200 to the fund; members voted on and passed the motion.

And that's how the Charitable Giving committee was resuscitated. At this point, there is no plan on how the committee will move forward, but I have a few ideas. One is to add to the membership form an option to donate \$5 to the Charitable Giving committee, to be matched by the general fund. I would take bi-annual nominations for donation candidates, to be approved at the spring and fall meetings, or on a case need.

If anyone has suggestions for how to run this committee, or knows of a dog in need, please email me, kate_carter@comcast.net.

New Members

from Cynthia Gilliland

We have a new dog Member! **Eloise**, a 4 year old Maltese/Shih Tzu mix, has joined NOMAD with **Sam Puchar**. Eloise has taken classes at Waggles and The Dog School, and has taken private lessons with Elise Paffrath. Sam says that Eloise loves the game and is doing well. In fact, she loves the see saw so much, that she will do it as many times as possible, even if Sam would like her to do something else!

Kim Ingraham is "expanding" to a family membership for 2008, as her significant other **Rob Weiss** is also joining NOMAD. And **Harlee**, their 2 year old All American, is ready to join the shelties as a NOMAD dog. Harlee has taken a foundation agility class with Rob that Kim taught, has had private instruction with Lisa Barrett, and has also been home schooled. He is just finishing Sam Puchar's "Spirited Dog Class" and is doing very well! Their goal is to compete one day, but for now he is working on focus and having fun. Harlee would like to run pairs with Fly one day since they look so much alike!

HELP WANTED

Since I am doing some new jobs for NOMAD now, I would like to pass along my "new member contact and processing" job to someone else. This is not a hard job, and can be done mostly via email with the occasional phone call. It is a nice opportunity to find out about all the new people that join us— and it is a way to fulfill your work requirement from the comfort of home! To do this job, you need to have email and be able to send enclosures up to newsletter size, and be able to tell a new person what is going on in the club. Please let me know if you are interested in helping NOMAD in this way or if you want to learn more.

CYNTHIA GILLILAND
vermont05088@yahoo.com

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/>

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Due to increases in the cost of copying and stamps and decrease in time available by your editor, FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER (STARTING WITH JANUARY) WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL. Anyone still wanting a hard copy sent through the mail can get one by contacting Nancy Dashnaw via email (rdashnaw@localnet.com). The email version is much nicer in that it is in color. Anyone wanting a hard copy for their files can print their own personal copy. Thank you for helping to put the club's dollars to more rewarding uses.

MINUTES—NOMAD FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 18, 2007

In attendance: 14 proxies; 17 members
Meeting called to order at 2:04 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes:

Caroline McKinney moved to approve the minutes from the Spring Membership Meeting and Roberta seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes:

Caroline McKinney moved to approve the minutes from the Special Membership Meeting (held on September 26, 2007) and Patty McMahon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2008 PROPOSED BUDGET

Linda Ladd presented a revised budget from the budget posted on the website. The revised budget includes \$50 in miscellaneous income and \$75 in interest income which were inadvertently left off the first proposed budget. As a result, NOMAD's projected loss for 2008 is \$11 rather than a projected loss of \$136.

Camp NOMAD

Linda received several emails regarding the Seminar Committee's subsidy request of \$4000 for Camp NOMAD. The reason the Seminar Committee receives a subsidy is to keep seminar costs down so the seminars will be more affordable for our members. At the time the budget was

proposed, the Seminar Committee had a target income figure for the camp and were going to work backwards (in terms of the number of teams) to determine the cost of the seminar for each team. There will be 16 to 20 teams (pending the Seminar Committee meeting.) With that number of teams, the seminar will cost about \$200 per team for 3 days of camp. The Seminar Committee really wanted a summer training experience. Initially, the thought was to hold a summer seminar, but then someone proposed the camp idea. The Seminar Committee discussed ways to keep it affordable so that members could experience what it was like to attend a camp. Karen Clark indicated that we previously have had 3 seminars a year and have had difficulty filling them and have had difficulty getting people to work the seminar.

