



## GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS Golden Moments Newsletter

September 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

Hello Fellow GRCI Members,

Thank you for voting me in as the new GRCI President. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better and to work with the very strong Board that this club is lucky to have. I have big shoes to fill as Hal Axelrod did an excellent job and I want to thank him for a job extremely well done.

Many of you know me, but in case you don't here is just a little bit about my background. I've been a dog lover all my life but didn't get into organized dog sports until seven years ago with the addition of my Golden Retriever Ellie. Ellie and I went to puppy class and made several new friends that introduced us to the world of dog showing. She and I earned titles in Obedience, Rally and Agility. I was having so much fun I decided to add a second Golden, Parker, four years ago. With Parker, I added Tracking and Conformation titles and have also entered the world of dog breeding. The past several years I have been very active in the Fox Valley Dog Training Club in St. Charles. I spent 5 years on the Board, 3 as President and have been active in most committees. With GRCI I have been very active in the tracking committee and helped at a few agility trials. To be honest I had volunteered so much at FVDTC that I hesitated to get involved with GRCI until recently. My professional background is as a project manager which I have found fits well in the dog club world. And enough about me, back to GRCI News!

Our picnic this past month was a perfect day. The temperature was tremendous, the food was great, awards were given out, games were played and some dogs even earned a new CGC title. A huge thank you to Kaye Dahlquist, Cheri Mitchneck, Michelle Kolb, Kim Mroczenski, Robin Comp-Zelles, Andie Zelles, Betty Smith, Bob Olson and all



the volunteers for making it all happen. Your efforts were very much appreciated. We also recently had a very successful Agility trial. A big thank you to Michelle Kolb, Kim Mroczenski and all of the volunteers for making it a fun two days. It would have been better if I could say I earned a QQ but maybe next time.

Make a plan to attend our next GRCI Membership meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> as we will have a special presentation by Rally judge Loretta Lazzara on the Rally changes. There are a lot of new signs and many of them are very different from anything we have seen before. There are also new titles to be earned and she will explain how it all works. The meeting will be held at the Kane County Extension Office on Randall Road in St. Charles.

Finally, for the past few days I have been watching the horrible hurricane Harvey devastation. If you can, I would urge you to consider donating to a worthy cause. One such cause is GRASS (Golden Retriever Acres Senior Sanctuary) in Houston. They were wiped out by the storm. The pictures were so scary but thankfully all dogs were saved. I saw the pictures, donated and hugged my dogs.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any new ideas or questions. I welcome your input!

Donna Bihner  
GRCI President

## **GRCI Membership Meeting**

Monday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Kane County Extension Office 535 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Save the Date! Our scheduled program will be a presentation on changes to AKC's Rally Program, presented by our friend and AKC Judge, Loretta Lazzara.



## Upcoming Events



### Drop-In Members Only Training Returns!

Thursday, September 21, 2017

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lucky Dog Training

14903 S Center St, Plainfield, IL 60544

More details to come!

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### GRCI All Breed Agility Trial

Saturday October 7, 2017 &

Sunday October 8, 2017

Rush N Around Dog Training

27432 South Route 45, Manhattan, IL

- I-355 South to I-80 East Exit at Route 45 South stay on Route 45 South about 9 Miles to Trail site on the right side of the Street.

**Volunteers Needed.** No experience necessary!  
Breakfast and lunch will be served to all volunteers.

We welcome any Desserts or Salads you would like to donate, to give energy to all of the workers. It is fun to show off all of your baking and cooking skills.

Any Questions Please contact Kim Mroczenski Agility Chair Person,  
[heelingtouch@earthlink.net](mailto:heelingtouch@earthlink.net).

Hope to See you at the Trial to enjoy our Golden Friends and many other four legged furry friends!

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### GRCI TD/TDX Tracking Test

October 15, 2017

Hampshire Forest Preserve

44W780 Allen Rd

Hampshire, IL

Mark your calendar and please join us for a Super Fun day!

When the weather is good, there is nothing better than enjoying an autumn day at Hampshire Forest Preserve watching the amazing dogs use their nose to find the glove.

