



Golden Retriever Club of Illinois GOLDEN MOMENTS NEWSLETTER

Announcements

IT'S PICNIC TIME!

GRCI Annual Picnic and Awards Celebration

Please join us with or without your Golden on Sunday, August 16 2015 at Hawthorne's Backyard, 12 to 4 p.m.

1200 Hawthorn Lane, West Chicago IL

There is no charge for members, and this year we will celebrate the achievements of our members' Golden at the picnic with our Awards Ceremony! Please RSVP to Barb Gron-Grosse bgg2134@sbcglobal.net

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Upcoming Events

[GRCI Picnic](#) - Sunday, August 16

[GRCA National](#), Saturday,
September 26

[GRCI Tracking Test](#), October 11

Shop GRCI Logo Merchandise!



Visit our Website

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Find it at on our website
grcillinois.org

or on our Facebook Page



Board of Directors

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**Golden Retriever Club of Illinois
Picnic and Annual Awards Meeting
Sunday, August 16, 2015**

Our Annual Picnic and Awards Meeting has been planned for all GRCI members, golden, and their families. You are invited to join us. Lunch will be served about 1:00pm, we will have a brief business meeting, and introduce our new board members. We will also have our annual awards presentation. This year our awards presentation has been moved up to be included in our picnic.

Date: Sunday August 16, 2015
 Time: 12:00 to 4:00pm
 Location: Hawthorne's Backyard
 1200 Hawthorne Lane
 West Chicago, Illinois 60185-1816
 Hawthorn's Phone: 630-293-6700
RAIN or SHINE

The menu is: Ribs, BBQ Chicken, BBQ Beef Brisket, Baked Beans, Corn on the Cob, Coleslaw, Rolls, Soda, Water, Ice Tea, Coffee, cookies and brownies.

Again this year there will be NO cost to our members. The cost per guest is \$18.00. Head count to Barbara by AUGUST 9TH Either via email bgg2134@sbcglobal.net or with the completed form below if you are bringing guests.

RESERVATION FORM by August 9th

Please mail with your check payable to GRCI
 To: Barbara Gron-Grosse, 2134 Clover Road, Northbrook, IL 60062
 Barbara's Phone: 847 272-9548

Name _____ Phone _____

of Members _____ # of Guests _____ Enclosed check \$ _____

GRCA National Needs Volunteers

The GRCA National is in Wilmington OH this year - Sept 26 to Oct 3. If you are planning to go, please [check out this flyer](#) to see where you can help out!

Wags and Brags

WAGS AND BRAGS!

Karin Boullion reports Maris earned her RATN (Barn Hunt novice) title at a recent trial at For Your K9.

Her 3 qualifying scores were:

1:03:09- 3rd place

0:25:03- 2nd place

0:29:93 - 2nd place

She is now U-Ch GoldBullion N Goldberry's 61 Asterisk RATN and is co-owned with Peggy Covey.



If you have a Wag and Brag to share, please send your story in "copy and paste" mode, along with a picture if you have one to Cathy Williams at cwilliams0727@gmail.com or Hal Axelrod at harryaxe@comcast.net.

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Sunshine Notes

Do you know someone in the hospital, sick or in need of some Sunshine in his or her life?

Call Laurie Stecker at 847-705-9172 or email at Aylwyn1@aol.com. She will arrange flowers, cards, and other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

Newsletter Contributors

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Public Education

Barbara Gron-Grosse

Around the Ring

by Karin Boullion

847-272-9548
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This past year or so, I have been "in new waters" so to speak. We have been using a professional handler to show our boy in the conformation ring. One thing from having been around, we know what is needed plus have interacted with many when competing with them while in the ring. To me, it isn't all about the winning, although a winning record is good.

Considerations When Choosing a Professional Handler Sportsmanship

- How do they conduct themselves - winning and losing.

Interaction with the dog

- Do they treat the dog as just an object or do they work with the dog to show his best? Spend down time in the ring talking with their buddies or making it fun for the dog?

Do they insist on the dog living with them while showing? If so have you visited their facility and seen how the dogs are housed and treated? How are they transported? Does the handler carry adequate insurance?

Communications

-How often do they let you know results? Where is your dog in the hierarchy if the handler has multiple class winners - who gets the priority of the handler versus the assistant?

Fees and expenses

- Is a basic breakdown of fees provided upfront? Are there different charges for an all-breed show versus a specialty? Is there a bonus schedule and when does that kick in?

Trophies and cash prizes - are those kept or passed on to the owner? Traveling expenses - What is included and how is the split calculated? If you do a show drop-off, do they charge for any grooming done there? Do they have a written contract or is it just a word of mouth agreement? Is the dog handling their only job and source of income, or do they have another job and do they handle other dogs for enjoyment and a bit of extra income? What is their history in showing dogs? Did they start with other breeds or do others now? Do they breed? Do they do other things with their dogs besides conformation? When do they set up their showing schedule and decide where they will be going? Constantly waiting until the last minute to decide can tack on additional charges in the way of express fees.

It's always a good idea to talk with them so they can understand your expectations and you understand how their ranking of their dogs works and where yours will stand. Will they have you enter it once a month for practice and then move it into the competitive open class slot when that dog "minors" out (just needs its major wins)?

As you can see, using a professional handler can be more than just a hand the dog off situation. Hopefully, the "partnership" is successful and you have a champion at the end of it.

The Obedience Corner

by Jane Coen

Preparing for Competition at Performance Events

Ensuring a successful outcome at performance events-obedience, rally or agility trials or hunt or tracking tests-requires adequate preparation on the part of both the handler and the dog. Handlers need to be thoroughly familiar with the rules and regulations pertaining to the particular type of event. Without such knowledge, handlers run the risk of adversely affecting their dogs' performance,

and reducing the team's chance of delivering a qualifying performance. Studying the rules and regulations, and attending events as a spectator, are both ways a wise handler prepares for competition.

Readying the dog for competition is the handler's responsibility. Poor performances at competition events can usually be attributed to either poor training, which creates unreliable, sloppy performances, or dogs being entered in competition before they are ready.

My early obedience mentors, Bob Self Sr. and Jack Godsil, advised handlers to test their dogs' readiness for competition by formally running the dogs through the exercises they would be required to perform in competition 10 days in a row (without any warm-up, extra commands or praise). If the dog

[Read More](#)



In case you haven't seen Bob, the Golden Retriever, and his friends!