

The Shepherd's Whistle

Volume 17, Issue 2

Spring 2008

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The Squeak of the Wheel *President's Report*

I hope everyone is having a enjoyable spring. I was doing set-out at the Sonoma Wine Country SDT this past weekend. That is the best seat in the house in my view. Standing on the hill on a crisp, cool morning watching the dogs come in and lift, I was thinking there aren't many places I'd rather be than out on the field with my dogs.

Speaking of those opportunities, the club is working on a summer trial for this year. More details will when they become available.

Preparations are already in place for Scottish Games trial in Pleasanton on Labor Day weekend. Thanks to John Grey and Caledonian Club for once again offering us the opportunity to compete at their event. I will also add that the Caledonian Club and the fair grounds have assured us that we will have a full sized arena this year and plenty of notice of any firearms events.



The club is also keeping an eye on mandatory spay-neuter legislation and actively opposes those measures. Information on key events will be posted on the club website and mailing list. Special thanks to Billy Trent who plays a key role in keeping the herding community informed on this topic.

I'll see you on the trial field.

-Rusty

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Friendly Reminder: Dues are Due

Time to renew your membership to NCWSA for 2008! We are in the process of updating our mailing lists and if we don't receive your membership renewal by May 30, you will no longer be receiving a newsletter or be considered a member of NCWSA. Won't you sit right down now and send your membership fees to...

Bonnie Richardson,
PO Box 2176
Oakdale, Ca. 95361

Please tell us if any of your contact information has changed from last year.

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year or household membership; the fee is \$20.00 per year if you desire to receive the newsletter electronically and NOT via the postal system. And if you choose the latter option, please include a note with your email address.

Thanks!

Member Profile: Anne Mock reprinted from worldsheepdogtrials.org

Anne Mock lives in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, near Sacramento, California. This is a long way from her roots in Australia and the Kurrajong wool shed where her grandfather had upwards of 15,000 merino sheep which would take 6 weeks to shear, and generate about 500 bales of wool. It was a time where each shearer signed an 'employment' contract stating "No irregular language, cursing, swearing or loud talking to be carried on in the wool shed." Fancy that!

Anne enjoyed growing up in this environment so perhaps it is no surprise that she has taken to sheepdog trialling with such zeal. Her rise through the ranks has been relatively speedy and largely the result of hard work, determination, a positive attitude, top-class mentors in Bobby Dalziel (Scotland) and Bill Berhow (California), and a wonderfully supportive husband, Joe. Every year for the last few years, Anne has spent several weeks living and training at Bobby and Shiela Dalziel's. In fact, about this time of the year, Shiela starts saving all her plastic milk jugs as Anne is famous in the Ettrick Valley for her shedding rings made from the milk jugs. Collectively, Bobby and Bill have taught Anne to: be patient; pay attention to details; forget about ego and pride; never give up; build a dog's confidence; and be in-tune with your dog and show



mutual respect. They also taught her that if one day doesn't go as well as expected, tomorrow is another day and another opportunity to do better. As a result, Anne has a tremendous amount of confidence in her training and, consequently, in her dogs.



Pip and Taff are the two dogs Anne will be competing with at this year's World Trial. Both dogs will feel right at home in Wales, as this is where they originate. Pip is a daughter of Wynford Japp's Ben and Meirion Jones's Nan. Of Pip, Anne says she has tremendous feel for her sheep and can move them without upsetting them. Taff comes from the bloodlines of Moel Hemp,

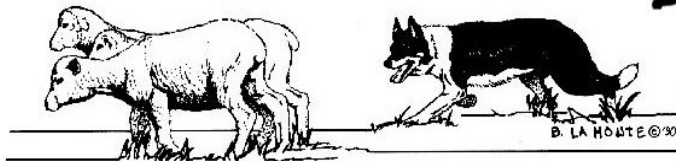
Price's Davy and Wyn Edwards's Bill. According to Anne, Taff is an extra-ordinary dog with a huge desire to please. He has style, speed and brains – and he can outsmart her if she is not careful. Anne likes a dog that wants to please and is eager to listen.

When trialling, Anne never lets the environment influence her. She concentrates on proper execution and likes to focus on positive things to keep her in the right frame of mind. For people new to sheepdog trialling, she counsels one to just go out and enjoy what you are doing – and to be patient. Anne believes that every day she wakes up it is a gift. It is another day to train, trial and simply love her dogs. And love her dogs she does.

