Fall Edition #157 Fall 2026

Bear Fare

Colonial Newfoundland Club
VA • MD • DC • WV

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Next BearFare
Jan 31, 2027

THE BOARD

PRESIDENT..... PAUL KATINAS
VICE PRESIDENT.....ELIZABETH MCCULLY
TREASURER .....ANDREW HARDING
RECORDING SECRETARY .....PAULA MCPHERSON
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY .....NATALIE ALOI
MEMBERS AT LARGE .....BENNETT ALFORD
DONNA FOY
FRAN MILLER
DON SHARKEY

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EDUCATION	**MICHELE MILLER**
HISTORIAN	**KATHY PAXTON**
FACEBOOK	**PAULA McPHERSON MICHELE MILLER**
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	**LISA LATHROP**
MEMBERSHIP	**PAULA McPHERSON**
MEMBERSHIP BROADCASTING	**PAULA McPHERSON**
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NCA REGIONAL CLUB COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE	**LISA LATHROP**
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	**NATALIE ALOI**
POLICY	**KATHY PAXTON**
PROPERTY	**DON SHARKEY**
PUBLICITY	**KATHY PAXTON**
SUNSHINE	**CHRIS GORSUCH**
SUPPORTED ENTRIES/REGIONALS	**DON SHARKEY KATHY PAXTON**
WORKING DOG	**MICHELE MILLER**
WEBSITE	**PAULA MCPHERSON**

President's Message

Happy Fall to everyone. I'm sure your Newfoundlands have begun to perk up with this cooler weather. My sixteen-month-old is now a full-fledge teenager and with this burst of energy she has been giving me a run for my money. Fortunately, one of my hobbies is dog training and I have been working with her daily. My eyes are set for beginning her competitive obedience career in the Fall of 2027.

I need to give a giant shout out to Michele Miller and Lisa Sanderoff. With Michele as the chair and Lisa working closely at her side, they put together an outstanding 3-day Regional Specialty that was held in early October. We had a very respectable number of entries, and everyone was very happy with the event. Michele and Lisa had great guidance from our experienced show members. Don Sharkey and Kathy Paxton were able to walk Michele through all the necessary steps that it takes to put on a show of this magnitude. Michele with the help from Lisa made multiple trophies that were presented to the winners.

Christy Smith offered to hold an October draft test workshop that we unfortunately had to cancel because only a couple of people signed up for the event. I want to thank Christie for efforts, and I want everyone to know that Christie has again volunteered to run another draft workshop in the spring of 2027. Draft is fun to do with your dog. The learning process is not very difficult. So, if you're interested, please sign up for her next workshop.

This weekend I'll be chairing the 6th annual Newfie's on the Mall walk. If you have never joined us on the walk, please feel free to come next year. Next year the walk will be held on Saturday November 6th, 2027.

Several upcoming events have been scheduled for November and December. Our annual meeting will be held on November 18th at 7:30pm. During this meeting we will announce our new board. Check your email for the Zoom invitation. Also, on November 22nd our club is signed up to participate in the Ashland Christmas Parade. It's a daytime parade (see website for details). Christie Smith and Scott Dickensheets will be holding the annual tree pull at the Bee' and Tree's farm on November 28th. On Sunday December 13th our club will be holding an AKC Scent trial in Laural Md. The trial filled up in less than a week with 240 entries for the day. Scent work is now one of the hottest AKC events and there are quite a few Newfoundlands across the country who have taken up the sport.

Finally, our membership chair has informed the board that our renewal rate is at the highest level that she can remember. That is fantastic news. We always need members to participate. Earlier in the Fall CNR and CNC had a very nice fall picnic. Donna McConn chaired the event and Sarah Collins, and her husband really stepped up to make the event special.

Thank You

Paul Katinas



Upcoming Events

At the 4/19/2023 Board Meeting it was agreed to begin publishing new member applications in the monthly CNC e-notes. CNC will discontinue publishing new member applications in Bear Fare, the club's quarterly newsletter. This notification affects only new member application notices.

COLONIAL NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB

ZOOM IN TO THE

CNC ANNUAL MEETING

18 NOVEMBER 2026
7:30 PM
(15 – 20 MINUTES)
REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO FOLLOW

RSVP FOR MEETING INVITE WITH LINK AND CALL IN NUMBER.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS
2027 BOARD INTRODUCTION

WWW.CNCNEWFS.COM/EVENTS

Come Join Us!

CNC Christmas Parade
22 November 2026
Ashland, VA

Line up: 12 – 1:15 PM Parade start: 2 PM

Theme: Olde Time Holidays



www.cncnewfs.com/events
for more information
Line up at noon
For more information and to RSVP
Contact Scott Dickensheets

Colonial Newfoundland Club
Christmas Tree Pull
28 November 2026 9AM – 3PM
Bees & Trees Farm
18028 Carrico Mills Rd
Elkwood, VA



Fun for the whole family! Bring your newf with a cart, wagon or toboggin & help haul cut trees to folks vehicles.
Newf not yet experienced with pulling? No worries – we need lots of ambassadors & kiss dispensers.

