

NOMAD NEWS

Northern Magic Agility Dogs

MARCH

2015

BRAGS

Jan 16-18 2015 BARK USDA



Jennifer A Hammond & Jes

Starters Standard - 18 Inch _____ 2nd and Q
 Starters Gamblers - 18 inch _____ 1st and Q
 Grand Prix Qualifier - 18 Inch _____ 2nd and Q
 Steeplechase - yard sale!
 Starters Standard - 18 Inch _____ 1st and Q

AND OUR STARTERS TITLE !!!!!

Starters Gamblers - 18 inch just ran to practice hard weave entries and lateral sends.

Starters Snooker - 18 inch _____ 1st and Q -
 Advanced Jumpers - 18 inch _____ 1st and Q

Jennifer Hammond & Mac

Starters Standard - 22 Inch _____ 1st and Q
 Advanced Gamblers - 22 inch _____ 2nd and Q

NOMAD CAMP

Registration opens March 2. See January newsletter for entry form.

Jan 30-feb 1 BARK USDA, Manchester, NH

Lisa B and Giddy Up, 8" Performance

Perf. Speed Jumping Rd 1 _____ 1st and Q
 Perf Speed Jumping Rd 2 _____ 1st and Q
 PII Snooker _____ 1st and Q
 PIII Standard _____ 1st and Q
 Perf Grand Prix _____ 1st and Q
 PII Snooker _____ 1st and Q
 PIII Snooker _____ 2nd and Q
 PIII Standard _____ 1st and Q
 PII Pairs _____ 1st and Q

PERF AAD TITLE (FINALLY!)

Lickity Split and Kit

Masters Snooker 18" 55 pts _____ 1st and 11th Super Q.
 Masters Gamblers 18" 60 pts _____ 1st and Q

Lynne von Trapp and Brill

Lynne ran wearing pearls Friday in honor of Lisa B's 70th birthday
 Masters Jumpers _____ Q
 Steeplechase _____ Q
 Masters Pairs _____ 2nd and Q
 Masters Gamblers _____ 3rd and Q
 Masters Gamblers _____ 4th and Q

MASTERS GAMBLERS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE!

Malia and Caroline NADAC

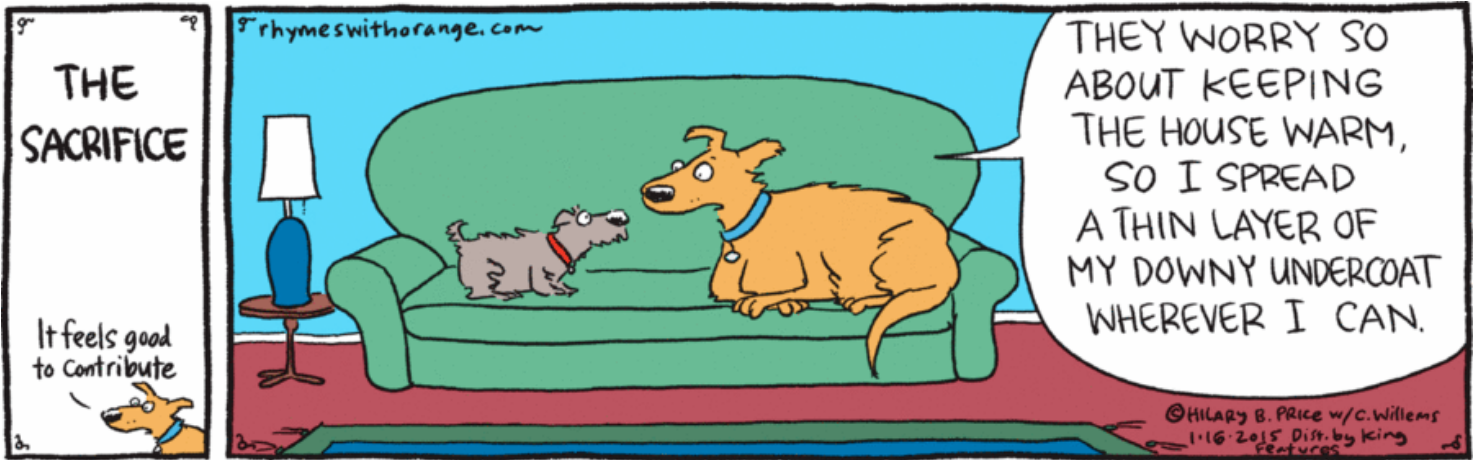
Malia made the top 10 for standard poodles in the U.S. in NADAC. There are not a whole lot of SPs doing NADAC, but still fun. She was second in weavers, second in jumpers, second in regular, second in touch and go and fifth in tunnelers. That's my girl.

