



# The Shepherd's Whistle

Volume 20, Issue 2

Summer 2011

## 2011 NCWSA

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Billy Trent

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## The Squeak of the Wheel *President's Report*

It was great to see a lot of new faces at the Pam Cornell Memorial trial. It's good for our sport to have new folks coming up. The details of the event are in the newsletter so I will just say thank you to everyone involved. I will only add that Pam was a good person, a good friend and a lover and sponsor of our sport. She is sorely missed.

The Calidonian Club Scottish Games are being held again this year. The board has decided to change the format of the event this year. We are no longer doing time and obstacles, but are doing 3 different types of courses, a driving course, an obstacle oriented course and an international shed. Thanks to John Grey and the Calidonian Club for inviting us to put on this event. They are always great hosts and we enjoy putting this trial on for them.

One thing that happened at the PN/NN trial, was a lot of discussion with members about the club and it's direction. We are soliciting new members to participate in the club and help us decide what types of events to sponsor. Please contact any board member with questions or ideas.

And last, but by far not least, thanks to Billy Trent for taking on the newsletter editor position. Without her you would not be reading this.

Hope to see you at a trial soon.

*-Rusty*

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## See you at the Scottish Games!

Entries are now open for NCWSA's Caledonian Club Scottish Games sheepdog trial, September 3-4, 2011. This annual event will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, CA. We are offering three different courses, including a driving course, an obstacle course, and an International shed competition. Entries close 08/24/11.

Check out the club website for further details on the entry, courses offered, and a FAQ regarding the changes in the trial for 2011:

[www.norcalsheepdog.org](http://www.norcalsheepdog.org)

We hope to see you all there!

# Pam Cornell Memorial SDT, Willowside Ranch

## July 16-17, 2011

NCWSA held a fun trial July 16-17 at the Willowside Ranch outside of Pescadero, CA. We offered Novice-Novice, Pro-Novice, and Ranch classes, in memory of Pam Cornell, owner of Willowside Ranch, who was such a generous resource to our sport.

Thanks to Yvette Cook, our super-efficient trial organizer; Rusty Jeffers, our judge; Glen and Sandy McGowan for their excellent and delicious camp kitchen meals and hospitality for the crew; Jennifer Stewart for organizing the setout volunteers; and Mimi Wilson, our friendly Course Director.

Of course many thanks to Willowside Ranch management for their help and cooperation in hosting this trial and preparing the field and sheep for our use.

Many handlers stepped in to help with setout, exhaust, clerking and other duties. Without all this help these trials would be impossible, so our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

The club and ranch management worked together to provide a safe working field and stock that worked well on the course. Upon arriving at the trial site on Friday morning, Trial Director Yvette Cook saw that the field was mowed exactly to fit our working area, the ranch truck was loaded with panels and the pen, all ready to set up the course. The porta potty had been delivered early. Combined with the cool overcast morning, the feeling was very positive that it was going to be a very good weekend.

Competitors' responses on the entry forms' volunteer list were so appreciated. The

process created "instant crews" that the trial chairs merely had to organize.

On Sunday, there were discussions between handlers and Board at the handlers' meetings concerning the Club: directions it should take, need for new people to take on existing roles, novice needs and input, all of which was valuable information.

Here are some excerpts of positive comments that board members received:

*"I realize not everyone is on Facebook, so I just wanted to reiterate what a super weekend it was...thank you to (all those involved with making it happen)...Thank you Jennifer for letting me assist up at the pens...Happy trails, Happy trials"*

*"You run a great trial for those wonderful Border Collies. It was a delightful day!"*

*"Thank you for putting on the novice fun trial. It is so rare that us novice folks get any chance to try a trial situation. It is such a learning experience to take the first baby steps of participating in a field trial. (A nov-nov handler)...mentioned that she had learned so much from the trial and that it had changed her whole outlook on what herding was all about. What was interesting to me was to see other handlers and dogs who were novice like me each have different strengths and weaknesses—some great at calming the sheep, some great at penning, some great with outruns, some good at troubleshooting...each was different within one class. ..Thanks for giving us novice folks a chance when you could easily have just done a regular Open trial like the club usually does."*

# Willowside NCWSA Fun Trial Results

Below are the "compete" runs with scores; complete results including RTs and non-compete runs can be found on the club website:

[www.norcalssheepdog.org](http://www.norcalssheepdog.org)

## Saturday Novice-Novice:

1	Gloria Atwater & Gael	55
2	Glen McGowan & Willow	51
3	Mimi Wilson & Opossum	42
4	Ziji Scott & Bindu	38
5	Donna Shaw & Bell	37+
	Jane Hurford & Mitch	37
	Meta Metal & Oso	29

## Saturday Pro-Novice:

1	Barb McPherson & Callie	70
2	Charlotte Jones & Gem	61
3	Lori Chamberlain & Dixie	57
4	Steve Alongi & Tess	55
5	Lori Chamberlain & Ruby	53
	Rhonda Lauritsen & Holly	39

## Saturday Open Ranch:

1	Judy Loflin & Ruby	65
2	Judy Loflin & Nash	57

## Sunday Novice-Novice:

1	Gloria Atwater & Gael	61
2	Mimi Wilson & Opossum	60
3	Ziji Scott & Bindu	52
4	Meta Metal & Oso	39
5	Donna Shaw & Del	35
	Jill Gustafson & Max	34
	Donna Shaw & Bell	32

