

NOMAD NEWS

Northern Magic Agility Dogs

October/November

2017



Here is our Steeplechase Finals Run:
<https://youtu.be/vlrr0iiQUZc>
And Team Jumpers, 2nd place out of 64
24" dogs:
<https://youtu.be/viivAKrGw7Lc>

Nicki and Ritz made it to the Steeplechase Finals in an incredibly competitive 22" class and ran fast and clean! Congratulations!!



And NOMAD workers



Ann and Spark had a glorious run in GP finals and finished 7th, ahead of some of the greats in agility!! They got to the startline twice and had to wait repeatedly for an electric power problem to be solved. Ann kept her cool and Spark ran a SPECTACULAR DW with a turn at the end.

Sept. 30/Oct. 1. All Dogs USDAA trial, Manchester, NH

Kim Rubín and Captain

PIII 20" Snooker. _____ 1st and SQ!!!
PGP 20". _____ 1st and Q
and Regionals Bye!

PIII 20" Standard. _____ 2nd and Q
PIII 20" Snooker. _____ 2nd and Q

Our first trial since regionals (and since we missed almost 6 weeks of training due to me being sick immediately following regionals). We found our groove again! We narrowly missed a gamblers Q Sunday (for a perfect day!) due to us getting the hard part and me miscueing the final jump.



NOMAD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 10/11/17

Members present: Jen Hammond, Linda Ladd, Judy Kessler, Kit Erskine, Nicki Houghton and Tatjana Salcedo

Called to order: 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was called to go over the proposed budget to help Linda get it ready for the Fall Membership Meeting. We went through numbers proposed by Linda based on information provided by the various committees. Linda started by saying that we had \$14,328.87 available in the operating fund. There is money in the equipment reserve fund and the money market account, as well.

SEMINAR BUDGET: The committee has decided to have only two seminars this coming year, one in April and one in June. There is much concern about the fact that seminars did not fill last year and the committee needed a considerable subsidy. The SC questions whether we need to charge more for seminars or open them to more people in order to not lose quite as much. The SC will return the budget to the committee with the request that they consider raising either the price of seminar attendance or the number of attendees per seminar. The committee has been contacted and they have decided to leave the budget request stand, as of now, and consider increasing the number of participants in a seminar when the time comes.

NADAC BUDGET: The trial, as things stand, did make a small amount of money. However, this does not reflect the cost of the site. Trapp Family Lodge has not yet sent a bill for our use in August. Many on the SC seemed to feel that having this trial was too much work for the small amount of money made and the small number of NOMADers who participate. After the formal meeting, several people discussed the fact that the 2018 trial would be our 20th Anniversary of NADAC trials and trialing in general. Since this is so, we should have one more NADAC trial and make it a party with special encouragement for all members

to take part. Planning will occur later in the year.

CPE BUDGET: This budget was accepted as presented.

USDAA BUDGET: Accepted as presented with a note that the estimated income was lower than in past years because the committee is unsure if moving to a new site will affect numbers.

MEMBERSHIP BUDGET: Linda estimated the income for membership based on our present list. We have 41 working members, 1 life time member, 14 supporting members and 1 supporting family. This exists although we had voted to not have that category any longer.

EQUIPMENT BUDGET: The committee requested funds for 12 sets of tunnel bags and a new dog walk. The dog walk would have legal planks for USDAA and CPE. We had a long discussion about the wisdom of getting a new dog walk instead of just retrofitting our present one to be legal for CPE. The proposed new one would cost \$2500, part of that price would be made up by selling our present dog walk (which cost \$1895). This is a fairly new, rather nice dog walk that we might want to keep. We decided to ask the committee to get more information about the exact cost of retrofitting the present dog walk to help the club decide which option would work better.

OPERATING BUDGET: This budget was accepted as presented with the following notes. There is no plan for new logo wear, although we might need some. We will get more big fat O t-shirts. Tatjana has volunteered to solicit suggestions for our charitable donation, the recipient to be chosen at the Fall Meeting from groups suggested by members.

PRACTICE BUDGET: It has been proposed that we start to charge again for practice time, \$5/person/dog. This is to cover a very large deficit caused by using Cloverfield, as well as other practice sites. There

was some discussion of how we are going to encourage people to use practice time for \$5 when there are so few using it for free. It was decided to try doing run-throughs for the first hour of practice and then setting up a game from the various flavors of agility to learn and play. There is some hope that adding more structure to the practice time will make it more attractive. There is also the feeling that we might stop having summer practice because so many have other options or are busy trialing.