We will have breakfast food and lunch for everyone who joins us.

We have most of the volunteers we need, but are still in **need of a cross track layer.**  
**No experience needed, we just need you on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 to walk alongside another Track Layer.**

If you are interested and would like to volunteer, please contact

Nancy Einwich

Tracking Chairperson

[nteddy95@aol.com](mailto:nteddy95@aol.com).

Hope to see you there!

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The Lincolnwood Dog Training Club, Inc., for German Shepherd is holding a Temperament Test, open to all breeds of dog, one year or older. It will be held on Sunday, September 24 in Glenview, Illinois. For details, see: <http://www.ltcgsd.org/TEMPERAMENT%20TEST%202017%20FORM.pdf>

## **GRCI July Agility Trial Summary**

by Michelle Kolb

### **Hip Hip Hooray!**

#### **GRCI July 2017 Agility Trials are in the History Books!**

It was a Success thanks to the "Dream Team"-Robin Comp-Zelles, Kim Mroczenski, Andie Zelles, Betty Smith and Bob Olson. We worked very well together planning the big event.

Let's begin with the number of entries for the last three years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>2015</b>	465	515	468
<b>2016</b>	628	660	647
<b>2017</b>	Lyons	660	629

We were full on Saturday with 660 runs and almost full on Sunday with 629 runs. We all worked very hard planning and are very happy that we can say it was an awesome weekend for all.

We offered Friday to Lyons Township Dog Training Club. They are an awesome club to work with. Our Betty Smith was the Lyons Agility Chairperson, and was very easy to work with. Lyons has lot of hard working members who helped with set up on Thursday and during the trial. GRCI wants to thank LTDTTC for helping lighten the load of a very long tiring week end.

GRCI is Very Lucky to have so many Awesome People who stepped up and helped!! We had a terrific Trial thanks to many of you!!!

Our wonderful Judges, Annette Narel and Clyde Closson, were very pleasant to work with, and both created super fun, flowing, yet challenging courses.

I will say it again: **Robin Comp-Zelles is our Invisible Leader**, gently guiding us every step of the way. The success of our trials is thanks to her support and her guidance. I will quote Betty Smith, who said, "Robin's expertise in course building led to the fastest setup ever!" Robin is also an awesome shopper, always coming up with fun, useful Gifts. All exhibitors received a multipurpose holder with GRCI logo that could be used as a phone holder, wallet holder, or treat bag-the list could go on with its multiple uses. Workers received a small ice pack with our logo on it, with a sticker that said, "Got a hot flash? Cool off with GRCI!" (I wonder who came up with that idea? Robin, Andie, or both?) All Golden retrievers entered received a stemless wine glass with our GRCI logo, which we all love to add to our collection.

Kim Mroczenski was amazing as the Hospitality Chairperson. The lunch room was always very organized with plenty of food and drinks. Kim is the social butterfly of our club, always making sure that we are doing our best to organize an Awesome Trial. Lynn McMaster, non GRCI member, helped Kim with all the shopping and set up, which is not a very easy job. Mark Mroczenski is a Saint who helps with everything he can for GRCI. He was a course builder with Robin and was always available to step in whenever needed.

Andie Zelles is always willing to take on a challenge. Three years ago she planned and coordinated the first "Non Agility Run" for charity at the end of the trial on Friday, and it has been a Huge success, growing in number of runs every year. GRCI has donated the entry fees for this event to a different charity each year. This year we donated \$466.00 to Freedom Service Dogs. "At Freedom Service Dogs, we unleash the potential of shelter dogs by transforming them into custom-trained, life-changing assistance dogs for people in need. Our clients include children, veterans and active duty military, and other adults. Their disabilities include autism, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, and post-traumatic stress disorder." (from the Freedom Service Dogs webpage)

What I am the most excited about is that Andie has stepped up to be the 2018 July Agility Chairperson. I am looking forward to what Andie has to offer our club, as she is an amazing person and always willing to help.

