



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

Announcements

Happy New Year to All! Please remember to send in your 2017 GRCI Membership Renewals if you have not already done so!

A Message from GRCI's President

I hope this e-blast finds you and your dogs well. I hope your holidays were filled with joy, family and friends. The weather has given us a little break from the arctic blast, which means more towels and floors to be washed. 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.

I want to thank Robin Comp - Zelles and Andie Zelles again for their behavior training seminar. I have been working with my 18 month old Vinny using some of their methods. The other day on being commanded to kennel up, Vinny's father Vespa, decided he had enough of Vinny getting rewarded for something so easy, so he beat him into the crate and insisted on being given the treat for his obedience. The sight of the two boys in the one crate waiting for their treats was priceless.

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" please forward them to Cathy Williams.

Sincerely,

Hal Axelrod

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Car-Dun-Al Dog Training Club

Shop GRCI Logo Merchandise!



Visit our Website

Looking for more information?

Find it at on our website

grcillinois.org

or on our Facebook Page



Santa brought toys for all the Golden Retrievers at our Annual Holiday Party!

GRCI General Meeting

Monday, February 27, 7:00 P.M. at [Biscuits and Bows](#), 1945 Plum Grove Road, Palatine, IL

The Nose Knows! Have you heard the buzz about K-9 Nosework? Nosework has become very popular among dog enthusiasts and trainers because it is open to virtually all dogs and their owners. Cathy Williams and her dog Kaila will give a live demonstration and provide information on how to get started and what is involved in NACSW and other scent work competitions. Cathy trains and competes at the Elite level with her dogs in K9 Nosework and has earned multiple titles and placements in NACSW trials. A brief business meeting will precede the demonstration.

****Due to the nature of nosework training, we are requesting you leave your Golden Retrievers at home for this meeting. Thank you for understanding!!**



Kaila at a Vehicle Search

Event Summary: GRCI's October Agility Trials
It was a warmer, sunny, fall weekend; the leaves had



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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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changed and were falling, the corn fields were being harvested, and rain was nowhere in sight... the scene was set for a perfect dog show weekend!

This past October 8th and 9th, our GRCI club had brought together an amazing weekend filled with laughter, fun, and of course, dogs! With the help of members Michelle Kolb, Murray Mitchneck, Kim and Mark Mroczenski, Betty Smith, and Robin Comp-Zelles we were able to pull together a successful agility show weekend. The two-day trial was held at Rush N' Around Agility Center and judged by an amazing judge, Ann Rudd. The atmosphere was pleasant, relaxed, and fun spirited. On Saturday, we offered all exhibitors a picnic lunch and fun games to play while they waited to run. It was spectacular to see all of our friends contribute lunch dishes to share and even some friends helped prepare lunch!

Laughter and smiles were everywhere... even the dogs were feeling the good vibes. We even were able to offer workers, exhibitors, and golden retriever exhibitors GRCI gifts to thank them for helping and joining us at the trial. All of our exhibitors were always there willing to give a helping hand and all seemed to enjoy the games that were offered. This happened to be my first agility trial to Trial Chair and boy was it an experience to have! With working a few jobs, attending college, a sister's wedding approaching, I was apprehensive about chairing. However, with the assistance of fellow members who have been through the trial chairing process, preparing for the show was not a pain at all! I made and came across some small problems, but nothing stopped our strong group to get this show together. My greatest development I learned was to trust in your support team and to stay organized. Staying positive and realizing that preparing for the show really wasn't that stressful, truly made trial chairing enjoyable; especially when it comes to the weekend of the show and you see everything fall into place so smoothly. Having gone through chairing, I feel very prepared for the next event and appreciate those who take the power to run any event.

This weekend wasn't just about showing agility or hosting a show, it was about enjoying the end of the season with our pups and friends sharing and making memories. What a weekend it was; we hope you join the fun at our next agility trial in July!

Happy Training!

Andie Zelles

A special note from Michelle Kolb: Our club is very lucky to have Andie Zelles, a young, vibrant person, get involved as a part of our club. Andie was not afraid to take on a very important task of Chairing our October 2016 Agility Trial. She had a lot going on during that time in her life, and she learned how to multi-task and get everything accomplished. Andie took it upon herself to hand out the worker gifts, and as she did, she personally thanked them for helping with the trial and gave EACH person a HUG. That was very special to see. She is one of the most awesome individuals

I have ever met, and I am very proud to be on the Agility

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committee with her, and that I can call her my friend. Thanks Andie.

Chicagoland Pet Expo

Happy New Year GRCI members! It's time again to staff our booth at the 2017 Chicagoland Pet Expo at Arlington Park Racecourse, Arlington Heights. The show runs from Friday March 17, 1:00 pm-9:00 pm; Saturday March 18, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; and Sunday March 19, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Listed below are the time slots available for you and your Golden:

Friday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm 1 team (dog and member)

Saturday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm 1 team (dog and member)

Sunday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 2 teams (dogs and members)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm 1 team (dog and member)
3:00 pm to closing 5:00 pm 1 team (dog and member)

Please call or email Cheri Mitchneck at [847-722-4287](tel:847-722-4287) agility12@aol.com if you are able to help.

