



**Golden
Retriever
Club of
Illinois**

Golden Moments

April 2014 - May 2014

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.

GRCI Board of Directors

PresidentHal Axelrod, 847-831-2050
harryaxe@comcast.net
Vice President.....Jane Coen, 847-236-0138
warrington26@comcast.net
TreasurerKim Mroczenski, 708-687-3188
heelingtouch@earthlink.net
Secretary.....Betty Smith, 630-231-9892
betty.greg@comcast.net
3-Yr. DirectorJoan Wetton, 847-251-2264
jrw0001@aol.com
2-Yr. DirectorMichelle Kolb, 847-800-6124
partyinthe paint1@sbcglobal.net
1-Yr. Director.....Barbara Gron-Grosse, 847-272-9548
bgg2134@sbcglobal.net
1-Yr. DirectorRandy Johnson, 815-485-4411
lottierandy@comcast.net
1-Yr. DirectorCathy Williams, 847-540-0394
cwilliams0727@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

GRCI Hunt Test Saturday, May
03, 2014, 8:00 AM Sunday, May
04, 2014, 8:00 AM

Intro To Nosework Seminar
Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
403 Washington, Unit 7, Mundelein, IL
(a few doors down from K9 Playtime Daycare and Agility)

June Specialty
Saturday, June 14, 2014
Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL
Contact: Premium & Entries @ <http://www.royjonesdogshows.com/>

Table of Contents

	PAGE
President's Column	1
The Obedience Corner	2
Golden Notes	3
The Agility Corner	5
GRCI Beginner Training Workshop	7
Dog Therapy	8
Humor	9
Sunshine Note	11

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Hal Axelrod

Dear GRCI Members,

I really think spring is getting closer. My dogs have been able to go running in the park again and return only "mildly" muddy. It's finally that time of year to come out of hibernation!

Your board and membership have been very busy planning for a fun- filled calendar of events. At this time of year we begin searching for candidates to serve on the board. Planning and running events for our membership is a team effort and we need some of you to step up by joining the board. I sat on the sidelines for nearly 15 years before I stepped up to serve. I found the board very inviting and resourceful in helping to make the transition of new board members smooth. Those of you who have served on committees with me over the years have been a pleasure to get to know. I joined the club to meet fellow Golden enthusiasts and to learn more about the breed and opportunities there are for them. I have received this and so much more.

I attended the field training seminar on April 6 and the weather was nice enough that we actually were able to enjoy part of the afternoon outside. I was in only a sweatshirt and got quite a bit of sun while Vespa was able to retrieve quite a few birds. Big thanks go to Jane Coen for putting this seminar together. The seminar was presented by Beth Gerdes, Duane Walton and Carol Reed. They provided insight and training tips for field training basics and were well received by both us novices and those with some field training under their belts.

By the time you are reading this, our Annual Health Clinic will be a memory. Thanks to Pat Covek and Randy Johnson for putting this together. This was a great occasion to have your dog's heart and eyes checked. There was also the opportunity to have your dog micro chipped. I always find it nice to meet members and the great dogs they bring with them.

Make sure you mark your calendars for some of our upcoming events. April 28 we'll have grooming lessons at our general meeting. The GRCI Hunt Test is May 3-4, and our specialty is on June 14. I hope to see many of you at these events. Much time, effort and planning is done by our membership to pull these events off. Participating in, or joining us as a spectator makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Get out and enjoy the weather with your four legged friends.

Hal Axelrod

THE OBEDIENCE CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

Laying the Foundation for an Obedient or Obedience Dog

I love to train dogs, and particularly enjoy starting a new puppy. I was recently approached by a Golden Retriever breeder who asked me whether I would be willing to take her four month old puppy for a few months to socialize him and begin his training. The breeder had kept two puppies out of the litter, and knew it would be in the best interest of the second puppy to be temporarily placed in a home where he would receive a lot of individual attention and begin his training. It took me about 10 seconds to come to my decision, which was to agree to take the puppy.

With a young puppy or a dog that joins your family as an older puppy or grown dog, I believe that every waking moment of that puppy or dog's life is a potential learning moment—particularly in the case of a young puppy. My objective in bringing a new dog into the house is to orient the dog to my household routine and “rules” as quickly as possible. I believe that the owner's responsibility is to help the puppy or older dog learn the routine and rules in as positive a manner as possible. That means being in a position to control the dog's environment 24 hours a day so the dog learns good habits and does not have the opportunity to develop bad ones.

I maintain control over the dog's environment and his behavior through the use of three pieces of equipment:

- A dog crate,
- A doorway barrier, e.g., baby gate, and
- A light leash or long-line

When I am home, my new puppy is never crated, except at night when I am sleeping. When I am awake, the puppy is always with me wherever I am. This helps the puppy learn the household routine and rules. With a young puppy that is not yet trustworthy with housebreaking, I hang on to the end of the leash or line or securely tie the end of the leash to something sturdy, e.g., a door handle, nearby. By having the puppy within six feet of me at all times early on, I can see if the puppy starts to circle or sniff the floor indicating he needs to go outside to eliminate. I can also react instantly if the puppy begins engaging in a behavior that does not conform to my household rules, e.g., chewing on the corner of a cabinet, getting into the kitchen waste basket, attempting to jump up on the counter, etc.