USDA INTRODUCTORY TRIALS

Our final USDA Introductory Trial is scheduled for March 8. Please get your entries in! There is NO RISK because we refund entries if the temps are too cold to hold a trial. That's what we did for the Feb 25 trial.

If you have any questions about these trials, email Lisa Barrett at mytmutts@yahoo.com.

FUNNY DOG STUFF PAGE



Gotta Poop, Gotta Poop, Gotta Poop...

Where The Hell Am I gonna Poop!

Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com

My dog thinks I'm awesome. He also thinks dead squirrels are awesome. And poop. But mostly me.

Used To Be a Bastard@Facebook.com

ARE YOU TESTING OR TRAINING??

by Lisa Barrett

Testing and training are both important. Testing reveals what you need to work on, and training develops and expands skills. I think it's important for all of us to maintain a balance between testing and training.

We all want to improve our dogs' agility skills, from contacts and weaves to jump commitment, from startlines to increased distance. Are you using NOMAD practice time to train, or solely to test your dog?

I often see handlers using NOMAD practice to repeatedly test their dogs' skills instead of improving those skills. If we test all winter, we can expect our dogs to have the same weaknesses in the spring as they did in the fall.

What's the difference between training and testing? When we teach a dog to do something new, or reinforce the dog for expanding an existing skill, we are training. When we repeatedly run a course or sequence the same way with no reinforcement until the end, we are testing the dog's skills, not improving those skills.

Training involves teaching your dog new concepts and skills. I'll use the example of teaching your dog to perform a tunnel at a 15-foot distance from you. There are several ways to teach this skill. One way to begin teaching this is to start by sending the dog into a curved tunnel from a comfortable distance. This distance will be different for each dog. Let's say the comfy distance for your dog is 3 feet from the tunnel entrance. Use a curved tunnel. (Most practice courses have at least one curved tunnel!) Set up your dog by your side 3 feet from the tunnel entrance.

Once you have your dog's attention, give your tunnel cue--move dog-side hand and foot forward, face tunnel entrance and look at tunnel entrance, while giving your verbal cue. When your dog comes out the other end of the tunnel, reward by throwing a food pouch or a toy at least 10 feet straight out from the tunnel exit. Throwing the reward teaches your dog that rewards occur in places that are not right next to her handler.

Then repeat exactly the same process, starting an additional 6 inches from the tunnel entrance. Each time you repeat, start an additional 6" away from the tunnel entrance. When the distance begins to get difficult for your dog, reduce the increments of additional distance to just two or three inches.

What is the testing counterpart? While running the course or sequence, you simply try to send your dog to a tunnel 15 feet away. If the dog can do it, you continue on the course. If the dog can't do it, you might continue on the course because your dog melts down when criticized. Or you might run the dog through the tunnel from a position next to you and then continue the course. What have you taught your dog? If your dog has learned anything, she has learned it's okay to skip an obstacle, or that refusing an obstacle will impel the handler to run comfortably close to the dog.

There is a middle ground: when running a course, run as far away from the tunnel as you KNOW your dog will be successful, and throw a reward as the dog exits the tunnel.

If you want to train, it's fine to use your time at practice to train one obstacle, or a handling maneuver, etc. in your allotted time. Or perhaps you might use your first turn to test your dog's skills and learn what skills need some more training. Then you might use your subsequent turns to train a skill that needs attention.

Let's hope the weather will soon allow us to test and train outside!

2015 Winter Practice at Wildwood Barn

March

	9 – 11:15 A.M.	11:30 A.M. – 2 P.M.
7	Skills Practice (Novice)	Run Thrus
14	Skills Practice	Run Thrus
21	Skills Practice	Run Thrus
28	Skills Practice	Run Thrus

April

4	Skills Practice (Novice)	Run Thrus
11	Amanda Shyne Seminar	
18	TBD	

The fee is \$10/team for Skills Practice, League drop-ins, and Run Thrus. Teams that want to do skills practice with more than one dog in the ring meet from 9-11:15am. Teams that want to do course practice with one dog in the ring at a time meet from 11:30am-2pm. Directions to Wildwood Barn are at [HYPERLINK "http://www.nomadagility.com/?page_id=17"](http://www.nomadagility.com/?page_id=17) http://www.nomadagility.com/?page_id=17.

