



**Golden
Retriever
Club of
Illinois**

Golden Moments

September/October, 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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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Hal Axelrod

Dear GRCI members and your wonderful animals,

It is an honor that I have been asked to serve as your President. I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead to make our club something we can all benefit from. Having a dog is like knowing a language. We all speak Golden Retriever, but we have different dialects from conformation, obedience, agility, rally, field, tracking to lap dog. So our challenge is to work to meet the needs of our members and understand their dialects and improve what the club can offer them.

Jane Coen has the results of a survey the club sent out. What I found reassuring in her results is that our membership is involved in many different activities we provide. Our club will only improve and grow if our members are involved. This doesn't mean we are perfect, but from the results we have learned how we can make this club better. The board will review the results and take the necessary steps in making improvements to the club for our members.

I want to thank Judy Bush for her years of service on the board and as our President. Judy, I know the commitment and passion you brought to the club and it has been greatly appreciated. I look forward to serving with the new board, which consists of one new member, Joan Wetton. I appreciate the returning board members who I have served with the last few years.

I need to thank so many of you who have volunteered at our club events the last few months. I apologize if I forget to name all of you. The Agility event, which ran this past July, received rave reviews. We want to extend thanks to Robin Comp Zelles, Annette Narel, and Kris Garra for producing another great event. Sandy Cummings and her crew of volunteers provided lunch for our helpers and guests. These members and their volunteers arranged for every detail to make sure this event was one to remember. We are very appreciative of their commitment and dedication to GRCI. Thank you all! We have another Agility event coming up in October. Michelle Kolb will get a flyer out to all on the details at Rush n' Around at Annette Narel's facility. Make sure to come out to enjoy another golden event.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Meeting/Picnic at Hawthorn's Backyard in West Chicago on August 18, 2013. Barb Gron-Grosse arranged a delicious menu for all to enjoy. Michelle Kolb had our furry friends participate in some fun games. I am not sure who had more fun - the humans or the dogs. Nancy Einwich is in charge of the upcoming Tracking Test. While the entries are relatively small, this is a great event to come and watch dogs run.

I want to thank many of you for your kind words of encouragement and offer to help with programs. I look forward to getting to know many of you in the months to come.

Hal Axelrod

Upcoming Meetings:

General Meeting/Awards Presentation

October 14, 2013

7:00 PM

Location: The Bellyrub Klub

612 E. Western Avenue,
Lombard, 60148
630-542-3559

Upcoming Events:

GRCI Agility Trials

October 4-5-6, 2013
Manhattan, IL

GRCI Tracking Test

October 13, 2013
Sycamore, IL

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GRCI Membership Survey Results

By Jane L. Coen

In August 2013, a membership survey was mailed to all members of Golden Retriever Club of Illinois (GRCI). Members were requested complete the survey and return it to GRCI's Vice President by Septe 2013. All members who returned the completed survey by the due d the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided) and provided their n entered into a random drawing for a \$100 VISA card.

We are happy to report that 42 completed surveys were returned, representing a 50% response rate, which is considered excellent by industry standards. Of those 42 surveys, 37 were returned signed by the survey respondent.

To those of you who returned completed surveys, a very sincere thank you! You provided valuable input, which GRCI's Board will continue to act upon.

A brief summary of the survey results follows.

60% of survey respondents indicated that they participate in obedience, 48% participate in agility, 40% participate in Rally, 17% participate in tracking, 26% participate in field work, 17% participate in dock diving, 48% participate in conformation and 26% participate in pet therapy work. Three respondents participate in nose work, one respondent participates in swimming for their dog, and one respondent serves as a rescue foster home.

24% of respondents indicated that they would like to get involved with tracking and 17% indicated an interest in field work, the two most popular areas of interest. A smaller number of respondents indicated an interest in getting involved with obedience (3 respondents), agility (5 respondents), rally (2 respondents), dock diving (6 respondents), conformation (5 respondents), and pet therapy work (6).

40% of respondents indicated that they would like GRCI to offer Club-sponsored programs, seminars and/or classes related to their areas of interest. 26% of respondents would like to be connected with an experienced GRCI member who would be willing to serve as a mentor. 19% indicated they would appreciate receiving a list of local clubs, schools or private trainers specializing in their areas of interest.