The moment the puppy begins engaging in an unacceptable behavior, I grab the leash or line and give it a quick pop, saying “AH!” or “AH, AH!” in a sharp, stern tone of voice. It is important to note that the “pop” is a quick jerk of the leash or line with an instant release of the pressure. A “pop” is NOT a pull. There is a huge difference between a pop and a pull, the latter of which chokes the dog and does not get the desired response from the puppy; namely, to stop the undesirable behavior instantly and give you his attention.

The moment the dog ceases the undesirable behavior, the dog is redirected to an acceptable behavior, e.g., offering the dog a toy and praising the dog when he takes the toy and begins chewing on it.

If the leash/line pop is administered correctly, you will be able to stop the puppy or dog from any undesirable behavior within a day or so by simply giving a firm, verbal “AH!” A case in point, “Bruiser” has been with me for about 15 hours—he arrived at my house last night. Since arriving, Bruiser has learned not to come out of his crate until he's given permission, not to whine when he's in the crate, not to go outside through the front door until he's told “Free!,” to stop and sit anytime we reach a curb during a walk, not to chew on the toilet paper roll or the cabinet knobs, to sit and wait until I place his food bowl on the ground and release him with “Free!,” and to eliminate in



my concrete dog run. Bruiser already will stop whatever he is doing instantly when he hears me say “AH!”

In less than a day, Bruiser has learned to respect me, respond to my commands, and to work at pleasing me to earn lots of petting, praise and maybe even a little treat. Today, I will begin working with him on some basic training exercises:

1. Walking in heel position with full attention on the trainer – When introducing the “Heel” concept, I initially use a treat held in my left hand to show the puppy exactly where I want him to walk. The treat and my verbal praise teach the puppy to give me his undivided attention when he's working with me. The puppy learns not to pull on the leash during our walks outside. That is where I will give the leash a quick pop if the puppy tries to pull on the leash or cut in front of me or behind me. The walks teach the puppy to walk happily on the leash, without pulling, keeping one eye on me. Note that I do not make my dogs maintain a formal “Heel” position during a walk. Their job is to keep at my left, not pull on the leash and not cut in front of me or behind me. They learn that lesson in one or two walks.
2. Sitting in Heel position when I halt – With a puppy, I use a treat held in my left hand to make the puppy sit at heel each time I halt during a training session. If the treat is held in the correct position, and raised up and back toward the puppy's forehead and slightly to the left, the puppy will sit perfectly straight in heel position every time.

Continued on page 3

The Obedience Corner continued,

3. Coming when called and sitting straight in the front position – With the puppy on leash, I tell the puppy “Free!” and let him wander around. When I am ready to call him, I look behind me to make sure I can run backwards a few steps without running into anything, and then say, “Come!” in an enthusiastic, happy voice as I give the leash a light pop and run backwards. As the puppy runs toward me, I praise the puppy verbally, with enthusiasm, with a treat held in both hands, centered in front of me about knee level. As the puppy gets close to me, I slowly raise the treat up toward my waist, holding my hands close to my body as I say, “Sit!” I want the puppy to end up sitting dead center in front of me, as close as possible without touching me. I repeat the Come exercise about half a dozen times.
4. Sit Stay – Using a treat, I bring the dog into Heel position at my left side and have him Sit as I give the “Sit!” command. As soon as the puppy sits, I give him a little piece of the treat. [NOTE: I like to use individually wrapped logs of string cheese for training since you can pinch off a little piece of treat to reward the dog, and the dog does not have to stop and chew up the treat like he would if it were a hard treat, e.g., Milkbone.] Once the puppy is sitting, I place my left hand in front of his face (palm toward the puppy with my fingers pointing to the ground), and say, “Stay!” I take one step in front of the puppy and transfer the leash to my left hand. If the puppy starts to move in any way (including a slight movement like a foot shift), my right hand comes up, catching the leash to give the leash a quick pop as I say, “NO!” Initially, I have the puppy sit for five seconds before returning. Within two weeks or less, the puppy will be rock solid on the Sit-Stay for a full minute.

The key to training a reliable Sit-Stay is to set perfection as your standard, correcting anything shy of perfection. On a Stay, my dogs are allowed to glance away for a moment if a sudden loud noise occurs, and they are allowed to wag their tails, but that is it. I do not allow any sniffing (even sniffing the air toward a dog that might be sitting in line to the dog’s left or right), shifting of weight (e.g., slouching), or fidgeting (e.g., picking up the front feet).

If you correct the small mistakes right from the beginning, those behaviors will disappear very quickly, and you will never have to worry about big mistakes—like breaking a stay. Once the dog is solid at one minute, I begin introducing distractions, i.e., leash jiggle, soft leash pull, hopping left or right, clapping my hands, etc. I gradually work the Sit-Stay time up to three minutes (within four weeks of starting the Stay training), and then begin increasing the distance between me and the dog. Once the dog is steady at three minutes, I introduce more challenging distractions, like rolling a tennis ball a few feet in front of the dog, making noise with a squeaky toy, dropping a treat on the floor or placing a treat right in front of the dog’s feet. Any time the dog begins to move, I simply catch the leash with my right hand to pop up on the leash with the “NO!” command.

