



**GOLDEN  
RETRIEVER  
CLUB OF  
ILLINOIS**

# Golden Moments

**JULY/AUGUST 2012**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*By Judy Bush*

Hello to all our wonderful members and their gorgeous Golden:

It's good to touch base with you again, and reflect on some great activities GRCI has arranged and produced for its members.

I want to make sure you all attend the GRCI Agility Trials coming up shortly. Mark your calendars for July 28 and 29. Kris Garra and Robin Comp Zelles have been diligently preparing for this event, which is a highlight of GRCI's activities. You can contact Kris at [krisgarra@me.com](mailto:krisgarra@me.com), and Robin at [mzelles@aol.com](mailto:mzelles@aol.com) to volunteer, or come out to play. Many thanks to these two wonderful members who always produce a top quality event for us.

Our Picnic scheduled for August 12th, Sunday, 2012, at Hawthorn's Back Yard is quickly approaching. We sent out a flyer with the Awards information. Please fill out the bottom portion of the flyer with your check and get it back to Pat Alberts as soon as possible. We will send out another notification via email too. Pat designed a fabulous menu for our members and friends. Additionally, Kaye Dahlquist, Nancy Einwich, and Michelle Kolb will present a Mini Tracking Seminar to interest members in trying this activity.

Special thanks to As Good As Gold for their presentation at our June 20th meeting. This was the second part of a two part series: Choosing a Golden, the Rescue Choice. Robin Sweeney, Executive Director described the organization's function in helping less fortunate Golden find a loving home. President Carol Peterson brought Brody, a handsome newly admitted rescue. As Good As Gold and Golden Retriever Club of Illinois will be working together on additional projects.

Another special friend visited us at our meeting: Ron Farina, past president of GRCI. Ron described some very interesting club activities during his time in office. It was great to meet him and listen to him talk about the past history of GRCI. Ron will be joining us at the Picnic. Stop by and say hello to a great past president!

As of this time, many members have submitted their applications for Awards. This year the Award event will be held in October at our general meeting. Good luck to all, and what a wonderful way to honor our members and their Golden who have worked diligently at accomplishing some remarkable achievements. Randy Johnson indicated he was very pleased at the outpouring of applications. It will be a great evening in October when our members and their Golden step forward to receive their Awards--be sure to be there.

At the close of August 12th, the new slate will begin their new term with GRCI. We have another outstanding group of dedicated board volunteers. Each one brings talent, commitment, honesty, and a strong desire to promote GRCI as an exceptional organization. I am most fortunate to be surrounded with all of them, and thank each for their wonderful efforts.

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**1-Year Director** – Open

## Upcoming Meetings:

### **General Meeting and Picnic**

**August 12, 2012**

**TIME: 12:00 – 3:30 PM**

Location: Hawthorne's Backyard  
1200 West Hawthorne Lane  
West Chicago, IL  
(Hawthorne's Tel: 639-293-6700)

## Upcoming Events:

**July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

MAX Soccer Complex  
4750 Vernon Ave, McCook, Illinois

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**October 5, 6 & 7, 2012**

GRCI Agility Trials!

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*PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, continued*

Thanks are also extended to Beth Gerdes who keeps our web site up to date with club information. Also, a hearty thanks to Bev Kozlowzski, for making sure our Facebook site is current, and she keeps track of the number of hits for comparison purposes.

This Newsletter portrays an important component in our communication efforts to our members. Lynn Mines: a thousand thanks - you always produce a Newsletter worthy of tons of compliments.

Our Sunshine Lady, Laurie Stecker, has reached out to touch members and non members, letting them know that GRCI is thinking of them. Thank you, Laurie.

Have a wonderful summer, and don't forget to come on out to all the programs GRCI offers.

Warm golden regards,

Judy, Chase, and foster brother, Kemper



## **ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY**

*By Judith C. Bush, MS, CJ*

Thanks to Lottie Johnson who is sharing this column about her therapy visits with Ozzie. It's a beautiful article and one everyone will enjoy reading.

### **The Therapy Dog Who Listens**

Little did I know that the Golden Retriever puppy my husband convinced me to keep out of one of our litters because he insisted: "This dog would be a great Obedience and Agility dog." would really surprise me and bring me such joy in his "second job" as a Therapy Dog. This dog's name is "Ozzie".



Ozzie is a typical Golden Retriever. He loves to retrieve, to go on hunting and fishing trips with "Dad", and to run and jump in Agility. But he has a very unique skill. As a "Therapy Dog" he actually listens to the hospital patients as they talk to him during our visits.

I am often asked why Ozzie and I enjoy working in a Therapy Dog program. It is simply the joy of seeing how people react when I walk into a room with Ozzie and seeing the interaction of Ozzie with a patient during our visit which is so rewarding to me. All Therapy Dogs, not just Ozzie, seem to change the energy level in a patient's room. A Therapy Dog can give people in need something to stop and think about other than the issue or illness that is challenging them. A Therapy Dog can get people to smile and to talk about their problems, their dreams, and to reflect on memories of more pleasant times in their life.

*ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY, continued*

A Therapy Dog can "make someone's day." Any of us who visit people in need know that our dogs make a difference and that Therapy work is all about those moments.

These are just a few stories from our many experiences:

When "Ozzie" and I first started visiting hospitals and nursing homes we were in for some surprises! On one of our very first visits, we were to meet a man who was recovering from a leg injury. He was almost ready to leave the hospital and to go on to spend some time in a rehabilitation therapy center. As I walked in with Ozzie, I announced that we were outside his door and asked if he would like a visit from a Therapy Dog. His response was "I don't need a Therapy Dog! I just need to get the ---- out of here! Now help me find my pants!" He was immediately upset because he thought my dog was going to be required for him to walk! After I explained that we were just here for a friendly visit, we both had a good laugh and we ended up having a very enjoyable conversation with Ozzie intently listening to every word.

On another occasion we visited a woman who said that she was suffering from a life threatening illness. She had just been told that she had cancer and was facing a very difficult surgery. She broke down in tears as we sat by her bed side. My "program" is that I always place a clean towel on the edge of the patient's bed and Ozzie puts his head on it so the patient can pet him. As this woman began to pet and to talk to Ozzie, she reminisced about all the dogs she had that had brought her joy in her life. As she talked, Ozzie's gaze never wavered from her. He seemed to look directly into her eyes as she talked through her fear of the impending surgery. She seemed to find a personal strength for the challenges ahead of her by talking to my dog. We were there for quite some time as Ozzie listened intently to her life stories. She was in a totally different mood by the time we left. She was cheerful and happy as she thanked me over and over for bringing Ozzie in to listen to her.

Yesterday, our last patient of the day was a very old woman who was awake in her room with all of her family gathered around her. She mustered a warm smile as she saw us enter the room as her daughter invited us in. No words were spoken as I placed the towel on her bed and her daughter placed her Mom's hand on Ozzie's head. I could sense that this was a family farewell visit. Several minutes went by as family members talked to me and between themselves. All the while Ozzie gazed into the old woman's eyes never flinching from his assignment. The old woman did not say a word. After about 10 minutes I told the family members that I should leave. As Ozzie and I stepped away from her bed, she said "Thank you!" in a weak but fully audible voice. The entire family was visibly shaken. Some began to have tears welling up in their eyes. I was told that their mother had not spoken a word for several days. Her daughter thanked us over and over again as she accompanied us out into the hallway.

*Continued on Page 3*

*Continued,*

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY, continued

Some of Ozzie's visits are joyous, some are heartfelt, some are tearfully sad. Some are left open ended as in this visit but either way it seems that Ozzie instinctively knows what to do. He has the look of an "Old Sage" as he seems to figure out the needs of each patient he sees.

Ozzie has been a Therapy Dog for six years going to hospitals, libraries, Alzheimer's nursing homes, rest homes, therapy rehabilitation centers, and summer school children programs.



*Ozzie participated in "Reading Fun with a Dog," a Library reading program for children who have reading.*

For the past 3 years we have been working exclusively at Palos Community Hospital. Twice a year Palos Community Hospital has try outs where they evaluate your dog to see if you and your dog would be good as a Therapy Dog Team to work in the hospital. When we went to try out, there were 35 dogs in our class. Only 5 were asked to become part of their program. Their training program was an 8 hours per day, 3 day intense training and testing program. We both learned a lot of new information.

1. We learned how to handle the different emergence hospital codes.
2. No one but you, the handler, is allowed to handle your dog.
3. Always respect patient privacy.
4. Your dog must have a bath the day before each hospital visit.
5. Once you are working at Palos Community Hospital your dog can not work at any other facility.
6. We learned how to properly ride in an elevator, how to walk down a hospital hallway, and how to greet the patients.

These are just a few of the many things Ozzie and I had to learn. Ozzie has his Therapy Dog Inc certificate of course as well as his Hospital ID card and his Therapy Dog "trading cards" which are given out to the patients he sees.

*Continued,*

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY, continued

How do you know if your dog might be a good Therapy Dog?

1. A dog has to be able to come into new situations and can not be afraid of new noises or people.
2. Your dog must sit and down on command the first time, and he must stay in place when commanded.
3. Your dog must walk at heel with a loose leash. No pulling, lagging, or lunging.
4. Your dog must be pleasant when interacting with other dogs.
5. Your dog must not react to distractions, machine noises, hospital smells, and equipment.
6. Your dog must greet people and leave people with absolutely no sign of aggression or pushiness.

