



**Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)**  
**2015 In Person BOARD MEETING**  
Riverwalk Hotel, Neenah, Wisconsin  
Monday September 14, 2015  
**AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Online BOD General and Executive Session Minutes  
(See Attachment A - April 2014 Online BOD Business Session)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Kim Simons, President*

The Board meeting will start at 10:00 AM Eastern, 9:00 AM Central, 8:00 AM Mountain and 7:00 AM Pacific.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Adams, Secretary*

The Nominating Committee's slate was presented to our membership in the Fall 2015 issue of Quackers. No additional nominations were received on or before August 20, 2015 for the following positions:

DIRECTOR: Region 2 – Dan Rode (Minnesota) [First 3 year term]

DIRECTOR: Region 5 – Latisha Hancy (Missouri) [First 3 year term]

It is with pleasure that I, as Secretary of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA), cast one vote on August 31, 2015, for the positions of Region 2 Director and Region 5 Director.

Regional Director terms begin on November 1, 2015 and run through October 31, 2018.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Brad Sherlag, Treasurer*

(See Attachment B - Treasurer Report - NSDTRC 2015 Annual Report Final)

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**REGION 1 – 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Liz Mecham, NSDTRC-USA Region 1 Director*

No report submitted

**REGION 2 – 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Dan Rode, NSDTRC-USA Region 2 Director*

*2015 September In Person Board Meeting Agenda - NSDTRC (USA)*

*Page 1 of 20*

No report submitted

### **REGION 3 - 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Terri Krause, NSDTRC-USA Region 3 Director*

Region 3 hasn't been too active. Puget Sound Retriever Club hosted their event and offered WC & WCI back in June 2015. We are chatting about an SE possibly for 2016. Date to be determined.

### **REGION 4 – 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Lia Riatt, NSDTRC-USA Region 4 Director*

No report submitted

### **REGION 5 – 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Max Hamilton, NSDTRC-USA Region 5 Director*

No report submitted

### **REGION 6 – 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Ann DiSilvestre, NSDTRC-USA Region 6 Director*

Region 6 reports that Alyson Casper, Region 6 Member, Chaired and organized the 2014 AKC Eukanuba Meet the Breeds event in December. Once again it was very successful with volunteers from all parts of the country. The volunteers were kept very busy talking to and handing out literature to all of the visitors. We believe we had the largest contingency of canine specimens of any booth!! The dogs were adorable and well behaved. The Eukanuba photographer took an amazing picture of the group and it can be found on the AKC website at [www.akc.org/nationalchampionship/2014/slideshow.cfm](http://www.akc.org/nationalchampionship/2014/slideshow.cfm). Thank you to all of the volunteers. Alyson has volunteered to once again Chair the event in December. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Alyson.

Region 6 again held a supported entry at the Palm Beach County Dog Fanciers Association Show on February 28, 2015. There were over 15 dogs entered with majors for both dogs and bitches. There was also a very good Toller entry for the Golden Retriever Club Obedience/Rally trial held the previous day. Joy Annunziato, Chair for the event, did a great job in coordinating all of the volunteers. Special thanks to all of the volunteers for making the event so much fun and a huge success. For a complete list of participants, please see the Quackers Winter 2014 Edition.

The tireless Joy Annunziato Chaired the Region 6 BRT/WC Test held on April 18, 2015 in Palm City, FL. The weather was great, everyone pitched in and fun was had by all! Congratulations to all of the participants. A list of qualifiers can be found in the Spring 2015 Edition of Quackers.

### **REGION 7 – 2014 REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Hollis, NSDTRC-USA Region 7 Director*

*2015 September In Person Board Meeting Agenda - NSDTRC (USA)*

*Page 2 of 20*

A special thank you for Melissa Savage for being the National Specialty Chair and putting on a great specialty in region 7 last year!  
Region 7 once again put up a good display at the annual Philadelphia Kennel Club Show in November 2014 and again won first prize in the booth decorating contest. Our display just keeps getting better and better each year. We wait and see how we outdo ourselves for November 2015. Region 7 coordinated participation in the Meet the Breeds in association with Westminster at the Piers in NYC on February 14, 2015. We expect to participate in this event again in early 2016. This past year region 7 had a supported entry at Maryland Sporting Dog show in March 2015 and had a really good turn out as usual. We expect we will be doing the same in 2016. Region 7 and Region 1 will be doing a joint supported entry at the Morris and Essex Show in Somerset, NJ on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015. This is a special show that only happens once every 5 years. This show is quite a spectacular show and I would encourage all in the area who can attend to do so.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **2016 NATIONAL SPECIALTY REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Crane*

The 2016 Committee is excited to see you in Napa, CA next year! Added bonus: The Thursday after our specialty, we have a supported entry at the Lake Drake Cluster in Vallejo, CA. The Friday, Saturday and Sunday after our specialty, Reg 4 is hosting our annual agility trial in Sacramento.

In other good news, the 2016 Committee has approved a logo and theme. The striking logo was designed by renowned commercial artist, Steven Noble. Our theme "Robust - Structured - Brilliant" pays homage to the rich tradition of wineries in Napa Valley and the qualities of our breed.

