



Golden Retriever Club of Illinois

This is a new version of our online newsletter. It is mobile compatible. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for added content or improvements. Thank you for your patience as the Editor gets familiar with the new format!

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Golden Moments Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello GRCI Members!

Hello GRCI Members!

I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss something that has been on mind of late. I have been spending time looking at family trees and asking about relatives that are no longer with us. I am going to an awkward look at what's in a name.

My real name is Harry Besser Axelrod. I'm named after my mother's father Harry, who passed away before I was born. I'm told he was a very big guy. Sort of like my size today.



When I was born my parents realized this tiny baby of only 5 pounds was not a "Harry" and began to call me Hal. I faced a life altering decision upon entering kindergarten. I had to decide what name I was to be called by the class. I chose Hal, and it's been that way ever since. I dreaded the first day of anything when "Harry" was called and I would correct them right then and there amidst the giggling of my classmates. Over time, on the first day of class, I'd already briefed the teacher that I was Hal. In these times of computer wizardry, I informed the receptionist at my local medical group that she could call me Hal. Now every nurse, doctor and technician in my medical system knows me as Hal. Besser is my dad's mother's surname. How lucky to explain that one. I have a story to go along with it. My grandmother's 1st cousin was Joe Besser. Huh you say! Thee "Curly Joe Besser"!!!! He ran away as a teenager to work vaudeville back in the day. What got me some street cred is that he played Joe, "Curly Joe", on the Three Stooges and was on the Joey Bishop show for close to 70 episodes. At this point you may have forgotten my interesting middle name. No, I never met him. Once, one of my brothers set up a meeting with him in 1973 to discuss a career in the theater. My brother and father spent an hour or so chatting with him. He must have done well in life. The one picture of this momentous meeting was of his large house with no people in the picture.

One day my parents decided to get a dog for their ever-expanding family. They were looking for "the dog" that we'd have for years. This dog would give us memories with stories to be told for generations to come. My father did the research and it was decided that a Golden Retriever would be perfect for a family of 3, soon to be 4 boys. While we were packing up my parent's home of 57 years and began moving them into a condo, my dad found the pedigree of our first golden Chip. He put it off to the side

because he knew I would want to see it. At times my father would refer to Chip as Chipperoo. Let me introduce you to Indian Knoll's Chipperoo, my first golden. I looked at the pedigree briefly with my mom when it was given to me after my dad passed away in February. She remembers it being a real long drive to get the puppy. Indian Knoll's Kennel was in West Chicago, owned by Dr. Merle and Esther Long. Unfortunately, the kennel closed in 2009 and there is not much information about them. After a quick glance of dam and sire, I didn't look at the pedigree for a few weeks.

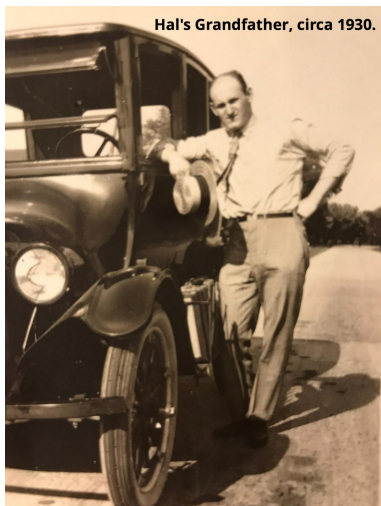
While reviewing the pedigree with more time, I kept going through the generations. It wasn't until I got to the sire's line in the fourth generation that my mind exploded. I do read every magazine I get, eventually. GRCA News is one of them. I admit that I'm a few years behind on them at this point. What I enjoy are the old articles about some of the foundation kennels of the Golden Retrievers in the US, and the rock stars out of these kennels. Well, there in the fourth generation are kennel names out of these stories. I admit time did not allow me to dig deeper into these kennels. But these names woke me up. Rockhaven, Gilnockie, Stilrovin and Tonkahoff. The other kennels might be just as strong as these, but I remember these kennels from the articles. When I read them, I called for Hollis to share in this discovery. Our big question was, how did my father get a dog of such bloodlines into our home? After discussing it with my mother, we realized it was just pure luck. He was just Chip to me. He was the first of our 5 childhood dogs and the only one with papers.