With puppies or new older dogs, I keep the lessons short. Five to ten minutes is ample for the first few lessons until you add additional training material. Our job as the trainer is to keep the puppy or dog happy and attentive so the dog looks forward to the training sessions. I always end my training sessions with a puppy or new dog by grabbing a favorite toy and letting the dog do three to six fun retrieves, with lots of praise. I always stop the retrieves when the dog is still eager to do more. I do not wear the puppy out so he loses interest in the retrieving game. When doing the retrieving, I am holding the end of the leash so I can easily encourage the puppy to bring the toy back to me, and not run off with it or lie down and chew it.

I have found that using teachable moments while living with the puppy or new dog in the house, and beginning the more formal training early with high standards set, short training sessions and lots of praise and reinforcement, results in a dog that respects you, is attentive to you and your commands, enjoys training, and strives to please you. That is a winning combination if your objective is to produce an obedient family pet or a competitive obedience trial dog.

As you go out to train your dog, I hope you and your dog will be having as much fun as Bruiser and I intend to have.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!

GOLDEN NOTES

By Karin Boullion

It can be easy to forget when writing my articles that the membership is constantly changing; there are new members without much knowledge of dog showing while others are gradually progressing in the sport. I like to hope there are members within the club who help the “newbies,” whether they provided the dog or not.

Conformation is the venue by which the dog is judged by how well it CONFORMS to the breed standard. Confirmation is what you receive after entering your dog in some form of competition. The breed standard describes the basis of what makes a golden a golden, or a Labrador a Labrador. Each breed has its own, developed by that breed’s parent club. In our case, that is the Golden Retriever Club of America (which developed the standard modeled on the Golden Retriever Club’s standard from the UK) and the most current version can be found at the GRCA web site. A good companion booklet to have to help understand the standard is called “The Study of the Golden Retriever” by Marcia Schlehr (also called the “Blue Book”). It contains illustrations of the good and bad points mentioned in the standard. It is a must have tool for anyone who is serious about the breed, showing and breeding. This booklet is also available through the GRCA store (<http://www.grcasales.org/a-study-of-the-golden-retriever.html>). If you are a member of GRCA, there has been a series of articles written by Marcia that has expanded on the information from her “blue book”.

There are 3 groups or registries that offer conformation shows. The American Kennel Club (AKC) is the most well known

Golden Notes continued,

and offers the most opportunities. Their clubs consist of "All-breed" clubs, which are location-based, "Parent" breed clubs, one per breed, and local specialty clubs (one breed like GRCA), which are region-based. The all-breed clubs can be closer together, as evidenced by the number of clubs in our area. The specialty clubs have slightly stricter rules concerning their regions. That is why you will see numerous all-breed shows, but very few specialty ones. And AKC rules will only allow the specialty clubs to do conformation shows for their own breed and they can only offer two shows a year. Most will usually hold them on the same weekend. For some clubs, it is now becoming popular to have two shows on the same day, like our club has started to do. This can be good in that people only have to work on one day and it is difficult to get workers. It must be a limited entry show, though, as AKC only allows 100 entries per show or roughly a total of 8 hours of judging. This past January, the St. Louis Golden club took a total day of showing one step further by offering agility as well as conformation, obedience and rally on both days of their specialties. It helped having a facility like Purina Farms which easily sets up for all of those at one time, plus it is much easier for agility competitors to also work their rings than it is for conformation or obedience/rally.

The United Kennel club (UKC) is almost as old as AKC, but their initial focus was more about the working dog aspect, like retriever trials and coon hunts. Over the past few years, they have ramped up all of their areas of competition, even providing a "total dog" award for dogs that compete in multiple venues at a show. UKC clubs often times will have two shows a day and most will take day-of-show entries (a nice thing that allows you to make a last minute decision about entering a show) and are all-breed shows. The one down-side to UKC shows is that you don't know what time you will be showing, so much time is spent waiting, but you can meet interesting people while there. I'm seeing more UKC "brags" on facebook, so it appears to be catching on. One huge plus for UKC is that professional handlers can only show their personal dogs, and since most of them are busy at AKC shows, very few are in attendance here. This gives the newcomer and owner-handlers excellent opportunities to hone their own handling skills. In addition, there is much less emphasis on the grooming "fluff-and-puff" than there is for AKC. In fact, it is forbidden to even take a comb into the ring to touch up while showing! Judges also have the option to not allow any "bait," so you need to be able to work your dog without treats or toys, just-in-case! You do need to register your dog with UKC prior to showing, so be sure to allow a bit of time if you are thinking of trying UKC. I don't believe they have an on-line registration yet, but you can email for the dog's registration number if a show is approaching and they have received your dog's information.

The International All Breed Canine Association (IABCA), while fairly new in this country, is actually governed by the European FCI, which has been around a long time and enables us to experience a different type of show. This group provides a written critique and rating for each dog as compared to its breed standard, then places them within the class. Here multiple dogs can earn championship ratings at each show. There is only one group that hosts these shows (usually 2 a day

on both days of a weekend) and while they travel around the country, the closest they get to us is St. Louis, Minnesota, and possibly the Detroit area. They keep putting teasers on their web site that they will have something in the Chicagoland area, but nothing has been here in years. It isn't necessary to have the dog registered with them for the first set of shows, but in order for the legs "earned" to count, the dog has to be. The show secretary will take the registration paperwork at the end of the weekend, so that makes it easy to do. And by the dog having already competed, the registry has "proof" the dog is whatever breed it is. A month or so later, you will receive a "passport" for the dog, which has their information, including pedigree in it along with sections for recording any future results for the dog. This passport is then to be brought to any future IABCA shows the dog is entered in, where the judge will record the rating and sign it. This is another more "laid-back" atmosphere of shows, but you are aware of the approximate times you will be showing each day. Professional handlers are allowed, but there usually are not that many. Because of the written critiques, you can be in more contact with the judge, as many will talk about the dog with you as they are dictating their notes. Not all judges are comfortable with this, but it really can be interesting, especially if you have some judges from other countries (something the club tries to do, to ensure the "international" aspect).