NADAC

There was a question from the floor asking why the NADAC budget is different this year as compared to last year. Last year's budget was used as a guideline only. Since we are only having a one ring trial some expenses will be less (such as equipment delivery since we are only using Erin's equipment and do not have to bring our own equipment.)

Billie Marsh asked what the procedure was for committee members to obtain more money than was budgeted for their committee (such as a significant rise in gas prices affecting the cost for seminar

instructors to get to NOMAD). Any committee that needs more money should go to the Steering Committee with their committee's recommendation regarding additional funds.

Barn rental fee

The Wildwood barn rental fee includes the port-o-let. The fee is \$50 more per month than last year because Stephanie has incorporated the money for driveway repair into the monthly fee rather than seeking funds from us at the end of the season. Lynne von Trapp indicated she would speak with Stephanie about the existing potholes at the start of the driveway.

Equipment

It was suggested that we keep what equipment is not needed for practice in storage. With only one barn in use this winter, it will be easier to keep the equipment in good condition that is used for trials. The expensive equipment (like the items we purchase from Max 200 last year) will not suffer as much wear and tear being moved in and out of the trailer repeatedly. Kit Erskine has completed an equipment inventory and will next delineate where each piece is located. Hopefully, we can get into a system for organizing and moving the equipment. The teeter base and the dog walk supports are now in the Wildwood barn

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Kit Erskine moved to approve the 2008 proposed budget; and Carla Medved seconded the motion. The Budget was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Practice

Kit Erskine gave the Practice Committee report. He indicated that there was positive feedback from last week's practice. Practices run from 10:45 to 12:45 with the first half of practice devoted to stations and the second half to a nested course. Kit is trying to make the practices a continuation of that morning's class. Last week's class was weave pole entries so Kit set up stations with both channel weaves and a full set of 12. The second half of practice was a standard course, with dogs set up in running order, by jump height. Each handler gets approximately 2 minutes of time on the course to do whatever her or she wants (handlers do not have to run the course, but can just do a piece of it or can run just a portion of it). There were 12 people at the practice and each handler was able to run the course twice. There have been requests for more stations in barn (3, probably rather than the 2 we had last week) so that teams can get more repetitions. Practices are \$5 for each practice or \$75 for whole year.

Classes

Kim Rubin presented the winter classes report. She indicated that there was a high request for the pre-novice class taught by Fiona and for the distance and directionals class taught by Randi. All classes are now full, and a waiting list has been started for each class. Anyone who wants to get onto a waiting list should contact Kim R. There was a question regarding the fairness of selection process because some people were in multiple classes and some people only were in one or none. Kim explained that due to the high demand for the two classes and the difficulty in implementing a completely just selection process, she consulted the Steering Committee and they agreed that the names should be picked out of a hat. Kim noted that simply counting which teams were in multiple classes was not an accurate assessment of the fairness of the selection process since it was only two classes which skewed the results. In pre-

ovice, all but two teams were only in that class. At the time Kim filled the classes, there was space in both weave pole entries and games. In Kim I.'s handling skills class, 8 teams signed up for 7 spots so Kim R. asked Kim I. if she would add one more team (which she agreed to do.)

Kim noted that members can audit classes for free and Kit is going to design the practices to continue what is taught in the morning class. Also, no team should feel practice is too hard for their dog. Any sequence or course can be made easier to make dogs (and handlers) successful.

Kate Carter raised the issue that new members seem to be missing the fundamentals (such as down contacts) and asked if NOMAD wanted to create a system or class to help people learn these things. Carla Medved suggested a training committee and volunteered to teach a prenovice/puppy agility classes one evening a week in the summer. There was concern that NOMAD did not want to be seen as competing with the local agility businesses. Lynne sent around a list for ideas for a training committee.

Equipment

Equipment was discussed above during the budget discussion. We need a chair for next year. Any volunteers? Lynne noted it's not as overwhelming as it first appears. Practice equipment and trial equipment divisions will make things easier. There is also the option the equipment at Roberta's being taken care of by the people who do summer training.