Betty Smith, our worker coordinator, had the challenge of figuring out a new volunteer signup sheet. Betty is always available to help where ever needed. And we thank the ring coordinators, Andie Zelles, Barb Rypstra (non GRCI Member), Murray Mitchneck, and Carolyn Hesse, who made sure workers were in place to do all the necessary jobs. Katie McCullough and Andy Adams (non GRCI members) helped with the many course changes, getting everything done as quickly as possible. (Katie and Andy were there for us even though they did not have a dog entered. That is True Friendship and loyalty to their friends, to be there to help even though they could not play the game.) Bob Olson and Dee Olson kept the scores coming quickly as usual; they are both very organized, making sure we have everything we need, and they are very pleasant to work with.

Dana & Ken Nelson were there to help with set up on Thursday and tear down on Sunday

and helped during the trial where ever needed. Sandy & Kurt Heimberg were very helpful with set up and tear down on Sunday and during the trial where ever needed. Pat and Bill Sanderson (non GRCI members) were there to help with set up Thursday and tear down on Sunday and helped build courses and where ever needed. Other GRCI Members who stepped up to help during the Trial were Donna Bihner, Mark Rusley, and Bill Staub. Thanks again to everyone who helped to make our trials Successful!

## Wags and Brags

Nancy Pederson reports that her boy, **Driver**, completed his AKC Championship and his AKC Rally Advanced title at the Greater DeKalb Kennel Club show on July 9<sup>th</sup> to become CH Sharmik-Forever Green White Checker PCD BN RA CCA. On his way to his Championship, Driver took 3 BOB's, 2 BOS and 2 Group 4's from the classes. His first time in the Specials ring, he took SD. Driver's plans for the fall are to earn his CD, RE, and start working on his RAE.



New Champion Driver



Joan and Celson

**Joan Wetton** handled her boy **Celson** in hunt tests where he earned his JH title this August. He went 5 for 5.

**Jane Coen** reports her dog, **Loosey**, completed her Junior Hunter title at the Winnebago Labrador Retriever Club hunt test on August 6, and passed the GRCA Working Certificate (WC) Test at the Badger Golden Retriever Club's WC/WCX Test on August 20.



Loosey WC



Jane and Loosey

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!

## Highlights from the 2016-2017 GRCI Awards

Please enjoy the stories shared for the nominations of a couple of GRCI's perpetual trophy awards.

See all the accomplishments of our club members in the [2017 Awards Program](#).

The Pete and Cathy Miller Trophy was awarded to Hal Axelrod this year. Jane Coen nominated Hal for his service and dedication to the Club and the Golden breed. Jane's nomination letter is below.

Dear GRCI Board Members:

I am writing to the Board of Directors of the Golden Retriever Club of Illinois, Inc. (GRCI) to





nominate Hal Axelrod for the Pete and Cathy Miller Award for the 2016-2017 Club year. Hal epitomizes the generosity of spirit and time that Pete and Cathy Miller have always shown to GRCI. He has provided exemplary leadership to the Golden Retriever community over the last several years as President of GRCI, and has consistently demonstrated a selfless commitment to the well-being and betterment of the breed through his strong support of GRCI's public education initiatives and educational programming for Club members and the public, and through volunteering at numerous GRCI events throughout the year.

Specific contributions Hal has made that support this nomination include:

- Authoring a meaningful and inspiring President's column in GRCI's bi-monthly newsletter, *Golden Moments*
- Regularly volunteering his time and talents at GRCI events; i.e., public education events, annual specialty, agility trials, tracking tests, hunt test, etc.
- Growing GRCI's active membership ranks by inviting new-comers to attend GRCI events, and creating an environment where new-comers feel welcomed and valued
- Creating a Club culture of transparency, inclusion and collaboration

People like the Millers and Hal have helped to make GRCI the great Club that it is. Today, the Club is financially sound and enjoys the benefits of having a Membership that works well together and recognizes and values the talents each member brings to the Club. Hal has played a key role in helping the Club achieve and maintain its current positive, stable state.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. I strongly believe that Hal is a deserving recipient of this award, and would represent the Club well as the recipient of the esteemed Pete and Cathy Miller Award.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Coen  
Vice President - GRCI

The Dog of the Year Award was given to Jane Coen's girl, Tiera, who is approaching her 16th birthday. Tiera was nominated by Joan Wetton with this thoughtful summary.