We are currently in process for booking both event and banquet venues. All venues will be 10min from downtown Napa, with the exception of the Field venue, which is 35min from downtown.

If you have any questions, please contact Event Chair, Amanda Crane - [amanda.crane@outlook.com](mailto:amanda.crane@outlook.com)

### **AKC DELEGATE**

*Respectfully submitted by Marile Waterstraat*

Delegate's Report June 7-8, 2015 AKC Delegates' Meeting

Parent Clubs Committee: \_ As of May, there were 31,800 CGC titles awarded, an increase of 2500 from March. \_ There are 176 members of the Parent Club Rescue Alliance List. \_ Chris Walker, former i.t. and marketing person has resigned. \_ Pet Disaster trailers...just short of having raised 1 million. 24 have been delivered, 11 are in the works, and 16 are in fundraising. \_ A sub-committee has been formed to look at outreach for new members among the sporting and hound groups. I have received an inquiry from this committee to take a look at our breed flyer that is sent out to each new puppy owner from the AKC, and include on it a list of activities that are appropriate for

Tollers. I expect to be receiving more information. \_ It was suggested that each club website have a link to the AKC on it. \_ Breeders of Merit should be receiving a survey from the AKC about which parent club they belong to. Hopefully soon you will have to be a breeder of merit for all breeds you breed. \_ To be part of the new program “Bred with Heart” a breeder must do the health testing recommended by the parent club, be inspected, participate in annual online breeder education. \_ A subcommittee will be looking at archiving Parent Club records, finding good ways to do this, and finding ways to get “older” important breeders records from them for the club to archive.

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: \_ The committee is working on having more engaged and active delegates. They are working on ways to showcase the benefit of having a delegate to those member clubs who do have one, or send one. 47 member clubs do not have a delegate, 9 training, 28 kennel clubs, and 10 parent clubs. \_ From July to June, 54 delegates left which is 9% of the delegate body. In the past the number has been closer to 7% a year. However, 10-12 a year are delegates who stop representing one club, and then represent another. \_ The new i.t. person is Michael Desone. He is based in NYC. \_

Coordinating Committee: \_ The AKC has put out 6 new videos on “I am a breeder.” There is a growing social media presence with 90-110,000 impressions a day. \_ CHF has granted a study on contagious diseases in canines. \_ 570 people are members of the Companion Events List. A request to include deaf dogs in agility, tracking, and rally was sent to the Board. There is great interest in nose work. \_ A survey will be going out to all hunt test and field trial clubs. \_ Fast Cat has been added to the lure coursing events. \_ The parent club information will be listed on the outreach email to new registrants.

Legislative Caucus: \_ The AKC is tracking nearly 1500 pieces of legislation. \_ There is a new PAWS bill which is “protection of women and pets” which would allow legal protections for women and their pets in domestic abuse. \*\*\*The AKC government relations site will now allow you to send auto email to you legislator. The legislative action center has key issue pages. It can be found directly from akc.org with a link at the bottom of any page. \_ The AKC has a legislation position statement for protections for pets under states domestic violence acts. \_ New AR legislation includes bill against tethering outside, disregarding sled dogs, sporting dogs, etc. Also, some nasty ones which would charge fees for daily boarding and care, even if a person is acquitted of animal cruelty, and if the person is unable to pay, they would lose their animals. These bills have been found unconstitutional previously, but are still being introduced. \_ Dr. Cindy Buckminster spoke on the care of laboratory animals, which is a necessary part of medical research for humans. “Activists are loving people who don’t know the whole truth. They get the half-truth from extremists who are not good people and don’t act in love. They only care about their agenda, the absolute end of any meaningful relationship of people and animals.” The Beagle Freedom Project is evil. Actually animals used in research are highly regulated. It’s our fault if we don’t say anything against these people. There are close to 200 animal law programs in this country, and that is scary. The largest rehoming project for research animals is “Homes for Animal Heroes.” Like it on Facebook and invite everyone to like it. \_ Language is an important tool. Use “work with, study, research with, studies.” Do not use: use of animals, research or experiments on animals. Her final point: If laboratory animals aren’t cared for well, then the science will be meaningless.

Forum: Susan Lilly, the CEO of Canine Health Foundations spoke. Over the past 20 years of existence, CHF has granted 44 million. CHF has a 4 star charity navigator rating. CHF presently has a 8 million research portfolio with over 100 grants. They now do donor driven research and focus funding on research that will have impact. Grants are all peer reviewed. There are some corporate alliances. Purina has donated 13 million. UC Davis is doing research on the timing of spay/neuter on the relationship with hip dysplasia, lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma. Also research is being done on correct diagnoses of hypothyroidism. \_ [www.vetvinc.com](http://www.vetvinc.com) (or possibly vetvine) has great materials on health resources. \*\*\*She talked about and showed on the screen the Toller Club grant for Addison’s research, as an additional grant they were able to give.