While you're there, plan to visit the Farm Christmas Shop as well as the local food vendors.

Check out Bees & Trees Website
BEES & TREES FARM - Bees & Trees Farm

Dogs MUST be comfortable around other dogs, people and kids of all ages!

If you plan to attend contact Christie Smith for parking plan
all4dogsmith504@gmail.com

Newfoundland Club of America
Member of the American Kennel Club

AKC SCENT WORK
American Kennel Club

Hosted by
Colonial Newfoundland Club

SCENT WORK TRIAL
Empowering your dog's natural instinct



SUNDAY, 12/13/2026
Event #2026194360 & Event #2026194361

Fidos for Freedom
1200 Sandy Spring Rd., #1
Laurel, MD 20707

ENTRY LIMITS
Sunday, 12/13/2026
8 hours judging with limits on the following classes:
Interior Excellent – 20 per trial,
Interior Master – 15 per trial

TRIAL HOURS
8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Please refer to the final confirmation for briefing time.

Trials To Be Held Indoors/Outside
No Indoor Crating Available



(October)

Working Dog Fund

Joseph Mooney
Stephen & Natalie Aloi In Memory of Dolly Parton
Christie Smith
Aleida Rios
Kathy Weber In Memory of Wave Seeker's Love U To The Moon & N Back "Saana"
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

Trophy Fund

Joseph Mooney
Sandra Stultz In Memory of Carol & Dan Stultz
Kathy Weber Wave Seeker's Love U To The Moon & N Back, "Saana"
Anonymous

Member Submission

Next Member Submission Date January 31, 2027
to bearfare@gmail.com or natalie.aloi@gmail.com

"Of Paintings and Newf Rescue"

by Brad Cole

I recently attended a fundraiser for SENC Rescue at Reformation Brewery in Canton, Georgia. It was a wonderful event that raised $680. It involved painting a picture that you sent in of a favorite pet. Participants would email in a picture of the pet and the people putting on the event would do a line drawing of the pet from the submitted picture. I submitted a picture of Donna LeCompte's late Newf, Fred. The idea was for the participants to paint in the submitted photographs.

The event was held at Reformation Brewery in Canton, Georgia on Wednesday, August 12. The turnout was 24 participants, a number that I felt was shockingly good for a midweek event. A good time was had by all.

I took 2 days to get to the event. The first night I stayed in Greenville, South Carolina and I drove the remainder of the way to Canton the next day. My hotel in Canton was only a few blocks from the brewery which made things very convenient.

I arrived at Reformation Brewery at 6:30PM, the designated start of the event. I quickly found the sketch of Fred the Newf and sat down ready to paint. The first part of the process was finding an appropriate color for the background. I chose yellow, which matched the bib that Fred the Newf was wearing. Participants had three brushes of different sizes and a variety of paint colors. Participants used the largest of the three brushes provided to paint in the background. We then moved to the second largest brush to paint in the largest areas of the subjects of the pictures. The smallest brush was used to paint the highlights on the pet's coat, using a variety of the colors provided. Finally, we used the smallest brush to paint the nose and eyes of the pet. The entire process took about two hours from start to finish.

People's results were remarkably good considering many of us were first time painters. There were many Oohs and Ahhs from the participant. A fun, enthusiastic time was held by all. I look forward to getting the finished picture of Fred to Donna LeCompte. I would like to thank Jana Rife and crew for putting on an excellent event.





Member Submission

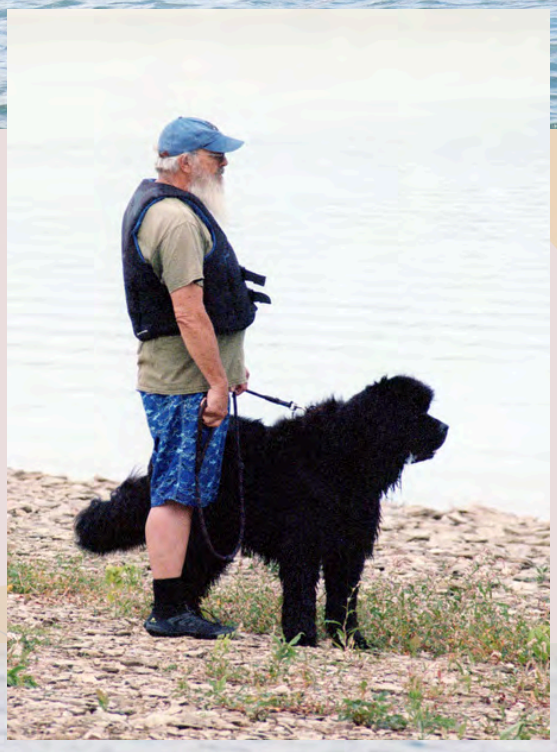
Continued

Water Test Pictures
by Brad Cole













Member Submission

Continued

Fall Fun Day Pictures
by Brad Cole













Member Submission

Continued

Water Test Write Up for NCA
Colonial Newfoundland Club – Water Test
August 22-23, 2026
Judges: Meredith Johnson and Lynda Dunn
Author: Natalie Aloi, Water Test Chair
Photos: John Caldwell Captions by Natalie Aloi

