



## GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS Golden Moments Newsletter

August 2017

### GRCI News & Updates

Welcome to GRCI Golden Moments! This version is mobile device friendly! We hope that it will be even more convenient for member communication. While we try our best to get everything updated, if you notice something that could be better or a link that isn't working, please give us your feedback.

#### Message from GRCI's President

I hope this e-blast finds you and your dogs well. A big hello from Quincy, Illinois. Hollis finally joined us at the end of June and the house is unpacked and ready for visitors. We hope to make it in for the annual picnic and the awards presentation on Sunday, August 13 at Hawthorne's and see many of you there.

This will be my last note as president of the GRCI. I want to thank those that have served on the board of directors over the last 6 years along side of me. There is so much work involved in running the club successfully. It would not have been accomplished without the dedication and hard work of this fine group of volunteers. I also need to thank those club members who have volunteered countless hours for the good of your club. I feel that part of your responsibility as a club member is to volunteer as time permits to perpetuate the great causes and events the club is involved with.



Thanks go out to Pat Janes for demonstrating grooming techniques at our last general meeting. Nolan Ryan and his committee put on a very successful Specialty along with an Obedience and Rally trial. I sat in on many of the planning meetings for these events and the number of moving parts is mind boggling. Many of you went above and beyond in your assistance to execute a great event. Many worked in between showing their dogs, which is always tricky. The summer Agility Trials are coming up, and I'm sure Michelle Kolb and her committee will put on another fantastic event that they are known for.

Once again, I want to thank the membership for allowing me to become an active member of the board over the last 6 years. I am proud of what we have accomplished for the good of the club and our breed. I know that Donna Bihner will be a great addition to the board. As your president, there will be changes made to improve the transparency of the board with the membership. She has good ideas that will only make GRCI better.

This is not goodbye, but until we meet again.

If you have any articles or "Wags and Brags" send them to Cathy Williams.

Sincerely,  
Hal Axelrod

## Upcoming Events

GRCI Agility Trials  
July 28 to July 30, 2017  
Max McCook Athletic Center  
4750 Vernon Avenue, McCook IL



The GRCI summer agility trials are coming up next weekend, and volunteers are needed. If you can donate your time, the links for the volunteer sign up are below. There are many positions that don't require any experience, including leash runner, sheet runner, and bar setter. If you have questions, please email me at [betty.greg@comcast.net](mailto:betty.greg@comcast.net).  
[Saturday Volunteers GRCI](#)  
[Sunday Volunteers GRCI](#)

If you would like to donate food or drinks, please contact Hospitality Coordinator Kim Mroczenski at [heelingtouch@earthlink.net](mailto:heelingtouch@earthlink.net).

Thank you for any help you can give!

Betty Smith  
Agility Trial Worker Coordinator

### GRCI Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, August 13 at 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[Hawthorne's Backyard, 1200 Hawthorne Lane, West Chicago, IL](#)  
630-293-6700

Bring your Golden Retrievers and join us for our most popular meeting and event of the year - [our annual picnic](#), where we will celebrate all our Golden Retrievers and those that have achieved some special accomplishments throughout the year.

Cost for the picnic this year is \$10 per member. You may use your volunteer "coupons" for payment if you have them. Cost for guests and non-members is \$19 per person.

RSVP to Cheri Mitchneck [agility12@aol.com](mailto:agility12@aol.com) by August 4 with your payment: 39 E. Dahlia Lane, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073. Or call 847-722-4287 with questions.

Hope to see you and your Golden Retrievers there!



### GRCI Hunt Test Event Summary by Beth Gerdes

The 2017 GRCI hunt test was a huge success. Thank you to all those that stepped up and helped out. At the last minute, our help backed out on us. We scrambled to get workers to help. It was through the dedication of the hunt test people (both members and non-members) that we were able to come together to pull off a great and successful test. It is the volunteers that allow our club to continue to offer the events that we all enjoy with our dogs. THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT!! See you all next year. Mark your calendars for May 5th and 6th, 2018.



## Wags and Brags

**Karin Boullion** sent this picture of **Journey** on his way to winning Winners Dog at the GRCI Specialty #1 at Grayslake. To say she was ecstatic is an understatement! Now he is in search for that final major! Thanks to Julie Caruthers for the photo, Nikki for handling him and judge Bill Lauderdale for the win. Journey is co-owned with Peggy Covey, who has been also training and titling him in obedience and agility.



