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The Squeak of the Wheel *President's Report*

Well summer has arrived at my house; we're getting hot and I have to fill dunk tubs when I work my dogs. The good news is that the Willowside trial is coming up and it's almost impossible to be hot there. Thanks once again to Pam Cornell and the ranch crew for hosting this event. For those of you looking to go to the Finals this year, it's also your last chance to get some points.

We also have the Pleasanton Scottish games time and obstacle trial coming up. John Grey and the Caledonian club are hosting the event. They put on the biggest Scottish Games west of the Mississippi River and we always have fun being part of that.

On a sad note, long time trialer Dave Mason recently passed away. There is an article on him in the newsletter. You might want to check your

registrations; I found his name in several places on one of my dog's pedigrees. Our condolences go out to Dave's family and friends.

On a personal note, I am well on the road to recovery and will be running dogs at the Willowside trial. For those who don't know, I spent 17 days in the hospital with a ruptured appendix. I want to thank everyone who sent me cards, e-mails, phone calls and other good wishes. They really do cheer you up when you're feeling down. Special thanks to my wife. Through creativity and persistence, she got the hospital to allow a visit from my dogs. She loved walking past hospital security and into my hospital room with the dogs.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Willowside.

-Rusty

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Don't know where to go to find the latest news on ewes (and dogs)...?

Stay up to date!

Visit 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

Ever wanted to try editing the newsletter? It's fun, creative, and doesn't require a great amount of time. Contact Dale if you're interested.

Remembering Dave Mason by Cathy Palmer

Border Collie Great, Dave Mason passed on in Stockton at the age of 85. Suffering from macular degeneration, thus low spirits, cancer cut his life short.

David's whole life revolved around horses, bulls, and Border Collies. Raised on a ranch and educated at Cal Poly, David used his knowledge to serve his country in the 698th Quartermaster Remount Company as a veterinary technician in Central Burma and in the Asiatic Pacific Theater in the early 40's. He earned four medals and a honorable discharge as a Sergeant January 1946.

Next was a life of Bull Riding and Bare Bronc Riding in rodeos across the country. He holds a PRCA Gold Card and is listed as the Bull Riding Champion of the 1952 Lewiston Roundup Rodeo in Idaho. He rode with other rodeo greats such as Casey Tibbs and Jim Shoulders. He told me the best time of his life was in the 50's. He married in 1954 and raised one son and three daughters. He had a couple of

"family raising jobs" and retired from them to start a career of breeding and training Border Collies to herd sheep and cattle. Naturally, he excelled and produced many great dogs; Joe, Molly, Jigs and Ben to name a few.

David took pride in his work and was generous to share his knowledge with others and opened his ranch for a sheep dog clinic. He won many awards in the 80's and 90's.

David, Molly and Ben were featured in a San Jose newspaper

article entitled "Mesmerizing the flock" in the early 90s.

Dave loved being independent. He divorced in 1995. Life wasn't much of a life unless he could do what he loved. His failing eyesight took that from him, and he refused to seek cancer treatment.

Not wanting to be a burden to anybody and insisting on his way, he signed up for hospice June 9th. He passed on near midnight June 23-24 2009.

He has requested no services.



Winners of the Fallon Stockdog Classic show off their silver buckles. From left, are Dave Mason, of Mountain Ranch, Calif., competition judge Stacie Spangler and Teresa Kinzie, of Fallon, with her Australian shepherd, Ben.

Photo by Ronnie Larken

How Well Do You Know Your Sheep?

1. You do not identify sheep by
 - a. hot iron branding
 - b. ear notches
 - c. paint branding
 - d. ear tags
2. Black face sheep are usually known to be of higher value for ?
 - a. Meat production
 - b. Herding
 - c. Wool production
 - d. Asian background
3. Registration identification of almost all USA sheep is done by ____ .
 - a. Lip tattoo
 - b. Electronic chip implants
 - c. Ear tags
 - d. Ear tattoos
4. A fine-wooled large sheep usually with curled horns on males. Most range sheep have at least part blood lines of the ____ breed.
 - a. Cheviot
 - b. Columbia
 - c. Rambouillet
 - d. Southdown
5. How you can tell a sheep from a goat? A sheep-
 - a. has wool
 - b. males have a beard
 - c. has oil glands on face and toes
 - d. has curly hair on head
6. The area of the leg and hoof joint is called the
 - a. ankle
 - b. pastern
 - c. cornet
 - d. wrist joint
7. Suffolk sheep are noted for their high ____ .
 - a. tameness
 - b. quality wool
 - c. lambing percentage
 - d. herding instinct
8. Cheviot sheep are noted for their ____ .
 - a. lambing percentage
 - b. size of horns
 - c. high rate of gain
 - d. agility
9. Southdown breed is noted for its ____ .
 - a. meatiness
 - b. herding ability
 - c. large frame size
 - d. fine wool production
10. Range sheep are usually rather ____ .
 - a. thick muscled
 - b. docile
 - c. thin
 - d. long tailed

<http://www.funtrivia.com/playquiz/quiz3145539cd90.html>

Answers: 1. A, 2. A, 3. C, 4. C, 5. C,
6. B, 7. A, 8. D, 9. A, 10. D

PEANUTS



Upcoming Events ... Mark Your Calendar!

Jul 25-26, Willowside Ranch SDT, Willowside Ranch, Pescadero, CA

Sep 5-6, Pleasanton Scottish Games SDT, Alameda County Fairgrounds

Sep 19-20, Novice Fun Trial, Porterville CA
Novice, Pro-Novice, Ranch

Sep 22-27, USBCHA National Sheepdog Finals, Klamath Falls, OR

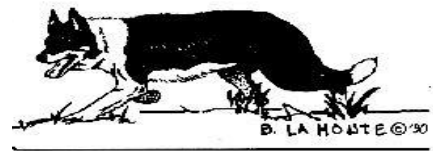
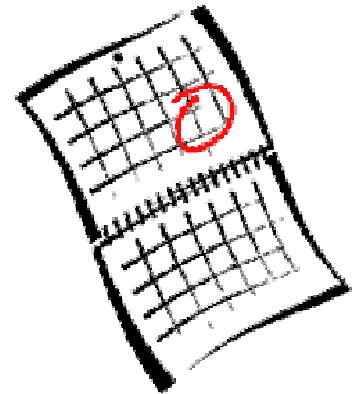
Oct 3, Lambtown USA SDT, Dixon, CA
Open, Nursery, Pro-Novice

Oct 10-11, Novice Fun Trial, Porterville CA
Novice, Pro-Novice, Ranch

Oct 16-19, 7th Annual Pt Pleasant SDT, Elk Grove, CA
Open, Nursery, Pro-Novice

Nov 7-8, SJVBCA Fall Trial, Porterville CA
Open, Pro-Novice, Nursery

Dec 5-6, SJVBCA SDT, Coalinga CA
Open, Pro-Novice, Nursery



The Shepherd's Whistle

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