August can be a stormy time in the East, we test at Codorus State Park in Hanover, Pa, on Lake Marburg, fortunately our weather was almost perfect. Saturday started cloudy with temperatures in the mid 80's the sun appeared in the afternoon with a slight breeze bringing in a stronger drifting current. Sunday was mostly Sunny again with low 80's and stronger currents on the water than Saturday. The beach was wider than usual, as the lake levels were lower due to a drought. The Obedience portion of the test was on the beach and had several large rocks that needed to be avoided.

Our judges were Meredith Johnson, a newly minted Judge, and Lynda Dunn. We hosted Lynda about 4 years ago, and Meredith was a new Judge at CNC. They were able to give our stewards detailed instructions for all the exercises and had a good working relationship with everyone and each other. It was such a pleasure to have a knowledgeable team.

We advertised our test on our Facebook page, and on the NCA website, in addition to our Newsletter. Our test order was WRDX, BWD, WD, and wrapped up with WRD. We had a total of 17 dogs,1 dog at WRDX, 4 dogs at BWD, 6 dogs at WD, and 6 dogs at WRD.

On Saturday we had 4 dogs qualify. Cosmo and his handler Scott Dickensheets passed WRDX for his 1st requalification, and Hollis and her handler Gordon Songer got her BWD a first qualification at age 9mo, Venture and Banner (super dog) and handler Deanna Alko (super trainer) qualified Venture and requalified Banner for WRD. Sunday was a better test with 7 dogs qualifying. Cosmo, getting a 2nd requalification for WRDX, Samson and Mable qualifying for BWD, Ramon for WD, and Venture and Banner requalifying for WRD. Ramon tried in sudden death to go for his WRD – without luck. Better luck next time for those who tried and didn't pass, but it's always a good training day.

We always have a good time at our test and generally have spectators since it's a public park. Positive comments were overheard from Exhibitors, Judges, and Stewards.

Member Submission

Continued

WRDX:

Saturday and Sunday Qualifier

WA Stlllwater's Stars Finally Aligned At Bear N Mind COX SCN SIN WRD6 WRDX BOD DDX*Requalifler"
AKC #: WS68048603 Date of Birth: 2/5/2020
Sex: M **Call Name: Cosmo**
Sire: GCHB CH Sugar-Mtn's Pray For Peace
Dam: WA VN GCH CH Kloofbear The Guardian's Angel At Bear N Mind COX PCDX BN RAE CGCA TKN WRD TDD6
Breeder: Alice Harwell & Christine Gorsuch
Owner: Scott K Dickensheets
Handler: Scott K Dickensheets

BWD:

Saturday Qualifier

J.S. MISCHIEF UNDER THE HOLLY TREE
AKC #: WS87774706 Date of Birth: 11/15/2025
Sex: F **Call Name: Hollis**
Sire: CH BYDAND'S HOLY BROWN BEAR BATMAN
Dam: J.S. MIDSUMMER'S EVE HIDDEN TREASURE
Breeder: MRS. JENNA CHRISTINE SALOW
Owner: Gordon Songer
Handler: Gordon Songer

Sunday Qualifiers:

BearNmind's Samson Runs From Scissors Dancing Bear CGC
AKC #: WS76158006 Date of Birth: 2/24/2022
Sex: M **Call Name: Samson**
Sire: VN CH Bear N Mind's A Whale Of A Tale At Bear Harbor COX BN RA CGC TKA WRD2 DO3
Dam: CH Bear N Mind's Don'T Stop Me Now BN RI ROM
Breeder: Christine Gorsuch & Dwight Gorsuch
Owner: Mr. Stephen Aloi & Ms. Natalie Aloi
Handler: Stephen Aloi

Top Shelfs Mabel Will Have One More CGC, TKN
AKC #: WS87210008 Date of Birth: 7/3/2025
Sex: F **Call Name: Mabel**
Sire: GCH CH Disoranto Attention Please
Dam: GCHS CH Top Shelfs Drink on it
Breeder: Debra Wigal & Becky Reynnells
Owner: Tammy Brown & Kurt Brown
Handler: Tammy

Member Submission

Continued

WD:

Sunday Qualifier

CH Gold Cup's It's Not A Pyramid Scheme
AKC #: WS73012009 Date of Birth: 4/14/2021
Sex: M **Call Name: Ramon**
Sire: CH Hurricane Keep My Dreams Afloat RN WRD3
Dam: CH Gold Cup's Flying High ROM
Breeder: Dr. Erin Kathleen Murphy & John O'Neill D.V.M.
Owner: Cathy Cwisniewski & Dr. Erin Kathleen Murphy & John O'Neill D.V.M. & Zach Rosario
Handler: Zach Rosario