Seminar

Both Fiona and Lynn Smitley's seminars filled, and both were well received. Camp NOMAD is in the final planning stages and Billie Marsh is co-chair. The camp will run August 22 through August 24 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). The cost will be about \$200 per team and there will be two groups of 8 to 10 teams. One group will be novice/advanced and the other will be advanced/masters. The instructors are Ginsey St. Nickels and Elicia Calhoun. The Seminar Committee is discussing topics to be covered with the instructors (such as crosses, contacts, course analysis.) Both groups will experience all topics. For example, the novice/advance group will be doing contacts with Ginsey in the

morning and will spend the afternoon with Elicia doing course analysis, while the advanced/masters group will do the opposite. There has been some talk about an evening lecture. Teams must sign up for all three days. Lunch will be included. Dogs will need to be trialing (we can't take prenovice dogs here). Instructors will work with whatever the capacities are in their group which is part of the reason we've selected these instructors. It is still being determined which teams will get in, but it will most likely be first come first served. The plan is to have a maximum of 10 for each group. Many details still need to be figured out, such as camping arrangements, auditing, second dogs and bringing spouses who aren't really auditing. All questions should be directed to Billie Marsh.

We will not be having any other non-local people teaching a seminar in 2008. However, if people want to have smaller seminars like we had this year (e.g., Fiona and Lynne Smitley), that is a possibility. The Seminar Committee is hoping for a winter 2009 Leslie McDevitt Control Unleashed seminar

NADAC Trial

Caroline McKinney presented the NADAC trial report. The Committee is trying to make the trial more economical this year and make it smoother and more streamlined. They plan on cutting hospitality costs. Billie Marsh will be ring manager for one day (being shadowed by Judy Frey) and Judy Kessler will be the ring manager for day two. Cory (Erin's husband) will be chief course builder.

USDA Trial

Lisa Barrett and Kim I. were not at the meeting. Lynne passed out a sign up sheet for trial jobs. The trial will be one ring with starters and advanced only.

CATS/NOMAD Trial

Kit reported that Leslie from CATS was at Nationals, and they (Kit, Lynne and Lisa) had a discussion about running the trial. CATS's idea was different from ours but they are amenable to doing it our way: sharing the entire trial whether we take a ring and they take one or we do it jointly. The trial will be 2 rings over 3 days with a DAM tournament on Friday. CATS has

found some lodging options for NOMADers coming down. The baseline objectives for both clubs are to hold a major event for this geographical area and to earn some money. The trial will be on June 6, 7 and 8 at Wheelock Park, Keene, NH. Wheelock Park is a great set up with a huge area and lots of shade. Lynne will keep the club updated through newsletter and the newsgroup.

Nominating Committee

Carla Medved was the chair of the Nominating Committee, along with Judy Mulhern and Caroline McKinney. She reported that there were two positions to fill: Vice President (who would hopefully consider taking on president when Lynne is done in 2 years) and a member at large. Cynthia Gilliland has agreed to be nominated for VP and Kim I. has agreed to be nominated for member at large. Lynne has agreed to stay on as President, Kim R. has agreed to stay on as Secretary and Don has agreed to stay on as member at large. Carla moved to have the new Steering Committee approved and Linda Ladd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Congratulations Cynthia and Kim R. Welcome to the Steering Committee, Lynne thanked outgoing Steering Committee members Kit (the numbers man) and Karen (the memory keeper and historian) for their assistance. Both received a baseball hat with a LED light ("light the way").

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletters

To save money and make it easier for Caroline, we are asking everyone that is able to get their newsletter via email. We understand that there are some people who cannot. Currently, about 30 people get theirs by mail. Starting with the January newsletter, all members will receive a newsletter via email unless the member contacts Nancy Dashnaw to let her know they would like to receive it via mail. Future renewal forms and new member applications will indicate that they must make a request to receive a mailed newsletter

Membership

Only one-third of the membership had renewed as of the meeting.