Nikki Ryan and Journey





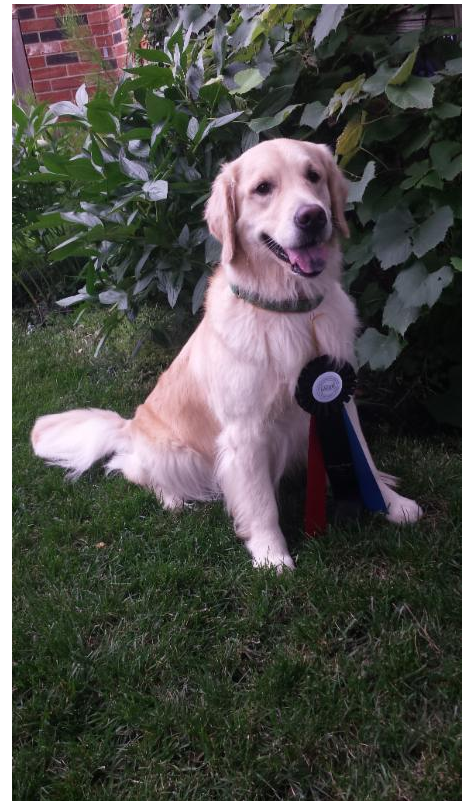
Loosey and Nelson

Jane Coen reports that littermates, **Loosey and Nelson**, owned by Jane Coen and Joan Wetton, ran in their first Junior Hunt test on July 23 at the West Allis Training Kennel Club Hunt Test and earned their first legs toward the Junior Hunter (JH) AKC title.

**Kaye Dahlquist** reports:

Jayda and I had a fun event on the 16th. Went to the Joliet NACSW nose work trial. Our judges were super nice and everyone was so excited. It was so interesting to see how all this worked. This was our first attempt with finding 4 "hides" in four different locations. First search was exterior, then we went directly to the container search. Jayda decided to hop up on the picnic table before getting down to business! Then all was fine, and we went on to finish the containers. Fortunately, Jayda makes it easy by hitting a paw on the correct scented spot!

After lunch we got to do an interior search, and then go directly to the 3 vehicles, where the hide was out of sight behind a license plate. So we passed all four hides to get our title. Yay! She was the 7th fastest dog out of 43 passing dogs, and even got pronounced for our interior search!



Jayda NW1



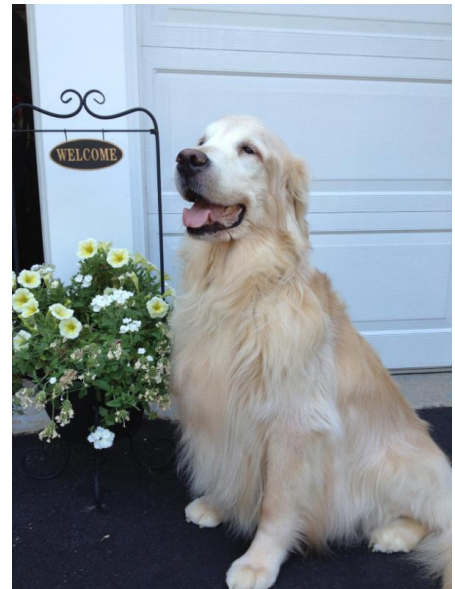
Kizzie

**Jane Coen's Kizzie** earned her Utility Dog (U.D.) title at GRCI's Specialty on June 17 and at the two trials at the Greater Dekalb Kennel Club on July 9, with scores of 194 ½, 194 ½, and 197, for three first place wins.

Please share your Golden's accomplishments! Send an email summary and a photo to Cathy Williams at [cwilliams0727@gmail.com](mailto:cwilliams0727@gmail.com) to be included in the next Golden Moments!

### On A Sad Note...

Jane Coen's dog "Tripper" - UD RAE recently passed. He lived from 7-28-07 - 7/7/17, and brought everyone who knew him a great deal of joy- especially Jane. Our hearts go out to Jane and those who were close to Tripper.



### The Obedience Corner by Jane Coen

"The Importance of Adapting"

Back in 1973, I acquired my first Shetland Sheepdog, "Lady." After having trained and competed in obedience with two challenging German Shepherds as a child, Lady was "a dream comes

true." She was extremely intelligent, unbelievably focused, and incredibly eager to please—a winning combination. Lady sailed through her obedience titles, earning her American Kennel Club (AKC) Utility Dog (U.D.) title at 19 months of age, earning two Dog World Awards along the way.

Having fallen in love with Shelties, in 1974, I acquired my second Sheltie, "Star." Being naïve at the time, I figured that if I trained Star the same way I trained Lady, I would achieve the same results. Wrong. Lady was ready to start formal obedience training at a very young age. Star was not. I would have been wise to wait to begin Star's formal training until she was a year old.