The fact that the Cloverfield's owner is now a NOMAD member is seen as a complicating factor. It seems that this business is providing everything that NOMAD provides. Does having this resource available make NOMAD redundant? Are we going to become just a trial holding club and is that enough for our members.?

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Caroline McKinney will be the nominee new member at large, Kit Erskine has been nominated for president and Jen Hammond will run for secretary. After the meeting, Judy Kessler opted to run for the other member at large position. There will, as usual, be the opportunity to make nominations from the floor at the meeting. Kit did express reluctance to preside over the club unless there is some effort to revitalize it from many members. There needs to be some redefinition of what NOMAD is and does.

Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Jen has been talking with Laura about schedule. We will switch to Saturday's from 12:00 - 2:00 starting on November 18th. We will stay with this schedule thru the end of December. At that point we will evaluate the temperatures in the barn and potential participation for January and February. Speaking with Laura we may decide not to hold practice during January and February due to the cold. But that decision as not been made yet

NOMAD FALL MEETING (11/6/17) MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Kessler, T. Salcedo, K. Erskine, J. Hammond, L. Ladd, R. Dumas, N. Houghton, B. Nye, P. McMahon, M. Holmes, C. McKinney, L. Barrett, J. Marcus, L. Marcus, Sara McDonald, Lynne von Trapp, Melissa Carter, Judy Frey, Ann Ramsay and Pam Patunoff

The meeting opened with a celebratory cake to recognize the five members of NOMAD who went to USDAA Nationals and made it in to the final round of some event. Particular recognition was given to those who did exceptionally well in finals, John Marcus even making it to the podium, competing against some of the best in the country.

CPE COMMITTEE REPORT: We held our second CPE trial on August 25-27 at Farr Field in Waterbury. The trial was very well attended and successful. Total income from the trial was \$2,949.63. The trial site was beautiful, and again came complete with a large tent. We used about half the tent for crating and will better organize the crating space next year. There was easy access to the river for dogs and their humans. We received many compliments on how seamlessly the trial ran. The weather was beautiful, the judge was great, the competitors and their dogs were amazing. To top it off, we were done before 5 PM each day!

It was sometimes a long wait for food last year, so this year we provided a variety of wraps, chips, and cookies to our volunteers. The food vendor at the flea market was also available.

We've decided to again hold a 3-day trial in 2018, with two classes on Friday and a full schedule Saturday and Sunday. We've reserved Farr Field for August 24-26, 2018. Carol Thom will travel from Westport, NY to judge. We just submitted our application to CPE. John Farr said that he may have a building with flush toilets and perhaps even a shower for next year!

Prior to the trial this year, we purchased a new double jump and a panel jump. We again rented a teeter and dogwalk from a competitor, and Linda provided her pause table. We need to have a discussion about the dogwalk and teeter and whether we can purchase new planks for both that will meet CPE specs.

Respectfully Submitted, Marty Abair and Linda Ladd. Co-Chairs

The need for a dogwalk that meets CPE specifications is still an issue, since the committee would like to have our own equipment instead

of having to borrow or rent it. Our options seem to be to retrofit planks to fit our present dogwalk (a figure of \$900 was quoted from Max 200) or buying a whole new dogwalk. The committee was advised to do further research on getting new CPE boards for our present dogwalk. The feeling in the room was that we must be able to get it done locally for less money.

This discussion led into the

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: There was no need for a equipment cleaning party in the Spring. The equipment used for winter practice in Waterbury was returned to the trailer cleaned up. Budget of \$687.50 was approved at Nov. 2016 meeting. We purchased 32 new jump bars from Max 200 to use for trials - \$360.00. Retrofit kits for the double and triple to USDAA specs \$173.62. Panel jump \$70.00 and double \$180.00 for the CPE trial. \$107.30 was for replacement A-frame chains and carbiners, plus glue to repair the pause table.