WRD:

Saturday and Sunday Qualifiers:

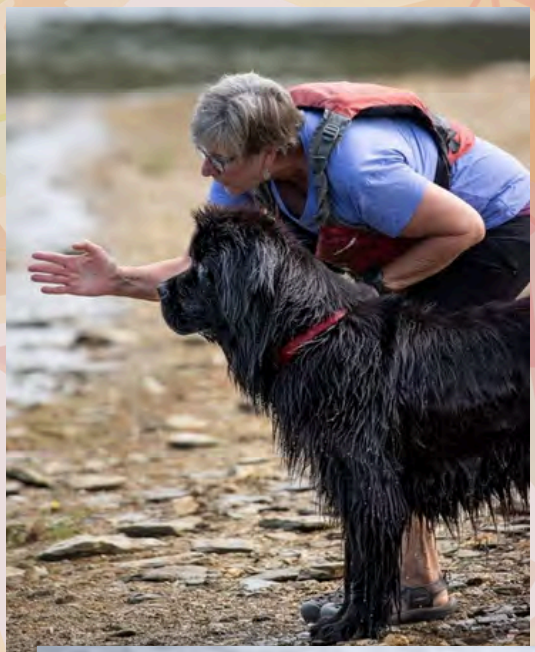
Dock Of The Bay's Adventure CDX WD
AKC # WS86083206 Date of Birth: 1/20/2025
Sex: F **Call Name: Venture**
Sire: Portside's Wallace RN WO
Dam: Dock Of The Bay's She Stole My Heart WRD
Breeder: James D Lonergan & Susan R Lonergan
Owner: Deanna Alko & John Caldwell
Handler: Deanna Alko

WA VN CH Hazel Hollow's Banner UD RE WD2 WRD22 WRDX18 DD1 DDX1 TDD1 TDDX *Requallfier"
AKC #: WS61994801 Date of Birth: 6/29/2018
Sex: M **Call Name: Banner**
Sire: VN CH Jolly Roger's Archangel CD WD1 WRD11 D01
Dam: Marcarpents This Kind Of Love CD BN RA CGC '1/1/D
Breeder: Kurt Brown & Tammy Brown
Owner: Deanna Alko & John Caldwell
Handler: Deanna Alko

Member Submission

Continued

Water Test Photos
Photos: John Caldwell













HEALTH NOTES

The ABCs of CBD for pets

Is CBD a therapeutic wonder or a danger? A pet poison expert says it's somewhere in between.

https://profiles-vetmed.umn.edu/article/abcs-cbd-pets

Issue: Spring 2026 Section:Patients & Care, Research Tags: Cats, Dogs By: Kaitlin Sullivan
Published: April 02, 2026

Cannabidiol, or CBD, in pet products has exploded in popularity over the last decade. Pet owners can purchase CBD treats, salves, serums and tinctures everywhere from mainstream big box stores to boutiques.

The claims are far-reaching, from calming anxiety to easing arthritic pain—and in many cases, research does back them up. CBD can be a very effective adjunct therapy and many veterinarians do recommend it for their patients, says Holly Hommerding, '08 DVM, a senior veterinary toxicologist at Pet Poison Helpline, a 24-hour animal poison control center.

CBD is one of more than 100 known compounds in the cannabis plant called cannabinoids. On its own, CBD does not produce the "high" that cannabinoids such as THC—tetrahydrocannabinol—produce.

"CBD itself is a non-intoxicating cannabinoid, and it's extremely well tolerated in cats and dogs. It's the THC that can cause issues," Hommerding says.

In a recent report, Hommerding and her colleague, Ahna Brutlag, '06 DVM, director of veterinary services and an adjunct assistant professor for the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, found that from January 2018 through February 2023, about 45 percent of calls to the Pet Poison Helpline that involved CBD did not result in a pet needing veterinary care.

In about 30 percent of cases, the pet was lethargic. In 21 percent of cases, pets lacked balance and coordination. In about 7 percent, pets had more serious clinical signs of intoxication, including trembling, urinary incontinence, or neurological symptoms such as extreme sensitivity to touch, smell or light. Three percent had bradycardia, or an abnormally low heart rate.

"In most cases, our dog and cat patients will get into a large number of their own CBD supplements, thinking they are simply treats. These may have been left out on the table or within easy access," Hommerding says, adding that the health consequences are typically not serious, but sometimes do require medical attention.



HEALTH NOTES

Continued

The ABCs of CBD for pets

Is CBD a therapeutic wonder or a danger? A pet poison expert says it's somewhere in between.

Does CBD contain THC?

Legally, CBD products derived from hemp that are sold in the United States can contain 0.3 percent THC—equal to 3 milligrams of THC per gram. That is a relatively small amount, but it can add up if pets consume an entire package of CBD supplements.

"Dogs and likely cats have a very, very increased number of cannabinoid receptors in their body compared to humans, and they are distributed quite differently," Hommerding says. "This means dogs and cats are a lot more sensitive to THC than humans."