More than 40 years later—and after training many more dogs over those years—I still consider Star to be my "once in a lifetime" dog, and the greatest obedience dog I will likely ever own or train. The success Star and I achieved was slower in coming than with Lady, and required me to: 1) "wake up" and realize that Star was NOT Lady, and 2) employ a different training approach with Star. Once I figured that out, Star's training progressed quickly, and we achieved great success together. When I lost my Star at almost 15 years of age, I acquired my first Golden Retriever, "Sandy," and have loved and been owned by Golden Retrievers, ever since.

The need to adapt training approaches was an invaluable lesson I learned from Star. I now place great importance on sizing up a dog to determine the training approach that is going to be most successful with that particular dog. As a dog trainer, one of the things I enjoy most is figuring out what I need to do as a trainer to enable the dog to give me its best performance and reach its full potential.

I've had the privilege and pleasure of training five dogs for a very successful Golden Retriever breeder in the Midwest. Her dogs have ranged from three to 11 months of age when they have come to me for training. The dogs' attitude toward training has varied significantly. I considered it my job to figure out what I needed to do to make each of those dogs believe that working with me was the greatest thing in the world.

With a dog that loves to work, the trainer's job is easy. That type of dog is almost self-motivated. With a dog that would rather just lie around, the trainer's job is far more challenging. I have found that the secret to success with dogs that fall into this latter category is to find a particularly enticing treat, a favorite toy, particularly effusive verbal and physical praise or a combination of all three to motivate the dog and convince the dog that training is "the greatest thing since sliced bread!" Once I found the right combination of motivators, every one of those five dogs would stand at the closed basement door wagging its tail, while glancing back at me, as if to say, "Hurry up! Let's go downstairs and train!"

From my viewpoint, I cannot claim success as a trainer unless I produce a dog that works happily, not only exhibiting quick responses to my commands, but also a very positive attitude toward the training. I believe that, as trainers, we have to evaluate a dog's potential, and work toward developing that potential. Not all dogs are going to possess high levels of drive or great enthusiasm. Likewise, not all dogs are going to be top scoring dogs; and as far as I'm concerned, that's OK. The way I look at it is if my dog is giving me his or her best effort, I am going to be happy with my dog's performance, and consider it a success.

Three of my Golden Retrievers are actively being trained for competition in various areas of competition, be it obedience, rally, the field, agility and/or conformation. These three dogs have significantly different temperaments. Sometimes I am surprised at how differently I have to train them in order to motivate them to give me their best performance. Although they are all intelligent dogs that are willing to please, they require very different training approaches.

My "Kizzie" desperately wants to please, and worries if she gets an inkling that I'm not pleased with her performance. I have to be very careful not to overreact if she makes any kind of a mistake, since I don't want her to be afraid of making a mistake. I attribute her worrisome attitude to some of the field training experiences she had on the way to earning her AKC Senior Hunter (S.H.) title. In hindsight, I believe she was exposed to a level of pressure that she was not well equipped to handle, given her personality.

My "Loosey" is not as sensitive or soft as Kizzie, and has handled the advanced field training-and the associated pressure-better than Kizzie did. That being said, Loosey does not possess Kizzie's level of focus, so one of the things I continue to work on with Loosey is attaining her undivided attention and a higher level of concentration. I believe Loosey has a lot of potential, and I look forward to working with her to enable her to achieve her potential.

And then there's "Stella." 11 month old Stella has enough energy for 10 Golden. She loves life, and is overly enthusiastic about everything! Stella's been described as "a pistol" and "a handful," and I would agree both descriptors fit her well. Stella is just lucky she was placed into an experienced home, because if she was placed with an inexperienced owner, she undoubtedly would have been returned to her breeder in no time! Stella is a fun dog with great drive and potential, but she requires firmness, consistency and a LOT of patience. In time, I'm certain she'll be a good competition dog, but she's certainly not going to have her U.D. at 19 months of age like Lady did.

If you haven't already evaluated your Golden to assess your dog's potential and what motivates the dog, I'd certainly encourage you to do so. You'll then be well positioned to establish and reach goals that are right for your dog-and enjoy the journey along the way.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!



### [Shop GRCI Merchandise!](#)

Show your support of GRCI through logo apparel, hats and outerwear. Check out the website - choose any item and size you like! They are nice for GRCI event chairs and committees, or for your competitions.



**Sunshine Notes**



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

Call Laurie Stecker at 847-705-9172 or email at [Aylwyn1@aol.com](mailto:Aylwyn1@aol.com). She will arrange a cards or other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

## **GRCI Board of Directors**

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