



2012 NCWSA

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President's Message

Greetings, all. The spring trial season was a fun one and I'd love to thank all who helped to put on trials here in Northern California. Personally I went to Zamora, Sonoma Wine Country, Dunnigan Hills, Don't Wine About It, Dry Lake, and Point Pleasant. I think we all learned a lot!

I have retired the "Squeak of the Wheel" column, wearing my newsletter editor hat, as I don't feel that I can do justice to that title as well as Rusty did, and I have come up with nothing quite so imaginative. Suffice to say that I enjoy producing your newsletter! It is great fun, and for this issue, I have received some wonderful input from other folks. If you have something that you would like me to include next time, please send it to my email, or catch me at a trial.

I hope everyone has a great summer and we'll see you all in Pleasanton for the 147th Scottish Highland Games.

—Billy

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Britt's Journey...

by Rusty Jeffers

Summer 2009 – I got an e-mail from my trainer, mentor and friend, Suzy Applegate telling me about Britt being for sale. I traveled to Southern California to see her. Llona Brandenburg, who had raised and trained her, worked her for me. My wife (at the time) watched her outrun, lift and fetch, and said, “This dog is coming home with us”. She was right. Britt looked great.

Spring/Summer 2010 – My divorce settlement included who got which dogs. I included money value for my trial dogs including Britt. To her credit, my ex would not allow the dollar value of the dogs to be contemplated in our settlement. Britt, my other dogs and I moved to our new home in August.

October 2010 – Do you think we should breed Britt? If so to what dog? I talked with Suzy Applegate and we decided to breed Britt to her Buzz. Thanks to Suzy for working so hard to make the breeding work, she arranged AI and natural breedings to make sure it would work.

November 2010 – Ultrasound confirms Britt is pregnant. Vet says, “I don’t like the lumps on her breasts. Let’s look at those after the puppies are weaned”

Ran Britt in PN at the Dunnigan Hills trial. I told her, after today, you will be on maternity leave. She won! Then I told her, “I guess I have to keep you barefoot and pregnant”

December 10, 2010 – I woke up wondering, Britt, why are you licking so much. Holy crap, it’s a puppy!

December 2010-February 2011 – Britt is a great mother. Wonderful learning experience raising the puppies. Not sure I would do it again...

February 2010 – Breast lumps are malignant. Britt has a mastectomy and is spayed. Vet is confident they got all the cancer.

Working at Suzy’s, Britt comes up lame on her rear right leg. I took her to the vet, X-ray shows nothing, so we treat it like soft tissue and keep her rested for several weeks.

She does not get better. I take her to a couple of specialists, but nothing makes her better. Then we go to an orthopedic specialist who does a full series of X-rays and finds a bone chip in her hock. The orthopedist says this is in a bad place and recommends I take her to UC Davis.

April 2011 – Surgery at UC Davis. Bone chip successfully removed. They attempted to take it out arthroscopically, but the hock is just too small and they have to cut to take it out. Great treatment at UC Davis, Britt has a 4th year vet student who only has one case, Britt. I get calls twice a day telling me how she is. When I pick her up, the surgeon spends about 45 minutes with me reviewing video of the surgery and explaining what was done.

Britt's Journey...continued

The rest of 2011 – Britt does not get any better, she still holds up and favors her leg. I resign myself to the fact that she will not trial again. She is still capable of doing chores at home, so I let her work at that, which keeps her pretty happy.

I do enter her in the French Trial at Debra Lehr's in October, the work involved is similar to the work she does at home. For those not familiar with French Trials, they are large flock, long duration events. In this case, about 60-70 head of sheep on a 35 minute course and 30+ geese on a slightly shorter one. The judge, Michele Pillard, was flown over from France. He designed the course and judged it. Britt performed well, getting Reserve High in Trial on sheep and High in Trial on geese.

March 2012 – Is it my imagination, or is she looking better? I take her to Suzy's to get an objective opinion. Yes, she is looking better. The bad news, I've let her get sloppy. Lie down, what is that??