Like humans, dogs and cats naturally produce molecules called endocannabinoids, which bind to receptors throughout the body. These receptors, which are found mainly in the nervous system, brain and immune system, act like switches that help keep the body in balance. While THC "turns on" some of these switches, causing a feeling of being high, CBD works in much more subtle ways. Rather than activating these switches, CBD interacts with other pathways involved in pain, inflammation, and anxiety, which is why CBD can be a good thing to use in tandem with other therapies for these conditions.

Experts also believe that at least some of the more than 100 cannabinoids in the cannabis plant act together to produce positive effects on the body, meaning it may not be a bad thing for CBD products to contain other cannabinoids.

"I don't want to scare people away from using CBD if they have had a good conversation with their veterinarian and think it could be a good adjunct therapy," Hommerding says. "There is plenty of evidence to suggest it may be of benefit in dogs that have conditions like arthritis or seizures."

That said, due to a lack of regulatory oversight, pet owners should be aware that CBD supplements and treats can contain higher quantities of THC that can cause issues if pets consume large amounts of the treats.

When to get help

Once a cat or dog consumes about 2 to 3 milligrams of THC per kilogram of their weight, they may start to show moderate signs of intoxication, such as moving slowly or getting sleepy. If a pet has gastrointestinal issues, hyperactivity, head bobbing, sensitivity to lights, noise and movement, or more than mild lethargy, that would warrant a visit to the vet for supportive care such as intravenous (IV) fluids, or a call to the Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661, Hommerding says.

"THC exposures are generally not expected to lead to death, but dogs and cats can be very sensitive to it. A small dog, in particular, can reach that dose very quickly," Hommerding says.



2025 NCA Heroic Newfoundland Award Recipient

by Lisa M. Schiller, Founder/President, Spirit Cove, Hendersonville, NC

Bella: The Heart of a Gentle Giant

**Reprinted from NewfTide Third Quarter 2026*
Photos of Bella and Mary & Dan can be found there



CH Anchorbay's Heart Of A Beautiful Rose CGC, CGCA. CGCU, TKI, THDA, RI, BN Owned and loved by Dan & Mary Costello Bred by Karen Moore and Brooke Moore Beck
Some Newfoundland dogs leave paw prints on our hearts. Others leave on entire communiies.

Bella, officially known as CH Anchorbay's Heart Of A Beautiful Rose. is one of those rare dogs whose quiet presence changes lives in ways both profound and unforgettable. To meet Bella is to immediately understand the hallmark traits that have made the Newfoundland breed beloved for generations: gentleness, intuition, compassion, loyalty, and an almost uncanny ability to comfort people exactly when they need it most.

But Bella's story is not hers alone. It is also the story of two extraordinary people — Mary and Dan Costello — whose lives reflect the very spirit of volunteerism and service that this award was created to honor. Together, Mary, Dan, Bella, and their other Newf Riley have become an inseparable team. bringing comfort, healing, and connection to countless people through animal-assisted therapy work.

Bella joined the Spirit Cove/Newfie Therapy team in 2022 and quickly became one of its most dedicated and beloved therapy dogs. Since then, she has eamed her AKC THDX (Therapy Dog Excellent) title, completing well over 200 therapy visits and touching the Jives of thousands of individuals, including first responders, veterans, healthcare workers, senior citizens, students, and patients.

Yet statistics alone cannot measure the true impact of a therapy dog. The real impact lives in the moments, like the one for which she received this award:

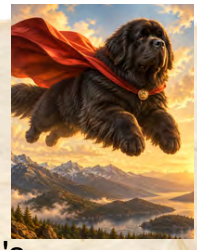
During a FujiFilm's corporate wellness visit, Bella repeatedly pressed herself against a woman named Stephanie. Bella kept placing her paws on her in a way Mary had only seen once before, and she recognized the behavior immediately.

Bella had previously alerted similarly while serving as a diabetic alert dog for Marys mother, Rosa, for whom she had been a service dog, warning her when dangerous blood sugar changes were occurring before they became life-threatening. Mary shared this experience with Stephanie, concerned that something may be wrong.

Concerned, Mary gently asked Stephanie if she was okay. Stephanie assured her she was fine, but Bella would not leave her side.

Nearly a year later, attended another wellness event at FujiFilm. Mary walked in with Bella and heard someone calling Bella's name, it was Stephanie, rushing across the room towards them. She had tears in her eyes, “My hero Bella!’’ She called. and immediately got down and hugged, Bella. "You saved me!"





She shared with Mary that after meeting the two of them, she couldn't stop thinking about Bella's behavior, so she called her doctor and scheduled a medical appointment right away. Her doctor discovered a serious heart condition that required emergency surgery. Bella had helped to save her life!

As the woman sat beside her, Bella rested her massive head softy in her tap — almost as if she understood everything and wanted to tell her: You're Okay now.

Stories like these are remarkable, but those who know Bella best would likely tell you they are not surprising.

