



Ontario Border Collie Club

**DAFYDD DAVIES:
THE STICKMAKER**

**WINTER RELIEF
FUN TRIAL #2**

**LEARNING AND OUTREACH:
JUDGING AND SHEDDING**

SWALEDALE NOVICE TRIAL #1

**CLOUDBERRY OPEN
AND NURSERY TRIAL**

SWALEDALE NOVICE TRIAL #2

TRIAL KIT ESSENTIALS



SPRING

2019

WANT TO JOIN US?

On September 22, 1984, the Ontario Border Collie Club was formed near King City, Ontario. An enthusiastic group had gathered for a trial near Winchmore farm, and they sat down after supper on Saturday night to draw up the aims and objectives of the new club.

The primary objective of the club is to promote the traditional herding ability of the Border Collie by holding trials and training clinics. The club also encourages obedience and other non-traditional uses of the dog.

It was decided to publish a newsletter a few times each year to keep members up to date on upcoming activities. The club members are mainly farm people with a high regard for and a common interest in the Border Collie. We want to maintain the dog's natural working instinct and hope to prevent it turning into nothing more than another show dog,

If you have an interest in working dogs on stock, or are interested in being an informed spectator at sheep dog trials, please fill out the online membership form and send it along with your cheque to: Kim Gretton, 309 Lorneville Road, Woodville, ON K0M 2T0.

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Opinions expressed are the opinions of the author(s) and are not necessarily those of the OBCC.

Cover Photo "Bush Hogging the Swaledale Trial Field"
by Michelle Lawrence

From the Editor

It may have escaped your notice that this issue is a little late off the presses, but I suspect not. Spring has certainly given way to summer, with a vengeance. I can only tender my apologies to you; personal circumstances meant that I had to put some things on the back shelf for a little while. I thank our members who helped by submitting articles and trial reports and responding to Kris's poll so quickly; it allowed us to pull this issue together in record time! Thank you, Kris, for being my right hand and for collating all the trial must-haves into your article. It does take a village.

The adage about clouds and silver linings comes to mind since the feature article about Dafydd Davies would not be in this issue if we had gone to publication on time. My husband, Bruce, had a last-minute business trip to England at the end of June. Knowing that I have always wanted to go to the UK, he asked me to accompany him. I had been chatting online with Dafydd and he had invited us to come and visit him if we ever had the opportunity to go to Wales. Talk about serendipity! We shuffled our plans and made room for a quick trip over to Wales; I only wish that we had had more time there.

We so enjoyed meeting Dafydd and spending time with him in his shop. We had left England in the early morning and had a much longer drive than we had anticipated. (Dafydd laughed later and said that it takes nearly twice as long as the GPS tells you to drive to anywhere in Wales.) He was waiting for us with coffee and a couple of trays of his wife's homemade Welsh cakes. They were delicious and addictive – both with and without butter.

Dafydd is a natural teacher and shares his knowledge of his craft readily. His passion and artistry shine and we were fascinated with the process. Lightbulb moment: while we were there, I asked Bruce if he would do an article for the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy it.

Michelle

2019 COMMITTEES

<i>Trials:</i>	Tracy Hinton; Janet Fahey; Carol Guy; John Palmer
<i>Learning & Outreach:</i>	Patrick Gosselin; Jane Kessler Susan Shipton; Anne Wheatley
<i>Fundraising:</i>	Pamela Hall; Tania Costa
<i>Nominating:</i>	TBD

Message from the President

Our sheepdog year is off to an excellent start. It seems a very long time since the Winter, but there was a winter relief trial in March. Since then, the ice has melted, the rain started and seemed never to stop. The grass grew and grew and grew. Some of us had so much of it we couldn't work dogs until the hay was cut, and the hay couldn't get cut until the rain stopped. Such is farming in Ontario.

Nevertheless, there have been several excellent events. Many of them are reported with pictures in this newsletter so I won't go into detail.

Swaledale has hosted two novice trials, challenging novice handlers and dogs on that magnificent field. My Bernie won a special award for running out the furthest, only to find he was trying to lift Oscar the guardian dog. Take a bow, Bernie. (*Ed note: See Page 13) Two excellent days, as always. And a one-day Open trial was hosted for the first time by Andrea de Kenedy at Cloudberry Farm in May.

Notably, the Outreach committee consisting of Anne Wheatley, Jane Kessler, Patrick Gosselin and Susan Shipton made liftoff with three events. The first was a new format for us: a viewing of the USBCHA's teaching videos on judging, followed by discussion. Six experienced judges talk about their judging, and then judge a run. We didn't have time to watch all of it, but discussion was brisk, and I hope the Committee plans more of these events across the province.