Hinesburg police dog

Hinesburg Police Department is seeking donations to help pay for \$4000 worth of surgery for Tigger, their police dog. Tigger is a German Shepard owned by a police officer. Patty McMahon asked if NOMAD could give a donation. Kate Carter moved to make a donation for \$200 and Kim R. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and NOMAD will donate \$200 to the Hinesburg Police Department for Tigger.

The membership felt that we could be giving donations on a yearly basis for dog related causes. Kate Carter volunteered to head the Charity Committee. Please send any suggestions for donations to Kate.

Files on our Yahoo Newsgroup

Billie Marsh suggested we streamline our information online. It appears we have many old files in the Yahoo newsgroup files section and some of these files are out of date and the most recent versions appear on our website. We agreed that we should remove the old files from the newsgroup and Nan Johnson will have the most recent versions of forms on the website (nomadagility.com)

Presentation of plaques

Lynne presented Patty McMahon and Cayden a plaque for achieving MACH, and Cynthia Gilliland Heather received a plaque for their C -ATCH. Maxine Holmes and Sophie were at a trial (of course) and were not present to receive their plaque for Sophie's MACH. Lisanne Major was also unable to attend the meeting. She and Sally Ride! earned their Canadian NATCH

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Kim Rubin, Secretary



Cynthia Gilliland and Heather with their NOMAD award and their C-ATCH ribbon.



Patty McMahon and Cayden got their NOMAD award for achieving their MACH

BRAGS

USDAA Trial News

by Lisa Barrett

Oct. 27-28, 2007, Muddy Paws CPE Trial, Westminster, VT

Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

Level 5 FullHouse, 16 in. _____ 3rd and Q
Level 5 Standard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 5 Colors, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 5 Standard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 5 Snooker, 16 in. _____ 3rd and Q
Level 5 Jumpers, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie

Level 2 Colors, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 3 Jumpers, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Ivy

Level 1 FullHouse, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 2 Colors, 16 in. _____ 3rd and Q
Level 1 Standard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q

Nov 17 –18/07 Y Agility, Chatham, NY

Sundancer's First USDAA trial

12" Starters Pairs _____ 2nd and Q
12" Starters Jumpers _____ 1st and Q

Spiritdancer

12" Masters Standard _____ 3rd and Q
12" Masters Jumpers _____ 2nd and Q
12" Grand Prix Qualifier _____ 3rd and Q

Nov. 24-25, 2007, Breeze Thru Agility CPE Trial, Brattleboro, VT

Cynthia Gilliland and Heather

Level 5 Standard, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q
Level 5 Jackpot, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q
Level 5 Jackpot, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 5 Standard, 16 in. _____ 3rd and Q
Level 5 Wildcard, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q
Level 5 Colors, 16 in. _____ Q
Level 5 Jumpers, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q

Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie

Level 2 Standard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q and CL2-R title
Level 2 Jackpot, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 2 Wildcard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 2 Snooker, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 2 Jackpot, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q
Level 3 Standard, 16 in. _____ 2nd and Q
Level 2 Wildcard, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q and CL2-H title
Level 3 Colors, 16 in. _____ 1st and Q

NOMAD will be involved in two USDAA Trials in June 2008. The membership voted to do this at a special meeting, and our plans are very exciting. We are doing a three-day trial with CATS (a NH agility club) and our very own two-day, one-ring Starters/PI/Advanced/PII trial in Stowe.

Friday, June 6 through Sunday, June 8, NOMAD and CATS will collaborate in a three-day trial at Wheelock Park in Keene NH. Friday will be devoted to Steeplechase/Performance Speed Jumping Round One and an entire Dog Agility Masters/Performance Versatility Pairs Team Tournament. The Team Tournament includes 5 classes: Tournament Standard, Tournament Gamblers, Tournament Jumpers, Tournament Snooker, and Tournament Relay. The DAM teams are comprised of three different dogs and handlers, and two of the three dogs must jump the same jump height. Performance Versatility Pairs teams have two dogs and handlers.

Team Tournament courses tend to be at about the Advanced level. Team Gamblers is almost always do-able by even Starters dogs, since it rarely requires distance handling. It would be wonderful to have a good number of NOMAD teams. But you can compete in the individual team classes without being on a team.