## Sunday Pro-Novice:

1	Gloria Atwater & Nick	69+
2	Lori Chamberlain & Ruby	69
3	Barb McPherson & Callie	56
4	Charlotte Jones & Bet	55
5	Lori Chamberlain & Dixie	53
	Nancy Crawford & Ella	47
	Charlotte Jones & Gem	45
	Rhonda Smith & Jane	42

## Sunday Open Ranch:

1	Judy Loflin & Ruby	81
2	Carrie Bennett & Cait	64
3	Jennifer Stewart & Brooke	44
4	Judy Loflin & Nash	40

# What is NCWSA? What does it offer me?

*At our recent fun trial, we were asked by the handlers about the background and purpose of NCWSA. The following was written by Rusty Jeffers for another purpose and edited a bit to fit this space.*

NCWSA's goal is to promote the sport of trialing. What we do primarily is sponsor trials and secondarily we represent the trialing community and donate funds to different sheepdog related causes and events. Although we primarily put on USBCHA sheepdog trials, we support the herding community in general. We are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

The primary thing the club brings to the table for a trial is financial backing. If an individual wants to put on a trial, they supply the ranch, facilities and livestock and hope entry fees are enough to cover expenses and leave some left over to cover the use of their facilities. When the club sponsors a trial, we pay the ranch owner a contracted amount for rental of the facility and a contracted amount for the livestock. The bottom line is the ranch owner and stock provider are given a guaranteed amount of money and the financial risk is borne by the club.

Along with the financial risk of running the trial is the insurance risk should someone be injured at the trial. The club has liability insurance to cover this and when we rent a facility, we name the facility owners on our policy to help cover their interests in the event something unfortunate happens. This is rightfully a very important concern on the part of ranch owners.

The club also has trial equipment, what we like to call a "sheepdog trial in a box". It's a

trailer with panels, pens, tarps, t-posts, EZ-ups, coffee maker and all the little things you need to put on a trial. In addition we have specially designed set-out pens which are 8 feet long to fit in the bed of a pickup. With one full-size pick-up we can move all this equipment to the trial venue. We have done a number of fundraisers over the years to purchase this equipment and it has done big tours of Northern California.

We also supply some expertise. When someone approaches us to put on a trial, we require that they submit a budget and trial plan which includes a listing of personnel for key positions. Only after these items pass the review of the club board of directors, will the club sponsor an event. Once the club signs on to a trial, the trial committee has access to club members to recruit to work the event.

Fund raising: with our tax-exempt status, we can approach businesses and people for donations and we are even sometimes the recipient of unsolicited donations. Almost all of our events have had raffles and those have become key parts of trial financing.

The club brings credibility to an event. When we approach a ranch owner, stockman and others about a trial, we are an organized club with financial statements, insurance, and a history of successful events which can help ease the mind of someone considering holding a trial at their facility.

We have a board of directors, and the secretary and treasurer jobs do take some time. One major annual cost is Directors & Officers Insurance (D&O). This protects the officers of the club should anyone think to sue them for their actions as an officer.

# Nominating Committee and 2012 Board

We're looking to complete a Nominating Committee to help to fill the officers' slate for 2012. One person has volunteered, but I hope to find one other individual to help. If you are willing to serve on the Committee (or on the Board), please contact me at:

director03@norcal sheepdog.org.

The Committee members will contact people personally to find willing participants to run for election to the board. Normally these board positions do not take a lot of time and we will provide mentoring and transition for new people. Here is a chance to make your voice heard! Thanks!

—Billy Trent, 2011 Vice President

## Novice FAQ

We're starting a new column—"Novice FAQ" — that will help to answer Novice handlers' questions and concerns about trialing. (The first two questions were generated by or at the Willowside fun trial.) If you have a question that you would like to have answered in an upcoming newsletter, please send it to: director03@norcal sheepdog.org.

**Q: How do I know when to send my dog from the post? Will the setout person signal to me?**

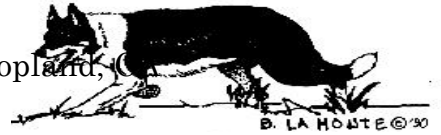
A: No the setout people will not signal to you. They will be quietly holding your sheep with their dog(s) as calmly and settled as they are able. It is each individual handler's responsibility to decide what moment to set their dog into action from their side. Generally you do not want to send too soon (before the sheep are moved to the proper position and settled); but you also do not want to wait too long. It can be hard for setout to hold the sheep and can also build up unnecessary tension in your dog to lie there and wait. In most cases, you want to allow your dog to see the sheep brought out from the holding pen and settled and then send your dog from the post as soon as the sheep are still (and not much longer). You also must learn to know your own dog and what works for him/her the best. Your "setout and send" routine is something that should be practiced along with everything else that you do in your training. Good luck!

**Q: If my dog and I cannot drive yet, can I still run in Novice-Novice?**

A: Yes—most novice classes do not require driving, but allow the handler to either fetch, assisted drive, or drive the panels to complete the course. Of course an outrun, lift, fetch, and pen are required skills in any Novice-Novice class.

# Upcoming Events ... Mark Your Calendar!

- September 3-4: Caledonian Games, Pleasanton, CA
- October 1-2: Novice Fun Trial, Porterville, CA
- October 1-2: Hubbard Ranch SDT, Bonanza, OR
- October 28-31: 9th Annual Pt Pleasant SDT, Elk Grove, CA
- November 5-6: SJVBCA Fall Trial, Porterville, CA
- November 11,12,13: UC Hopland Research Center SDT, Hopland, CA
- November 19-20: Dunnigan Hills Fall Trial, Zamora, CA



(tentative dates—check websites for final dates/classes)

- December 3-4: SJVBCA SDT Trial, Coalinga, CA