In addition, the Committee helped organize two one day events. Tracy Hinton hosted an "All things shedding" day at her farm. Very high praise was given by those lucky enough to attend. And Carol Guy hosted a one-day practice event for novices at Piperdown Farm in early July. Some good work was done on the field, and in the barnyard moving sheep without dogs.

There was more, but it will be reported in the next issue. Much to look forward to 80 Acres, Grass Creek, Shepherd's Crook, a one-day Swaledale open trial, Indian River, and then two one day events hosted by Janet Fahey and Leslie Gamble in late October.

The AGM will take place Nov 17, 2019 at Victoria Lamont's Handy Dog Farm in St Agatha, ON. Further details to follow.

Happy trialing and training, all.

Tara Dier

2019 MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

If you haven't sent in your renewal yet, please remember to do so! The annual costs are:

\$30.00 for single OR \$35.00 for family

Membership is required for eligibility for championship points. Points for a dog may be accumulated toward the year-end awards only by OBCC members in good standing at the time of the trial. Points will not be awarded retroactively.

Membership also entitles you to receive our quarterly newsletters. The contents of these include trial reports, informative articles, member profiles and photo features.

Please download the form from www.ontariobordercolliclub.com, complete and mail the form along with your cheque to the OBCC Treasurer:

Kim Gretton, 309 Lorneville Road, Woodville, ON K0M 2T0

Electronic fund transfer is also available. Please contact Kim at treasurerobcc@gmail.com for details.

New members are always welcome!

Learning and Outreach Report

By Susan Shipton

On a miserable day last February, I navigated my way gingerly across my own private ice flow north of Stirling, A.K.A. my driveway, got in my car and drove to Anne Wheatley and Catherine Rae's home in Warkworth. I was attending the first meeting of the 2019 OBCC Learning and Outreach Committee. Jane Kessler was coming from her ice flow in Grafton, while Patrick Gosselin would join us via Skype from his home in Brockville. We were looking forward to thinking about blue skies, green fields and what we could do to advance the knowledge and understanding of working Border Collies in Ontario.

That, and Catherine Rae's banana bread.

Introducing the Committee members:

Anne Wheatley - has two dogs that she runs at the Open level. She joined the OBCC about ten years ago and has enjoyed sitting on the board and co editing the newsletter over the years, in addition to working with the Learning and Outreach Committee.

Jane Kessler – Lives on a farm near Grafton with a small flock. She has two trialing dogs, Wren and Joe in training for PN. Jane was the OBCC 2018 NN Champion with Wren.

Patrick Gosselin – lives in Brockville Ontario. He has a small flock and runs two dogs in PN. Patrick was the 2017 Triple Crown NN Champion.

Susan Shipton – Susan Shipton is running her first Border Collie at the NN level. She and Gin split their time between a wooded acreage north of Stirling and a condo in downtown Toronto, where Susan works.

Our first priority was to establish our goal for committee-sponsored events. We determined that we wanted to create learning opportunities through mentorship and practice days working dogs, and that these opportunities be designed to appeal to handlers across the full spectrum of experience from Novice to Open. We also wanted to hold events in the eastern and western parts of the province if possible, to give the maximum number of people the opportunity to attend. We agreed that a point person would be assigned for each event to take registrations and organize food and volunteers and that a committee member would be present to support the host.

We were also determined to come up with something we could do in the dark days of winter to keep us learning and thinking about sheep dogging. We had heard that the USBCHA Judging Clinic on BluRay was very good, and we thought a group viewing would be fun and educational. Tracy Hinton offered to host on March 19, Jane was the point person.

On the Blu Ray, six open runs are presented and individually reviewed and scored by six top US judges, with commentary on how and why they would deduct points. Each run is played twice, back to back, with separate comments from 2 judges, often pausing for in depth commentary. It's fascinating to see the variables in each judge's perspective on the same run. Two Ontario judges, Tracy Hinton and Tara Dier, attended the event with 6 others. It was a bonus to have Tracy and Tara's perspective and they too had 'light bulb' moments. The disc was paused several times to have quick discussions. The event was enjoyed by all, it was a good cure for the winter blues and provided lots of food for thought for the upcoming season.

For working practice days, we determined that reasonable monetary compensation for those hosting was necessary and appropriate and small out of pocket expenses would be covered by the club. In deciding on the fee to attend, we endeavored to make the practice days both affordable to participants and worthwhile to hosts.

Many ideas were discussed, including videotaping training and trial runs for feedback, and apprenticing with experienced handlers to learn the skills needed to provide support at a trail. We continue to explore learning models for both these ideas, but it was our conversations around the origins of our sport that gave us the format for our first two working events.