NEW SUPPORTING MEMBER

Kristin Van Derpool.

1130 Regent Street
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

Phone: 518-258-7695

Email: gdhoy@yahoo.com She would like an agility buddy

NEW DOG MEMBER

We have another young agility star in training who has become a member! Please welcome **Kelley Trombley's** young man **Pip**. He is a year old Long Coated Chihuahua and has been doing agility with Kelley for 4 months.

THE LIST

by Pat Nolin

Do you have a lot to do?
First make a list or two.
Go and give your dog a kiss.
Sit with him and reminisce.
Give your dog a hug.
Go and play a game of tug.
Number five is take him for a drive.
Buy a donut to share.
Show him how much you care.
Buy a treat you both can eat.
Sit together on a seat.
Thinking of all that is left?
Don't forget.
When he is at the bridge
the hugs and kisses
You will not regret.



Hotel Etiquette

Suggested by Lynne von Trapp

February is Responsible Pet Ownership Month.

How can you be courteous, responsible and set a good example when staying in hotels with your dog?

By Annie DeChance and Brenna Fender

This article was first posted on USDAA.com and has been shared with permission

Most agility competitors consider ourselves to be responsible pet owners. We take the time to provide loving, happy homes for our pets, use positive methods to train our dogs to behave properly, exercise them daily, feed them a quality diet, and see the veterinarian regularly too.

But, as competitors, it is our responsibility to take extra steps to provide a positive image to others, particularly when staying in a hotel near a trial site. Let's be honest: when a "non-dog person" checks into a hotel filled with dogs, they most likely aren't happy about it! They envision a poor night's sleep and a need to watch their steps as they walk around the grounds. It's both important and easy to be responsible for your pets and their behavior, no matter where you go. If we leave a positive impression when we are out and about, it will be easier for us to get hotels and show sites in the future.

So, how can you do your part to leave a good impression on hotel owners, staff, and the general public?

When packing for your dog, remember to toss in an extra sheet or two to cover the bedspread at the hotel.

If you forget your sheet, ask the front desk if you may borrow one. When you tell them why you need it, they will very likely be accommodating (and appreciative).

If you don't bother with the sheet, for heaven's sake, don't post Facebook photos of your dog on hotel beds, hairing up the bedspreads! So uncool.

Always pick up after your dog.

If possible, pick up after others who "accidentally forgot" to pick up after their dog.

This one's a no-brainer, right?

If your dog barks while you're away, don't leave them in the room while you go out to eat and visit friends.

Being next door to a hotel room with a barking dog in it is the equivalent of having neighbors who are throwing a huge party while you're trying to sleep. Only without the fun music.

Need dinner? Take your barkers with you. If it isn't safe to leave them in the car while you eat, drive through or order in.

Before taking your dog out, open the door and check to see if anyone is in the hallway.

Not everyone staying at the hotel likes dogs, even the best behaved dogs. Some people are just plain afraid of dogs too. Hard to believe, isn't it?

Anytime you open your hotel door, be careful that your dog doesn't run out. It's not unusual to hear about a well-trained dog running out of a hotel room and getting lost or hurt. A loose dog on hotel grounds is unsafe for the dog and leaves a bad impression on guests as well.

Remember, before most of us got into competition sports with our dogs, we considered ourselves dog savvy. Then we were exposed to a whole new world of responsibilities. The more we can lead by example and take every opportunity to (politely) educate others, the better it will be for us, for the non-suspecting pet owners we encounter, and the dogs.

And you never know.... Some of the people you help educate along the way may become the future of the great sports we love playing with our dogs. And you might be in the hotel room next to them!

Annie DeChance has been traveling and competing with a variety of dogs for nearly 20 years and is USDAA's Communications Director. Brenna Fender is the editor for USDAA's newsletter, the Overview, and USDAA's news page (among other things). She can be reached at bfender@usdaa.com.

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NOMAD's Steering Committee

Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

President: Lisa Marcus, lisamarcus@comcast.net

Vice-President: Judy Frey, rjfrey2@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linda Ladd, vtladds@comcast.net

Secretary: Sarah Albert, sarah@vtlink.net

Members at Large

Jen Hammond, hammondjal@gmavt.net

Marty Abair, corgitown@yahoo.com

Kelley Trombley, kelly@therunningdog.net

<http://nomadagility.com>