The club needs new tunnel bags. Nicki Houghton suggested ordering the ones made by Clip & Go which have flat reinforced bottoms. They are \$70 a set when ordering more than 4 sets, with free shipping. Figuring 4 sets for each of our 3 tunnels, it would cost \$840 plus the cost of filling them (recommended pea stone). We also need to get replacement tape for our tire jump but cost would be minimal from Max 200. The equipment committee suggests a budget of \$200 for maintenance/miscellaneous costs. Respectfully submitted, Patty McMahon

NADAC COMMITTEE REPORT: NOMAD's first trial ever was held at Top Notch field in 1998. What a thrill that was back in the day. This upcoming year will be the 20th anniversary, a cause for celebration. We are hoping to have a NOMAD get together for this trial on Aug. 18th and 19th of 2018. All dogs can have fun and hopefully bring us to the future. Oh yes, UKI. We will be holding this trial at Top Notch field, shade and a river for cooling down dogs. T-shirts will be available in the premium. The trial at Trapps went very smooth but hopefully we can do it one more time. Any questions email hazeln@myfairpoint.net. Sincerely, Trial Chair, Randi Barrett

The SC hopes that we can have an agility party involving many club members to celebrate this 20th anniversary. There was some feeling that there should not be pressure put on members to attend and work at

all our trials, that there has been too much public shaming in the past. People will do what they feel like doing and what they can do, without being made to feel badly about what they can't do. However, there is a difference between this and inviting all members to come to a party and play with their dogs at an anniversary celebration. Lisa Barrett moved to hold one last NADAC trial in 2018, Seconded by Jen Hammond. 16 members voted yes, 4 abstained. The five absentees that sent in proxies did not have this motion to vote on.

We do have to make sure the location of the trial is set. It was thought that it was to be at Farr Field, not Top Notch.

USDAA COMMITTEE REPORT: The 2017 USDAA trial was held on June 16, 17, and 18. The trial was held in the stadium meadow at Trapp Family Lodge with Dave Grubel from Pleasant Hill CA. The three day trial saw 313 runs on Friday, 403 runs on Saturday and 363 runs on Sunday with a weekend total of 1079 only 2 runs over the net from 2016. The total entries for the trial were 141 dogs. Dave's courses were challenging and fun. I found myself saying over and over "if I make it through the first 5 or 6 obstacles we will be fine". The trial netted \$4,422. Next year's trial (2018) will be held in Farr Field in Waterbury on June 15, 16, and 17 with Paul Stolzenburg judging. We are looking forward to trying out the new venue and the idea that we do not have to haul and set up the large tents makes us smile.

SEMINAR COMMITTEE REPORT: This report was submitted by Dale Healy and read by Judy Kessler. To say the least, this has been an interesting year for NOMAD seminars. We started our year off great with Karen Holik at Cloverfield Farm in April. The seminar was well attended; we had members and non-members in attendance. Our income for Karen Holik's seminar was \$2664 and our expenses were \$3000. So our subsidy was \$336.

Camp was a whole other story! Despite our best efforts, Camp did not fill this year. We had a total of 10 people for both days. So participants worked in a group of 5 with Monique one day and then with Laura the other day. There were lots of positive comments about how wonderful it was to work in such small groups. Our income for Camp was \$2875 and our expenses were \$4922.43 (ouch). We lost \$2047.43 on Camp. After Camp Pam asked people for feedback and the following are some of the comments she got.

People needed a secure spot to train their dogs so wanted an indoor site.

Weather was also an issue so an indoor site would have been preferred.

People favored the smaller groups with 5 being a favored number, if the finances would work out. 8 was also mentioned and most people thought 10 was too many.

Still stinging from Camp we had a committee meeting to plan for our September seminar. We decided, based on the busy trial and seminar schedules during September, to ask NOMAD members if they would commit to attend the two day seminar. Based on the feedback we received, we decided it would be best to cancel our seminar.

The information for the Seminars and Camp were published in the Newsletter and were also put on the NOMAD Facebook page and the Northeast Agility Seminar Facebook page as well as the NOMAD website. But that did not seem to be enough to get the word out. We need to get the information out earlier and in a way to make it more visible to the agility public and not just NOMAD members.

Plans for 2018 include two seminars. Both will be held at Cloverfield Farms. We have Karen Holik coming back in April and we have Jessica Ajoux coming in June. There will not be a Camp format as there has been and we will not be offering a fall seminar. With Data Driven and Cloverfield now offering seminars and trials there are a lot more choices in our area than there has been in the past.