69% of respondents attended at least one General Meeting during the 2012-2013 Club year, with 38% of respondents attending three to six of the General Meetings. Reasons identified for not attending General Meetings were topped with "Meeting location was too far from my home" (43%) and "Wednesday evening meeting time conflicted with other activities" (33%). For those of you who identified either of these reasons, please contact any member of the Board and provide your thoughts on an alternate evening and suggest a meeting location.

The topics of greatest interest for upcoming General Meetings were: Health problems in Goldens (74%), Preventative care to maintain a Golden's health (62%), Groom the Golden with hands on experience (60%), Current best practices regarding inoculating dogs (50%), Caring for an aging Golden (43%), and an Obedience/Rally Judge's View of AKC's *Obedience/Rally Regulations* (38%). There was interest to a lesser degree in

"Survey Results," continued,

Conformation Basics, overview of obedience competition, an overview of Hunt Tests, Field Basics, Tracking Basics and Golden Retriever Rescue. The Board will consider this input in planning future General Meeting and other types of programs.

It was wonderful to find that we have some members with expertise in various areas who have indicated a willingness to plan and deliver a program at a General Meeting. A larger number of members indicated a willingness to serve as a mentor to other members in their respective areas of expertise. We will be contacting those potential mentors to determine if they are willing to have their names posted on the Members Only section of GRCI's website as a resource to Club members.

The vast majority of respondents indicated that they have actively supported GRCI over the years, with 31% indicating they have served on the Board, the majority indicating they have volunteered at Club events and several indicating they have volunteered at GRCI's Public Education events.

78% of respondents indicated that they are very (45%) or generally (33%) satisfied with GRCI's *Golden Moments* bi-monthly newsletter. Some respondents did not answer this particular survey question. A suggestion for enhancing the newsletter was to add a column focused on interviews with long-time members.

93% of respondents indicated they had visited GRCI's website, but only 64% indicated they had set up a Member Account on the website to access the Members Only section. Suggestions for enhancing the website included posting premium lists, listing club mentors, putting the survey online, making scrolling event notices manually controlled, keeping information more current, posting member accomplishments, revamping the mission statement, getting a photographer for events, adding a list of schedules for training classes offered by area clubs, updating the breeder listing, and putting GRCI's website on FaceBook.

62% of respondents indicated that the Club kept them well informed over the last year, with 21% indicating there were times they did not feel well informed.

83% of respondents indicated their number one preferred method of communication with the Club was through e-mail.

Regarding GRCI's Public Education and Breeders Referral Programs, 24% indicated they were very satisfied with the programs, 21% indicated they were generally satisfied, and 3% (one person) indicated they were dissatisfied. 40% indicated they were unfamiliar with the programs, so we have awareness building to do. Suggestions for improving the programs included periodically updating members about these programs at general meetings, reinstating the Resource List, and posting the name of a contact person on the website who could answer questions.

General suggestions for how GRCI can better meet the needs of members included offering more fun field days, offering more seminars, creating budgets for all events, ensuring financial transparency, following the By-Laws, treating all members

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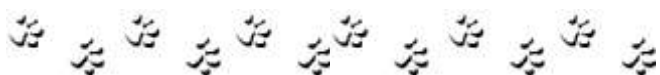
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“Survey Results,” continued,

equally, having long-time members invite new members to events and offer to carpool, offering reduced rates to members for clinics, having some meetings on the Southside, offering meetings in the Chicago-area, starting general meetings later, holding some meetings on weekends, renting a training facility for meetings and offer training, arranging dinner get-togethers for members before meetings at local restaurants, utilizing Skype or Facetime for Board meetings, having the health clinic offer titers, offering a Dr. Hutchinson seminar, developing ways to increase membership, offering a WC/WCX Test, and offering a field training class.

In closing, we are happy to announce that Marion Kogut was the winner of the random drawing, and will be awarded a \$100 VISA card at an upcoming GRCI General Meeting. Congratulations, Marion!

Please continue to share your input and suggestions. The Board and the Club are very interested in your feedback.



GRCI July Agility Trial is History!

By Robin Comp-Zelles, Chairperson

July 27th and 28th GRCI hosted an all-breed agility trial at Max McCook, an indoor soccer complex in McCook, Illinois. The Siberian Husky Club preceded our trials on Friday, so the agility exhibitors had a 3 day weekend of competition. We reached our limit of 660 runs, although we did have a few dogs pull from exhibiting due to veterinary reasons.