I wish this story had a happy ending. We got Chip when I was 13 months. When I was just about 3, Chip was put outside on his line, never to be seen again. As I go through this envelope of dog information I find a 2 nd place ribbon for a sanctioned AKC match. No idea for what. There is also a letter inviting my father to join the Golden Retriever Club of Illinois. Signed by Ann Christensen. I would end up training with Ann some 50 years later. Who knew??

From Indian Knoll's Chipperoo to Forever Popping the Cork With Vinny (dog number 13). I guess it's not the name, but what you do with it. I miss being called Harry.

I look forward to see many of you on Zoom for our general meetings.
Sincerely,

Hal Axelrod
President
GRCI



Welcome, New Members!

We are pleased to welcome these new members to GRCI. We hope you find many ways to enrich your and your Golden's lives through the information and activities offered through the Club.

Nadia Adint
Randal and Patricia McKinney
Gannon and Nichole Neurohr
David Talbert



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Calendar of Events

As things start to get back to the new normal, we have events that are planned and some that we hope to be able to offer to our members, and are still in TBD mode. As we are all now accustomed to, things change each day, so stay tuned, and we will do our best to communicate updates as we get them.

May Hunt Test May 1-2 (canceled)
May Board Meeting May 10
June Membership Meeting June 14
June Specialty June 18-19
June Obedience and Rally Trial June 19-20
June Agility Trial June 25-27
July Board Meeting July 12
July Agility Trial July 30, 31 and August 1
August Annual Meeting & Picnic August 8

- New Board Introduced
- Awards Presented
- New Year begins

Conformation Assessment (CCA) August 21, Northwest Obedience Club
Agility Trial September 4-5
September Board Meeting September 13
Health Clinic September
Scent Work Trial TBD
Membership Meeting October 11
November Board Meeting November 8
December Membership Meeting/Holiday Party December 6

Upcoming Event Updates

CCA

Sally Banka and Jennifer Rudolph are busy planning a Certificate for Conformation Assessment (CCA) for August 2021. They are waiting for approval from GRCA and will forward information as soon as it's available.

AWARDS

Time to think about awards and your accomplishments this past year!

The award selection this year is the same as last year. Many exciting choices! The award forms are to be submitted May 1st thru May 31st. Please, if you are ordering a custom made item Sally Banka would appreciate the order as soon as possible, as she would like to get the order to the vendors so they have the time needed to make your item.

There is an additional link on the members only website that will give the selection of designs and thread colors. GRCA no longer has a link to the store website. You can access [Stitchmine.com](https://www.stitchmine.com) and order any item within your dollar amount level. The only logo they can add is our GRCA logo. If you have any questions please reach out to me. Sally Banka gldnlv2@yahoo.com.

HEALTH CLINIC

A health clinic is being planned for September 2021. We are confirming the dates with Dr. Gretchen Schmidt and Dr Kelly Wessberg. More info to come.

Get Involved!! We need your talents!

Even if you can't fit 6 tennis balls in your mouth, you can learn so much about Golden Retrievers and all they can do by serving as a Board Member on the GRCI Board.

You do not have to have previous experience - just tell the Nominating Committee (Kim Mroczenski, Gannon Neurohr, Miriam Zarate), what you like to do, and we will find a way to use your talents.

You may get a call or email from the Nominating Committee asking if you would like to be involved. Take a chance, get out of your comfort zone and help shape our Club for the future!

Thank you, on behalf of the Nominating Committee
Kim, Miriam and Gannon



Virtual Therapy Dog Visits! Getting Creative During COVID

by Toni Quilico-Kriebel

COVID-19? What's a therapy dog to do? Go VIRTUAL like the rest of world! Gigi has been a therapy dog for Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy for 2 years. She did her training, observations and internship and then was placed at a Compass Health Center with kids, Skokie Library working with children with disabilities and Niles Library's Read to the dog program. She loved going to all these programs, so when Covid-19 hit, I think she was in as much shock as the rest of us when all the things she loved was taken away.

But in June, Rainbow AAT and Skokie Library figured out how virtual therapy could be done. So with Gigi and a few of her dog friends, we had a first Zoom dog therapy session, and it worked out great.

We started out by greeting all the kids, and then we would go into break-out rooms and tell the kids about each of our dogs, dog safety, and give the kids choices on what skills they would like to do with our dogs.