The next step, take her to my vet who recommends Adequan. I ask around about it and get a lot of favorable reviews. For those who are not familiar, it's an arthritis treatment, originally developed for horses, but available for dogs as well. You start by taking a set of 8 shots over 4 weeks and then take boosters once a month or so thereafter.

Between time to heal and the Adequan, Britt looks sound and has a great energy level. Consequently I start training her like a trial dog again. Oh yeah, I remember now, those were her weak points, but most of her strengths are still there. The biggest issue was that her confidence isn't what it used to be. Before, she would walk right into pressure, now she is not as willing. These are all things we have to work on.

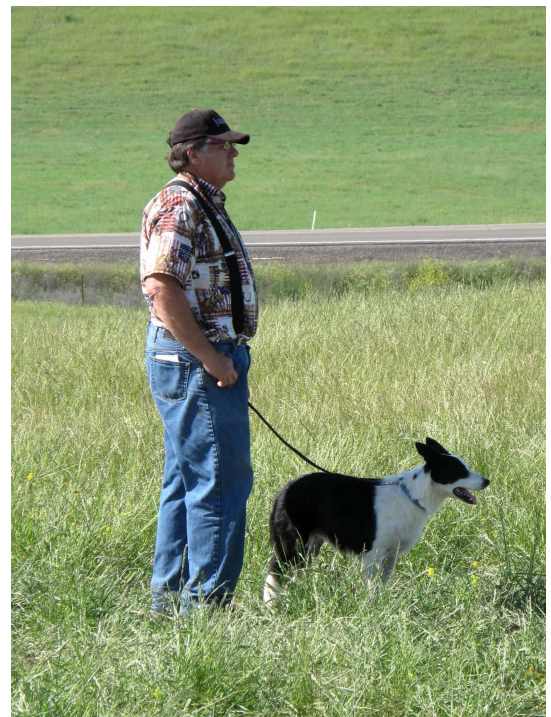
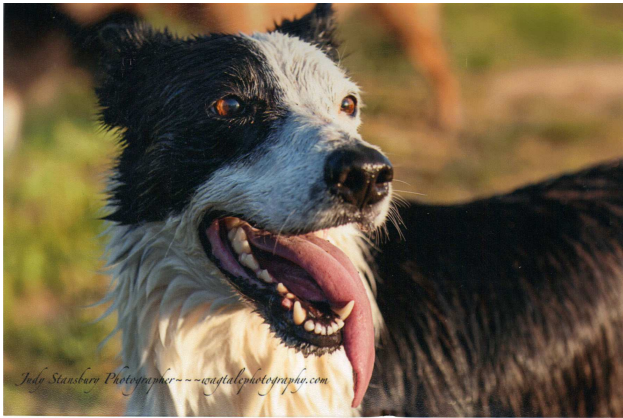
April 2012 – We entered Pro-Novice the Dunnigan Hills trial. This was the same venue as the last border collie trial she ran in prior to the puppies. You can tell we are both out of practice, Britt needs redirects on her outrun and my timing at the panels is shakey. Nonetheless, she completes the course in both the morning and afternoon trials, she takes everything I ask her, gives it her all and is still sound at the end of the day. I am very pleased.

June 2012 – We enter Pro-Novice at our next border collie trial. Spencer's Mother's day trial. Britt runs well again, we hit all our panels, but are still a bit shakey on our timing. We tie for 4th place.

Summer 2012 – We continue to work on training, fixing those weak points and working on timing.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on the trial field in the fall.

Britt's Journey...Photos



Thank you Rusty, for your story and pictures!

NCWSA Board Updates

What has the NCWSA Board been up to? First, we have been busy working on the topic of inventorying and renting the club's trial equipment. NCWSA owns nice setout pens and chutes, as well as trial course panels and pens. The Board has settled that this equipment is available for rent by members only. A contract is in the draft stage that spells out responsibilities of the renter and the club. If you have an interest in renting the equipment and are a club member, please contact any board member. One of the functions for NCWSA is to mentor and foster sheepdog trialing in our area.