You can't have a trial without equipment, so Thursday afternoon members and volunteers of the Husky Club and GRCI joined forces to complete ring and crating layouts at Max McCook. Kathleen Schaeffer, Sandy Cummings, Katie McCullough, Andy Adams, Annette Narel, Kim Mroczenski, Andie Zelles and Mark Mroczenski (hopefully I didn't forget anyone, my sincere apologies if I did) got everything organized and taped off, before the unloading of equipment began. Once the unloading began, it was like a well-oiled machine. Annette Narel has it down to a science with each piece of equipment going to a specific place. Set-up was done in record time, with volunteers that arrived later finding there was nothing left to do! Our Trial Secretary, Bob Olson, set up “shop” with all of his computers, so times and tabulations were quick and efficient. Dee Olson was our Table helper, to aid in completing data entry. Andie Zelles was also learning how to work the table.

Saturday dawned rainy and cool, but we were bright with anticipation of the start of our weekend events. As a thank you for entering our trials, GRCI offered each exhibitor small bags that were printed with our GRCI logo, which are designed to hold a roll of poop bags and treats. For the 52 Golden Retrievers that were entered, GRCI offered a “pilsner” glass with our agility logo imprint, as a thank you for sharing a “golden” weekend. We had the following GRCI members entered: Andy Adams, Donna Bihner, Susan Bishop, Helen Borosak, Sandy Cummings, Kris Garra, Kevin Grudem, Carolyn Hesse, Michelle Kolb, Bruce and Joy Leski, Katie McCullough, Cheri & Murray Mitchneck, Mark and Kim Mroczenski, Annette & Jimmy Narel, Dana Nelson,

Continued,

“July Agility Trial” continued,

Kathleen Schaeffer, Betty Smith, Laurie Stecker and Debra Walczak.

Our Judges Kurt Matushek from IL, and Tim Pinnieri from OH, presided over the two rings for the three day weekend, alternating judging the Standard and Jumper rings each day. They had great courses, fast and fun, lots of transitions, with many handling skills necessary. We had 88 pre-trial volunteers signed up on our worker schedules, ably maintained by Kris Garra. On the days of the trials we had even more exhibitors sign up to help, bringing our numbers of volunteers up to 100! Each worker that signed up pre-trial received an awesome duffel bag (thanks to Kris G.) and a bag of Fromm Family Pet Food dog treats, donated to our workers. Any workers that signed up on the days of the trials had the option of choosing a duffel bag or a bag of treats, Saturday. Barb Gron-Grosse was also able to help Kim Mroczenski hand out the worker “thank you” bags/treats.



Our Ring Coordinators, Barb Rypstra and Andie Zelles (Standard Ring), along with Katie McCullough and Andy Adams (Jumpers Ring), made sure workers were ready and kept the rings moving along swiftly and smoothly. Michelle Kolb stepped up to help wherever the Ring Coordinators needed an extra hand. Course changes were coordinated by Paul and Donna Darland with great expertise.

One thing that you have to have at any great event is great food! Sandy Cummings presided over our food hospitality, offering simple breakfast items that helped get you going. We ordered from Lucano's Restaurants again this year for lunch and we weren't disappointed. Saturday we had ham, chicken and veggie wraps, seasonal fruit, veggie tray and Sandy made her famous potato salad. If you haven't had it, you are missing a mouth-watering wonder! Our members, Michelle Kolb, Hal Axelrod, and Barb Gron-Grosse, along with our vendors, Pup Art (Kathleen Schaeffer), Murphy's Trading Company (Kim & Mark Mroczenski), Dog Wares (Pam and Mike Schizzano) and Liver Lady (Karen Petersen) helped to contribute to our desserts. They were scrumptious and there was plenty for everyone. Thanks to all who donated.

As with any weekend event, it does have to come to an end, with the tearing down of the rings and loading equipment. We had a small, but capable crew of members: Sandy Cummings, Betty Smith, Michelle Kolb, Joy Leski, Annette Narel, Mark Mroczenski and Carolyn Hesse that lent a hand. As always, there is a group of exhibitors that jump in and help, who without their assistance, the loading task would take a lot longer. Joy Leski, Michelle Ricelli and Sandy Cummings had the dubious honor of cleaning up the Hospitality Room. Mark Mroczenski

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"July Agility Trial" continued,

was the Grounds Keeper, and he did a wonderful job making sure that GRCI didn't leave any unwanted "land mines" from our four-legged friends, and helped to clean up our "don't go here" surveyor's tape.