In discussion we often circled back to the history and origin of our sport as a test for shepherds to find the best dogs to move and manage livestock and we agreed that the shepherd's own understanding of livestock was key to a successful dog and handler team. Few among us can call ourselves professional shepherds, and handlers have widely varying degrees of experience with livestock, so we decided an event aimed at increasing awareness of sheep behavior would be both appealing and beneficial.

The Committee partnered with Carol Guy at Piperdown Farm to realize this idea. Anne was our point person. Carol came up with a plan that will have participants do livestock management chores with and without dogs. Our first date at Piperdown was in the spring, but the ice flows finally did melt and then it began to rain. And rain. And rain. The event was postponed until July 14.

The Committee then partnered with Tracy Hinton to host what is now our first working event - a one day practice day called 'All Things Shedding' on June 30th. Participants from all levels will attend, working their dogs as they hone their livestock management skills.

I will report back on both these events.

I know no one wants to admit it will happen, but it will. Get cold I mean. Don't despair though, The Learning and Outreach Committee will be there, shepherding you into the dark season with another Judging Clinic on BluRay. Victoria Lamont will host; Susan will be the point person. Date to be decided, sometime in December or November.

And then there is the Winter White Board Club...more later...

Let's just see green fields, blue skies and Border Collies for now.

Thank you to the hosts of this years' Learning and Outreach Committee events.



2019 OBCC EVENTS

You'll want to mark the following dates on your calendar so that you don't miss these dates:

Aug 3 – 5	80 Acres SDT, Kingston
Aug 7* – 11	Kingston Sheep Dog Trials (*If necessary, will start on Aug 6)
Aug 24	Good Companions Novice Trial, Warkworth
Sep 7 – 8	Handy Dog Open Trial, St. Agatha
Sep 28 – Oct 1	Indian River Fall, SDT, Indian River
Oct 2	Swaledale Fall SDT, Blackstock
Oct 3 – 6	Shepherds Crook Fall SDT, Woodville
Oct 10	Forfar SDT, Portland
Oct 20	Jimmie's Farm Novice SDT, Elgin

Watch the website for more details!

Winter Relief Fun Trial #2

By Pamela Hall

Sunday March 24 found many of us back at KB Equestrian Centre for the second of our Winter Relief Fun Trials. Many thanks to our host Kristin Brophy and her two sons Jacob and Ben. The boys were tasked with grouping and releasing the sheep for each run and they certainly had their hands full with a few wily sheep that Kevan Gretton seems to have bred with the Billy Goats' Gruff. A couple handlers had quite the time as the sheep would head for the high ground up onto the round bale pile to get away from the dogs.



Sheep head for higher ground on hay bales

Photo by Rebecca Lawrence



Cynthia & Tracy don their winnings – warm tea cozies!

Photo by Rebecca Lawrence



"Is it my turn yet?"

Photo by Rebecca Lawrence

Rumour from the stands has it that those specific sheep are designated for Andrea de Kenedys' farm for the 2019 herding season. We wish her all the best with the Gretton Gruff sheep.

The challenging courses were set up by Viki Kidd with an extra challenge being the flat noisy wood floor in the chute. As usual, the normal amount of

good-natured heckling and instruction was supplied by the spectators, knowing their turn was coming. For many of the dogs and handlers the contest for the day was just working sheep after their long winter break.

Congratulations to the winners for the day: Morning runs - Open; Cynthia Palmer and Duke, Novice; Tracy Hinton and Mead. Afternoon runs - Open; Tracy Hinton and Lad, Novice; Kelly Morrow and Spot. Not only were skills shown on the field but also in kitchen as we enjoyed yet another great potluck lunch.

This trial was the first time the Fundraising Committee had a 50/50 draw which was very well received. The winner was Kelly Morrow. We will be holding 50/50's at most trials and will have some surprise draws as well so keep your wallets handy.

Cloudberry Open and Nursery Trial

By Marie Sawford

Wet soggy weather leading up to the trial meant that we all got our steps in walking back and forth to the parking area at the house, then up to the beautiful trial field and further up the hill if you needed to visit the loo. The sounds of the trial included the familiar whistles and "Come-by" commands but there was also the distinct sound of boots tramping through the mud and sheep's feet squelching through the wet areas - there were many.



Lynn, Mary, Helen K

Photo by Catherine Rae

We had 91/2 minute to negotiate the course doing pen then shed. The outrun was 385 yards and the cross drive was approximately 480 yards. The flock was a consortium made up of Andrea, Teresa and Anne's sheep. Some of the yearlings had not been shorn yet and certainly were feeling the effects of carrying the weight of the mud on their little legs. The draw was to the exhaust but on the cross drive, back up to the set-out pens.



