

# NOMAD NEWS

Northern Magic Agility Dogs

DECEMBER

2015

**TIME TO RENEW NOMAD MEMBERSHIP SEE PAGE 3**

## JEN AND JES DO CYNOSPORT



*Jes and her sister Link. It was their first Cynosport.*

I went with Jes, a first for both of us. We started off strong on Weds. I wasn't sure how either one of us would do with the energy level, the number of people or dogs. It didn't seem to bother Jes at all. She ran like she belonged there. We had the Jokers Wild run Weds morning as a warm up and I was very happy with how she was running.

We ran the Steeplechase quarter finals around 6-6:30. At that point I was so done waiting and just wanted to run. It was one of the harder SC courses that we have run and I was worried about a couple of areas. We ran conservatively but fast. This was one of those runs that you will always remember. I just trusted her to do her job. I will never forget hearing the crowd when we came around parts of the course. You just know you have it. I could hear Kit yelling "Go Jen".

The last 3 jumps I was worried about because we can't seem to run in a straight run out. We have struggled with obstacle commitment. But she had no problem. I knew if we ran clean we would make it to the semis. She ran clean and fast and finished in the #1 spot. I will never forget the look on her face coming out of the ring. Jes knew that she did awesome.



*Nisa sleeping next to Jes - she looks like the proud older sister.*

Thursday was a good day and we ran the Team events fine. I wasn't holding back like earlier in the summer when Jes thought I was running like an idiot. We just went for it. She had a great Snooker run but we had an off course in Standard because I decided to run a course I didn't walk because "it looked better the way others ran it" (lesson learned).

Friday was an easy day with only Team Gamblers and she had an incredible run. Saturday we started off with Team jumpers and an off course. We had the SC semi run around 2 and at that point I think we were both getting a little fried. I watched too much of the competition and got a little psyched out. I couldn't think fast enough when we started to lose it. Jes was so fast and not holding her contacts. Running on the hairy edge of control is something I need to practice more. So we had a couple knocked bars and then I reset her in the weaves because I thought she popped - she didn't pop so that gave me an E. It was an experience for sure and I can't wait to go back again.

Jen Hammond

See page 2 for story and photos of Lisa and Giddy at Cynosport

# GIDDY'S AND LISA'S GREAT ADVENTURE—CYNOSPORT 2015

For Cynosport, I set out with Giddy-Up for my first long trip in my motorhome (aka moho). It was a wonderful road trip, stopping to hike in state parks and national parks, sleeping at truck stops, visiting my favorite cousins, and generally having a fun, relaxed trip.

I was assigned a good parking spot, next to Stuart Mah. I've known Stuart since I took his seminar in 1995 with Jenny, my 22" Shelter Hound. Jen H and Nicki parked behind my moho every day, and Mich Powers was just two spaces away. It was exhilarating on the first day walking around and seeing old friends and acquaintances from past Cynosports. I soon found Judy Kessler and Val Reiner, the Marcuses, Giddy's owner and my teammate Christine, and later Kit. Giddy and I were definitely among friends.

Cynosport is a bit of an endurance contest, with five days of 6:30 a.m. walkthroughs and runs that were often late in the day. The walkthroughs were exhilarating, but short enough that we really had to figure out our handling plans before the walk so we could simply rehearse it in the seven minutes we were permitted on the course. All handlers were divided into 6 groups for walkthroughs and runs. I learned a lot by watching top handlers walk the courses in groups before mine.

The waiting to run can be hard, but I kept busy scribing, timing, and ring crewing when I was waiting to run. Cynosport always offers a warmup class on the first day. This year's warmup offered the option of garnering lots of points by performing on-course gambles. I had planned to go for the points, but then I realized that I could use this class to practice the dogwalk and seesaw contacts that Giddy and I had been working on for two months. That turned out to be a really good choice, and I noticed that the most experienced handlers were using the course to solidify their training rather than seeking a high score in this class.

Over the five days, Giddy and I ran in Team Standard, Team Jumpers, Team Gamblers, Team Snooker, Performance Grand Prix Quarter Finals, PGP Semifinals, Performance Speed Jumping Semifinals, PGP Finals, Biathlon Jumpers and Biathlon Standard. I was thrilled that Giddy's dogwalk and seesaw contacts were exactly what I wanted throughout the week. Training really does matter!