As a child, Anne used to run around the top of the fences surrounding the Kurrajong wool shed, and listen to the stories about 6 men being employed full-time to breed and train sheepdogs just to get the 15,000 sheep mustered (gathered). She could not have imagined that one day it would be her training and trialling sheepdogs in America and in the U.K., let alone representing her country at the World Trial. Perhaps if Anne had lived in her grandfather's time, the stories might have been '5 men and 1 woman employed to train sheepdogs...'

-submitted by Joe Mock

NCWSA



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKING SHEEPDOG ASSOCIATION, INC.

Application for Membership or Renewal of Existing Membership

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE (optional) _____

E-MAIL: _____

- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
- NEW MEMBERSHIP
- MY ADDRESS HAS CHANGED
- DO NOT MAIL THE NEWSLETTER, I WILL READ IT ON-LINE

DUES:

- \$25.00 PER YEAR SINGLE OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31 each year, memberships that are started or renewed at the annual meeting run for the following year. Checks payable to NCWSA, Inc.

Applicant Signature: _____

Please circle one:

The above personal information MAY BE/ MAY NOT BE published in the club membership list, and distributed to all club members.

Please return this application with your dues to:
Bonnie Richardson, Treasurer NCWSA, INC.
PO Box 2176, Oakdale, CA 95361

★ These sheeps are on-message

Writes Maggie C.: "Sheepdogs are trained to obey their master's every word. So when farmer David Kennard decided one of those words would be "Spring", his dogs did not hesitate. They rounded up the flock on the hills of Mr Kennard's north Devon farm and, with a little help from their master, created a picture that reminds us that, whatever the weather, this is officially the first weekend of Spring. The scene did call for a careful scattering of feed to make the sheep form themselves in the shapes of the six letters..."



"...However, it was down to the team of Collies—who everyone knows border on the brilliant—to have the last word. They circled the 200-strong flock and kept them from wandering off-message.

Three of David's five working dogs - Mist, Fern and Jake - were employed to help create the perfect lettering, which took three hours to achieve."

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Upcoming Events ... Mark Your Calendar!

April 5-6: SJVBCA Spring Trial, Porterville, CA (Deer Creek)

April 25-27: Three Pine SDT, Alturas, CA - Soldier Hollow Qualifying Trial

May 10: Ron Curran/Ken Blake Memorial SDT, Ione, CA

May 11: Second Annual Mother's Day SDT, Pt Pleasant Ranch, Elk Grove, CA

May 24-25: Novice Fun Trial, Porterville, CA

**May 24-26: Valley Center Western Days SDT, Valley Center, CA
(NCWSA Sponsored Event)**

May 24-26: Dry Lake Ranch SDT, Tulelake, CA

June 21-22: Novice Fun Trial, Porterville, CA

July 19: Lambtown USA SDT, Dixon, CA

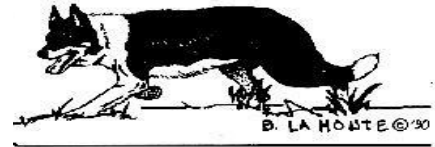
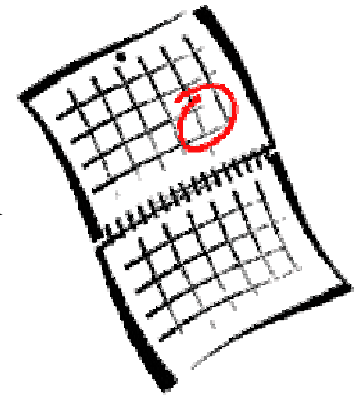
September 20-21: Novice Fun Trial, Porterville, CA

October 11-12: Novice Fun Trial, Porterville, CA

October 24-26: Sixth Annual Pt Pleasant SDT, Elk Grove, CA

November 1-2: SJVBCA Fall Trial, Porterville, CA

December 6-7: SJVBCA SDT, Coalinga, CA



Member Classified:

Puppy, Male B&W ABCA born 2/9/08

Sire: Suzy Applegate's Hap

Dam: Polly Lowry's Meg

Available April 5

Polly (530) 889-0635

*Classified ads are free to **members**. Contact Dale at editor@norcalssheepdog.org*

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to go to find the
latest news on ewes
(and dogs)...?

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www.norcalsheepdog.org for entry
forms, the latest SDT results,
contact information, resource links,
and more information!*

This is YOUR Newsletter

*Make it work for you! Send
classified ads (free to all
members), stories, advice, jokes,
questions, comments, complaints,
and compliments to Dale at
editor@norcalsheepdog.org*

The Shepherd's Whistle
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