Bella possesses that rare Newfoundland sensitivity that cannot be taught. She instinctively gravitates toward peo- ple carrying grief, anxiety, fear, or loneliness. Whether visiting schools, hospitals, senior centers, or college campuses, Bella has an extraordinary ability to make people feel safe, seen, and loved.

That gift became especially evident during the COVID pandemic. when Princeton University reached out to Spirit Cove seeking help creating one of its first on-campus ther- apy dog support teams for students returning to an atmo- sphere filled with uncertainty, stress, and isolation.

Mary and Dan were the first volunteers to step forward. They helped establish what would become an Incredibly meaningful and enduring mental health support pres- ence on campus and the response from students was overwhelming.

What began as support during a difficult transition quickly evolved into an ongoing and deeply valued resource for the university community. Bella and Riley became familiar and comforting figures during exam periods, stressful aca- demic seasons, campus events, and times of tragedy and grief, including after the deaths of students by suicide.

For many students far away from home, Bella became more than a therapy dog. She became a source of grounding, comfort. stability, and unconditional love.

One student in particular formed an especially deep bond With Bella. Her name is Carrie. Painfully shy when she arrived on campus as a freshman, she began attending every therapy event where Bella and Riley were present. Over time. Bella appeared to recognize Carrie, often waiting expectantly for her arrival.

Through the pressures of exams, academic stress, person- al struggles, and the emotional ups and downs of college life, Bella became a constant source of comfort throughout all four years.



2025 NCA Heroic Newfoundland Award Recipient

Continued



At graduation, Carrie shared something Mary would never forget she did not know if she would have made it through Princeton without Bella.

That is the power of these dogs. Not simply to comfort people for a moment, but to help carry them through entire seasons of life.

Outside of Princeton, Mary and Dan continue to volunteer tirelessly throughout their communities with Bella and Riley. Their work has included visits and support for many schools throughout New Jersey, Girl Scouts of America programs, and countless other community outreach efforts.

What makes their dedication especially remarkable is that they rarely say no when someone is in need.

Even when exhausted.
Even when life is difficult.
Even when nobody sees the sacrifices behind the scenes.

That quiet selflessness is the true heart of therapy work.

Therapy dogs may be the visible face of animal-assisted support, but behind every successful therapy dog is a human family dedicating endless hours to training, washing and grooming, travel, volunteer service, emotional energy, and compassion for others. Mary and Dan embody that spirit fully.

And Bella, in return embodies everything people cherish about the Newfoundland breed itself: strength paired with softness, gentleness paired with intuition. dignity paired with deep emotional sensitivity.

She does not seek attention for herself.
She simply seeks people who need love.

For all the lives she has touched, all the comfort she has pro- vided, and all the hope she continues to bring into the world, Bella is a truly deserving recipient of the Newfoundland Club of America Heroic Newfoundland Award.

We celebrate not only Bella, but the extraordinary bond between Bella, Riley. Mary, and Dan — a team whose compassion continues to ripple outward into schools, hospitals. campuses, senior centers. and communities everywhere they go.

They remind us all what Newfoundlands do best They carry hearts bigger than themselves.



2025 NCA Heroic Newfoundland Award Recipient

Continued



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Dog Knowledge & Books

https://lstgeorge.com/the-blog/newfoundland-dog

Newfoundland Dogs: Gentle Giants with a Life-Saving Spirit

LaVerne St. George — Monday, August 26, 2024

In LOVE'S HIGHEST CALLING, my historical novel about the US Life-Saving Service of the 1800s, one of the important characters is Gypsy, a loyal Newfoundland dog who stays by her master's side--#1 surfman Marcus Hamilton--until she and Phoebe Tyler, the human heroine of the story, grow to love each other. So on this National Dog Day, it's the perfect time to celebrate my canine heroine.

Newfoundland dogs, often affectionately referred to as "Newfies," are renowned for their gentle nature, impressive size, and remarkable water rescue abilities. These majestic creatures have a long history of serving humanity, particularly in water rescue and life-saving missions. Newfies are known for their calm, patient, and loving demeanor. They are often described as "nanny dogs" due to their excellent instincts with children. Their gentle nature and gentle touch make them ideal companions for families. In fact, in J.M. Barrie's story PETER and WENDY, the beloved nursemaid dog is Nana, a Newfy.

A History of Life-Saving

The Newfoundlands' association with water rescue dates back centuries. Their natural buoyancy, webbed feet, and thick, water-resistant coat make them exceptional swimmers. During the 1800s, Newfies were employed by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in England to rescue shipwreck survivors from the treacherous waters of the Atlantic. Their remarkable ability to retrieve drowning victims from the ocean earned them the nickname "gentle giants of the sea."

Across the Atlantic, Newfies also played a vital role in life-saving efforts in the United States. They were used by the U.S. Life-Saving Service (the precursor to the U.S. Coast Guard) to rescue shipwrecked sailors and passengers. Their bravery and dedication saved countless lives during this era. My fictional dog, Gypsy, is part of the crew at a Life-Saving Station in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, playing and serving on the shores of Lake Superior.



