



**Golden
Retriever
Club of
Illinois**

Golden Moments

May/June 2013

MISSION STATEMENT

The Golden Retriever Club of Illinois is an active club with many diverse interests in the Golden Retriever breed.

The GRCI sponsors vaccination clinics, heart and eye clinics, educational forums, hunt tests, working tests, an independent conformation/obedience specialty, agility trials and field training classes.

The Club has members from all over Illinois, southern Wisconsin and northern Indiana. The majority of our members are located in the Chicago and suburban Chicago areas.

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The President's Letter and Animal Assisted Therapy columns will return in the future issues.

GRCI 2013 CCA Event is History!

By Robin Comp-Zelles, Co-Chairperson

Twenty-four dogs were entered and all had the honor of passing! Evaluators Ellen Hardin (WI), Maureen O'Shaughnessy (WI) and Bruce McLean (CO) were thorough with their evaluations and efficient, yet had plenty of time to share their thoughts with each participant. All of the evaluators have a depth of knowledge as breeders and judges, so the opportunity for an owner to learn about their dogs strengths and weaknesses compared to the breed standard was wonderful.

Secretary/Co-Chair Sandy Cummings did a tremendous job organizing the paperwork from start to finish with GRCA, which is quite a lot. The job of secretary is quite labor intensive with a lot of work before, during and after the event. And, Sandy did all of this while having her house up for sale, even finding time to make her awesome potato salad (with husband Bob's help).

After check-in, Kathy Guerra measured each dog and then the dog was photographed by Bruce Leski, ably assisted by his wife Joy. The dogs were grouped in three's and began their CCA quest by entering the staging area to "mingle" so the judges could evaluate their basic temperament. The dogs were then divided between the judges for individual evaluation, which had a time allotment of 15 minutes per judge, moving ring to ring until the dog had seen each judge. Ring Stewards Ruth Smith, Nancy Einwich and Andy Adams, with Katie McCullough, kept the judges mindful of time and paperwork.

Once the evaluations were complete, the paperwork was taken to the Secretary for tabulation and the participants received their gift bags. The gift bags and contents were donated by Fromm Family Pet Foods and our agility program, and were put together by Kim Mroczenski and Pat Alberts. Pat Janes and Michelle Kolb ably assisted Sandy at the table, verifying the total scores for each dog. Kathy and Katie jumped in to help at the table too!

All of this activity generated big appetites which Pat Alberts handled with breakfast goodies and wonderful sandwiches and wraps. Pat also baked some tasty cookies and brownies (you gotta have some chocolate). We had a beautiful cake decorated with "GRCI CCA". Michelle also baked some cookies, which are always good! Certainly no one went away hungry. When we arrived for set up, Jane Coen was on hand, and Joan Wetton, who thankfully got the coffee pot going for us.

Upcoming Meetings:

General Meeting

June 19, 2013, 7:00 PM

Location: Bow Wow Playground
400 W St Charles Rd Villa Park, IL, IL 60181
(630) 501-1777

Join us for a General meeting followed by a discussion by Canine Reproductive Expert Dr. JoAnn Randall, who will discuss "The Right Time to Breed."

Upcoming Events:

All Day June 15, GRCI Specialty

Lake County Fairgrounds
1060 Peterson Road, Grayslake IL
2 Specialty Shows!
Along with Rally and Obedience Trials!
Come out and support GRCI and your competing members!

GRCI July Agility Event

**July 27 & 28, 2013
McCook, IL**

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GRCI 2013 CCA Event, continued

After the morning group of dogs finished group photo's were taken of all that had passed, with the evaluators. These pictures will be published in the GRCA Newsletter. The CCA event was held at Pawsitively Heaven Pet Resort, Chicago Ridge. What was really nice about this facility is that we were able to offer an agility run-thru for our members. Although your dog did have to have some experience with obstacles and agility equipment in order to participate, we had a nice turn-out from our members that took advantage of the opportunity to run a standard course and a jumper course. Andie Zelles and Mark Mroczenski did a beautiful job keeping the dogs coming to the line and handled quick height changes.