As I said previously, yesterday was an unusually difficult day. Ozzie had visited over 20 patients. That is a lot to ask of any one dog. Ozzie was a star as usual. When we got home I told my husband about the day's work and what a good boy Ozzie was. He gave Ozzie a longer than usual hug, and Ozzie seemed to give it right back to him. With a look in his eyes that conveyed all that he had seen that day, like an "old salt" telling stories of his adventures, he was saying to my husband, "It's all in a day's work." .....as seen from a different view of the world as we know it where listening is more important than talking.

For me the enjoyment of what's happening right now is really the heart and soul of what we are doing in Therapy Dog work. We can't worry about yesterday, and we can't worry about tomorrow. Dogs don't care how people look or how they dress. Whether they are in a wheelchair or laid up in bed with tubes hanging out of them. Dogs don't care about any of that stuff. They see the inner self. That's the great lesson we can learn from our dogs. We need to worry less about what we teach our dogs and more about what we can learn from them. I am trying to listen to Ozzie as much as he listens to people. I hope to learn more about unconditional love and universal acceptance from my Therapy Dog partner.



## **A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE**



Hello, Blazin Blue here,

Diamond and I are taking a little break and will be back soon!

Blazin Blue





## **THE AGILITY ZONE**

By Robin Comp-Zelles

Hello out there! Boy, the areas record temperatures have certainly affected my desire to get out and train my dogs. What do we do when it's just too hot and humid to do much of anything?

K.I.S.S. your training sessions. Keep It Short and Sweet! Work on simple concepts, reward often for effort and intensity.

If you have stairs in your house or out on the deck, they are great makeshift "contacts". Teach your dog that this location is the same as an A-Frame/dog walk and work their "bottom" criteria.

Teach or reinforce simple behaviors such as "around" (the coffee table, chair), "get out" (send to the opposite side or a chair or table), come to lead hand and "agility" heeling (follow your hand, left and right side, turn into and away from your dog).

Shadow handling is great. Take one of your old course sheets and memorize it (just like at a trial). Grab your dog, go to an area that you can walk and turn in your house (you may have to reposition some chairs) and shadow the moves that you need to do on the course with your dog. Stop for contacts, front and rear crosses, good dog! Use the words from the run, send your dog out with your arm, bring them back into position, yeah, let's get your leash and cookie. It's a great way to engage your dog, keep them happy and get a chance to "visualize" your performance.

Distractions can be quite a problem for some dogs, whether it's other dogs, food or people. I like to work around my other dogs and see if my "working" dog can stay focused on me even when his buddies are following along trying to get my attention. If someone in the house is watching TV or working on a computer, have them make noise or try and entice your dog with cookies while the dog is on command, so you and your dog learn to work past them. Put a bowl of treats out or food pouches and work on your stays or heeling past them, keeping your dog focused on you and his work. Rewards for passing the distraction, for making the right choice have to be high value and lots of fun.

**July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> are G.R.C.I.'s next agility trial dates, with July 27<sup>th</sup> being the Siberian Husky Trial. The trials are being held at the MAX Soccer Complex, 4750 Vernon Ave, McCook, Illinois. We start around 8:00 am and run until around 4:00 pm. If you are interested in working the rings, please contact Chairperson Kris Garra, [krisgarra@me.com](mailto:krisgarra@me.com); for helping with hospitality contact Sandy Cummings, [argogoldens@aol.com](mailto:argogoldens@aol.com). We are in need of salads and desserts, so if you are a "foodie" we would love to sample your recipes!**



## **THE OBEDIENCE CORNER**

By Jane L. Coen

### **"Calling It Quits"**

I thoroughly enjoy dog training—both the training of my own dogs and helping others train their dogs. I derive a great deal of satisfaction out of problem solving and developing creative solutions to overcome any training problems that crop up. I take pride in the fact that my training methods produce dogs that enjoy training and exhibit enthusiasm and confidence in their work. With all of that being said, you can imagine how difficult it was for me to come to the conclusion that it was time for me to retire my 10 ½ year old Golden, "Tiera," from active obedience training and competition—before she completed her Utility Dog (U.D.) title.

My younger Golden, "Tripper," just completed his U.D. title. He was my 9<sup>th</sup> dog to earn a U.D. Tripper earned his three required U.D. "legs" (qualifying scores) in four trials, and delighted me by scoring 198 out of 200 at one of those trials—which earned him High In Trial that day, after winning a run-off with a Border Collie.

Although I consider earning a U.D. to be a major accomplishment, reflecting a significant amount of time and effort on the trainer's part, I have never viewed a U.D. title as an unattainable goal for any of my dogs. Having to abandon the goal of putting a U.D. on Tiera was very hard for me, since I do not like quitting or having to admit failure.