Saturday and Sunday of the CATS•NOMAD Trial will include all the regular USDAA classes at all levels, as well as a Grand Prix/Performance Speed Jumping Qualifier. Saturday will also include Round Two of Steeplechase/Performance Speed Jumping.

At the CATS•NOMAD trial June 6-8, at Wheelock Park in Keene NH, CATS will provide the equipment for both rings. NOMAD will share responsibility and labor for the trial, and will be completely responsible for running one of the two rings for three days. NOMAD will get 40% of the net profit.

Lynne is working out the lodging arrangements in the Keene area for the NOMADers who will commit to working from setup Thursday morning through Sunday night. We are hoping to rent an entire B&B for Thursday through Sunday. We don't yet know exactly how much space there is at the B&B, or what the individual charges will be. Stay tuned. In addition, our wonderful NOMAD members Elliott and Jane Kaplan have offered us their large indoor training area for NOMADers who can bring their own air mattresses, sleeping bags, etc. We should NOT expect to be entertained by the Kaplans, as they need their peace and quiet too. We really appreciate their generosity in offering this great space to enable NOMAD volunteers to spend the weekend in Keene without hotel expenses.

The very next weekend, June 14-15, NOMAD will hold its USDAA Trial in Stowe. Because of all the work going into the CATS•NOMAD trial, we hope and expect that our Stowe trial will require only one ring. NOMAD's Stowe trial will be limited to dogs competing in Starters/PI and Advanced/PII. We won't offer Masters/PIII classes. The main purpose of our Stowe trial is to provide a local trial for our members, particularly our less-experienced members who may be reluctant to travel to trials.

So there's a lot to look forward to—and work on—during our long winter.

NOMAD COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Compiled by Cheryl French as of 11/16/07

DECEMBER 2007

Dec. 1-2; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Level Restrictions: Master/PIII with Grand Prix and Perf National Standard; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com; Website: www.alldogsgym.com.

Dec 8-9; **ASCA**; Open to all dogs; WASCUNY; High Goal Farm, Greenwich, NY; Opens: 10/23/07; Closes: 12/21/07; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers; Contact: Linda Braun; Email: linda@croftonaussies.com; Website: www.geocities.com/wascuny.

Dec. 29-31; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; AgileDogs Agility Training, High Goal Farm, 66 Louse Hill Farm, Greenwich, NY; Limit: 350 per day; Closes: 12/17/07; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trials.htm.

Dec. 30; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Closes: 12/7/07; Limit: Unlimited; All Levels; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com; Website: www.alldogsgym.com.

JANUARY 2008

Jan. 12-13; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Closes: 12/14/07; Limit: 400 runs Sat., 350 Runs Sun.; Classes: Sat. Standard, Colors, Wildcard, Fullhouse; Sun. Standard, Snooker, Jackpot, Jumpers; Contact: Sue Fontaine; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net; Website: www.alldogsgym.com.

Jan. 19-20; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; SCOR Agility LLC; Skyline Agility Club, Inc.; Railroad Ave., Garnerville, NY; Opens: 11/28/07; Closes: 12/28/07; Limit: 275 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: mephalon@yahoo.com.

Jan. 19-20; **AKC**; Open to all purebred dogs; American Bullmastiff Assoc., Inc.; American K9 Country, Amherst, NH; Opens: 11/28/07; Closes: 12/29/07; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com.

Jan. 26-27; **CPE**; Riverside K-9 LLC; Nashua, NH; Classes: Sat. Colors, Wildcard, Snooker, Jumpers; Sun. Snooker, Jackpot, FullHouse, Jumpers; Limit: 400 runs per day; Closes: 1/4/08; Contact: Valori Duff; Email: valwaussies@comcast.net; Website: www.riversidek9.com.

FEBRUARY 2008

Feb 2-3; **AKC**; Open to all purebred dogs; Tartan Gordon Setter Club; American K9 Country, Amherst, NH; Opens: 11/28/07; Closes: 1/12/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com.