Delegates’ Meeting: \_ Chair’s report. 1.5 billion is spent on dog events per year over all the US. (This was from a survey. 84,000 were sent out, 14,000 completed, a ratio of 17%. Most people participate 12 times a year. Most drive more than 100 miles. Clubs spend an average of 9000 per event.) \_ Chair’s report. Michael Liosis received an award for 45 years of service. \_ CFO’s report. Litter registrations down 1 %, dog registrations up 1 %. Revenues up 738,000 for the quarter, expenses down 118,000. 3.7 million operating income, a 32% increase.

Vote on Club territory, change to Chapter 2 of the dog show rules: The vote was divided. Sections 1,2,4,14,15, 15 passed. Section 2: voted to refer it back to the Dog Show Rules Committee for clarification of the language.

Read on awarding of CM points in regular puppy classes, a change to Chapter 16 of the dog show rules. There are many problems with this proposal.

Self nomination for delegate committees occurs in July. \_ PeeWee (ages 5-8) junior competition is a special attraction. It is non-competitive. \_ The Pyrranean Shepherd Club has not been allowed to become a member club

although their breed is recognized. They have asked for fellow delegates' support to gain membership. \_ Anyone wanting to contact Julian Praeger, his email is julian.d.praeger.usda.gov. \_ The AKC will send out an email blast to folks close to an event, advertising that event. Parent clubs may take advantage of it also.

## AKC GAZETTE COLUMNIST

*Respectfully submitted by Heather Green*

I continue to enjoy authoring our breed column for the AKC Gazette. This past year I covered topics on Toller rescue, Degenerative Myelopathy in Tollers and Toller temperament. If you have an idea for a future column, please contact me at zephyr341@sbcglobal.net, or chat with me this week while you are here for the Specialty.

## BREEDER REFERRAL

*Respectfully submitted by Cindy Richardson*

No report submitted

## FIELD EVENTS

*Respectfully submitted by Danika Bannasch*

In the last year, the National club has sponsored seven field tests and approved the entry of NSDTRs in four tests supported by other clubs who were willing to run tests according to our rules.

NSDTRC Club Sponsored Working Tests								
Shows	Date	Chair	Region	Location	BRT	WC	WCI	WCX
National 2014	10/12/14	Savage	7	Wilmington, OH	X	X	X	X
	8/15/2015	Joy Annunziato	1	Mexico, NY	X	X	X	X
	8/16/2015	Joy Annunziato	1	Mexico, NY	X	X	X	X
	6/28/2015	Betty King	5	Fort Collins, CO		X	X	
	6/7/2015	Marcia Lyons	3	Tahuya, WA		X	X	X
Texas 2 step *	3/21/2015	Paul Kartes	5	Midway Texas	X	X	X	X
Texas 2 step*	3/22/2015	Paul Kartes	5	Midway Texas	X	X	X	X
	4/18/2015	Joy Annunziato	6	Palm City, FL	X	X		
BYC#	6/20/2015	Kraig Kratz	2	Grand Kankakee Marsh	X	X	X	X
National 2015	9/19/2015	Bauknecht, Dorscheid	2	Manitowoc, WI	X	X	X	X

\*canceled after ribbons mailed

#canceled due to weather

Other Clubs						
Sponsoring Club Name	Date	NSDTR Member	Location	WC	WCI	WCX
Mid_florida Golden Retriever Club	9/12/2015	Cathy Thompson	Monteverde, FL	X		
Penobscot Hunting Retriever Club	9/27/2015	Susan Robichaud	Dixmont, Maine	X	X	X

Greater Twin Cities Golden Retriever Club	9/13/2015	Cindy Lindemer	Marine on St Croix, MN	X	X	X
Norcal Golden Retriever Club	5/9/2015	Pat Romeiro	Suisun City, Ca	X		X

I have written a proposal to the BOD for clarification of the rules for the WCI and WCX.

## **HEALTH & GENETICS**

*Respectfully submitted by Karen Buaman*

This year we added three members to the committee (Judy Hrcir and Sherry Seibel; plus Cheryl Linder, pending membership renewal). Our goal has been to have a committee comprised of veterinarians, researchers, breeders, performance owners and pet owners representing expertise and opinions about health and genetics of tollers from different areas in the US; we are close to reaching that goal.

Sherry Seibel represented the Committee (and Club) at the 2015 AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference held in Saint Louis in August. She is currently working on her report to the Board about the conference and also preparing an article for Quackers on Degenerative Myopathy (DM) based on new research presented at the CHF Conference. Karen is also working on an article discussing the AKC CHIC program and DNA repository, in an effort to make members more aware of this resource (participation in CHIC approved by the Board many years ago).