All in all it was a great weekend, full of making memories, sharing wonderful times and not-so-perfect runs. We had a great many compliments from our exhibitors and judges. If you missed joining us for this awesome weekend, there is always next year!

My heart-felt thanks go to my committee, for with your expertise and knowledge, our trials continue to flourish and grow! For the third year in a row, this event has been able to meet and/or exceed our budget, resulting in a tidy profit for the club. Well done to all of those involved past and present.



THE OBEDIENCE CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

"The Importance and Value of Absolute Respect"

Training dogs and helping other people train their dogs has been a passion of mine for over 40 years. I was very fortunate to have been exposed to a very sound, reliable method of training early on. My dog training mentors were Jack Godsil and Bob Self Sr., and I have modeled my training methods after what I learned from them.

Jack and Bob traveled all over the country delivering weekend training clinics. They also offered weeklong summer school sessions during the summer. Over the course of a number of years, I attended two dozen or so of their seminars and clinics. I loved watching Jack train dogs—both his own and those belonging to others. Jack was the most gifted dog trainer I have ever known. He commanded dogs' respect and attention instantly, and produced confident, happy attitudes in the dogs he trained. Bob was also a fine dog trainer, but would often laugh and say he did not possess Jack's lightning fast reflexes. Bob was an exemplary teacher, and excelled at imparting his knowledge to others.

One of the most important things I learned from Jack and Bob was that obedience is dependent on respect—absolute respect. Earning a dog's respect requires clearly communicating our expectations, and the consequences of not meeting those expectations;

Continued,

Absolute Respect" continued,

consistently requiring the same responses from the dog; and consistently rewarding the desired behavior.

Dogs must be taught to respond to our first command. One of Jack and Bob's cardinal training rules was "only give a command once." How often do we hear dog owners nagging their dogs to death with "Come," "Come," "I said Come," and on and on?

If we are not in a position to immediately reinforce desired behavior or a command that the dog has chosen to ignore, then we have set ourselves up for failure. If we are inconsistent and do not require the dog to conform its behavior to the standards we have set, we should not be surprised when the dog's responses to our commands are unreliable.

Over the last four days, I encountered some great examples that illustrate these points. I had the opportunity to work one-on-one with two different new puppy owners whose puppies were nine and ten weeks old, respectively. Both owners were experiencing behavioral issues with their puppies, and were seeking help.

In the first case, when I walked into the woman's house, the first thing she did was extend her arms and hands to show me the numerous scratches caused by the puppy's teeth. The second owner had told his puppy's breeder that the puppy was aggressive and had, in less than a week, ripped two pairs of his shorts—while he was wearing them! That breeder had referred the puppy owner to me.

When I went to the house of the first owner, she greeted me at the door holding the puppy. She then put the puppy on the floor to run around loose. We walked into her large kitchen, where I immediately attached a light leash to the puppy's collar to give me control over the puppy and its behavior. I sat down on the floor, and the puppy ran over to me and leapt toward my face. The puppy then began nipping at my hands. I instantly took a firm hold of the back of the puppy's neck, and gave the puppy one, hard yank saying, "AH, AH!" I then immediately began talking to the puppy in a soft, positive voice, stroking the puppy gently.

The puppy let out one yelp when I gave the scruff yank, and then cuddled up in my lap. Over the course of the next couple of minutes, I had to repeat the correction two more times, and that was it. For the balance of the hour that I was there, talking to the owner about a number of things she needed to do to address various issues she had identified, the puppy continually came over to me to cuddle up against me and lick—not bite—my hands.

The experience was similar with the second puppy. Initially, that second puppy had every intention of grabbing at and chewing my hands and clothing, just as she had been doing with her owners that week. The puppy learned very quickly that those behaviors were not in her best interest! Within five minutes, she had learned to interact with me in a friendly, gentle way without using her mouth on either my hands or clothing. I needed to correct that puppy four or five times within a two to three minute period to make her understand that mouthing hands or clothing was not acceptable and would not be tolerated. She caught on very quickly.

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Absolute Respec “continued,

One of the owners told me that their friend had taken their puppy to a trainer that had simply told them to distract the puppy with a toy or walk away if the puppy started biting at them. Although I agree it is important to have toys close by when interacting with a puppy to provide an outlet for the puppy’s desire to chew, I do not agree with walking away from a puppy’s undesirable behavior without making an effective correction. I want the puppy to know there is a consequence for grabbing hold of me or my clothing, for example. If we make our puppies understand the “cause and effect” of their behavior, we will be effective at eliminating undesirable behaviors very quickly.