Gigi sits and stares right at the screen and is a hit with the kids when they teach her what color scarves she has, and then they ask her to pull each color out of the basket (with her mouth), and she does! They also love asking her questions, and she answers by hitting the yes/no button with her paws. When she gets tired the kids tell her to take a nap and she will lay on her pillow with a blanket, and eye

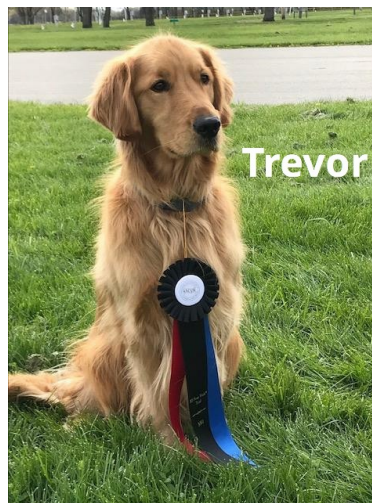
mask while the kids sing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. We all say wake up and up she sits!

She really misses all the hugs, kisses, and pets from these wonderful kids but I know she still enjoys it and so do they! We hope to be back to in-person in the next couple months....fingers crossed!

Wags and Brags



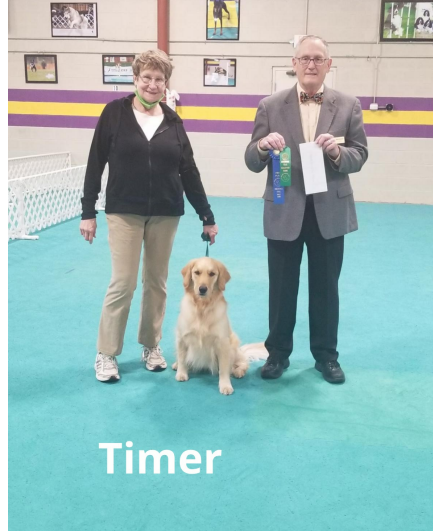
Jane Coen and her Golden Retrievers, Kizzie, Trevor and Stella, had a good weekend at Car-Dun-Al's April 23-24 Rally Trials. Kizzie finished her Rally Master title with scores of 90 and 99, earning second place on Sunday. Trevor earned his Rally Excellent title with a score of 100 and first place on Saturday, and earned his first Rally Master leg with a score of 100 and first place on Sunday. Stella earned her Rally Advanced title with a score of 100 and first place on Saturday, and earned her first Rally Excellent leg with a score of 100 and first place on Sunday.



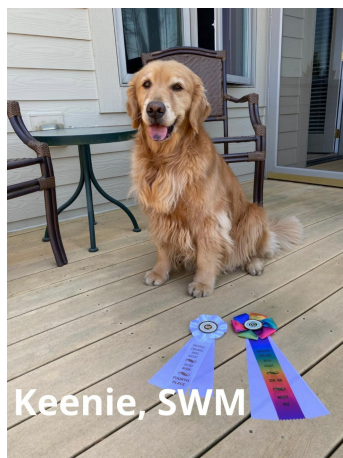
Jane Coen reports that her Trevor earned his NACSW NW1 title at Trail Creek Dog Training Club's nose work trial on April 18 in LaPorte, IN. The weekend was all the more special because Cathy Williams, their mentor, was also competing at the trial with her Labrador, Violet, who also earned her NW1 title.

Kaye Dahlquist is keeping busy with her dogs!
Timer did a great work at Car dun
al's Obedience trial. She was entered in Utility
A.....Took 2nd place on Saturday and 1st on

Sunday. Good Girl Timer!



Sally Banka reports that Rush, Skyliter's Every Claim You Stake, earned his Excellent Rally Title.



Cathy Williams reports that Keenie earned her overall AKC Scent Work Master title, with a 4th place in a Master Buried Container search!



Cathy is also very proud that her young boy, Shaymus is doing well in the conformation ring. Winners Dog out of the 12-18 class in Clinton IA and Best of Winners out of the Bred-By Class in Manitowoc WI! We are off to a good start!

Our Condolences

The Axelrods said goodbye to our big red dog Vespa in early April. The journey with him was incredible. You will be missed and remembered by so many.

You were our first boy, our first conformation dog, our first Grand Champion our first stud. You were Hollis' shadow and a wonderful pillow for Vinny during your morning nap next to the stove. You were part of 3 generations under our roof for too short a time.

Thank you Jane, Jenn and Leah for helping us on this journey. Thank you to so many of you who we trained with over the years and showered him with love.

GCH CH Firstar's Blue Vespa of Hallis CD RE
CGC CCA
9/22/09 - 4/3/21



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