What a great job this entire committee did! We had numerous compliments from participants and from the evaluators for an event that ran smoothly, with wonderful hospitality. Congratulations to our volunteers, as without all of you this event wouldn't have happened.

If you have the opportunity to attend or participate in a CCA, I believe you would find it quite unique and tremendously educational in learning more about your dog. To read more in depth about the CCA program, check out GRCA's website, www.GRCA.org.



Group 3



Group 4



Group 1



Group 2



ANNUAL AWARDS

Members will receive by mail a packet of information about the Annual GRCI Awards, including a description of all of the available awards and an application form. This is also available on the GRCI website, <http://www.grcillinois.org/>. Awards applications are due June 30.



THE AGILITY ZONE

by Robin Comp-Zelles

Well, I think Spring has finally sprung, with the first flock of robins in February (I think they got misdirected in a storm). It was refreshing to see them warming themselves in the sun and searching for worms now in April.

We have a new pup in our household, a golden retriever by the name of "Ketch." The tale of the robins above has special meaning as he "loves" to chase those same robins across the fields. When he first arrived he joined me in "duck" chores and I soon found out that a nine week old golden is fast on his feet when he is chasing a farm duck, which he quickly takes hold of and won't let go! He was quite proud of his catch, not wishing to let go of it anytime soon. Ms. Duck was not at all amused.

The arrival of a puppy tends to bring with it the return to the beginning of foundation training. What to do with this little, blonde bundle of energy? For me, this puppy is hopefully going to join me in a multitude of adventures, in conformation, obedience, field work, tracking and obedience. He is being introduced to fundamentals in each area, with the intent to imprint some solid pieces of information in his formative brain. Impulse control is the first item that is addressed, from waiting for his food bowl to going down and giving eye contact to waiting for release from his crate/kennel/the door or gate. Being able to have him volunteer specific behaviors in order to get what he wants helps to enlighten him that I am the key to his world. Learning to take cookies from my hand without biting, working for his breakfast and dinner by doing tricks and being able to do all of this with a "pack" of other hounds watching and "helping" encourages the focus on his tasks. I need this focus for his future showing. When he is getting good with this at home, we take it on the road by going to store parking lots, forest preserves, the bank, anywhere different than home. We work on all of our "tricks," just for a few minutes, adding length of time as our tricks get more advanced and he gets older.

In agility, I start with the "round" obstacles (tire/tunnel/chute base) and a lot of ground work. Ground work starts with just following a treat in my hands (each hand has food), working my left side and my right side, circling, straight lines, changes of pace (slow/medium/fast). If I have a helper I do puppy recalls; he comes to my front and sides. Separately I work on playing with toys, tugging and retrieving, chasing me and building our relationship. I also want my puppy to have good "rear end" awareness, so I teach him to back up and side step (in front of me and beside me), to circle to my sides (left/right), to put his feet up on a bucket and step in a circle around it. I am also working on him going to a blanket/mat and assuming a down position. It is a form of targeting, but it is used as a place of relaxation and focus (Control Unleashed, Leslie McDevitt). I like to train it with the future in mind as I never know what kind of dog I am going to have as it matures and it helps both the introvert and extrovert. I try and visit several different training locations to help my puppy learn to generalize the obstacles and his performance of those obstacles, along with having loads of fun with his Mom!

Until next time, happy weaving!



COME JOIN US!

GRCI July Agility Event
Saturday, July 27, 2013 and
Sunday, July 28, 2013

(Friday, Siberian Husky Club Agility Trial)

Maxx Sportplex

4750 South Vernon Avenue

McCook, IL 60525

708-485-9900

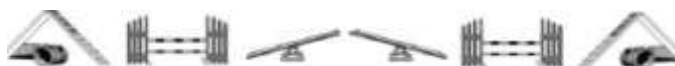
Hours: 8:00am - 4:00pm

We always need workers!
(no experience necessary)

More info will be coming your way...

To volunteer or for questions, please contact:

Robin Comp-Zelles, mzelles@aol.com



THE OBEDIENCE CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

A New Rally Convert

I was originally exposed to Rally many years ago at Bob Self's Summer School for Dog Trainers. Bud Kramer, the originator of Rally and a good friend of Bob's, put on a demonstration of the Rally exercises, and encouraged those of us in attendance to try the exercises with our dogs.