Show information can be found at www.akc.org ; www.ukcdogs.com and www.iabca.com

GRCA offers a conformation assessment program which clubs can offer. This is a program where 3 evaluators (AKC judges or long time successful breeders) go over a dog provide feedback to the owner about the dog's good or bad points. They also have a written critique and point value to the dog versus each part of the standard. Three passing scores and a certificate is awarded. The upside is you have approximately 15 minutes with each evaluator as your dog is discussed. The downsides are limited numbers of these assessments are offered plus a very limited number of dogs can be done in a day (maximum number is usually 24 which is roughly 8 hours for each evaluator). Getting a certificate helps the performance dog qualify for the versatility certificates offered by GRCA also. A dog has to be a minimum of 18 months of age to be eligible for entering a CCA test.

If you have any topics or questions that you would like discussed, please contact me at goldbulyon@aol.com and I'll be happy to address them in an upcoming column.

June General Membership Meeting

~~~

Monday, June 30, 2014  
7:00-9:00PM

## THE AGILITY CORNER

By Jane L. Coen

*[NOTE: Since Golden Moments is currently without an Agility Columnist, Jane Coen has agreed to “recycle” some of the agility columns she wrote back in 2003-2004. If any GRCl agility enthusiasts are interested in becoming the permanent Agility Columnist for Golden Moments, please contact President Hal Axelrod.]*

As I mentioned in my last column, my foundation in dog training is in the area of obedience. As I’ve gotten involved in other performance areas over the years (i.e. Schutzhund training, tracking, field and, agility), I’ve realized that the same set of basic principles of successful training applies to any type of dog training. In this column, I’ll share my thoughts on basic principles of successful dog training, which are as applicable to agility as they are to any other type of training.

### The Basic Principles

Be consistent. Just as you need to ensure your dog’s performance consistently meets your established performance standards, you also need to ensure there’s consistency in your performance, as the handler. Agility is, after all, a team sport! There must be consistency in the way you: a) give your commands (meaning single verbal commands and signals—don’t nag!), b) handle the dog and react to its performance, and c) maneuver the various agility obstacles (body language, positioning, etc.). Your consistency will build the dog’s confidence and result in a more consistent performance on the part of the dog.

Consistency requires a conscious effort and self-discipline on your part. Having an experienced agility handler observe and provide constructive feedback on your handling will help you become a more successful handler. An alternate approach is to self critique your own handling effectiveness by having someone videotape your practice or trial runs.

Establish performance standards for your dog and never accept any performance that falls short of those standards. To quote my obedience training mentors, Bob Self Sr. and Jack Godsil, “Always have a clear mental picture of the performance you’re striving for and never accept a lesser performance from the dog.” In other words, in dog training, “good” should never be “good enough”—either it meets your established performance standard or it doesn’t.

To establish performance standards for your dog reflecting your accurate assessment of your dog’s capabilities and

limitations, go to agility trials and watch the competition. Or, if you’ve done a good job in selecting your agility class instructor, observe his or her dogs in training or at a trial. Be clear in your mind what the ideal agility performance looks like—that picture translates into your performance standards for your dog. Keep in mind, there’s no right or wrong answer. The ideal agility performance will be defined differently by different people. You must decide what’s important to you—is it speed, accuracy, control, safety, attitude or some combination of those factors? Which factors do you weight most heavily? Once you’ve answered these questions, in essence, you’ve defined and established your performance standards.

Know your dog’s capabilities and limitations. You need to begin by doing a reality check to ensure you’ve accurately assessed your dog’s capabilities and limitations. Don’t expect your dog to be something he’s not—physically, mentally or emotionally. Let’s face it, not all dogs are created equal. If they were, all of our Golden Retrievers would have the GCH, OTCH, MACH and MH titles in front of or at the end of their registered names!

For example, some Golden Retrievers may be able to run an agility course like the turbo-charged type of Border Collie (BC) that has become a popular choice for an ever-increasing number of agility enthusiasts; however, most Golden Retrievers cannot—and frankly, should they. The Golden Retriever breed standard does not describe a dog that should run like the turbo-charged BC. A hunting dog would be of little value to its hunter if the dog “shot his wad” by going full-tilt during the first 10 minutes out in the field. With Golden Retrievers, like with marathon runners, we’re looking for a dog with drive, yes; but drive combined with stamina and endurance.

Provide the right motivation(s) to enable your dog to deliver a performance that meets your established performance standards. Here, too, you’d better be prepared to honestly and accurately identify and assess what turns your dog on, and, for that matter, off! Once in awhile, we are fortunate enough to acquire that special type of dog that is born with a great deal of willingness to please, enthusiasm, intelligence, physical prowess, eagerness and attentiveness, all of which makes him a “natural” for any type of performance work. However, that kind of dog is more the exception than the rule. Usually, we find we have a dog that possesses some of the traits that describe the ideal performance dog, but not all of them. That’s where the challenge of learning how to best leverage what you’ve got to work with comes in!