Feb. 9-10; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Closes: 1/11/08; Limit: 400 runs Sat., 350 runs Sun.; Classes: Sat. Standard, Snooker, FullHouse, Jumpers; Sun. Standard, Colors, Wildcard, Jackpot; Contact: Sue Fontaine; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net; Website: www.alldogsgym.com.

Feb. 9; **AKC**; Open to all purebred dogs; American Bullmastiff Assoc., Inc.; American K9 Country, Amherst, NH; Opens: 12/19/07; Closes: 1/19/08; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com.

Feb. 16-17; **ASCA**; Open to all dogs; ASCNE; American k9 Country, Amherst, NH; Limit: 350 per day; Classes: Regular, Jumpers, Gamblers - Pre-Novice, Retired Exhibition on Sunday; Contact: Jean Janotta, 24 Country View Drive, Raymond, NH 03077-2479, 603-895-5436; Email: jjanotta@verizon.net; Website: www.ascne.org.

Feb. 16-17; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Breeze Thru Agility, Brattleboro, VT; Limit: 350 runs per day; Closes: 2/4/08; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Val Reiner; Email: kritters@bnc.net or Email: ebreeze@sover.net; Website: www.k9cpe.com or www.breezethruagility.com.

Feb 23-24; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Skyline Agility Club, Inc.; Railroad Ave., Garnerville, NY; Opens: 1/9/08; Closes: 2/6/08; Limit: 275 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: mephalon@yahoo.com; Website: www.skylineagility.org.

Feb. 23-24; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; Riverside K-9 LLC; Nashua, NH; Classes: Sat. Colors, Wildcard, Jackpot, Jumpers; Sun. Snooker, Jackpot, Full-House, Jumpers; Limit: 400 runs per day; Closes: 2/2/08; Contact: Valori Duff; Email: valwaussies@comcast.net; Website: www.riversidek9.com.

MARCH 2008

March 8-9; **CPE**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Closes: 2/8/08; Limit: 400 Runs Sat., 350 Runs Sun.; Classes: Undecided; Contact: Sue Fontaine; Email: miniaussies5@comcast.net; Website: www.alldogsgym.com.

March 8-9; **AKC** Open to all purebreds; American Bullmastiff Assoc., Inc.; American K9 County, 336 Rte 101, Amherst, NH; Opens: 1/16/08; Closes: 2/16/08; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, FAST; Levels: All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com.

March 15-16; **AKC**; Open to all purebreds; Schenectady Dog Training Club, Inc.; High Goal Farm, Greenwich, NY; Opens: 1/16/08; Closes: 2/23/08; Classes: Standard, Jumpers; Levels: All Levels; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com.

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 23-24; **USDAA**; Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility; All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Grand Prix Qualifier, Steeplechase Qualifier, Other - Team Qualifier, PVP qualifier, PNS Qualifier, PSJ Qualifier; Contact: Tracy E. Bergeron; Email: agilitywhippet@comcast.net; Website: www.alldogsgym.com; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.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.

If Only I Could Run

By Helen King (printed with permission)

(Sing to the tune of If I Only Had a Brain from the Wizard of Oz)

My speed I've been lamenting,
Rear crosses implementing,
And whining to all a ton.
Things would surely be much smoother
And I wouldn't be a loser,
If only I could run.
I'd be doin' all front crosses,
Negating all my losses,
Having my time in the sun.
I'd be sprintin' out to serpentine
With Isabella Poodle Queen,
If only I could run.
The Qs would come in masses
While my doggies chased my asses,
We'd be having so much fun.
I'd be blazin' on to glory,
Yeah but that's another story,
If only I could run.

My times would be much faster,
Instead of a disaster,
And feelin' like a bum.
I'd be flyin' to the finish,
While my course times did diminish,
If only I could run.
I would scare the competition,
They'd all bring ammunition,
To slow me with their gun.
But I'd be faster than their bullet
When their trigger they did pull it,
If only I could run.
Handling would be easy,
My strides all light and breezy
If only I could run.
My doggies would be smilin'
And on course we would be stylin'
Thank God this song is done!

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