Every run with Giddy-Up is a joy, because she is a fast, enthusiastic, well-trained tiny poodle on a mission. We ran well and were reasonably successful on all the courses except Team Jumpers, where I sent her off course at the second-to last obstacle. Oh well, the run was terrific till then, and I do allow myself to make mistakes.

At Cynosport, people who earned a "bye" at a Regional Championship go directly to semifinals, without running in quarter finals. Giddy had a bye to Steeplechase semifinals, but not in PGP. I was determined to get into the semis in PGP, so I put a lot of pressure on myself in the quarter finals. Even so, we made the semis. In semifinals, it makes sense to throw caution to the wind, since only the top six (in our 8" height group) go to the Finals.

We had a bye to the PSJ Semifinals, and we did the best we could. But the dirt was deep, and Giddy seemed a bit tired. We simply weren't fast enough to make the Finals.

We stepped to the line in the PGP Semifinals exhilarated by my plan to go for broke, as fast as we could, without slowing down a nanosecond for contacts, weaves, turns, etc. It was the best run of my life! I came out of the ring knowing we had run at our best, holding absolutely nothing back. I was thrilled, and I really didn't care that we were unlikely to make the Finals because so many 8" dogs had more ground speed than Giddy. I was bowled over to find we made the Finals. It is an incredible rush to run in the Finals, with deafening cheers from the crowd throughout the run, and a loud groan from the spectators at every error. And I surely did have errors, but I really didn't care. We had run in the PGP Finals!

Cynosport is fun for many reasons—watching the best dogs and handlers, enjoying wonderful courses, spending time with friends, and generally being part of a truly great agility event with 1,000 dogs. This was my 12th Cynosport. I have gone solely to volunteer and be part of the event six times, and I have run dogs six times. I encourage all lovers of agility to go to Cynosport, whether to volunteer or to run. It's the best vacation for an agility addict!



# TIME TO RENEW NOMAD MEMBERSHIP

## NOMAD Membership Annual Renewal – 2016

Due by December 30, 2015

**PLEASE CHECK TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Working Member (20 hours of club-related activity)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$85 Supporting Family

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Working Family

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Jr. Handler (under 17)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Supporting Member

**All new members who joined after June 30, 2015 are exempt from 2016 dues but must return this form.**

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Working Members: Working hours will no longer be recorded on the renewal form. Please document your working hours on The Nomad Volunteer Tracking Google Sheet.**

**I would like to join (or continue on) the following committee(s)** (descriptions on page 2). Indicate any/all committees on which you wish to serve for 2016 even if you were on the same committee(s) last year. Committees will be asked to select a chairperson from among their members shortly after January 1, 2016

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NADAC Trial Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> USDAA Trial Committee          | <input type="checkbox"/> CPE Trial Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee  | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice/Lessons Committee     | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seminar Committee     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Jr. Handler Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Committee. |

**Sign the liability waiver below and send this form along with your check payable to "NOMAD" to: Billie Marsh, 110 Napper Road, Westport, NY 12993**

**Please provide any updates or changes to the information requested below. If nothing has changed, then leave blank. If you have new dogs to join, please send that information to Dale Healy using the form that is on the NOMAD website (nomadagility.com).** If you no longer have a dog, please indicate below.

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deletions to dog members** \_\_\_\_\_

### Liability Waiver

I understand that there are a variety of risks to me and my dog from attending NOMAD activities. These risks include, but are not limited to, getting hit by a car, bitten by a dog, tripping and falling, spraining ankles or breaking bones. Understanding these risks, I voluntarily and knowingly waive any right I (and others on my behalf) might otherwise have to make any claim against any member or officer of Northern Magic Agility Dogs, Inc. (NOMAD) and/or any other person or entity connected with NOMAD activities (including, but not limited to, the owner or lessee of any property used by NOMAD) for any and all injuries or damage related to any NOMAD event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



*Tatjana, Max and Portia as Guess who.  
... here's a Halloween theme picture from last month's Muddy Paws CPE trial where Portia made her debut.*



*Snow is coming*

## NEW DOG MEMBERS

Please welcome **Opal!** She **Abby Bruce's** 11 month old Pug. Opal has had an Intro to Obedience and she and Abby are taking lesson from Lo

Please welcome **Tigger!** He is 17 months old and is owned by **Lori and Scott Brown.** They have taken two agility classes, and private lessons at Waggles.

## Saturday Practice at Wildwood Barn

**Saturday practices at Wildwood Barn are free this year.** Practice starts at 9:30 and goes to 12:30. This includes set-up and take-down time. Weeks will alternate between Course Work (one dog in the ring at a time) and Skills/Course (two or more dogs in the ring during skills).

The first Saturday of each month is Novice day, which includes a Novice course and one dog in the ring at a time. Advanced teams are encouraged to attend Novice days.

Course work means a course is set up, and teams can do whatever they want with their individual time in the ring, whether it's working specific aspects of the course, or running the course.

Skills/Course means the first half of the practice is working specific drills such as contacts, weaves, obstacle discrimination, jump configurations, crosses, etc. Two or more dogs might be working at the same time in the ring (on separate sequences, of course, not over the same obstacles at the same time!). The second half blends the skills set-ups into a course, and one at a time, teams can run the course or work on specific obstacles within the course.

### December

- 5 & 6 Weekend Workshop with Amanda Shyne
- 12 Skills/course (two or more dogs at a time during skills)
- 19 Course (one dog at a time in the ring)
- 26 Skills/course (two or more dogs at a time during skills)

# BRAGS

## Nov. 1, USDAA, BARK! Manchester, NH

### Kim Rubin and Captain

P1 20" Standard \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

P1 20" Gamblers \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

P1 20" Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

(10 seconds under SCT)!

**Team Captain** competed in their second USDAA trial at All Dogs this weekend to close out our inaugural trial season. Captain's very first trial was in April (BOTC)...and while he had flashes of brilliance, he did not complete any of his four runs doing all the obstacles. By September (just 3 trials later), he earned his Novice Jumpers with Weaves and Novice Standard titles: NJP NAP His AKC stats: 5 trials, 17 novice runs with 7 Q's (6 1sts and 1 2nd); 6 Open runs with no Q's but some near misses. USDAA: 2 trials, 10 runs with 7 Q's!!! (2 1st, 4 2nd, 1 3rd) We are just one standard leg plus one snooker leg from our Performance Dog title! And one leg each in gamblers, standard and jumpers from our respective P1 titles in each. (We may end up in PIII everything else while still trying to get a P1 snooker Q!) From April 18 to November 1, we went from a not very connected team with stressed out zoomies to a team whose last run of the season (P1 jumpers) was spectacular first place finish and has me analyzing how we could have shaved a few more seconds off our already awesome time. I'm expecting big things from Team Captain in trial year 2. 5 months to work our butts off until we start trialing again in April.

### Fin and Caroline McKinney

P1 16"

Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

Soooo exciting to really connect on this last run. I am trainable.

## Nov. 7-8, 2015, Takes 2 to Q, CPE, Greenwich, NY

### Judy K. and Monte

L-5 Enthusiast Standard 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

L-5 Enthusiast Wildcard 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

L-5 Enthusiast Snooker 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

L-5 Enthusiast FullHouse 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

L-5 Enthusiast Colors 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

L-5 Enthusiast Jumpers 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

L-5 Enthusiast Jackpot 20" \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

Minna's agility career, such as it was, is officially over. She was slow, skipping jumps and limping. Her last few years of having fun seem to be over, so she will travel as support staff from now on.

## 11/20 - 11/22 Leap Agility/Talcott Mtn Agility, West Springfield, Ma, The Thanksgiving Cluster AKC

### Don and Maggie

Masters Standard \_\_\_\_\_ Q

Masters Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ Q

Masters Fast \_\_\_\_\_ Q 2nd

Masters Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ Q

Masters Standard \_\_\_\_\_ Q

Masters Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ Q

Masters Fast \_\_\_\_\_ Q

### Don and Smitty

Novice Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ Q 1st

#### NOVICE JUMPERS TITLE

### NOMAD's Steering Committee

Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

**President:** Jen Hammond, hammondjal@gmavt.net

**Vice President:** John Marcus, John.Marcus@uvm.edu

**Secretary:** Judy Kessler, judith.kessler@uvm.edu

**Treasurer:** Linda Ladd, vtladds@comcast.net

#### Members at Large:

Marty Abair, corgitown@yahoo.com

Tatjana Salcedo, gutetatjana@gmail.com

Kelley Trombley, kelly@therunningdog.net

<http://nomadagility.com>