

Happy New Year BCSDA Members! I hope you are all wintering well and enjoying your dogs.

This past year – 2017 - BCSDA had some positive changes and membership support. Some of the Highlights of 2017 are:

- Field trials that were sanctioned: Stirling Acres - April, Coldstream Classic - July, Dawson Creek - July, Pink Mountain - July, Metchosin-Swanwick - August and Paxton Valley - Sept. These trials were well attended and our BCSDA Web Page reflects the current results. The Video page on the website has some great slideshows highlighting the dogs, the handlers and the fun.
- BCSDA now has a Face Book Page thanks to Jennifer L'Arrivee. The purpose of the FB page is to promote our Association's mandate.
- I personally contacted the Presidents of the other western provincial associations to discuss the Western Canadian Finals. This resulted in two members from each province participating in Conference call meetings to discuss the 2018 Finals. Jennifer L'Arrivee and Catherine Lundin represented our BC Province. Pam Boring (7 Up Ranch) submitted a bid to host the 2018 Championship and BC was awarded the Western Canadian Championship event to be held July 17, 18 & 19 in Pink Mountain, BC.
- The BCSDA Annual meeting was held at Paxton Trial on Sept 30. The Minutes of the meeting and Financial Statement are posted on our Web page under Membership Only log in. Only paid members have access to the password. The meeting was well attended but the fall weather and short daylight time called for an early adjournment at 7:15 pm. The meeting was adjourned with unfinished business.
- Fundraisers were generated to give financial support for the Western Canadians.
  - BCSDA 2018 Calendar and Quilt raffle generated \$1,353.20. The feedback I got is that if we do a 2019 Calendar people would like to see more dog pictures.
  - Face Book Auction headed up by Jennifer L'Arrivee was a tremendous success. The on-line auction generated \$3,510.70. The Auction was open for donations and bidding for two weeks in December 2017. People from all over North America both donated and purchased items, including: Lessons from Joe Haynes, Dave Imas, Lee Lumb, Fernando Loiola and Corey Perry; Gordon Watt clinic audit; Auction Items: professional photography, collars, lanyards, whistles, books, toques, crate mats, paintings, earnings, bags, videos, back on track coat and a nice dog house. Everyone was very generous. The support we reached from neighboring Associations tells me the herding family is close. Thank you BC members and Associated friends for your financial support. Thanks again Jenifer and Catherine for all your hard work. We are fortunate to have you as members.

BCSDA Directors voted unanimously to issue an up front cheque to Pam Boring so she can start organizing the Western Finals.

- The 2017 Canadian Finals were held in Kingston, Ontario in August. Our BSDA member Pam Boring and her outstanding young male, Jim, had an impressive weekend culminating in them being named CBCA Reserve Champions – Congratulations Pam and Jim!

Personally I think 2018 is going to be just as rewarding and eventful as 2017.

- Pam Boring has selected the judge for the Western Canadians this July - Werner Reitboeck from Ontario, Canada. Werner has been involved with sheep and border collies for the last thirty years. In that time he has competed quite successfully at many trials in Eastern Canada and the North East US, Virginia and Michigan. For the last 10+ years he has also judged most trials in that area at least once, including several double lift trials. Some of the bigger trials that he judged include the NEBCA Fall Foliage, Old Chatham, Fetchgate, Sonoma, Shepherd's Crook, Cascade and 7Up Ranch.
- Sanctioned BCSDA trials found on our web page and the USBCHA web site to date are:
  - Stirling Acres SDT April 27, 28 & 29 with Warren Mick judging. Sunday will be a modified Double Lift for all open dogs/handlers, which provides an opportunity not many of us get to experience very often.
  - Stirling Acres Herding Camp June 21 & 22 and Coldstream Classic June 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Dawson Creek SDT July 13,14 &15
  - Pink Mountain SDT run in conjunction with the Western Finals July 17, 18 & 19.
  - Metchosin- Swanwick SDT July 28 & 29
- Our neighbouring province Alberta, has well established trials this Spring and Summer:
  - Mountain View - May19, 20 & 21
  - Phantom Ridge Classic – July 6, 7 & 8
  - Calgary World Stock Dog Championship - July 10 & 11.
  - Cypress Hills - July 28 and 29. This trial has the same date as Metchosin-Swanwick SDT

July could be a very busy summer if you plan to attend most of the trials and if not stay tuned to our web page for up dates on scores and standings.