Dog Knowledge & Books

https://lstgeorge.com/the-blog/newfoundland-dog

Across the Atlantic, Newfies also played a vital role in life-saving efforts in the United States. They were used by the U.S. Life-Saving Service (the precursor to the U.S. Coast Guard) to rescue shipwrecked sailors and passengers. Their bravery and dedication saved countless lives during this era. My fictional dog, Gypsy, is part of the crew at a Life-Saving Station in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, playing and serving on the shores of Lake Superior.

Owners I've spoken with and news stories tell of a Newfy's natural rescue instinct. Newfies have been known to swim out into the water to save a swimmer or boater without any command given and without any formal training. With training and experience as shown in LOVE'S HIGHEST CALLING, they will perform rescues as their humans and the situation require.

While the role of Newfies in organized water rescue has diminished in recent years, these magnificent dogs continue to demonstrate their life-saving abilities. There are countless stories of Newfies rescuing people from drowning, fires, and other dangerous situations. Each dog has a dominant ability that can be fostered. Some make excellent cadaver dogs; others excel in water rescue; still others in search and rescue. Newfies can also be true working dogs, dragging carts or more often carrying burdens as a packhorse. Their strength, intelligence, and unwavering loyalty make them invaluable companions and potential heroes.

The Annoying Side of Newfies

Despite their many virtues, Newfies are not without their quirks. Owners often mention the following as common annoyances:

Drooling: Newfies are known for their excessive drooling, which can be messy and inconvenient. Phoebe experiences this firsthand in my novel.

Laziness: Some owners report that their dog's favorite spot is a plush couch or large cushion from which they can not be moved by coaxing or cajoling. They will move quickly, however, when they know that swimming is in the plan and will happily swim until tired.

Shedding: Their thick, double coats require regular grooming to manage shedding. Finding hair on the walls is not uncommon.

Size: Their large size can be intimidating to others and challenging in smaller spaces which may make it difficult to travel with them.

Eating Habits: Newfies have a voracious appetite and can be prone to overeating.

Playfulness: While their playfulness is endearing, it can also be destructive, especially when they are young.

Despite these inconveniences, the love and companionship that Newfies offer far outweigh any challenges.



Dog Knowledge & Books



If you wish to purchase *Love's Highest Calling* go to:

https://lstgeorge.com/love-s-highest-calling

The Adventures of Max & Min

By Natalie & Stephen Aloi







Board Meeting Minutes

CNC BOD Meeting Minutes
15 July 2026
Called to Order 7:32

Present: Paul Katinas (PK), Elizabeth McCully (EM), Andrew Harding (AH), Paula McPherson (PM), Michele Miller (MM), Donna Foy (DF), Bennett Alford (BA), Don Sharkey (DS), Natalie Aloi (NA)
Guests: Kathy Paxton (KP), Dwight Gorsuch (DG), Donna McConn (DM)
President, Paul Katinas – open meeting
Update on Cordorus permit approval

Recording Secretary, Paula McPherson
Motion made to approve 17 June 26 minutes (EM). Second (BA). No objections. Motion passed.
Motion made to approve 30 June 26 minutes (EM). Seconded (MM). No objections. Motion passed.
Corresponding Secretary, Natalie Aloi
Next Bear Fare issue deadline: 31 July 26

Treasurer, Andrew Harding
Treasurers report
Beginning balance $52,528.31, ending balance $51,387.17
Expenditures over $100.
Motion made to approve expenditures over $100 (EM). Seconded (BA). No objections. Motion passed.
Motion made to accept treasurers report as amended (EM). Seconded (PM). No objections. Motion passed.

Committee & Event Reports:
Rescue, Donna McConn
3 in rescue, 2 have interest, 3 adoptions.
Calendar Contest fundraiser complete
Nominating Committee, Lily Bruch

Historian, Publicity, Policy, Kathy Paxton

Insurance (PK)
Changed policy term to Nov-Nov

Board Meeting Minutes - Continued

Membership, Membership Broadcast, Web/Facebook, Paula McPherson
Membership – New members for preliminary approval
Motion made to grant preliminary approval to applicant(s) and publish in CNC's Newf-E-Notes for member comments (EM). Seconded (AH) . No objections. Motion passed.

Membership Broadcast – email to broadcastcnc@gmail.com
Website/Facebook –
Working Dog, Michele Miller
Fall Activities
Water Test – 22 & 23 August on track
Regional Specialty – on track
Newfies on the Mall 7 Nov
Scent Work Trial 19-20 Nov

New business:
Canine Dance Workshop
DF continue to explore possibility

Next scheduled meeting : 19 August 2026
Adjournment: 8:33 pm
Motion made to adjourn meeting (MM). Seconded (EM) . No objections. Motion passed.