Mary & Teagan at the shed

Photo by Anne Wheatley

At the end of Open first place went to Mary Thompson and Teagan who scored an 83, followed by Mary's second dog Jake (78). Third place was earned by the first dog to the post Tracy Hinton's Lad (76). Stacey Rember and Hawkeye earned fourth place with a score of 71. John Palmer and Mara came in 5th with a 70 and sixth place earned by Helen Dunning and Sis, also with a 70.

Once Open concluded, it was time for the Nursery dogs to take the field. There were 5 entries, but unfortunately no-one posted a score.

Those of us there for the day agreed that it was great to have a trial so early in the year and we felt fortunate that it didn't rain on the day and there was the blessing of no wind.

Thank you to Andrea for hosting, Viki Kidd for judging and to everyone that helped with set out, scribing and working in the pens. It was great day visiting with friends and getting caught up from a very long winter.



Viki judging a run (Rebecca scribing)

Photo by Anne Wheatley

Open

<i>Handler</i>	<i>Dog</i>	<i>Score</i>
Mary Thompson	Teagan	83
Mary Thompson	Jake	78
Tracy Hinton	Lad	76
Stacey Rember	Hawkeye	71
John Palmer	Mara	70
Helen Dunning	Sis	70
Roger Millen	Jessie	66
Mary Thompson	Mia	63
Heather Millen	Lass	63
Carol Guy	Hank	59

Dafydd Davies: The Stickmaker

By Bruce Lawrence

In late June, Michelle and I had the opportunity to make a short visit to Wales. We were fortunate to be able to visit Dafydd Davies at his workshop in Llanddewi Brefi. (You pronounce it, I can't. **Ed. note: I can.**) It is a small town that doesn't seem to be on the map, at least not the ones I had with me! Fortunately, my GPS came to the rescue and we arrived at his unassuming workshop to be greeted with his wife's Welsh cakes, also unassuming but dangerously addictive! They are worth a visit on their own!



Dafydd shows Bruce differences between carved wood and ram's horns

If you have reached what my doctor calls "that certain age" and are contemplating the purchase of a stylish walking stick or a traditionally made crook, I highly recommended Dafydd. If your fancy is for something bespoke and both practical and artistic, he is, definitely, the "go-to" guy.

Dafydd has had a long-term desire to work with horn, however he has and will work with some wood. Although there is no formal apprenticeship, he has worked with other stickmakers to learn from them. He took a six-week course with Andrew Jones about 27 years ago, and then spent much time with Gordon Flintoft. Flintoft was a Yorkshireman, and like many others from the area was rather taciturn. He could, however, let you know if he was unimpressed with you! Dafydd, who has a friendly and appealing character, became like a second son to him and they would work in each other's shops for up to ten days at a time. Dafydd is very quick to credit him with passing on his knowledge to him and points to him as a reason for his own personal success.



For his crooks, walking sticks and whistles Dafydd likes to use Jacobs ram's horn, both curved and straight. He also uses white or black



welsh mountain sheep horn. The horn he uses is up to ten years old. He uses the horn tips for handles and crooks, and the back for whistles. He

likes to know the origin of the horn, as he no longer has direct access. (Agricultural regulations no longer allow animals to be buried on the farm site.) The horn must dry for eighteen months before it can be worked, but too long a drying time will cause the horn to become brittle and prone to breakage while being worked. Like wood, horn is a living material and bears some similarities in its composition. It has growth rings, and they will help tell Dafydd the history of the material he is working with. His expertise with the growth rings can tell him if the animal had had a difficult year on the hills and he was able to illustrate this with one of the horns. Smaller or thinner rings are an indication of the ram's health and can warn him of possible weak spots or flaws in the horn.

The horn itself has a marrow section extending from where it grows on the skull. This honeycombed marrow section is called the gawk and it has a cork-like appearance.



In an older horn, the marrow shrinks and will narrow or close the hollow section of the horn. The hollow horn can be heated and reshaped. If the ram was injured or in a fight, blood can seep from the gawk and can discolor and weaken the horn due to the acids in the blood. In exchange, it can leave beautiful colours and marking in the finished product!

The challenge for Dafydd is to determine what the horn should be used for. His understanding of the properties of the horn he is holding in his hand and his knowledge of its internal construction betray his expertise. He studies the cut end of the horn to find indications of the colour changes in the internal part of the horn and demonstrated that to us. This indicates to him where the horn should be carved and shaped to take advantage of colours and blood marks. He pointed out a white area visible in a

black horn that only showed from the cut end: this was a possible sheep or border collie hiding within it. To Dafydd, the horn tells him what is concealed within and how it wants to be used.