Motivation comes in many varieties; however, it can be generally classified into one of two categories—positive or negative. Positive motivation includes things like food reinforcements, verbal and physical praise, the use of retrieving or toys as a reward, etc. Negative motivation is generally viewed as some type of correction, either verbal or physical. Corrections are used to motivate a dog to perform or cease from performing a specific behavior, i.e. grab the dumbbell in response to an ear pinch or resist lunging at another dog to avoid the inevitable harsh, resulting leash jerk. It’s important to understand that whether a given



Lucy weaving at Agility Trials, owned by Bruce and Joy Leski

*Continued on page 6*

*The Agility Corner continued,*

“reward” (positive motivation) or “correction” (negative motivation) will be effective is completely dependent on the nature of the particular dog in question. If a dog is not interested in food, an edible treat is not going to motivate the dog to do anything. A non-retriever (unless it has been effectively force-broken to retrieve) is not going to be motivated by a tossed toy. A dog with a high physical threshold of pain is not going to respond very effectively to a typical leash correction. A dog with little willingness to please and an insensitive, independent nature is going to be relatively unaffected by a verbal “NO!” correction. I’m sure you’ve got the picture! The bottom line is you have to know your dog and identify the right mix of motivators to encourage your dog to deliver the performance you’re looking for.

Train for the dog’s success. In other words, approach the training in such a way that the dog consistently experiences success—which from the dog’s perspective means his performance earns him rewards and allows him to avoid corrections to the greatest degree possible. Such an approach will build the dog’s confidence and develop a positive attitude on the part of the dog.

You’ve heard of the KISS method--Keep It Simple, Stupid!--well, it certainly applies to dog training. Break training exercises down into their most basic elements. Allow the dog to master each element of the exercise before you assemble the pieces. Likewise, if you run into a problem, dissect the exercise to isolate the piece of the exercise that’s at the root of the problem. Address that single piece of the exercise to correct the problem.

Train regularly. Dogs learn through repetition, just as we do. It’s a waste of your time and your dog’s to begin the dog’s training if you don’t intend to follow through and work with the dog on a regular basis. Dogs will make rapid progress if you train regularly and apply all of the basic principles referenced in this column.

Proof train. Once the dog is executing commands and performing the agility obstacles correctly--on a consistent basis --then raise the stakes! By that I mean it is now time to introduce distractions that will require the dog to really concentrate when performing his work. For example, place a food bowl containing the dog’s favorite treat close to the up ramp of the dog walk and then place him several feet away from the obstacle and give him the command to go up the dog walk. If necessary, put the dog on leash to reinforce that he’s got to ignore the distraction and execute your command. Continue to practice until the dog totally ignores the food bowl and takes a direct line onto the dog walk off leash.

Another example: leave the dog at the start line and lead out away from the dog. Have a second person create a noise distraction to the side or behind the dog. Insist the dog keep his eyes on you. Work on leash and correct inattentiveness with a sharp lead snap and “Hey! Watch Me!” command. Praise verbally for attentiveness and reward by releasing the dog and calling him to you when his eyes are glued on you.

*Continued on page 7*

## 3 Day Agility Trial

### GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF IL

**Saturday, July 26 & Sunday, July 27 2014**

### SIBERIAN HUSKY CLUB

**Friday, July 25, 2014**

#### **When:**

- July 25, 2014 Friday **Siberian Husky Club**, STD, JWW, FAST & Time to Beat & Time to Beat Pref
- \$19.00 /\$19.00/ \$19.00 / \$15.00
- July 26, 2014 Saturday **Golden Retriever Club of IL** STD & JWW, Regular and Pref classes
- July 27, 2014 Sunday **Golden Retriever Club of IL** STD & JWW, Regular and Pref classes

#### **Where:** McCook Athletic & Expo Center

4750 Vernon Ave

McCook, IL

**Opens:** Wednesday May 28, 2014 8am

**Closes:** Wednesday July 9, 2014

#### **Random Draw:**

Draw Closes Wednesday June 11, 2014 6pm

Draw Wednesday June 11, 2014 8pm

Draw Location 22W462 Sycamore Dr. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-7406

**Entry Fee:** \$19.00 / \$19.00

#### **Trial Secretary:**

Robert Olsen

22W462 Sycamore Dr

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-7406

630/790-8426

[rdotrialsec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdotrialsec@sbcglobal.net)

You can download the entry form from the Trial

Secretary website at <http://rdolson.org/premiums>

**Judges:** Diane Fyfe & Rick Fyfe

#### **Saturday & Sunday:**

Novice STD & JWW, Open STD & JWW, Masters &

Excellent STD, & Master & Excellent JWW.

Regular and Preferred classes.

Chairperson is Michelle Kolb (847/800-6124)

[Partyinthepaint1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Partyinthepaint1@sbcglobal.net)

**Please join us for a Fun full Day!**

Participate, Volunteer or be a Spectator  
and enjoy your Golden Friends.



*Agility Corner* continued,

Reward him by tossing him a treat or toy. By proof training during practice sessions, the dog will be prepared for and ignore the distractions that he's sure to encounter at agility trials.