Board Meeting Minutes

CNC BOD Meeting Minutes
19 August 2026
Called to Order 7:35 PM

Present: Elizabeth McCully (EM), Natalie Aloi (NA), Andrew Harding (AH), Paula McPherson (PM), Don Sharkey (DS)
Absent: Paul Katinas (PK), Donna Foy (DF), Bennett Alford (BA), Michele Miller (MM)
Guests: Kathy Paxton (KP)

Vice-President, Elizabeth McCully – open meeting
Scent Trial 13 December 26
Recording Secretary, Paula McPherson
Motion made to approve July 26 minutes (AH). Second (NA). No objections. Motion passed.
Corresponding Secretary, Natalie Aloi
Next Bear Fare issue deadline 31 October 26

Treasurer, Andrew Harding
Treasurers report
Beginning balance $51,387.17, ending balance $52,226.29
Expenditures over $100.
Motion made to approve expenditures over $100 (PM). Seconded (NA). No objections. Motion passed.
Motion made to accept treasurers report as presented (PM). Seconded (NA). No objections. Motion passed.

Committee & Event Reports:
Rescue,
3 adopted, 1 intake
Nominating Committee, Lily Bruch

Historian, Publicity, Policy, Kathy Paxton
2 page ad submitted
Insurance
Policy renewal now November

Board Meeting Minutes - Continued

Membership, Membership Broadcast, Web/Facebook, Paula McPherson
Membership – New members for preliminary approval
Motion made to grant preliminary approval to applicant(s) and publish in CNC's Newf-E-Notes for member comments (AH). Seconded (NA) . No objections. Motion passed.

Membership Broadcast – email to broadcastcnc@gmail.com
Website/Facebook – up to date
Working Dog, Michele Miller
Fall Activities
Fall Fun Day
26 Sept, Fredericksburg – RSVP coming in.

New business:

Next scheduled meeting : 16 September 2026
Adjournment: 8:09 PM
Motion made to adjourn meeting (PM). Seconded (NA) . No objections. Motion passed.

Board Meeting Minutes

CNC BOD Meeting Minutes
16 September 2026
Called to Order 7:31 PM

Present: Paul Katinas (PK), Elizabeth McCully (EM), Andrew Harding (AH), Paula McPherson (PM), Natalie Aloi (NA), Don Sharkey (DS), Michele Miller (MM), Bennett Alford (BA)
Absent: Donna Foy
Guests: Dwight Gorsuch (DG), Kathy Paxton (KP), Donna McConn (DM)
President, Paul Katinas – open meeting
Congratulation and Thank you Natalie Aloi chairing CNC Water Test. Thank you to Michele Miller for mentoring Natalie. Thank you Elizabeth McCully for leading August BOD Meeting.
AKC Scent Trial 13 December 2026 – Planning in progress.

Recording Secretary, Paula McPherson
Motion made to approve 19 August minutes as amended (EM). Second (MM).
No objections. Motion passed.
Corresponding Secretary, Natalie Aloi
Next Bear Fare deadline 31 October
No new nominees so for – deadline to submit 20 September 2026
Treasurer, Andrew Harding
Treasurers report
Beginning balance $52,226.39, ending balance $53,322.77
Expenditures over $100.
Motion made to approve expenditures over $100 (EM). Seconded (NA). No objections. Motion passed.
Motion made to accept treasurers report as presented (EM). Seconded (NA). No objections. Motion passed.
Discussion to transfer some funds into CDs for better interest rate. Funds into 5 mon CD, funds into 12 month CD.
Motion made to transfer $10,000 into 5 month CD and $10,000 into 12 month CD (PM). Seconded (EM). No objections. Motion passed.

Committee & Event Reports:
Rescue, Donna McConn
4 currently in rescue. 1 intake pending. 1 adoption complete, 1 pending.
Foster applications being reviewed for increasing fosters.
Report on Angels in Oilskins at Ocean City Museum

Board Meeting Minutes - Continued

Insurance
Paid – coverage year changed to November-November
Membership, Membership Broadcast, Web/Facebook, Paula McPherson
Membership – No new members for approval
Renewal in progress – 60% currently renewed
Membership Broadcast – email to broadcastcnc@gmail.com
Website/Facebook – up to date
Working Dog, Michele Miller
Water Test –
Completed
Regional Specialty – 9-11 October
On track, trophies in progress, raffle items in progress

Fall Activities
Fall Fun Day, Sarah Collings
26 Sept Fredericksburg, VA
Draft Workshop, Christie Smith
24 Oct Poor Farm Park, Ashland, VA
Fall Pack Walk, Natalie Aloi
31 Oct Vienna, VA
Newfies on the Mall, Paul Katinas
7 Nov Washington, DC
Annual Meeting – Zoom
18 Nov (before Board meeting)
Christmas Parade, Scott Dickensheets
22 Nov Ashland, VA
Christmas Tree Pull, Scott D & Christie S
28 Nov Bees n Trees
Scent Trial, Paul Katinas
13 Dec Laurel, MD

Next scheduled meeting : 21 October 2026 7:30 PM
Adjournment: 8:53 PM
Motion made to adjourn meeting (PM). Seconded (MM) . No objections. Motion passed.