



**Golden Retriever Club of Illinois
GOLDEN MOMENTS NEWSLETTER**

Announcements

A Message from GRCI's President

I hope this e-blast finds you and your dogs warm. With temperatures hovering near zero, I still don't understand why the dogs will go out for as long as I can last. As I get older the time outside with them is getting shorter and shorter. As the year starts gearing up, your board has been planning the coming year's activities. If there is a subject or activity you would want at a general meeting let us know.

My letter in the last newsletter was abruptly changed as we were going to press. The article was going to be a pat on the back for the Rally performances of Vente and Vespa at Nationals. Unfortunately, this is a "mea culpa." I did not read the entire Rally rule book and missed a rule on page 24 that disqualified my dogs. It was embarrassing to contact the trial chair and mail back the gorgeous ribbons. I have since read through the entire rule book twice.

We had a great holiday party. Thank you to Cheri for putting on quite a party. Big thanks for an early appearance of Santa (Randy Johnson) at the party. All the dogs got a treat and a photo with the big guy. If you want a picture from the party let me know and I'll email it to you.

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

Sincerely,
Hal Axelrod

GRCI General Meeting

GRCI's next General Meeting will be on February 15 at the 4H Center of the University of Illinois extension campus [535 S Randall Rd., St Charles, IL](#). In addition to regular club news and updates, we will feature a program on the changes to the AKC Obedience and Rally Regulations that went into effect in December 2015. AKC Judge Loretta Lazzara will be presenting the program, which she previously presented to Fox Valley DTC, with great reviews!

Chicagoland Family Pet Expo

Volunteers are needed to help at the GRCI booth at the Chicagoland Family Pet Expo at Arlington Park Racecourse on March 18, 19 and 20, 2016. Contact Cheri Mitchneck at agility12@aol.com for information about times needed.

Wags and Brags

WAGS AND BRAGS FROM 2015

The following are the brags shared at the holiday party:

The Mitchnecks

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Upcoming Events

[GRCI General Meeting](#)
February 15

[Chicagoland Family Pet Expo](#)
March 18, 19, 20

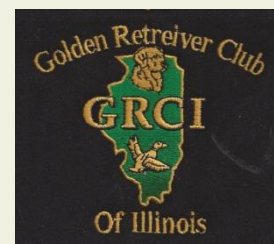
[GRCI Hunt Test](#)
May 7, 8

[GRCI June Specialty](#)
June 18, 2016

[GRCI July Agility Trials](#)
July 29, 30, 31

[GRCI Tracking Test](#)
October 16, 2016

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Beau RAE
Misty RA
Jane Coen
Loosey RA RE
Joan Wetton
Celson RA RE
Carolyn Hesse
Dempsey PAX
Pat Janes
Ch. Drummer
Hal and Hollis Axelrod
Vente RA RE
Vespa RA RE

Cheri Mitchneck reports that Mr. Beau Jangles earned his RAE Title on November 8, 2015 at Car Dun Al, Huntley, Illinois, Misty earned her RA Title on November 27, 2015 at WWCDC, Xonia, Wisconsin and Blue earned his RA Title on December 19, 2015 at Cudahy Kennel Club, St Francis, Wisconsin.



Cheri with Beau and Misty



Murray and Blue

Jane Coen reports that her dog Kizzie earned a Triathlon Award at the 2015 National, qualifying in Open B, Rally Advanced B, and Rally



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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. She will arrange flowers, cards, and other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

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Excellent B; passing both the Junior Hunt Test and the Working Certificate Test; and earning her CCA. My Loosey earned her Rally Advance and Excellent Titles in November with several perfect scores and first place awards.



Kizzie

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Obedience
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Loosey at Fox Valley DTC winning the Rally
Advance B class

If you have a Wag and Brag to share, please send your story in "copy and paste" mode, along with a picture if you have one to Cathy Williams at cwilliams0727@gmail.com or Hal Axelrod at harryaxe@comcast.net.