Have fun! If you can't make agility training fun for both you and your dog, you have no business engaging in the sport. Agility is not a life and death proposition. It's not like basic obedience where your dog's safety could depend on his ability to instantly respond to the come command. Nor is it a case of training the dog so he doesn't knock you or anyone else down or drag you down the street when you're out for a walk. Let's face it, agility has little practical value except for providing an avenue to get out and have fun with your dog and your friends. Keep the right perspective so you and your dog can look forward to and enjoy the sport of agility.

I hope you found my thoughts on basic principles of successful agility training interesting, or at least thought provoking. In next month's column, I'll share my thoughts on starting a puppy or new dog out in agility. Until then, "get out" and "weave them poles!"

## GRCI's Beginner Retriever Training Workshop

*By Jane L. Coen*

Last September, GRCI surveyed its Membership to find out what type of programming Members wished the Club to offer, based on Members' areas of interest. Beginning field training was one of the areas identified by a high percentage of Members. As a result, GRCI's Board approved a budget for a GRCI-sponsored one-day field training workshop that was held on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at King's Kennels in Riverwoods, Illinois.

The workshop was presented by three knowledgeable, experienced field trainers: Duane Walton, AKC Field Trial Judge; Carol Reed, AKC Hunt Test Judge; and Beth Gerdes, GRCI Member and experienced field trainer and hunt test exhibitor. The workshop was attended by 18 participants, 17 of whom signed up to work a dog at the workshop. The

participants included a number of GRCI Members, along with non-Members from locations as far away as Peoria and northeast of Detroit. All of the 17 dogs participating in the workshop were Golden Retrievers, including three four month old puppies.

Everyone who attended the workshop reported that they had a great time and learned a lot. The instructors provided an overview of American Kennel Club (AKC) Hunt Tests and the Golden Retriever Club of America's (GRCA's) Working Certificate (WC) and Working Certificate Excellent (WCX) Tests. Participants had the opportunity to watch videos showing a dog running an AKC Junior Hunt Test and a GRCA WC Test.

The instructors explained how to introduce a dog to retrieving, and to the basic obedience commands used in training a field dog. They also discussed the proper way to introduce a dog to water and swimming. The emphasis was on providing the dog with a sound foundation on which to build the dog's field training program.

Participants had the opportunity to expose their dogs to basic retrieves with field training bumpers and birds (both dead ducks and pheasants and live pigeons.). Most of the participants' dogs were interested in retrieving the birds, including some of the young puppies.

It was a great day. The weather fully cooperated with sunshine, clear skies and comfortable temperatures for the outside training sessions.

Special thanks to Barbara Gron-Grosse for providing the breakfast, including homemade coffee cake and muffins, and to Hal Axelrod for arranging for a delicious lunch from Real Urban Barbeque. Members Joan Wetton and Cheri Mitchneck provided invaluable help in setting up and/or cleaning up at the end of the workshop.

GRCI looks forward to the Club-sponsored nose work seminar on Sunday, May 17, organized by Member Cathy Williams. If you would like to sign up for the seminar, contact Cathy.

If there are other areas of interest that you would like the Club to address through some type of programming, please contact Vice President Jane Coen at (847) 236-0138 or [warrington26@comcast.net](mailto:warrington26@comcast.net).



We accept either digital or printed photos.

- Printed must be high quality, 8x10 & landscape.
- Digital must be high resolution (a minimum of 2MB) and landscape.
- A limit of only 2 entries per dog please.

## Wanted: Your Entry for the GRCA Calendar

Categories:

- Portrait
- Scenic
- Seasonal
- Humorous
- Holiday
- Performance

Include owner's name, dog's name, photographer's name, which category you are entering, your address, phone number & Email address. **Entries are due by May 31 each year for the following year's calendar.**

Mail to: Jerry Andersen, 2537 SW Winterview Ridge, Lee's Summit, MO 64081 or email [jraeanders@att.net](mailto:jraeanders@att.net)

**Do NOT send photos taken with your phone as the resolution isn't high enough.**  
**Category winners get a cash prize and a free calendar.**  
**Monthly winners get a free calendar.**

## DOG THERAPY: A “Paw”sitive Experience

By Lisa Goldberg

It's 1:00 a.m. As I sit on the floor thinking about my day, Sammie is lying pushed against me with her head and leg on my lap. A few hours ago Dave and I returned from an engagement dinner we and few other couples hosted for our friends' daughter. We have all known each other for almost 30 years. Two generations sat at the table. At one end of the table sat the parents and at the other end sat our kids. We watched in amazement. These kids were now adults, some with children of their own. Where did the time go? These kids played outside together. We talked about the annual block parties, memories and an old VHS tape of the kids. We laughed. No one has a VHS player to watch it. Oh boy! We need to convert our VHS into a CD. Technology and our kids have grown and changed too fast.

As I ponder on all that was said tonight, I look down at Sammie and think about my goldens that have crossed over the rainbow bridge. So, how did I ever get this involved with dog therapy? Dogs have been a constant in my life since I was 8 years old and therapy must have been waiting in the distance. I realized dog therapy has been part of my life for over 22 years. My son Cory, my 2<sup>nd</sup> golden Nikky and I would lie on Cory's bed every night and read a book. As I read, Cory would pet, hug and talk to Nikky. Cory would go to sleep and Nikky and I would take a little catnap. As Cory got older, he read to Nikky. Our ritual was very calming and over time, developed reading skills and created a strong bond between the three of us. So Nikky was actually my first reading dog, without the official title, of course. Reading to dogs! Huh! What a unique concept. Who knew these experiences 45 years ago would result in my career as a registered dog/handler team providing AAA (Animal Assisted Activity) and AAT (Animal Assisted Therapy) in nursing homes, libraries and schools years later.