It was a number of years later that the American Kennel Club (AKC) decided to offer Rally titling classes in conjunction with obedience trials. I have to say that my initial impression of AKC Rally was not that positive, largely based on the low caliber of the Rally performances I happened to observe at the obedience trials I was attending. Based on that early experience, I felt no urge to pursue Rally with my dogs.

It was last Fall when I learned that my Golden, Tripper, had hip dysplasia that I began thinking about giving Rally a try. Although I knew I had to retire five year old Tripper from obedience and agility because of his hip dysplasia, I could not see retiring him from all forms of training and competition knowing how much he enjoys training.

Since I belonged to an obedience club that offers Rally classes, I decided to sign Tripper and my 11 ½ year old Golden, Tiera, up for a class. Meanwhile, I ordered and read a couple of Rally book and purchased a set of Rally equipment from J&J Dog

THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued

Supplies. I quickly learned that my dogs already knew how to do all of the Rally exercises—through the Rally Excellent Class [Rally has three levels (Novice, Advance and Excellent), similar to obedience]—except for the “Left About Turn,” which they learned within a couple of training lessons.

What I discovered was that the vast majority of Rally exercises mirror the “proof training” exercises I use with my obedience competition dogs. My obedience mentors of over forty years ago, Bob Self and Jack Godsil, taught all of these exercises as part of preparing dogs for obedience competition, and referred to the exercises as “doodling” exercises, e.g., in position quarter turns, circles left and right, 270° turns to the left and right, calling the dog front from heel position, “U” Turn Left, side step to the right, etc.

In the Advanced and Excellent Rally classes the dogs are required to jump, but the jump height for a dog the size of a Golden is only 16 inches for the High and Bar Jumps and 32 inches for the Broad Jump. The orthopedic surgeon specialist I conferred with advised me that jumping Tripper that height and distance would not be harmful to his health. I knew older Tiera could handle that jump height and distance, as well.

When I started working Tripper and Tiera in Rally, I decided to include my 15 month old Golden, Kizzie, and her five year old mother, Roxie, too. I had done enough obedience proof training with Kizzie that she, too, already knew how to do all of the Rally exercises. I had only been working with visiting Roxie for a couple of months, but was confident she could pick up the Rally exercises easily, too. I decided that showing Kizzie and Roxie in Rally would be a great way to get them used to competing in a trial setting, and gauge their readiness to compete in Obedience trials.

One of the major differences between Rally and Obedience competition is that you can praise a dog continuously while competing in Rally. You can also give the dog multiple commands and signals, without being penalized. The level of precision required in Rally is not as great as with Obedience. For instance, there is no such thing as a ½ point deduction in Rally, whereas in Obedience competition, a dog can be hit ½ a point for being slightly out of position or having a slightly crooked sit.

So, after taking my four dogs to a few Rally classes and running them through Rally courses I set up out on the driveway, in the basement and at the facility where I teach public classes, I figured we were ready to compete, and entered the dogs in a couple of Rally trials. While I was at it, I convinced my good friend, Joan Wetton, to enter her dog, Celeste, too, since Celeste had been trained to do all of the “doodling” proof training exercises as part of her obedience training, too.

Our results were encouraging. At the first Rally trial, my four dogs and Celeste all earned a perfect score of 100. In the case of tied scores, time is used to determine the class placements. At that first trial, out of a class of 16 dogs, Kizzie took first place, Tiera took second place and Tripper took fourth place. Roxie and Celeste also earned their first Rally Novice leg (qualifying performance of which three are required to earn the

Continued,

AKC Rally Novice title). Joan and Celeste exhibited at a trial the following day and earned a score of 99 for second place. I was on my way to Boston, and did not compete at that trial. A week later, our five dogs competed in another Rally trial where they all qualified. Kizzie and Celeste took first and second place, respectively, with a score of 100, and Celeste earned her Rally Novice (RN) title. Tiera and Tripper earned a 99 for third and fourth place, respectively, and Roxie earned her second Novice Rally leg with a 98 score.