The Obedience Corner

by Jane Coen

"The Value of a Solid Stay"

I tell my obedience students that the "Stay" command is the easiest command to teach a dog because the dog does not have to DO anything other than remaining absolutely still. In this case, "absolutely" is the key word. The mistake many people make in teaching their dogs to "Stay" is to set too low of a standard. Another mistake that many people make is to use the Stay command in a casual fashion, failing to correct the dog if it breaks the Stay command.

If a handler wants a dog that is rock solid on the Stay command, then the handler must teach the dog that remaining *absolutely* still is what is required and expected. In other words, no fidgeting of the dog's feet, no shifting of the dog's weight from one hip to the other, no slouching on one haunch on a Sit Stay, no rolling onto the dog's side on the Down Stay, etc. What is observed far too often at obedience classes or trials are dogs

on the Stay exercises doing all of these things. These dogs' owners then wonder why their dogs break their Stays and receive non-qualifying scores at obedience trials.

It is also a common occurrence to observe handlers casually telling their dogs to Stay under various circumstances, and then ignoring the fact that their dogs disregard the Stay command and break. The Stay command should never be used unless the handler intends to correct the dog should he disregard and break the command.

Why is it so necessary to set high standards when training the Stay command and to correct the dog if he breaks the Stay command? In a word, the answer is *reliability*. If you tell your dog Stay, you want to be confident that he is going to heed that command.

[Read More](#)

AKC Canine Health Foundation Makes Grant to Fight Cancer

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing diseases in all dogs, is pleased to announce the funding of an exciting grant which aims to better understand and prevent hemangiosarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer in dogs. Three groups whose dogs have been affected by this cruel disease -- the American Boxer Charitable Foundation, the Golden Retriever Foundation, and the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation -- are taking a unique, collaborative stand against cancer by pledging \$432,000 to support this research effort. Dr. Jaime Modiano, VMD, PhD, professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota will be leading a team of researchers on this project entitled, "A Novel Approach for Prevention of Canine Hemangiosarcoma," which aims to pair two novel technologies consisting of a patented test to detect hemangiosarcoma cells in blood samples, and a treatment that attacks the cells that establish and maintain the disease.

According to Dr. Modiano, "Hemangiosarcoma is the cause of death for an estimated one out of every five Golden Retrievers in the United States. Portuguese Water Dogs and Boxers also have an especially high risk for this disease which is devastating for all dogs." Dr. Modiano continues, "Hemangiosarcoma is incurable partly because the cancer is detected at a very advanced stage when it is resistant to conventional therapies. Thus, an unconventional approach to improve outcomes for hemangiosarcoma patients will involve effective methods for early detection and for disease prevention."

"The Golden Retriever Foundation is honored to partner with the American Boxer Charitable Foundation and Portuguese Water Dog Foundation to magnify the effectiveness of all of our donors' contributions through the power of collaboration, said Collette Jaynes, president, Golden Retriever Foundation. "We are particularly proud to continue our commitment to making meaningful strides against hemangiosarcoma."

This project will create tools to guide further development, licensing, and deployment of new paired technologies against cancer, specifically hemangiosarcoma, with an ultimate goal for disease prevention in all dogs.

"The Portuguese Water Dog Foundation (PWDF) is honored to be included in this unprecedented collaboration. The PWDF played a role in supporting Dr. Modiano's 2005 research to develop a diagnostic test to detect hemangiosarcoma, and we are happy and proud to help take this research to the next level," said Carol Mattingley, PWDF president.

"This novel approach to a particularly aggressive form of cancer in dogs has the potential to eventually change the landscape and improve outcomes for all dogs diagnosed with this terrible disease," said Dr. Diane Brown, CHF chief scientific officer. "The unprecedented collaboration between these three breed club foundations and their dedication to canine health has really driven this project forward - together they are making a significant difference for all dogs."

CHF supports the funding of this effort and will oversee administration of funds and scientific progress. For more information about this grant, or to learn about the work of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, visit www.akcCHF.org.



Vente, Vinny and Vespa hope you stay warm!!