Let's fast forward a bit. I have trained two registered therapy dogs over the past 9 years. Maggie was my first therapy dog. Sammie is my current therapy dog. Nikky was sweet and smart but too submissive to become a therapy dog. After Nikky's passing, before Maggie arrived, I read everything I could about therapy dogs. I was intrigued and this is the point I knew what I wanted to do. What could be better than working with your dog! Maggie was going to be a therapy dog. That was the plan.

The plan was executed. Maggie joined our family in August of 2005. Her name and destiny were decided before we ever met her. As we all know, training a dog requires dedication and perseverance. On the average, it usually takes about two years to train a dog. A therapy dog requires a special, calm temperament and extra training. Additional classes, exposures and experiences are crucial because they will become working dogs to provide emotional healing for all ages.

Let's rewind a bit. Socialization and training are crucial. Maggie and Sammie's socialization and training were a bit different because Maggie was an 8 week old puppy and Sammie was a 1.5 year old rescue when they each joined our family. At a very young age, I took Maggie to the front of the

grocery stores and let her get used to people and the noises around her. We attended puppy, basic obedience, rally, CGC, and therapy classes. She was a registered therapy dog with her CGC by 2 years old. I continued to expose her to different scenarios. Sammie, whom we adopted in 2008, followed a similar path, but she started directly in basic obedience. She too was a registered therapy dog with her CGC in about two years. Training Sammie to be a therapy dog was a bit easier because of my experiences with Maggie. But yet it was harder because Sammie came with some undesirable habits. We visited many venues: nursing homes, disabled young adults, community events, libraries and schools.

In 2007, five therapy teams, including myself, got together and created K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore, a Reading to Dogs Foundation. Maggie was one of our first 5 K-9 Reading Buddies and was a trailblazer in our pilot programs that included Oak Terrace Elementary School. (Carole Yuster, founder of K9RBNS, 2012). Sammie joined our foundation in 2010. Maggie is gone now. She was an awesome companion and therapy dog. Sammie is also an awesome companion and therapy dog. After all, she learned from her sister. Sammie and I have a special bond and continue to read with the kids at Oak Terrace. Sammie walks proudly down the hall with her tail wagging high in the air. She wants the world to know she is there to read with her kids.

We are always growing and changing. Therapy work is very gratifying and promotes positive changes and strong relationships. People feel good when they are around dogs. They smile, their blood pressure lowers, they improve skills and they demonstrate a positive self-esteem. The dogs and I changed and grew together, just like our kids sitting at the table tonight, by building a strong bond that will last for many years. They have come full circle and are becoming parents themselves. I too have come full circle. Forty-five years ago, I began taking care of dogs. Twenty-two years ago, I trained a reading dog without even knowing what a reading dog was. I can now answer the question of how I ever got this involved with dog therapy. It's because of my love for animals, children and friends. It was inevitable. Hopefully down the road, all of us will get the chance to go back and view how far we have come in our life and the full circle of love we have created. But first, we need to convert those VHS tapes to CD's so those pictures will always be in view.



From left to right: Abby and Barnabas, therapy dogs providing comfort.



## GRCI NEEDS YOU!!!!

By Jane L. Coen

March is the month that GRCI's Board of Directors appoints a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of Officers and Directors for the 2014-15 Board. The slate is presented to GRCI's Members for approval at GRCI's June General Meeting, where nominations from the floor can be made, in accordance with GRCI's By-Laws' Article V, Section 3(C).

As GRCI's Vice President, I will be chairing this year's Nominating Committee. GRCI members, Nancy Einwich and Cheri Mitchneck, have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. I will present the names of the proposed Nominating Committee members to the Board for approval at its April 7 meeting.

Of the current Board members, the following people have agreed to serve on the 2014-15 Board, if elected: Hal Axelrod, Jane Coen, Barbara Gron-Grosse, Michelle Kolb and Joan Wetton.

After serving as GRCI Board members for multiple years, the following incumbents have indicated that they do not wish to stand for reelection to the 2014-15 Board: Kim Mroczenski, Randy Johnson, Betty Smith and Cathy Williams. That being the case, **the Nominating Committee will be seeking nominees for the following Board positions for the 2014-15 Club Year: Secretary, Treasurer, 1-Year Director (Specialty) and 1-Year Director (Awards & Health Clinic).**

It is important to note that the 1-Year Directors responsible for the Specialty and the Club Awards & the Health Clinic, respectively, do not have to chair the events for which they are responsible. They can recruit Club Members to chair the events, and serve as the liaison between the Event Chairs and the Board, ensuring the Event Chairs have the resources and volunteers needed to run successful GRCI events. For example, within one week of becoming GRCI's 3-Year Director back in 1992, I recruited Event Chairs for the Club's Hunt Test, WC Test and Field Training Classes, and simply served as the liaison between those Chairs and the Board.

