2015 National Specialty/Entlefest Event Recap
Becky Christiansen & Leelee Stefanki

We put the “Mountain” back in 34 Entlebucher Mountain Dogs and 55 Entlefest attendees!
The 2015 Specialty/Entlefest was a tremendous success. Thursday’s lead-in event was the Breeders Seminar, which attracted 28 BCOE breeders, partners and friends. This popular event (from 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm) had three awesome presentations, time for our Entles to play, and delicious meals.

Friday’s gathering at the NEMDA’s Specialty was stellar. The Reno/Sparks Livestock Exhibition Center was an excellent indoor venue. From Granlibakken, 19 Entlefest attendees made the hour trek to Reno to combine with 6 NEMDA exhibitors (staying in Reno) bringing the total to 21 dogs entered in the 2015 Specialty. Congratulations to our winners, and many thanks to our ringside volunteers.

The Specialty concluded at 11:30 am and for those participating in the CEBA evaluation it meant one more trip back to Granlibakken for a 1:30 start time. Congratulations to the 11 CEBA temperament and 10 conformation participants. The reports from the evaluators and judges were inspiring. CEBA following so closely to the Specialty was quite a stretch for our volunteers and participants, those left standing were grateful for Friday’s Happy Hour and sumptuous BBQ. Joining us for the evening festivities were CEBA evaluators Priscilla Presley and Sue Haase. In their discourse, both had nothing but glowing praise for our Entles who had participated that day.

Granlibakken enjoyed their first time experience with dogs on site and expressed that NEMDA would be welcomed back again. What a luxury it was having all meals prepared by Chef Ron. Two gatherings for Happy Hour and morning and afternoon coffee breaks were an extra treat.

Saturday put the spotlight on the Pine Lodge, our center of activity for Entlefest. The lodge, decorated like a Swiss chalet by Richard and Elaine Fohr, was a great place for registration, our casual gatherings, general meeting, CCL presentation with Dr. Carlson, Guthrie Award presentation by Alice Madar, and successful fundraising auction.

The beautiful lawn area adjoining the Pine Lodge was convenient for photo ops, freestyle presentation by Teri Beeman, nose work demo by Josette Kimes, shaping clinic by Jen Shaul, and Rally experience with David Sumner.

There were plenty of shady places for our dogs to relax in their crates should they need a break from the activities of the day. All in all, the lawn was the perfect place to unwind and visit with friends, two legged or four. Another amazing spot, just a short walk away was the Truckee River. And yes, there was enough water in the river for our Entles to swim and splash!

Did we mention our meals? Saturday’s dinner was the best, a Swiss kiss, great choices whether you were a vegetarian or an omnivore! Two Saturday night favorites were the heirloom tomatoes with fresh basil and mozzarella cheese and the pork schnitzel cooked to perfection.

Sunday was a welcome low-key day starting with breakfast on the patio. For those who remembered we had a group photo on the lawn. (Sorry that some of you didn’t make it). Preceding the general meeting, Scott Kimes had one final series of fun Entle games up his sleeve. The two-hour general meeting was well attended by all and was our last official activity.

Those staying on picked up their Granlibakken box lunch and joined Susan Lopez, our Tahoe guide, for Sunday’s high meadow hike. Twenty of us ate our lunch by the river at the base of Blackwood Canyon. Those continuing on returned to their cars to drive another thousand feet of elevation to embark on our “after” Entlefest hike. The hike was amazing and reminded us all of why we came to Tahoe... to experience the mountain magic with our Entles and to renew our friendships.
CEBA - Mountain Highlights

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Friday, August 14, 2015, marked the 6th offering of the CEBA evaluations.

The following 12 Entle teams participated:

- Carol Clarke - "Suzy" (Apple Creek's Peekaboo)
- Jennifer Davis - "Winston" (Levi of Wildhorn)
- Elaine Fohr - "Emi" (Apple Creek's Sonja)
- Lisa Garner - "Joy" (Western Joy v. Adhem)
- Kari Gilje - "Inga" (Ice Princess Inga v. Eagleheart)
- Deelee Glasser - "Chaya" (Chaya vom Ochre)
- Doris Lara - "Korby" (Oswald of Wildhorn)
- Linda Liebrand - "Alifie" (Norfolkfields Alfie)
- Kathy Marshall & Gina Thomas - "Lolo" (Love & Light Lolo v. Eagleheart)
- Anita Nims - "Rhubarb" (Apple Creek's Rhubarb)
- Linnea Roy - "Kuno" (Kuno v. Eagleheart)
- Steve & Leelee Stefanki - "Brise" (Brise v. Simonhof)

This brings CEBA’s total of Entles evaluated to 110!

The mountain ski hill run-out at Granlibakken was a rustic site for the CEBA temperament evaluation. An all terrain course lined with towering pine trees kept our coordinators, volunteers, participants, and evaluators shaded from the hot afternoon sun. There was an outlook above, perfect for viewing.

CEBA participants enjoyed a special opportunity this year, as both temperament evaluators, Sue Haase and Priscilla Presley, are Nevada livestock herding judges. These women have worked with many breeds of herding and working dogs and have a deep and practical knowledge of dog behavior. At the end of the evaluations, Sue and Priscilla praised the temperament, focus, and work ethic of the Entles they met. They suggested that many of our Entles should try the sport of herding. A compliment for sure, from judges who have seen so many breeds.

AKC Judge, Dr. Dale Simmons (our 2015 Specialty Judge) and AKC Judge, Ms. Sheila Polk shared the duties of the CEBA conformation panel at the lawn area adjacent to the Granlibakken Pine Lodge. This area proved perfect for the evaluation, as the lawn was lush and level. Trees rimmed the area so there was ample shade. Both Dr. Simmons and Ms. Polk are keenly interested in our breed and have traveled to participate in NEMDA’s judges’ educations, have judged Entles in shows and have volunteered for previous CEBA panels. Both enjoyed their interaction with our attendees and Entles, and made but one suggestion. In the future, they would like to see that all participants have read the breed standard before participating. Being prepared will make the experience more relevant.

The CEBA evaluations are a labor of love. It takes twice the number of volunteers to stage the evaluations as it takes to participate. To stage the combined evaluations we rely on: a) field coordinators, b) conformation scribes, c) “10 friendly strangers,” and d) two neutral dogs.

A big thank you to our tireless field coordinators: Becky Christiansen (lead), Teri Beeman, Elaine Fohr, Kari Gilje, Hutch Hutchins, Susan Lopez, Steve Stefanki, and Chris Urata.
A special thanks to our conformation scribes: Jen Shaul, Dru Patterson, Leelee Stefanki, and Leslie Elliott, conformation coordinator. A high five to our canine helpers: Inga and Gordo. Additional thanks to our talented on site photographers: Linda Liebrand, Alena Sumner, and Sue Thom.

And a final thanks to our wonderful participants, friends, and field coordinators who doubled back to keep the “friendly stranger” numbers to capacity: Teri Beeman, Carol Clarke, Jennifer Davis, Doris Lara, Brian Frost, Lisa Gardner, Kari Gilje, Deelee Glasser, Kimbal Harty, Hutch Hutchins, Kathy Marshall, Anita Nims, Bob Nims, Susanne Olszowiec, Linnea Roy, Leelee Stefanki, Alena Sumner, and Dave Sumner.

Hope you will join us at our next CEBA evaluation either as a participant, volunteer, or field coordinator. CEBA is fun and low stress. Come out and try it! Your dog might surprise you!

Thanks to our three CEBA photographers, we could include photos of all the CEBA participants.