Once we get closer to the date, more information regarding the show and parking will be sent out.

Eye, Heart and Microchip Clinic

Sunday, April 9 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. GRCI is hosting our annual Heart, Eye and Microchip clinic. This is open to all breeds, members and non-members. Dr. Gretchen Schmidt, Ophthalmologist, will be giving eye exams, Dr. Michael Luethy, Cardiologist, will give heart exams, and Dr. Mark Rusley, DVM will implant microchips if your dog needs one.

GRCI Hunt Test - May 6 and 7 at Des Plaines Wildlife Area, Wilmington, IL

Please contact Beth Gerdes, 309-310-3330 if you can help and volunteer. We need help with getting lunches and marshaling at the stakes.

Also, Beth is looking for someone interested in learning the job of Hunt Test Secretary. You will be required to be at the test both days for the entirety of the test. If not secretary this year, possibly shadow me this year to be able to help in future years. We need new blood to get involved with the hunt test to ensure that future tests are possible.

GRCI CCA Event - Save the Date - Sunday, May 21, 2017

GRCI is hosting a Certificate of Conformation Assessment this year. It will be held at [Car-Dun-Al Dog Training Club](#) in Huntley, IL on May 21, 2017. For Golden owners interested in an evaluation of your Golden by conformation judges, but may not want to enter a dog show, this is the event for you! For more details on the CCA, please see the [GRCA CCA link here](#). Our judges will be Ellen Hardin, and Tom and Mary Schulz. The GRCI CCA Committee members are Robin Comp-Zelles, Cathy Williams and Hal Axelrod. Entries will open on April 10, 2017 and should be sent to Cathy Williams, CCA Secretary, 1089 Memory Lane,

Lake Zurich, IL 60047. Entries will be accepted by First Received method, but should not be post marked prior to April 10, 2017. 24 entry spots will be available, and one alternate. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please contact Robin, Cathy or Hal. It is a very educational and informative event.

Wags and Brags

WAGS AND BRAGS

Michelle Kolb reports that she is very proud of Takoda, aka U-CH Believe My Dreams Came True With My Bestie, CCA, BN. With very little Home School training, on November 13, 2016 Takoda received her Beginner Novice Title at Car Dun Al, in Huntley, IL. This is her first AKC title. Hopefully in 2017 she will receive some Agility Titles.



Takota after a fun swim!

GRCI Members Donna Bihner and Nancy Pederson both had winning dogs Starved Rock Kennel Club shows. Donna's dog, Parker, was Winner's Dog the first day and Nancy's dog, Driver, was Winner's Dog the second day! Congratulations to Parker and Driver!



Parker is Winner's Dog at Starved Rock KC Day 1



Driver is Winner's Dog at Starved Rock KC Show Day 2

Cheri and Murray Mitchneck report that Beau, 12 1/2 years young, earned his 8th leg towards his RAE2 at Northwest Obedience Club on December 16, 2016. Beau also earned a CPE agility (Canine Performance Events) title Specialist Level 3 Fun, proving there's still agility after retirement from AKC agility! Way to go Beau! So proud of Beau!



Cheri and Beau

Jim Alberts reports that Pat and Rebel got their first leg of their UD. Way to go Pat and Rebel!

Hal and Hollis Axelrod are pleased to report that Forever Popping the Cork With Hallis "Vinny" has received his Rally Novice title.



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

"Earning a Dog's Attention and Respect"

To be successful at American Kennel Club (AKC) Obedience Trials, a trainer must have earned a dog's undivided attention and respect. Dogs that consistently score well and win their classes are dogs that fully respect their trainers, and are riveted on their trainers when competing in the ring.

When should you begin working on earning your dog's attention and respect? My answer is simple: the very first time you begin interacting with the dog. As far as I am concerned, that answer applies to very young puppies, as well as to older dogs.

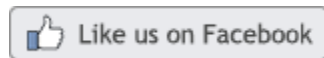
Let's take puppies, for example. One of the first things my puppies learn is to not exit a crate until given permission. If my puppy attempts to charge out of the crate when I begin to open the crate door, I quickly slam the door shut with the warning, "No, Wait!" I may have to repeat that correction a second time, but by the third time I open the crate door, the puppy steps back and looks at me, seeking my permission to come out of the crate, which I provide with the release command, "Free!" Voila!-my puppy has just had its first lesson in attention and respect.

Another thing my puppies learn right away is not to approach their food bowl without my permission. With my little seven or eight week old puppy on a buckle collar and leash, I place my puppy in a Sit position, and then set the food bowl on the floor a foot in front of the puppy. The puppy will, of course, break the Sit position and attempt to get to its food bowl. As the puppy begins to move, I simply give the leash a quick snap back with "No, Wait!" and reposition the puppy into a Sit position. After a moment or two, I say "Free!" and let the puppy go to its bowl. It typically takes a couple of days before the puppy clearly understands that it cannot break its Sit position and approach the bowl without my permission. By then, when I place the bowl on the floor with the puppy in the Sit position, the puppy immediately looks at my face and retains eye contact until I give the "Free!" release command.

[Read More](#)



Happy Golden New Year!!



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