**We are seeking nominees who possess the following attributes:**

- **Integrity:** Demonstrating a zero tolerance for unethical behavior, both for themselves and their fellow GRCI Members.
  - **Independence:** Having no personal relationships that create even the perception of a conflict of interest.
  - **Mature Confidence:** Speaking candidly and actively participating in Board deliberations.
  - **Board Manners:** Recognizing the difference between productively participating in discussions and counter-productively dominating deliberations through the volume or length of comments. Must be able to work with other members to create workable compromises.
- A Sense of Context:** Making relevant, informed comments focused on the specific aspect of the issue being

considered. Must be able to stay on topic.

- **Courage:** Willingness to do the right thing/make the right decision even if it is difficult or unpopular (i.e., no fence sitting).
- Commitment:** Understanding that being an effective Board member requires the time, the heart, and the standards to make GRCI successful.

GRCI is an active club that relies on Members to volunteer to work at GRCI-sponsored events and hold key positions within the Club, including Board positions. GRCI will succeed only if Members pitch in and help to run the organization and work at GRCI events.

**Please take the initiative to volunteer to serve on GRCI's Board**—don't wait for the Nominating Committee to call you. However, if the Nominating Committee does reach out to you and ask you to serve, please say, "Yes!" I know that the average person could easily come up with a host of excuses NOT to accept a nomination: "I'm too busy," "I don't like to drive at night," "I'm not qualified," etc., etc., etc.

I am a big believer in the old adage, "where there's a will there's a way." I work long hours at a full-time job, frequently going into work on the weekends; I serve as a Deacon at my Church (a three-year commitment); I teach dog training classes three nights a week; I'm an active member of a pet therapy group; I am a columnist for GRCI's *Golden Moments* newsletter; I'm the Trophy Co-chair for GRCI's 2014 Specialty; and I chaired GRCI's Beginners Field Training Workshop. I'm thinking that if I can make the time to serve on GRCI's Board, so can you, my Friend!

Please email me at [warrington26@comcast.net](mailto:warrington26@comcast.net) or call me at (847) 236-0138 to let me know of your willingness to serve on next year's Board.

Thanks, in advance, for your willingness to serve. I look forward to working with you!

### HUMOR - Liver and Cheese

The Taco Bell Chihuahua, a Doberman and a Bulldog are in a doggie bar having a drink when a great-looking Golden Retriever female comes up to them and says, "Whoever can say liver and cheese in a sentence can have me."

So the Doberman says, "I love liver and cheese."

The Golden Retriever says, "That's not good enough."

The Bulldog says, "I hate liver and cheese."

The Golden Retriever says, "That's not creative enough."

Finally, the Chihuahua says, "Liver alone.....cheese mine."

## The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Dear Golden Retriever Lover,

Does your club have what it takes to help prevent cancer in Golden Retrievers? If it includes people who are passionate about Goldens and want the breed to be as healthy as it can be, then the answer is “Yes!”

Morris Animal Foundation still needs 2,000 Golden Retrievers for our Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, the most important observational study ever undertaken to improve canine health.

Your club can help us reach our enrollment goals for the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. It’s easy.

**Encourage anyone you know** with a healthy purebred Golden Retriever less than 2 years of age to apply to the study at [www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org](http://www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org).

**Share information about the study** on your club website and online communities, including Facebook and Twitter. There are many resources on the website [here](#)

Let’s reach the goal of 3,000 Goldens strong—and have some fun doing it!

Thank you,

*The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Team*

\*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.caninelifetimehealth.org/about/the-golden-retriever-lifetime-study/>

*Excerpts from site:*

**60% of Golden Retrievers will die of cancer.** Your dog can help change that.

We’re looking for a few good pups—3,000 to be exact—to be part of the most groundbreaking study ever undertaken to improve the lives of dogs. Morris Animal Foundation’s Golden Retriever Lifetime Study tracks volunteer dogs’ health for life in order to gain insights into preventing and treating cancer and other canine diseases.

- **Be Part of History** This is the largest and longest study ever conducted to advance veterinary medicine for dogs.
- **Help Determine Risk Factors for Canine Diseases** The genetic, environmental and nutritional data from participating dogs will help us learn how to prevent cancer and other canine diseases.
- **Improve the Health of Future Generations.** What is learned from the Golden Retrievers in the study will give *all* dogs a brighter, healthier future.

**Morris Animal Foundation** is a nonprofit organization that invests in science that advances veterinary care for all animals.

## **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](mailto: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 GRCL. GRCL 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](http://www.grca.org/pdf/all_about/codeofethics.pdf)

## **NEWSLETTER STAFF:**

**Aimee Sheufelt, Editor**

Karin Boullion, Conformation: 630-941-7568 or [goldbulyon@aol.com](mailto:goldbulyon@aol.com)  
Jane Coen, Obedience: 847-236-0138 or [warrington26@comcast.net](mailto:warrington26@comcast.net)

Barbara Gron-Grosse, Public Education: 847-272-9548, or [bgg2134@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bgg2134@sbcglobal.net)

## **Golden Moments**

Hal Axelrod  
214 Barberry Road  
Highland Park, IL  
60035

**TO:**



***Next Meeting: April 28, 2014 at 7PM / featuring Grooming Lessons***