His first process is to heat and press the horn to remove its natural curve and to flatten it. He opens the curve of the horn to allow him working room. The heat is

provided by a handheld blowlamp (blowtorch to us North Americans). Great care must be taken not to overheat the horn as the most common damage is due to burning. The heated horn is placed in a custom-made press which uses a manual hydraulic bottle jack to apply, literally, tons of pressure. The hand jack allows him to feel and sense the pressure applied - no strain gauges or computers are used here! Dafydd says that the horn must have a minimum of $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness to be worked. He uses multiple shaping blocks of differing sizes and shapes and carefully overlaps his passes through the blocks. The process is complicated by frequent stops to allow the horn to cool to avoid damage and burns when the hot material is compressed. As it cools, the bent horn, just like bent wood or metal, has a certain amount of spring back; he must expect and compensate for this. This entire process is referred to as bulking.

The blocks themselves are of interest and importance to the finished product. They are of varying sizes and shapes, and varying materials.



Most are metal, cut and shaped to Dafydd's design. He likes to use aluminum due to the cost and because any metal flaws will already have shown themselves. Some blocks are forged (the heated metal is stuck in a die in a hydraulic press to shape and strengthen it), others are cut from a single billet by an EDM machine. Dafydd now prefers waterjet cut blocks to reduce costs. The blocks are 1.5" wide and carefully finished. He has loads of them in his shop, in what many tradesmen refer to as "perfectly organized clutter", in various drawers etc. The perfectly organized part is proven by his ability to find the one he wants in a matter of seconds wherever it is in the shop (a hallmark of a true Craftsman!)

When he can, Dafydd also likes to use blocks made from two other materials. Jabroc is from the aerospace industry and consists of bonded layers of beech and resin. Its major use was in WW2 British aircraft airscrews (think Spitfires and Lancasters). The other material,

Tufnol, is bonded resin and linen and is used in the electrical industry for insulating and supporting electrical components in older electrical equipment. (Note to self - must keep an eye open for this for Dafydd!) These materials are both very hard and hard to obtain!

The bulking process is complicated and labour intensive. Bulking and forming can take twelve hours a day and five or more days to complete. Dafydd works from heel to toe and bulks to the centre hole of the horn. He files the horn to even the shape and wants to avoid filing thin sections. The process will compact and lengthen the horn as it is compressed repeatedly. At least 17 inches of horn is needed to form a crook; shorter pieces become walking stick handles.



His third step is to shape the bulked horn into a crook. Again, heating and blocking is used to form the profile, the gape (the distance between the shank and inside of the nose) and

the lantern hook for the crook (a reminder that being a shepherd is a 24 hour a day job). Dafydd marks and follows centre lines that he draws by hand to avoid possible weak spots that could break and waste all the hours of work he has done up to this point. He has now rounded and shaped the horn. He needs a heel section length of $3\frac{1}{2}$ " to $3\frac{3}{4}$ " for a walking stick and $4\frac{1}{4}$ " to $4\frac{1}{2}$ " for a working crook. The width of gape is of utmost importance as well since this allows for a comfortable feel in the hand, and space to catch a leg or neck of a sheep. For a carved horn he wants a broad tip, so he does not bulk the tip. Instead he flattens the horn from the last turn to the tip. Dafydd wants his crooks to be monolithic: carved from the solid. He does not want to assemble from multiple pieces. This is where what the horn has told him comes to light, aided by his skill and experience. The knowledge of the horn allows him to use the natural shapes and colours to create his masterful carvings.

Truth be told, Dafydd quickly claims he is not the best of carvers. He got a forceful argument from us however! When you see the ram or border collie beginning to appear in the rough carvings, it is as if it is in the horn just waiting for him to expose it! The horn is now as hard as



ebony and Dafydd says that it will take and hold details in the carving better than wood. He uses no templates, marks his patterns by hand again and works with what the horn has given him.

His upbringing on a hill farm now sits him in good stead and his knowledge of the animals and birds from childhood allow him to bring to life creatures of detail and lifelike expression. The eyes and look of an eagle-headed walking stick made one slightly apprehensive! If the carving is of a fish, he curves the tail out in a "flick" to allow clearance for users' fingers and to give it a more life-like look. He shapes with custom made French hand rasps in varying sizes. The rasps are made by craftsmen themselves, as each individual round tooth is hand punched into the metal, then hardened to stay sharp for a long time. He paints and finishes the heads by hand, and the realism is most impressive. The colours of a trout for example, seem to come from beneath the surface, as if the horn has the skin of the original fish.

Dafydd uses wooden shanks for his crooks and sticks. He purchases some shanks, but cuts most himself. He will cut up to 1000 shanks per year. His preference is for hazel and blackthorn from Ireland. Other woods he will use are pear, maple, crabapple, cherry, and almond; he is a fan of using native woods from the UK. Moss grown on the wood donates both colour and pattern to the shafts, as does lichen growths. Spots from shanks grown under pine trees have sap drippings that also add interest and colour.



Dafydd indicating point of attachment of head to shank.

As with the horns, Dafydd will heat and straighten the shanks as needed. Knots are filed off and the shanks are cleaned with a chemical solution so as not to damage the bark of the shanks. The chemicals are neutralized, and the shanks are lacquered. All this work is done by hand of course! The shanks are cut square and then a rounded mortise is cut. A 3mm reinforcing rod is inserted for strength and the shanks are then glued to the horn. With a black and white horn, Dafydd prefers a silver coloured shank to set off the horn's colour. With lighter coloured horn, he usually chooses brown coloured shanks. The finish is superb, the black horns appear to be a lustrous obsidian. The lighter horns have a luminosity that seems to come from within the horn, with a colour of honey. Blood stains in the horn appear as red lines or blushes, adding interest of their own.

All this patience and craftsmanship results in an object of supreme beauty in a useful package; elegant and lightweight in the hand, but still made for constant use. To some the cost of these crooks may appear high, but after seeing the craftsmanship up close, the massive amount of work and time involved, they are a bargain. The impossible part was to choose only one -- I think a bespoke commission will be in the future...



A selection of Dafydd's beautiful crooks and walking sticks.

Trial Kit Essentials

By Kris Kiviaho

We conducted a very unofficial poll of OBCC members asking for their list of 'essentials' when attending a trial. Our thanks to Lene Band, Michelle Taliana, Sheila Deane, Sallie Butler; Louise Hadley, Lorna Savage, John Molloy, Anne Wheatley, Amanda Milliken, Carole Guy, Bruce Lawrence and Rebecca Lawrence for their assistance!

THE DOG'S LIST:

Vaccination records, microchip records and veterinarian contact number

Collars and leashes and extra leashes!

Water dish and water from home

Travel crate

Poop bags

Dog food, including a can of pumpkin and a bag of rice

First Aid Kit with Vet wrap, antiseptic ointment, tweezers, Metacam, Benadryl, diarrhea medication, nail clippers and styptic powder

Shade tarps, tie-outs, clips and clamps for the shade tarps

Battery operated fan(s) for inside the vehicle

Nightlights

A soccer ball (or toy) for the fun-loving dog

And for those who stay in motels/hotels -- old flannel blankets to cover bed and sofa (always set aside hotel blankets)

Large trash bags plus magnetic clips to keep windows open in rain (doubles as trash bag)

THE HANDLER'S LIST:

Tied for number 1 ranking - a whistle and lanyard, an extra whistle and lanyard and a stock stick or crook

Hats, for sun and for rain as well as rain gear (seems sheepdog trials and rain can go hand-in-hand!)

Footwear including waterproof footwear, rubber boots, lace-up boots, hiking boots, waterproof ankle boots, sandals (and you may need all of these in the same day!)

Sunscreen or for the "gingers" – sunblock. (I can attest to this – as a spectator/photographer at Kingston, it's almost always hot and sunny...or you need the raingear!)

Warm clothing, hand and foot warmers and a toque (I added the toque – taking photos when it's miserably cold requires a toque!)

Extra clothing, jackets, socks, pants – often lent out to the less prepared handlers!

Sunglasses

First Aid Kit, including allergy medications

Fly dope/Insect repellent (does fly dope only work for flies, I wonder?)

Comfortable chairs (which I rarely sit in...usually it's holding my camera gear!)

Water (but where is the coffee?? And where is the after-trial essential beverage list??)

Snacks, protein bars, breakfast bars

Power pack for phones cord for phones

Passports – don't forget the passport!

Of course, don't forget your drivers' license/insurance and ownership; your medical information, health cards

CAA/AAA comes in very handy (and yes, I can attest to this as well!)

If traveling by trailer – generator and BBQ, air compressor, 2 tanks of propane and trailer ownership

And then.... there are these not so common essentials....

From someone not yet trialling – a sense of humour (Now this I can relate to – having competed in my very first novice-novice trial in June!)

Someone who is more experienced – "Once upon a time I brought expectations. then reality set in."

And is this the real secret to Amanda Milliken's great success?? Espresso maker and Nicaraguan coffee

Photo by Kris Kiviaho

Swaledale Novice Trial #1

By Tara Dier

It's been a difficult spring for us sheepdoggers. The ice seemed to last forever, and now the rain has been almost unending. One Learning event had to be rescheduled due to wet fields. But the first of two Novice trials at the Swaledale farm of Sheri Purcell and Hugh Grant made liftoff. The fields were rubber-boot wet but workable, and the sun shone for that one and only day.

themselves. Novices are front and centre at these trials, although they are of course open to open handlers with novice dogs, and they make excellent learning events. This trial ran two classes of each. Andrea de Kenedy judged.



Susan Moore & Skye at the pen

Photo by Tara Dier



Susan Shipton & Gin turning the post

Photo by Tara Dier

Novice trials have become a tradition in the OBCC. They offer Novice, Pro-Novice and sometimes Ranch. Open handlers judge, assist with set-out and exhaust. General scribing duties are handled by Novice handlers

The trials ran on the big open field without fencing and the sheep were challenging. The draw to the barn was strong and many a dog and handler found it difficult to manage. However, the progress made by many novices over the last year was also evident. I'm thinking the next Novice trial in June will show even more progress.

SWALEDALE NOVICE TRIAL #1

Novice-Novice 1

Handler	Dog	Score
Pamela Hall	Journey	40

Novice-Novice 2

Handler	Dog	Score
Susan Moore	Skye	57
Dorian Clark	Violet	40

Pro Novice 1

Handler	Dog	Score
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	49
Susan Moore	Gibb	38
Teresa Castonguay	Deacon	32

Pro Novice 2

Handler	Dog	Score
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	63
Susan Moore	Gibb	61
Teresa Castonguay	Deacon	37

Ranch 1

Handler	Dog	Score
Helen Dunning	Spark	83
Anne Wheatley	Dan	60
Helen Knibb	Mirk	56
Lynn Johnston	Eve	50
Kelly Morrow	Spot	28

Ranch 2

Handler	Dog	Score
Helen Dunning	Spark	68
Helen Knibb	Mirk	65
Anne Wheatley	Dusk	64
Anne Wheatley	Dan	62
Lynn Johnston	Eve	49
Marie Sawford	Jill	31

SWALEDALE NOVICE TRIAL #2

Novice-Novice 1

Handler	Dog	Score
Dorian Clark	Violet	43
Susan Moore	Skye	43
Jordan Markowski	Hendrix	32
Pamela Hall	Journey	32

Pro Novice 1

Handler	Dog	Score
Susan Moore	Gibb	54
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	52
Andrea de Kenedy	Storm	51

Novice-Novice 2

Handler	Dog	Score
Jordan Markowski	Hendrix	51
Susan Moore	Skye	47
Susan Shipton	Gin	45
Pamela Hall	Journey	38

Pro Novice 2

Handler	Dog	Score
Carol Guy	Bud	61
Andrea de Kenedy	Storm	44
Patrick Gosselin	Drew	37
Susan Moore	Gibb	26
Michelle Taliana	Roy	25
Teresa Castonguay	Deacon	24

Ranch 1

Handler	Dog	Score
Anne Wheatley	Dusk	65
Rebecca Lawrence	Key	60
Andrea de Kenedy	Dillon	60
Tara Dier	Bernie	45
Helen Knibb	Mirk	45

Ranch 2

Handler	Dog	Score
Anne Wheatley	Dusk	65
Viki Kidd	Jones	51
Helen Knibb	Mirk	51
Helen Dunning	Spark	30
Anne Wheatley	Dan	26

Swaledale Novice Trial #2

By Susan Moore

Swaledale Novice Trial 2 was scheduled for Sunday June 23rd. However, with too many entries, the trial was held over 2 days which meant that everyone who entered would have the opportunity to compete. Novice-Novice was held on Saturday while Ranch and Pro-Novice was on Sunday. It was such a wet spring the regular trial field could not be used so the course was moved to the east side of the field.



Novice-Novice handlers meeting Photo by Susan Moore

The weekend of the trial the rain finally stopped, and the sun came out. You couldn't ask for better trial weather. Cynthia Palmer was our judge for the weekend. Gordon Dunning spent the weekend working the pens. Set out crew for Saturday were Andrea de Kenedy, Helen Knibb and Helen Dunning. There were eight Novice-Novice teams. It was great to see so many new handlers to the post. The sheep proved to be a challenge but everyone stepped up and assisted their dogs when needed. Dorian Clark with Violet won the first run. For the second runs, everyone was more relaxed, and we saw improvements in handling and scores. First timer, Jordan Markowski won and also got the "award" for the fastest backward running. Most handlers took advantage of being able to run a third time with Cynthia assisting at the post. If only we could have had her assistance for the first runs.



Jordan Markowski demonstrating his backward running Photo by Susan Moore

The beautiful weather continued Sunday. Thirteen Ranch handlers and nine Pro-Novice were entered. Kevan Gretton graciously helped at the set out for the day. Everyone seemed to enjoy running the new course and soon discovered the first leg of the drive was most challenging. Winners in the morning were Anne Wheatley with Dusk in Ranch and Susan Moore with Gibb in Pro-Novice.



Anne Wheatley and Dusk first leg of the drive Photo by Susan Moore

Lunch were burgers and sausages cooked by Hugh Grant with potluck sides which were delicious as usual. Afternoon winners were Carol Guy with Bud in Pro-Novice and Anne Wheatley with Dusk again in Ranch. Both handlers won because of their beautiful drives. The sheep were the winners at the pen as there was not a single pen the entire weekend.

A big thank you to our hosts Sheri Purcell and Hugh Grant. The sheep were challenging and in great shape. The hospitality was fantastic. And thanks to Helen and Gordon Dunning and everyone else who helped in making this another successful trial. It is hard to believe that this could be the last Novice trial at Swaledale.



Tara's Bernie had a long outrun to Ift Oscar, the guardian dog Photo by Michelle Lawrence

All Things Shedding Practice Day at Applewood Ridge Farm

By Susan Shipton

At Tracy Hinton's suggestion, any 'All Things Shedding Day' participants who could make it gathered at Applewood Ridge Farm on the evening before and headed off for dinner at a nearby pub. We enjoyed a great meal and lots of laughs. We returned to the farm and took our dogs on a lovely walk along the ridge bordering Tracy's fields, then indulged ten or more competitive border collies in a raucous game of pond fetch. It was a perfect summer evening and a great kick off to the event.

The morning of the practice day was bright and clear, a cool breeze blew, and the temperature hovered in the perfect for working dogs' zone. Tracy had set orange flags out in the shape of a cross on the field; we were to use ourselves and our dogs to guide the sheep through the cross. A running order was set, with more experienced dog and handler teams at the beginning. Louise Hadley was first up, the sheep trotted out alert and spritely, the time of day and the cool air encouraged their impulse to run! It became clear that it would take more than Louise's considerable stock and dog handling skills to get those girls anywhere near the cross. Tracy pointed out that in a trial shedding would actually occur at the end of a course, when sheep might be a little tired and more settled. So, Louise had Tug drive the sheep around the field. They would still have nothing to do with the precision of the cross exercise, however.



Tracy uses the always handy white board to explain to the handlers
Photo by Jane Kessler

For the next handler Tracy abandoned the orange flag cross and set the team up along the fence to teach the shedding dance of sheep, handler and dog. Lesson One learned – when you train - have a plan, but also have the flexibility to change it when the plan doesn't serve your training goals.

Throughout the day, Tracy used the 'against the fence' exercise to introduce the fundamentals of shedding to the 'greener' handlers, and to address particular shedding issues expressed by more experienced teams, sometimes moving away from the fence to more challenging exercises. After each handler Tracy returned to the group and using a white board, explained the challenges and the methods applied to move the team forward. This enabled participants to learn from the training sessions of others.



Louise gives the sheep a heads up Photo by Jane Kessler

Students of sheep herding are often told that the ability to read sheep and react is key, but many of us have limited experience with livestock. It has been one of the goals of The Learning and Outreach Committee to give Club members the opportunity to learn about the animals we work with our dogs. So, with that in mind, we decided that in the second half of the day participants would work in Tracy's small field to move sheep without a dog.

Anne Wheatley helped us read the body language of a group of four or so sheep to anticipate their movements. Participants were tasked with moving the group around the paddock, past their 'friends' on the other side of the fence, and out of the corners they wanted to stay in. It was fun and enlightening. We learned something about reading sheep and gained an increased appreciation of the skills of the Border Collie!

Tracy was a wonderful host, generous with her time and her knowledge, endlessly good humoured and inventive. It was a great day that met all of the goals we had set for a learning event. Thank you, Tracy and Tim! And thank you to the participants for bringing the lovely potluck lunch and a positive attitude!



Ontario Border Collie Club

OBCC MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE



Merchandise is available for purchase in the OBCC Booth at the Kingston Sheep Dog Trials at Grass Creek Park, August 9 - 11, 2019. We are still looking for donations for the silent auction at this event; please help us make it an even bigger event / fundraiser than last year!

We will be having 50/50 draws; look for us at OBCC Trials.

For purchase or queries, contact Pamela Hall
email: pmhall22@bell.net 647-669-6063

Thank you for your support!

Pamela Hall & Tania Costa
Fundraising & Merchandise Committee

and

The Executive of the OBCC