Members present seemed to feel that the low attendance at seminars was based on market saturation and that the same low numbers are seen everywhere. It was suggested that offering a different format, such as private lessons, might be more appealing than seminars. It was also pointed out that dropping the fall seminar means that we will have no instruction available for pre-novice and novice teams and we should not be ignoring this group of trainers and dogs. It was also suggested that we should find an instructor other than Karen Holik for a future seminar, since she will probably be returning to Cloverfield in August.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE REPORT: The practice committee is practically non-functional, so there was no formal report presented. After some discussion, it was decided that we do need some form of club practice with a more structured format than in the recent past. Something like League without all

the rules, semi-formal run-throughs, fun matches or obstacle focused sequencing was suggested. There was a strong feeling that practice for the winter should be moved back to Saturday. Sara McDonald, Caroline McKinney, Anne Ramsay Jen Hammond and Kit Erskine volunteered to try and revitalize this committee and organize a format for practice. We will see in the spring how this has worked and whether it was successful. One person will be appointed to be the Cloverfield liaison to avoid confusion.

AWARD PRESENTATION: Plaques were presented to the following members who achieved major titles with their dogs.

USDAA, P-ATCH, Betsy Nye and Gusto; ATCH, Lynne von Trapp and Brill; NADAC NATCH, Randi Barrett and Moxie Falls; NADAC NATCH, Maxine Holmes and Spiritdancer; CPE CS-ATCH, Judy Kessler and Monte. We were all reminded that Don Denette was not able to complete his task of presenting the plaques because he is seriously ill. He will be going to Dana Farber in Boston soon for a bone marrow transplant and needs all our good thoughts and prayers.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The club is at present about \$2200 in the red and so should finish the year with a deficit. Most of our equipment will have depreciated completely by the end of the year. We do have \$32,000 in cash in the bank and money market. The Steering Committee met to help our treasurer come up with a budget for 2018. The committees have done a good job of keeping expenses down, so with conservative estimates of income and not so conservative estimates of income, the budget to be voted on shows the club expects to be \$1000 in the black in 2018. Lisa Barrett moved and Jen Hammond seconded that we accept all financial reports and the budget as presented. This motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The slate of nominees from the committee is: Kit Erskine, president; Jen Hammond, secretary; Caroline McKinney, member at large; Judy Kessler, to fill remainder of Kit Erskine's position as member at large. One proxy nominated Tatjana Salcedo for president "from the floor". Lisa Barrett moved and Jen Hammond seconded that the members in the room vote for the slate as presented by the nominating committee without using paper ballots. This motion was accepted unanimously so the slate was elected. The proxy votes were 3 for the slate, 1 abstaining and 2 no's for the president's position, with one vote for Tatjana Salcedo for president.

CHARITABLE GIVING: Four organizations were presented as possible recipients of the club's charitable donation. The Humane Society of the United States received no votes. Wings to Freedom (a group that provides air lifts to dogs to Vermont) received 2 votes. Vermont Paws and Boots (a group that provides service personnel with problems with rescue dogs to train) received 18 votes and New England Rescue to 1 vote and 4 proxies, so our donation will go to VT. Paws and Boots.

DEMO COMMITTEE REPORT: There is still no demo committee at this time. However, our new president is seriously concerned about the mission of NOMAD and what function the club fulfills for the members. Do we really want to just be a club that puts on trials? Revitalizing the Demo Committee could be a way to increase cooperation and conviviality in the club, going back to the days of agility parties and club wide demos. We should all be working to help agility thrive in the community. We might also return to offering lessons from club members to club members. It was suggested that we also need to help ourselves by doing something for someone else, such as offering lessons to kids through an organization suggested by Anne Ramsay. Would advertising our activities to the community at large be useful, if done in a well-managed way? All of these ideas will be explored by the new Demo Committee of Anne Ramsay, Tatjana Salcedo and Pam Patunoff. They would welcome the efforts and suggestions of any and all club members.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: The committee did not submit a report.

NEW BUSINESS: Nicki Houghton requested that the club lend her our electronic timers for a series of UKI trials that she plans to hold at Cloverfield in the coming months. This would be a personal effort of hers and not a club function, although NOMADers would be encouraged to enter and work at these trials. It was decided that the Steering Committee should establish guidelines for lending any club equipment, so that it could be done safely and fairly for everyone.

We left with the goal of three trials, one demo and more engaging practices for the future.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Kessler