### FIRSTAR BONACRES LUV'S LEGACY CDX RN WC CGCA

The golden retriever is an intelligent dog bred to work. Although they are serious about their work, they also enjoy being playful. They should have a friendly, gentle temperament, trustworthy with everyone.

Tiera truly exemplifies what a golden retriever should be. I have known her since the November 19, 2001 day her mother, CH Bonacres Legal Tender CD CGC TDI OD, Lovey, put her on the ground.

I have trained my dogs in obedience, agility, field and rally with Tiera and Jane. We have also gone on pet therapy visits with them. Tiera has always demonstrated a kindly, friendly

and confident temperament with a trusting, gentle disposition.

She loves everyone and gets along well with new people and dogs. She is comfortable around people of all ages from babies to senior citizens. Yes, she is concerned if a baby cries, but she can just lie there patiently while they are attended to. The same can be said for those in hospitals or nursing homes. She will stand there and be petted or if they want to talk she will just stand or lie and quietly listen. She has a sweet, calm nature which puts those around her at ease.

In her younger days she was used as a demo dog at the park district's dog obedience classes. Here also she demonstrated a tolerant attitude. She was especially calm and even-tempered when the differences between pulling and popping to correct behavior was demonstrated. Tolerance and patience were also present when class attendees might sniff her when their handlers were inquiring about individual issues.

She loves to work and especially enjoyed, before her eyesight got poor, retrieving the paper and bringing it into the house and delivering it to hand. When training for her WC, she especially loved to fetch the bumpers or birds both on land and in the water. In fact, given her and her brother's eagerness to retrieve she assisted in his learning to swim when they both went to retrieve the bumper which was thrown in the water.

She is a calm, biddable golden with an exceptional eagerness to please. Tiera has a patient demeanor waiting quietly before being told what to do. Her intelligence, athleticism and desire to please her handler enabled her to excel in obedience trials. She was exceptionally trainable however she had a bad jumping experience during one of her obedience trials which hindered the continuation of her obedience career and her agility training.

Even up in years she still enjoys being active and having fun. Though it is waning due to her age, Tiera has remained puppy-like. She will still initiate play with her other canine house-mates.

She continues to be steady-tempered and dependable with everyone. Recently, she was an ambassador of dogs and her breed with children at Jane's Church. This was further exemplified when taken to Jane's work where coupled with her well-mannered personality she displayed a high level of sociability towards people.

Tiera's mind and heart have always been sweet and gentle exemplifying the breed's hallmark.



### **[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

**President** - Donna Bihner, 630-802-2743, [dbihner@gmail.com](mailto:dbihner@gmail.com)

**Vice President** - Jane Coen, 847-236-0138, [warrington26@comcast.net](mailto:warrington26@comcast.net)

**Treasurer** - Murray Mitchneck, 847-530-6401, [mmitchneck@aol.com](mailto:mmitchneck@aol.com)

**Secretary** - Betty Smith, 630-231-9892, [betty.greg@comcast.net](mailto:betty.greg@comcast.net)

**3-Yr. Director** - Beth Gerdes, 309-310-3330, [gerdes2@maxwire.net](mailto:gerdes2@maxwire.net)

**2-Yr. Director** - Michelle Kolb, 847-800-6124, [partyinthepaint1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:partyinthepaint1@sbcglobal.net)

**1-Yr. Director - Public Ed**, Cheri Mitchneck, 847-722-4287, [aqility12@aol.com](mailto:aqility12@aol.com)

**1-Yr. Director - Awards and Clinics** - Kaye Dahlquist, 847-341-0084, [kaye.dahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:kaye.dahlquist@gmail.com)

**1-Yr. Director - Specialty**, Nolan Ryan, 630-940-5212, [nryan9444@comcast.net](mailto:nryan9444@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor** - Cathy Williams, 847-452-2568, [cwilliams0727@gmail.com](mailto:cwilliams0727@gmail.com)