Second, we are working on logistics, plans and trial courses for the *147th Annual Scottish Highland Gathering and Games* in Pleasanton. This trial is actually a demonstration that the club puts on annually for the Caledonian Club of San Francisco to provide entertainment and education for their festival-goers. This year's dates are again Labor Day Weekend, September 1 and 2. Mark your calendars; the format will be similar but not exactly the same as last year. Our esteemed judge will be Eddy Aldridge of Bakersfield, CA, and he is designing some pretty tasty courses for everyone to enjoy! I invite you to visit the Caledonian Club's website to learn more about their non-profit group:

<http://www.thescottishgames.com/>

Last, the Board encourages everyone to use the resources of the club – whether it is by renting the trial equipment, placing items of interest in the newsletter, offering to put on a workday or trial, or by exploring all of our many online resources.

NCWSA Online Resources:

Club Website: Look something up!

<http://www.norcalsheepdog.org/>

Yahoo Groups List: Send a quick message!

Norcalsheepdog

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norcalsheepdog/>

On Facebook: Stay in touch, see/share photos and more news!

<https://www.facebook.com/norcalsheepdog>

Deerplay Hill Trial—England

NCWSA member Claire Burson and her Lad competed at the Deerplay Hill Trial in England (Bacup, Lancashire) on June 2 and 3, 2012. Claire received a commemorative silver plate as an award for the best outrun with Lad during the qualifying run, in which 73 dogs attempted to get through to Sunday's double lift competition. At Deerplay, competitors are only allowed to run one dog because of the number of entries (maximum 80), which are all run in one day. The qualifying runs consisted of an eight-minute course, with a very long fetch that had three gates or hurdles, and a shorter drive. The trial is hosted annually by Jim and Shirley Cropper.

Claire and Lad were one of the twenty teams who qualified for the finals day, running in a double gather championship. Strong winds and heavy rain made it difficult or impossible to hear the whistles in some cases. The winner of the finals was Chloe Cropper with 115 points out of a possible 150. The judge for both days was Derek Scrimgeour of England.

Thank you Marilyn Volpe for your help with this article.



Claire Burson and Lad at Zamora

National Sheepdog Finals 2012

Klamath Falls, Oregon

Is everyone gearing up for the National Sheepdog Finals? Even if you don't plan on entering, you should plan on attending as it is only on the west coast every three years.

We can still use volunteers, VIP dog sponsors, etc. Please see our web page at www.sheepdogfinals.org.

Be sure and like our Facebook page at **2012 National Sheepdog Finals** to help us spread the word!

From Geri Byrne

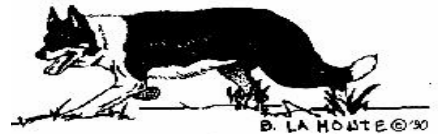
For Sale...

For Sale—White Dorper ewes. Various ages and prices. Also one black and white Dorper ewe. All work well, just time to change sheep for the dogs.

Nicky Riehl, 408-779-3635 or
4R_Ranch@charter.net

Upcoming Events ... Mark Your Calendar!

- July 1: Jefferson Nursery SDT, Tulelake, CA
- July 12-15: Sheep Thrillz SDT, Wolston Farms, Scio, OR
- July 28-29: State of Jefferson Last Chance SDT, Tulelake, CA
- July 28-29: Fun in the Sun AHBA Ranch Trial, Santa Rosa, CA
- **Sept 1-2: Scottish Games SDT, Pleasanton, CA**
- Sept 21-23: Double F Border Collies SDT, Chiloquin, OR
- **Sept 25-30: National Sheep Dog Finals, Klamath Falls, OR**
- Oct 6-7: Novice Fun Trial, Porterville, CA
- Nov 3-4: SJVBCA Fall Trial, Porterville, CA
- Nov 9-11: Hopland Research & Extension SDT, Hopland, CA



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