Unfortunately, plans to release the disease survey in 2015 were tabled, due to the need to focus on the discovery of Degenerative Encephalopathy in tollers. We worked with Drs. O'Brien and Johnson and Liz Hansen at the University of Missouri, along with several Heath Committee Representatives from toller clubs world-wide to disseminate accurate information to toller owners before any test results from the original test development phase were released. By having a single "voice" via one article going out concurrently to all club, we feel we prevented any excess confusion among owners/breeders about DE and the interpretation of the test results stemming from different pieces of information being released – we all know how small a community we are. Furthermore, this plan also meant that everyone had access at approximately the same time, which was felt to be important since owners from several countries submitted the original samples. Special thanks to the small group of members that approached Karen directly to work with the H & G Committee on this issue; they were a determined group that worked steadily to accomplish the needed steps without panic thereby contributing to the completion of a test for all toller owners. Thanks also to past H & G Chair Jane Folkman for her invaluable guidance and to President Kim Simons for the support. Information on DE is available on the NSDTRC-USA website and an article written by Dr. O'Brien was published in Quackers. Initially the DE test was available through the University of Missouri, but is now available through the OFFA. Reports from OFFA, University of Missouri and toller owners suggest that many of our members have submitted samples for testing since the test was released.

We continue to assist with member questions and needs via the website email account and direct contact, providing information and/or resources about diseases, gene testing, and sample

requests. The addition of two clinical vets to the committee should greatly assist in this important role.

In the next year, we plan to return our focus to finally rolling out the disease survey and continuing to expand the Health and Genetics section of the website such that it is a better resource to members and those interested in toller health.

### **H&G Toller Health Survey Development Committee Report**

*Respectfully submitted by Katie Dugger (Chair), Jude Samuel, and Julie Hanson*

No report submitted

### **HISTORIAN**

*Respectfully submitted, Marile Waterstraat*

I continue to collect the Club history. Please make sure that copies of supported entry premiums, field tests, agility trial reports, catalogs, photos, articles, and information on all Club events are sent to me as previously. I try, but I may miss printing out a premium, and would appreciate your help.

### **JUDGES EDUCATION**

*Respectfully submitted by Deb Gibbs*

The JEC has participated in the following seminars:

NSDTRC-USA National Specialty 2014

Louisville, KY March, 2015

Michigan Sporting Dog, Flint MI, June 2015

Denver CO, August 2015

We reached a total of approximately 60 judge applicants.

We have the following on the calendar:

Eukanuba, 2015, Orlando, FL, December 2015

Portland, OR, January, 2016

Additionally we are looking to streamline our folders and will be coming to the membership for assistance in acquiring photos for use in presentations.

### **JUDGES SELECTION**

*Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Parker*

No report submitted

### **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

*Respectfully submitted Eric Johnson*

No report submitted

### **MEMBERSHIP**

*Respectfully submitted by Kathy Guerra*

No report submitted

### **MERCHANDISING**

*This position is current VACANT*

### **NATIONAL TROPHY CHAIR**

*Respectfully submitted by Kim T Simons*

No report submitted

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Hollis, NSDTRC-USA Region 7 Director*

The first project assigned to me as the newly appointed public education chair this past year was to establish a public education Facebook page. Facebook.com/nsdtrc has been up and running since November 16, 2014. As of Sept. 3 there were a total of 593 page likes. Overall I think the Facebook page is doing well and will continue to maintain it with almost daily posts. Currently I have one other person who has access as a page manager, but hasn't been posting. It would be great if there were others who would like to volunteer to be a page managers.

In the next year I would like to reach out to club members who do public education events to gather feedback on our public education materials (i.e. flyers) to update them. I made rudimentary edits to the flyers handed out at Westminster to remove old contact information on how to obtain a breeder directory and add the Facebook page information, but if anyone has any or knows anyone willing to donate graphic design skills I think our flyers could use an update. I would also love to see a business card size hand out piece available for shows like the Philadelphia Kennel Club where we are not allowed to distribute flyers, but could have business cards to hand to families interested in more information.

### **QUACKERS EDITOR**

*Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Lee Marble*

I have nothing to report on Quackers. If you have article ideas or submissions for our quarterly club newsletter, Quackers, please email them to Editor@nsdtrc-usa.org

### **RECORDS**

*Respectfully submitted by Fran Kaplan*

Please see: Attachment C - 2015 Records Chair Report



## **RESCUE REPORT**

*Respectfully submitted by Alyson Casper*

**08/01/14- 07/31/15**

**Overview:** The NSDTRC (USA) Rescue Program is dedicated to finding new homes for purebred Tollers. The Regional Coordinators have the most critical role in the work of rescue. Our work would not be possible without the dedicated Regional Coordinators, the volunteers and donations.

- Region 1 – Vacant
- Region 2 – Jane Billman
- Region 3 – Linda Gallacher
- Region 4 – Shelley Bakalis
- Region 5 – Max Hamilton
- Region 6 - Ann DiSilvestre
- Region 7 – Janis Dibert

Regions 1 remains vacant and has been vacant for 2 years. We are in need of a volunteer in this region to move into this Regional Coordinator position. It is requested that the regional director in that region send an e-mail to her members to see if we can find a current member interested in working with Toller Rescue.

**The Process:** Our procedures continue the same as last year. Potential dogs are identified through various mechanisms. These include screening websites, through the club, AKC websites, club members, and from other rescue organizations. Still, most of the inquiries to Rescue are screened as “Not A Toller”. The new website information “[Do you think you have a Toller in your Shelter?](#)” has helped in the identification process. Once a potential Toller is identified the Regional Rescue Coordinator obtains additional information and arranges for a screening visit to determine if the dog is in fact a Toller. At the same time, the coordinators are arranging for a temporary foster home. The dogs are then evaluated in their foster homes and the process of reviewing applications, phone interviews, and arranging for home assessments is started. Once a new home is identified the coordinators make arrangements to deliver the dog to their new home. Efforts are made to place the dog in the region of origin but due to special needs of some dogs several have been placed in distant regions. This requires a significant amount of coordination and teamwork.

An on-line application process has been operational for 5 years and is working well. I have not received any paper application. We received 290 applications this year. Applications expire after 6 months and we currently have 118 active applications on file. Thanks to the new website, the following forms are now available on-line for completion and review to aide in the entire process:

[Do you think you have a Toller in your Shelter?](#)  
[Owner Surrender Form](#)  
[Owner Surrender Guidelines](#)  
[Shelter Visit Guidelines](#)  
[Checklist for Home Visit](#)  
[Dog Received into Rescue Form](#)

**The Numbers:**

Adoption Applications Received	290
Total Dogs in Program*	7
Dogs verified as purebred	7
Dogs by Region:	R1 (1) R2 (1) R3 (0) R4 (2) R5 (0) R6 (3) R7 (0)
Dogs placed with Breeder	0
Breeder Assisted**	1

\*\*We were contacted to aid in a toller surrender, but the breeder was contacted and the dog was re-homed by the breeder and did not end up coming through our rescue program.

We have also had the opportunity to work with TRI (Toller Rescue, Inc.) an organization made up of several of our members that works to help rescue toller crosses or dogs that cannot be confirmed as being pure bred. These efforts with TRI has been with manpower, communication and coordination. No finances have been shared between either organizations.

I am willing to continue in my role for the next year.

**RESCUE MERCHANDISE**

*Respectfully submitted by Janis Dibert*

No report submitted

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

*Respectfully submitted by Laura White*

I, Laura White was requested by President Kim Simons to make the following report of the Standard Committee. As you know Deb Gibbs resigned as chairman.

I deeply regret not being able to attend the National, but there was simply no way I could. I am really bummed.

Kim Simons tasked me to find out if the current Standard Committee members were still interested in serving on the committee.

Danika Bannasch, Marile Waterstraat, and I Laura White answered affirmatively. I called Peggy Park and she respectfully declined. Peggy has been a stalwart of the breed and has served on this committee and others faithfully for years. I hope that some small token of thanks can be presented to her. She will be missed by all that she had contact with.

Kim Simons had previously asked for recommendations for a new committee member(s), and among a couple of others I suggested Sue Dorscheid. Kim Simons then requested that I contact Sue Dorscheid and see if she was interested in serving. I did and Sue is willing and interested in serving on the standard committee.

I feel the four of us represent a diverse group of long time multi venue Toller breeders and fanciers that can put the breed's best interest first in submitting recommendations for standard revision. I also believe that none of us will work in a void and we all will take to heart recommendations by the BOD and membership.

Lastly, I would like to volunteer to chair the Standard Committee. I feel that the membership deserves a standard revision and it is my sincere goal for all committee members to roll up their sleeves and work together to complete the revision. As soon as the board confirms the members and the chair, we can get down to business. The membership deserves nothing less.

#### **SHOW/TRIAL EVENTS:**

*Respectfully submitted by Robyn Haskin*

Morris and Essex is a dog show supreme show. Held once every 5 years and region 1&2 are sponsoring supported entry Question have arisen regarding working and hunting sweeps being allowed at supported entries? Am unsure of that answer. Need board intervention for that answer.

The manual is 70% completed. Completed portions were suited quite a while ago. Have not heard from board if the first five sections have been discussed for editing.

Certain regions have requested to have additional supported entries in their areas. We are limited to one for Akc region unless it's a special event. Is that something that we can bring up for discussion to not restrict the number of support entries, or is there a reason for the one supported entry rule. Again these are questions that have come to me and I said I would ask

All applications that have been sent to me have been approved. Region one had a change of venue and date so I did make them resubmit an application which has been approved. One

additional supported entry is the Morris and Essex show which is a combined region one and two supported entry. This show is a once in every five year major dog show event in the Northeast. 70% of the manual is completed approximately 55% was sent to the board quite a few months ago and I have not heard anything regarding editing or if those portions have been accepted. Actually no acknowledgment of any of it has been received by me. Leslie the questions I've been getting have been in regards to hunting and working sweeps at supported entries. I have no answer if these are allowed the way it is written does not limited to specialties although I was told it was a specialty events so I put this in the hands of the board to make that determination.

**VERSATILITY COMMITTEE:**

*Respectfully submitted by Cathy DeBruyne*

No report submitted

**WEBSITE**

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Crane*

Analytics from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 – August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015

Summary: Our users and viewership has doubled in the last year. The largest viewing day in this period was February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – in correlation with the Westminster Kennel Club show – with 884 visitors in a single day.

**General Statistics:**

<b>General Statistics:</b>	
Number of web viewing sessions: 74,362	Returning visitors: 25.6%
Number of users: 56,056	Average pages/session: 3.12
Page views: 232,186	Average session duration: 2:21min
New visitors: 74.33%	Bounce rate: 40.68%

<b>Number of users by month:</b>		
October – 6,492	February – 7,773	June – 6,901
November – 5,978	March – 6,340	July – 7,406
December - 6,054	April – 5,779	August – 7,225
January - 7,186	May – 7,016	

<b>Top 10 user countries:</b>	
1. United States - 64,419 users (86.63%)	6. Germany - 368 users (0.49%)
2. Canada - 2,408 users (3.24%)	7. Australia - 347 users (0.47%)
3. Russia - 1,754 users (2.36%)	8. Brazil - 333 users (0.45%)
4. (not set) - 689 users (0.93%)	9. Netherlands - 289 users (0.39%)
5. United Kingdom - 514 users (0.69%)	10. Norway - 206 users (0.28%)

<b>Top viewed pages:</b>
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1. Main page - 32.27%	6. /breed/temperament - 3.75%
2. /breed/breeders - 14.41%	7. /about/rescue - 3.27%
3. /breed/history - 8.78%	8. /breed/standard - 3.06%
4. /breed/breeders/referral - 4.80%	9. /breed/education - 2.97%
5. /breed/top10 - 4.36%	10. /calendar - 2.50%

<b>Top 10 keywords in organic search sources:</b>	
1. Google: 89.37%	6. Ask: 0.14%
2. Yahoo: 5.39%	7. Avg: 0.05%
3. Bing: 4.18%	8. Seznam: 0.05%
4. Aol: 0.60%	9. Startside: 0.02%
5. Comcast: 0.15%	10. Msn: 0.02%

<b>Top referral sources</b>	
1. AKC.org	9.45%
2. Westminsterkennelclub.org	9.03%
3. Dogtime.com	6.02%
4. Apps.akc.org	5.31%
5. Vermilliontollers.com	4.09%
6. Tollerzone.com	3.84%
7. Theaustralianshepherd.net	3.76%

<b>Top 10 keywords in organic searches:</b>
1. Nova scotia duck tolling retriever
2. Nsdtrc usa
3. Nova scotia duck tolling retriever breeders
4. Duck tolling retriever
5. Nova scotia duck tolling retriever rescue
6. <a href="http://nsdtrc-usa.org">http://nsdtrc-usa.org</a>
7. Nova scotia duck-tolling retriever
8. Nova scotia duck toller
9. Nsdtrc
10. Nsdtr

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposal #1:** Meet the Breeds – Eukanuba National Championship December 12-13, 2015

Submitted by: Ann DiSilvestre, Region 6 Director and Alyson Casper

**Description:** This proposal is to appoint Alyson Casper, a NSDTRC-USA Member in good standing, to Chair the Toller booth at the Meet the Breeds event at the AKC Eukanuba National Championships held in the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida on December 12-13, 2015. And to approve funds for purchasing new display materials and the printing of handouts.

Each year, Members from the club and their dogs volunteer to decorate the booth, staff the booth during the hours that it is open to the public and serve as ambassadors of the breed. They also disseminate club and breed information. The volunteers have used the same display and backdrop for the last 6 plus years. The last feedback that was received from the Judges of the event was that the booth did not have enough information regarding the origin of the Breed. Therefore, we would like to update the display with a new backdrop of a picture that was taken in Yarmouth, an area in Canada more reflective of where the Breed originated. In addition, we would like to purchase a stand-up display of the Toller on the Little River sign. Please see the attached pictures.

(See Attachments:

Proposal 1 Attachment A - Toller Little River Sign

Proposal 1 Attachment B – Yarmouth)

**Justification:** The NSDTR club has approved participating in this event. This is to appoint a Member to Chair/coordinate all of the efforts involved in this event and to approve the funds for purchasing the new display materials.

**Administration:** Educational materials will be obtained from the Public Education Coordinator.

**Financial:** The costs for the new display materials is estimated at \$346.16 (please see the attached quote). **Proposal 1 Attachment C - Meet the Breeds Display Costs)**

In addition, the cost of printing handouts shall be reimbursed up to \$100.

**Specific Board Action Requested:** Approve the appointment of Alyson Casper as the Chair for the Toller Meet the Breeds booth at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship event held in Orlando, FL in December 2015 with reimbursable funds for the new display materials and the printing of handouts with a total not to exceed \$500.00.

**Proposal #2:** Clarification of wording for the NSDTRC field tests

**Submitted by:** Danika Bannasch, NSDTRC USA field chair

**Proposal Description:** I am writing to ask the board to alter the wording for the WCI and the WCX in areas where there continues to be JUDGE confusion on the intention of our rules.

1. WCI

Rules:

1) “the dog may come to the line off leash and leave off leash. No English style slip leads may be used.”

Issue: the word “may” is often misunderstood to mean at the judge’s discretion when I believe the intention was to leave it up to the handler to decide.

I propose to change the wording to:

1) “the dog may come to the line off leash and leave off leash at the handlers discretion. No English style slip leads may be used.”

## 2. WCI/WCX

Rules: WCI and WCX line 21) Failure may result from excessive noise at the line by the retriever or the handler.

Issue: The implication is that quiet noise is ok since excessive noise may cause failure. Quietly speaking to the dog at the line in either the WCI or the WCX is consistent with a hunting situation and consistent with the honor in the WCX where we state that the handler may speak quietly to the honoring dog.

I propose to change the wording for both the WCI and the WCX line 21) to:

21) The handler may not touch the dog once the handler has signaled to the judge he/she is ready. The handler may speak softly to the dog during the test. Failure may result from excessive noise at the line by the retriever or the handler.

**Proposal justification:** These are the two most common questions that have been asked of me during my tenure as field chair. They appear to both be universally unclear. Since they are not always judged the same there is inequality among our tests which is unfair to everyone.

**Administration:** The club currently has a number of rule books printed for distribution to judges. We could add a page of the proposed changes folded into the front of the rule books. We could also change the online rules. When the next batch of rule books is ordered we could have the change effective on the front page.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Specific board action requested:** A change of rules for the WCI and WCX as stated above.

**Proposal #3:** Club Field Medallion Award

**Submitted by:** Cindy Lindemer [manitouduckdogs@msn.com](mailto:manitouduckdogs@msn.com)

**Proposal Description:** A Medallion Award for achievement rewarding an individual dog on multiple passes at each level WC, WCI and WCX. I am proposing a Bronze, Silver and Gold level. I believe if the club were to offer such an Award that we would have greater and continuing participation at our Club tests.

**Justification:** What usually happens is once a dog receives a title they no longer participate in the club tests. If they do, it is usually to achieve the next level.

**Administration:** This proposal requires ongoing administration by the Club. I believe it would be up to Records to keep track of how many passes a dog has at each level towards the Medallion. The Club would be responsible for administrating the award. Club members would

not apply for the Award. The Award would be presented each year at the Annual Banquet if any dog were to achieve a level. Time frame is for the life of each individual dog.

**Financial Impact:** There is no real way to know what it would cost the club each year. In the first couple years probably nothing until a dog has had time to run multiple club tests. Research would need to be done as to what type of Medallion would be presented.

**Specific Board Action Requested:** I am asking the Board to Appoint a Committee to structure this program, much like they did when the ROM program was developed. I would like to be on the Committee.

NSDTRC USA FIELD MEDALLION  
REWARDING BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN EACH  
STAKE, WC, WCI AND WCX.  
A BOLO TIE MEDALLION TO BE DISPLAYED ON A WHISTLE/DUCK CALL  
LANYARD.  
ANY DOG WHO HAS ACHIEVED THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF PASSES IN EACH  
STAKE.

**Proposal #4:** New NSDTRC-USA Award: Meredith Noreen Memorial Award  
**Submitted by:** Linda Fitzmaurice, Region 4 (by way of Kim Simons, Trophy Chair)

Proposal for annual awards for #1 NSDTR in AKC conformation  
In memory of Meredith Noreen

Submitted by Linda Fitzmaurice, JavaHill Tollers

Name of Award: Meredith Noreen Memorial Award

Purpose: I would like to propose an annual award for dogs who achieve #1 status in AKC conformation, as many other Breed Clubs currently do. It would be appreciated by all those who work so hard to show their Tollers in AKC conformation at the highest levels. It takes an exceptional dog, great teamwork, time and money to earn the most points in any given year, both in Breed and All-breed divisions. After a decade+ in AKC, it's time we reward those top performers in conformation.

As most of you know, Meredith Noreen was very influential with conformation Tollers, particularly when our breed was first accepted into the AKC. She piloted CH Pikkinokka's Hot4 JavaHill into the Top 5, and a Westminster invitation the first year, and generally had a dog in the top of the rankings, that she either handled or co-bred. She owner-handled Maverick, GCH Fionavar JavaHill TopGun CD WC ROMX to #1 in AKC three years in a row, won the National in 2008 and BOB at Westminster. As my breeding partner at JavaHill, she helped breed and mentor multiple students who went on to earn BIS and BISS with our dogs. She was one of the most generous people with her time and willingness to help just about anyone who asked. Her husband and I would very much like to see both her name, and the top conformation dogs in AKC remembered in this small way.



**Trophy Description:** The award would be a framable certificate with the title “Meredith Noreen Memorial Award.” Each year, one certificate would go to the first owner noted of the #1 Toller in Breed Points, and one to the owner of the #1 Toller in All-breed points. If the dog is the same in each category, then that dog will receive both certificates. Should there be a tie, certificates will go to all dogs who tied for #1. The awards would be given from 2014 (the year Meredith died) onward, through at least 2024.

**Administration:** The award would come from data supplied by the annual Canine Chronicle system, which publishes rankings approximately 15 days after the end of each month. There would be no calculating, or keeping points. There will be no applications. The awards will be given solely from the point tabulations as of Dec 31 of a particular year. Should the Chronicle discontinue publishing rankings, any similar point system is acceptable to us. The certificates would be prepared each year by the National Trophy Chairperson.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for this award the recipient must be a NSDTRC (USA) member in good standing the year the certificate is awarded.