Tiera earned a U.D. "leg" at her first Utility trial. At the next two trials, she qualified on all of the Utility exercises except one of the two jumps that make up the Directed Jumping exercise. At both trials, the jump she missed was the bar jump (she would head for the solid high jump when sent for the bar jump). Then at the next couple of trials, she not only missed the bar jump during the Directed Jumping exercise, but also missed one of the two articles that make up the Scent Discrimination exercise. At her final trial, she missed the Down signal on the Signal Exercise, in addition to missing one article and the bar jump. Things were clearly not headed in the right direction.

During training, it was clear that Tiera lacked confidence when jumping—a problem that traced back to a serious jumping accident she had at a trial many years ago from which she never fully recovered. However, even though she was not a fluid jumper, in training, she would reliably take the jump she was sent to regardless if that jump was the solid high jump or the bar jump. In training, she also performed the Signal and Scent Discrimination exercises reliably and with confidence. So why did she have problems performing these exercises at trials? Although I cannot be certain since I am unable to read Tiera's mind, I suspect that her failure to perform these exercises at trials related to stress—probably both hers and mine.

*Continued on Page 5*

*THE OBEDIENCE CORNER, continued*

When I stepped into the Utility ring with Tripper, I was very confident that he would perform all of the Utility exercises correctly. In fact, I would have been shocked if he received a non-qualifying score on any of the exercises. The one Utility trial where Tripper did not pass (his first Utility trial) was at a Golden specialty where the obedience ring was within ten feet of the breed ring. On the Directed Jumping exercise, I told Tripper "Back!" to send him away from me. When he was about a third of the way toward the far end of the ring, the spectators surrounding the breed ring exploded with screaming, cheering and clapping in response to something that happened in the breed ring. The noise was so loud and so sudden that Tripper slammed on the brakes and swung his head around toward me wearing a look of total confusion. Although Tripper had been exposed to clapping while performing training exercises (an important form of proof training), he had never been exposed to the sudden thunderous yelling and screaming he encountered at that trial.

In contrast, when I entered the Utility ring at trials with Tiera, after those first couple of shows where she avoided the bar jump, I did not feel the same level of confidence I did with Tripper. With Tiera, I knew there was a possibility—perhaps even a probability—that she would avoid the bar jump again.

Whether my lack of confidence translated into an increased level of stress in Tiera, I cannot say for sure. All I know is that I could tell from Tiera's body language when she was in the ring at a trial that she was not enjoying herself—except on the glove exercise, which she clearly loved!

In the end, I concluded that earning a U.D. on Tiera was more a matter of satisfying my ego than it was engaging in an activity that we both enjoyed. Tiera's last two trials were on June 15 and 17. After another non-qualifying performance on June 15 (one wrong article and an avoided bar jump), I told Tiera that her performance on June 17 would determine whether we continued to pursue her U.D. If she enjoyed herself in the ring and delivered a qualifying performance on the 17<sup>th</sup>, we would continue. Since she neither enjoyed herself nor qualified, I made the decision to retire her.

Tiera hasn't performed the Utility exercises since June 17. I don't know how Tiera feels about being retired, but I really miss working with her. I have started thinking that maybe Tiera would like to give Tracking a try.

I have always been a big believer that training should be fun—both for the trainer and for the dog. When training (or exhibiting) ceases to be fun and enjoyable, it is time to reevaluate the situation and possibly move on to something new. As hard as it was for me, that is the decision I made for Tiera.

Until next time, Happy Heeling!



## FROM A BITCH'S PERSPECTIVE...



Hello, Diamond here

Blazin and I are taking a little break and will be back soon!

Love to everyone. Hugs and Kisses,

Princess Diamond—Forever in Fashion Blue Jeans Lady (whew!)



## QUOTES REGARDING DOGS

"He is my other eyes that can see above the clouds; my other ears that hear above the winds. He is the part of me that can reach out into the sea. He has told me a thousand times over that I am his reason for being; by the way he rests against my leg; by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile; by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him. (I think it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to care for me.) When I am wrong, he is delighted to forgive. When I am angry, he clowns to make me smile. When I am happy, he is joy unbounded. When I am a fool, he ignores it. When I succeed, he brags. Without him, I am only another man. With him, I am all-powerful. He is loyalty itself. He has taught me the meaning of devotion. With him, I know a secret comfort and a private peace. He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant. His head on my knee can heal my human hurts. His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things. He has promised to wait for me... whenever... wherever - in case I need him. And I expect I will - as I always have.

He is just my dog."

-- Gene Hill



"Cats are the ultimate narcissists. You can tell this because of all the time they spend on personal grooming. Dogs aren't like this. A dog's idea of personal grooming is to roll on a dead fish."

-- James Gorman



My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am.

-Unknown

## 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.

## **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)

## **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.

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## **Golden Moments**

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**TO:**



***Next Meeting (amd Picnic): August 12, 2012 at 12:00 – 3:30 PM***