Both of these little puppies learned to respect me within a couple of minutes. By earning their respect right away, I was able to shift the focus of my reinforcements to positive reinforcements.

To the greatest extent possible, we want our puppies—and grown dogs for that matter—to have “one-time learning experiences.” If we can administer one correction and have the dog understand what we expect, isn’t that much kinder than nagging the dog over and over and over again, repeating ineffective corrections endlessly?

A couple of days ago, my good friend and fellow GRCA member, Joan Wetton, and I joined Sharon Long and one of her training partners to do some field training. Sharon is a nationally renowned dog trainer who also trained with Jack and Bob. Her dog training abilities come as close to Jack Godsil’s as anyone I have ever seen. After we worked our Junior level dogs, Joan and I had the opportunity to throw water marks for Sharon’s six Master level Golden Retrievers, and the dogs of the other training partner. The set-up Sharon’s dogs were working involved a water double with a blind. [NOTE: A water double consists of two training bumpers or birds being thrown by the “gunners” (throwers) before the dog is sent to retrieve the bumpers or birds—one at a time. A blind is where the dog is sent to retrieve a bumper or bird without having seen the bumper or bird thrown. With a blind, the trainer directs the dog to the bumper or bird by using whistle blasts and hand signals.]

For an hour, Joan and I threw bumpers for Sharon’s dogs, and watched them flawlessly execute the water doubles and blind retrieves. Each of Sharon’s dogs worked eagerly—with drive, enthusiasm and confidence. Sharon’s dogs have that “absolute respect” for her and her commands that result in breath-taking, flawless performances. There was no doubt that those dogs knew exactly what was expected of them. During the hour we watched Sharon work her six dogs, only once did she have to make a minor correction to reinforce her expectations of one of the dogs, and that correction was simply a verbal “BACK!” command, which the dog responded to beautifully.

What surprises some people is that you can avoid having to make hundreds of corrections over the lifetime of a dog by simply making one firm correction early on. I remember Jack and Bob saying that 95% of the corrections a dog is going to experience in its lifetime occur within the first week of its formal training—if the training is done correctly. Now, think about that. Earning the puppy or dog’s respect at the very beginning enables us to shift our focus to positive reinforcement rather than having to continually nag at and correct the puppy or dog. That makes for a

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Absolute Respec “continued,

happier dog and trainer.

As we approach our dogs’ training, let’s keep that “one command only” principle in mind. Let’s also commit to setting high standards, and communicating our expectations to our dogs clearly, while we demand consistent performances of ourselves, as trainers, and of our dogs.

I look forward to continuing to work with the owners of the two puppies mentioned above, helping the owners become the pack leaders their puppies want and need. There is nothing more rewarding than watching the bond form and deepen as dog owners earn their dogs’ “absolute respect” and, in turn, reap the resulting benefits: obedience, happy and confident attitudes, and unwavering devotion.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!



Message from GRCA CCA chair

From Robin Bowen, GRCA CCA Chair,

The Certificate of Conformation Assessment program is widely successful and many clubs have yearly scheduled events. It is a wonderful way to add enrichment and education to your club’s agenda for the year.

In an effort to make this a more cost effective program, many clubs choose to use a Category 2 evaluator on their panel from a reasonably local area since those people are typically much less expensive to have in to evaluate.

We would love to see more Category 2 evaluators on the list of approved evaluators, so please make it known to your wonderful breeders who may qualify for Cat 2 status that we hope to increase their numbers on the list this year! Application is easy, online, and quick to fill out. If you have among you any people who would qualify, it is a wonderful way to give back to the breed by educating entrants on the structure of their own dogs.

Thank you!

WANTED—COLUMNISTS

GRCA Golden Moments Columnists Judy Bush (Therapy Dogs) and Robin Comp-Zelles (Agility) would like to retire. Both have written enjoyable, informative articles for a number of years, and it is time to turn over the “pencils.” If you would like to take on either of these tasks (or have another topic in mind) please contact President Hal Axelrod.

Thank you for your contributions. Without member input there would not be a newsletter!



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 GRCI. GRCI 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 (and Awards Presentation): October 14, 2013 7:00 PM