My dogs are headed for their third trial next weekend where they will hopefully finish their Rally Novice titles. I plan to move Tiera, Tripper and Kizzie up to the Rally Advanced level as soon as they earn their RN titles. Roxie will take a break from Rally while I continue her basic obedience training. The Advanced level of Rally requires the dogs to perform all of the exercises off leash, and Roxie is not quite ready for that.

What I have learned from training and competing in Rally is that Rally is actually very compatible with Obedience training, and is a great way to build a dog’s confidence and keep training fun and challenging. Rally competition also serves as a great evaluation tool for those of us who do not want to begin showing our dogs at Obedience trials until we feel they are ready to perform at their maximum potential.

The Rally trials I attended with my dogs provided me with a good opportunity to learn more about each of my dogs. I found that Tiera exceeded my expectations with her performances. Since I was able to praise her throughout her Rally runs, Tiera exhibited a happy attitude and really appeared to enjoy herself. I was surprised that Tiera “beat” Tripper at both of the Rally trials, based on their times. This surprised me because Tripper has always been a more competitive, higher scoring dog than Tiera. The difference is that Tripper can no longer sit or maneuver around tight turns and circles as quickly as in the past, which may be a function of the hip dysplasia. At this point, I am happy to accept whatever performance he is able to give me because I know it reflects his best effort.

What I learned about Kizzie is that she is capable of giving me her undivided attention while competing in the ring, which I was very happy to discover. It appears she is closer to being ready for Obedience competition than I had thought. By contrast, I learned that Roxie (with far less experience and training) is far more easily distracted and is not yet able to stay focused solely on me. With the extra commands and signals, and lots of praise, Roxie and I were able to compensate for her less than perfect attention in the Rally ring; however, it told me we have work to do before we will be ready to show in Obedience.

I love the fact that Rally is less formal than Obedience, and you can praise the dog while competing. What I found most challenging about Rally is learning to read and correctly interpret the Rally signs. Unlike in Obedience, where the exhibitor follows the judge’s directions for each exercise, in Rally, the judge simply asks the exhibitor, “Are you ready?” and upon hearing “Yes” from the exhibitor, the judge says “Forward,” and the exhibitor then takes his or her dog through the course by following the signs and executing the exercises identified on each of the signs. After practicing each of the

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THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued

signs many times and reading the AKC *Rally Regulations* several times, I felt confident that I could enter the ring at a Rally trial and complete the course correctly.

If you have not tried Rally, I suggest you give it a try. I think you and your dog will enjoy it. My only words of advice are that you approach the training of the Rally exercises in the same way you approach the training of the Obedience exercises—requiring the dog's undivided attention, instant response to commands and enthusiasm, the latter of which largely reflects your attitude toward the training. Setting the same high standards for Rally that you do for Obedience will help ensure that you will be just as successful in Rally as you are in Obedience!

Until next time, Happy Heeling!



This article was show at <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/dogs-comfort-bostonians-marathon-bombings/story?id=18991475>

Dogs Comfort Bostonians After Marathon Bombings

April 19, 2013, By SYDNEY LUPKIN (@slupkin)

When golden retrievers visited Boston Marathon bombing victims this week, they put their paws up on the hospital beds to make it easier for patients to pet their soft, blonde fur.

First, the patients smiled, said Tim Hetzner, president of Lutheran Church Charities, which organizes K-9 Comfort Dogs. But soon, they started talking to the "furry counselors."

"They tell the dog the story of what happened," Hetzner said. "Dogs are great listeners.... They can sense when someone is struggling."

Hetzner brought five of the organization's 60 comfort dogs to Boston: Addie, Isaiah, Luther, Maggie and Ruthie. Addie and Maggie had been working in Newtown, Conn., since Sandy Hook Elementary School re-opened, but they were off this week because the children were on spring break.

Maggie and the others are certified service dogs, but instead of being paired with individuals with disabilities, they go to churches, hospitals, schools and anywhere else they're needed, Hetzner said.