- The Canadian Border Collie Association awarded the Championship to Alberta. It was British Columbia's turn to host but we did not submit a bid. The Trial will be held in Medicine Hat and hosted by Chris Jobe - August 23 to 26. Web page <http://www.caninesolutions.ca/cbca.html>  
Patrick Shannon from Caldwell Idaho is going to Judge. Patrick has judged nearly every major trial in USA and Canada including the Canadian National Finals, USBCHA Finals, Soldier Hollow and many more.  
Anyone can participate to a maximum of two dogs. Combined scores will have the top 12 CBCA dogs invited to participate in the CBCA Championship Double Lift on Sunday Aug. 12. You must be a CBCA member and your dog CBCA registered no later than June 1 of this year to run in the Double Lift.
- USBCHA National Sheepdog Finals will be held September 24 to 29<sup>th</sup> in Alturas California.  
Last year our BCSDA member Scott Glen won it with his dog Alice.  
Congratulations to them!

I would personally like to thank our Web Master - Bill Crawford. He is very diligent, keeping it current with results, videos and articles of interest. He has contacted the Washington Association and they have agreed to link up on our "Links" Page and we invite them to list their trials with us as non sanctioned. Bill encourages the BC membership to submit articles and write reports of trial events. These articles fit nicely with the videos. He also welcomes photos of competition scenes. Bill informed me he would like the "Members Spotlight" feature activated again. He plans on doing a dog feature this year. Example of this would be Scott Glen's Alice and Pam Boring's dog Jim.

I think the Face book page has increased the readership of the webpage. At the last AGM the members voted to no longer publish Look Back. The webpage can serve as a more fluid and accessible listing of BCSDA events, articles and issues.

Catherine Lundin, our Trial Director, has generated a new form for members - Application for BCSDA Trial Sanctioning. This form is on our web page under Events. Well-done Catherine.

I mentioned earlier in this letter that the AGM had an early adjournment of 7:15 pm and the meeting was adjourned with unfinished business.

A Motion was made at the BCSDA 2017 AGM:

*"AGM meeting will be held at a fall trial of the current calendar year or at a date set at the discretion of the directors."*

Jennifer L'Arrivee, moved the motion and it was seconded by Catherine Lundin.

At the meeting it was agreed the motion couldn't proceed further due to the lack of 30 days notice to the membership of a change to the Constitution. Suggestion was made that a meeting be scheduled to a later date.

This topic needs to be revisited after appropriate notice is given to the membership. BCSDA Directors need to schedule a meeting with proper notice to the membership to discuss scheduling the 2018 AGM Date and Location.

Another item I feel needs to be addressed for 2018 is our BCSDA Policy Book, which has not been revised for a number of years. We the membership, have to ask ourselves: Do we want a policy book and if we do, how do we ensure it is kept up to date?

Members, I also ask: Do you want a 2019 BCSDA Calendar? This year with BC hosting the Westerns Canadian Championship and the Canadian Championship being held in the west, pictures could be memorable.

Note: Chris Jobe has won the election for Western Director for the CBCA . CBCA President Bob Stephens has congratulated her and welcomed her to the Board. He has also thanked outgoing Director Ken Price for his years of good service. Congratulations Chris.

One final note: I would like to thank all the other Directors for their support throughout this past year. Problems and issues are solved quickly.

Safe Travel this coming year and remember: Enjoy the Sport and your Dogs.

Gord Lazzarotto