**Financial implications:** Fred Noreen has offered to pay for the certificates, and Linda Fitzmaurice and Fred Noreen will pay for any mailing costs, including envelopes and postage.

**Proposal #5:** Expansion of Judges Education Committee  
Submitted by: Jean Gilroy

**Proposal Description:**

1. Judges Education Committee should be expanded to include all club approved Mentors as active members of the Committee.
2. All Mentors should be apprised of upcoming JEC Seminars in advance, and be allowed to attend seminar.
3. Mentors attending seminars will have the opportunity to hone their skills, fill in the gaps of their own understandings of the breed, and provide continuity for discussions with judges being mentored ringside.
4. All mentors will be challenged to provide good examples of the breed and examples of faulted dogs for presentation to the judges at the Judges' Seminars if it is possible.
5. Dogs chosen for presentation as examples of the breed should be from 3 kennels unrelated by breeding or pedigrees. Every attempt will be made to assemble a variety of type.
6. Mentors will be informed in advance if their presence is required at an event where there will be mentoring of new judges ringside.

**Proposal Justification**

## Why this is important to the Club and its Membership

1. The Judge's Education Committee (JEC) is a steward of the Breed and has a fiduciary duty to the Breed to protect the breed and keep breed judging true to the Standard of the Breed.
2. The NSDTRC-USA has prided itself on maintaining a National Breed Club and recognizes the importance of maintaining a unified breed standard and preventing splits in the Breed and splits in the Membership.
3. Mentors have been vetted through a qualification process and their expertise should be acknowledged. Mentors are from all regions of the club and are familiar with Toller variations typical to their areas. This knowledge is critical to presenting Toller type to nascent Judges of the Breed.
4. Failure to notify Mentors of JEC events in advance, lack of transparency, and appearance that only dogs from only one kennel line are being presented leads to suspicion and can cause a split in the Breed and should be avoided.

## Why is this important to the Breed?

1. Visual information retention (which is spatial imagery) is superior to auditory information retention which is based on serial information. Therefore, regardless of what is being said about breed type, head shape, coat color, height, bone, etc., what is shown is of greater retention. Therefore, if the novice judges are only shown examples from the same kennel line with the same coat color, same length of leg, same head shape, same bone, they will retain that image as appropriate Toller type.
2. Therefore, there is a danger of a breed split when only one Toller type is given preference at a Judges Seminar. This filters down to dog shows where only one type wins continually. A breed split is forthcoming not unlike what has happened to the show Labs.

## Administration

1. This proposal requires no financial consideration. Most mentors would not require remuneration of expenses for a show they are probably at anyway.
2. Increasing the JEC to include mentors would require email correspondence between Presenters and Mentors regarding future seminars, availability to attend and present a dog, open communication regarding names of novice judges present and which dogs were presented.
3. Shared report with the BOD.

## Specific Board Action Requested

1. The JEC be expanded to include qualified mentors as part of the JEC.
2. The NSDTRC-USA will maintain a global list of JEC and Mentors approved members and publish the list to the members of the JEC, Mentors list, Board of Directors and Regional Directors. The list will be provided to the Show Committee Chairman and by the Show Committee Chairman to Show Chairmen of NSDTRC-USA approved conformation shows and Hunt Tests.
3. The JEC will provide Judges at Judges Seminars the dates and locations of upcoming NSDTRC\_USA approved hunt tests.

4. A mailing list of JEC and Mentors be created and utilized to notify all Mentors and JEC members of events 30 to 60 days in advance, or as far in advance as possible.
5. Mentors are permitted to attend all JEC events.
6. Mentors will be solicited to provide dogs at JEC events.
7. Current and each updated JEC written and video materials will be provided to all Mentors.

**Proposal #6:** Review of the Travel Policy

Submitted by: Deb Gibbs

The JEC is requesting that the BOD review and update the Travel Reimbursement Policy to reflect current economic conditions.

The financial obligations will be reflected in the policy.  
Please see: Proposal 6 Attachment A 01-04-04.1TravelPolicy

**Proposal #7:** Approval of new Webmaster Position Description

Submitted by: Amanda Crane, Webmaster

**Description:** Our Website is at a place where the NSDTRC (USA) would benefit greatly by using a web services company. The needs of the website have grown past the reasonable time commitment of a volunteer. Currently, your Webmaster spends an average of 25 hours a week on the club website and the demands on her time can come any hour and any day of the week. The new Webmaster position description has one change. It proposes that the Webmaster hires and maintains a the relationship with a web service company, so that the Webmaster can be an administrative position that is reasonable for a volunteer.

**Administration:** Webmaster

**Financial Implications:** Between \$300-\$500 a month.

**Specific Board Action Request:** To approve the new Webmaster position description.

(See: Proposal 7 Attachment A - Webmaster Position Description Modification 9\_6\_15)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Executive Session:**

**Proposal #1:** Review and approve standing and ad hoc committees

**Proposal #2:** Scholarship Candidate

**Proposal #3:** Appoint a new Membership Chair

**ADJOURNMENT**