The dogs, who arrived on Tuesday, spent several hours outside the First Lutheran Church of Boston on Berkeley Street, for instance, lying down on the red brick steps so that people could sit with them for a hug or two.

"Some people hold onto the dog for five minutes or more because that's what they need," Hetzner said. "It depends on the person and what they're going through."

The golden retrievers aren't the only furry friends offering free hugs. Amber Hathaway used Reddit.com to organize a dog cuddling session on Wednesday afternoon in Boston Common, according to the Lowell Sun.

Dogs Comfort Bostonians, continued

"I don't have enough money to donate much, I'm not an EMT or anything like that, and no one has taken me up on my post for available housing for displaced runners," she wrote in the Reddit post. "But I still want to help. The only things I have to offer are two stupid, friendly dogs who make me feel better when the [stuff] hits the fan."

Her pugs, along with Gimli the corgi, and Harvard Dangerfield, a Samoyed, cuddled with passersby on their lunch breaks, students between classes.

There's scientific evidence that dogs have a healing power around patients and people who've experienced traumatic events, said Dr. Emma Raizman, a pediatrician at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital.

Being around dogs helps decrease patients' stress by prompting the release of oxytocin, which is the hormone that bonds mothers to babies. Studies have shown that patients who are around dogs have increased levels of dopamine -- the "happy" neurotransmitter that helps relieve depression -- as well as endorphins and adrenaline.

"It's actually been shown to help more than medication in a lot of the veterans, and you don't have the side effect of medications," Raizman said, adding that dogs also help other ways, too. "For people who have been through a traumatic experience, it helps them feel cared for and gives them the sense that they're able to care for someone else. It gives them a sense of control over things."

She said hugging and talking to a dog can also help people deal with their feelings in a less complicated way than divulging them to another person.

Lynn Belkin, who coordinates the Pawprints Program at Boston Children's Hospital, said she has reached out to Hetzner's group to see if any of her eight volunteer dogs could help.

She said this week has been business as usual for Pawprints, but one of the its dogs may have visited a marathon bomb victim. Belkin's group often doesn't know why a child is in the hospital.

Belkin said she's seen children who haven't smiled in days or haven't been able to move a limb, and they're suddenly able to do it when they interact with the therapy dog. Other times, the dog makes families feel at home or offers a comfort to tired hospital staffers.

"There are so many different ways dogs and handlers impact patients, families and staff here at the hospital," she said. "A dog comes in and all of a sudden things start to happen."



Comfort dogs sit outside the First Lutheran Church of Boston. (Courtesy of Lutheran Church Charities)

Continued,

Sunshine Notes:

Please remember to call our "Sunshine Person" if you know of someone who is 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 and she will arrange flowers, cards, and other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

ADVERTISING POLICY

It is the responsibility of all advertisers in "Golden Moments" to ensure the accuracy of all references made to official field/obedience/show and other wins and awards. Challenges to the factual correctness of a particular advertisement may be addressed to the Board of Directors of GRCA. GRCA will only investigate complaints that include the name of the author. Any necessary corrections will be published in "Golden Moments"

Rates are as follows:

- Full Page \$20/members \$30/non-members
- Half Page \$15/members \$25/non-members
- Business Card \$10/members \$20/non-members

Rates are based on camera-ready art. Litter listings must indicate appropriate clearances for sire and dam.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER POLICY

"Golden Moments" will not publish any article or letter of comment that is in disagreement with the policy or procedures of the AKC.

Articles carried will be such that they are of an informative or educational nature or general interest.

Letters to the editor will be published that do not criticize any member of the club, his/her dogs or kennel, or the judging of any dog, but that are of general interest to the members. Letters that are acceptable must indicate the name of the author. "Golden Moments" invited diverse opinions from the members of the club. Anyone wishing to comment on a particular issue may do so. However, remarks which stray from a particular issue, make negative comments on members as individuals or in groups, or attack a member's character or personality are not in good taste, do not benefit Golden Retrievers, and will not be accepted.

For a copy of the **GRCA Code of Ethics** go to:
www.grca.org/pdf/all_about/codeofethics.pdf

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Next Meeting: June 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM