



Conformation · Field · Obedience

Golden Tales

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March 2005

Rally-O!

"Call front, finish right, forward"... "Moving side step right"... "Left about turn"... Talking to your dog and encouraging them in the ring... What on earth is all of this? Just part of the newest AKC titling venue – Rally Obedience!

Not only did the stroke of midnight on January 1, 2005 ring in the New Year, it also heralded the beginning of Rally being the start of Rally titles. Clubs across the country scheduled rally trials to start at midnight on New Year's in order to have three trials on the same weekend, thus paving the way for dog and handler teams to earn Rally Novice (RN) titles the very first weekend of the year. The scramble was on as teams vied for the distinction of being the first in their breed to earn an RN title.

So what is Rally, and what makes it so different? In traditional obedience there is minimal communication between dog and handler, with drill-team execution of exercises awarded the highest scores. The exercises are precise, with a definite start and finish to each. A perfect score is 200, a minimum of 170 is needed to earn a qualifying leg. Each of the three qualifying scores needed to earn a title needs to be obtained under a different judge. With Rally, however, the ring is set up as a course of stations with signs. The focus is on teamwork between the dog and handler, and the handlers are allowed to communicate with their dogs throughout the course. Once the judge gives the "Forward" command, they essentially fade into the background as the team negotiates the course, one exercise flowing into the next through the heeling between signs. There is not as much emphasis

on perfectly square sits and heeling with a dog looking as though its nose were attached to the handler's leg, though there are still guidelines on this leniency. A perfect score is 100, minimum to qualify is 70. Three legs are still needed to earn a title; however, they can be earned under a minimum of two judges.

Rally is the first new companion venue to be introduced by AKC since Agility hit the scene in 1994. Although AKC touts Rally as being a bridge between the Canine Good Citizen certification and Novice obedience, the venue is being embraced by seasoned members of the dog fancy as well. Older dogs looking for something new, beginners just starting out with competitions, both are finding Rally enjoyable. Many clubs are expecting Rally to help boost entries at obedience trials, especially since Rally can only be offered in conjunction with traditional obedience. Titling is possible at the Novice, Advanced and Excellent levels, then an Advanced Excellent can be earned for continuing on and qualifying at both the Advanced and Excellent levels at the same trial a multiple of 10 times. That leaves a lot of opportunity for fun with your canine buddy, so come on out and enjoy!

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Dear Friends,

Spring awaits. And another spring-summer-fall of outdoor activities with our dogs is literally just around the corner. My Golden Retrievers can't wait. There are 6 senior female Golden Retrievers right now in my household and they are acting like young calves in the sun. And this senior female is looking forward to the outdoor time although I no longer kick my heels up like the Golden Retrievers do.



Some changes this year. This year we'll break with tradition and not be the lead organizer of Fun Day. Instead, we'll strongly support Golden Retriever Rescue as that organization coordinates the event. I am gratified by the willingness of our members to work at and contribute to the "Golden Reunion Day." If you can help, please contact event coordinator Janice Brown (607 844-4489). A brochure is included in this newsletter. There is a request

for raffle items – you may have things around the house that you could contribute. See that information later in this newsletter.

Also, please see the Specialty Trophy announcement in this issue. While our Specialty is not until November, the Trophy details need to be attended to within 2 months. We're trying something different and almost unique this year, so read on.

2005 Dues: Please see the information on page 3.

Daffodils any day.....keep looking for them.

Carol



From Your Best Friend

Please don't mourn for me today
My love was strong, but I couldn't stay
The Rainbow Bridge, they call this place
And God has blessed it with his grace
In His hands I am safe and sound
And you won't believe who all I've found
If some days seem too much to bear
Just close your eyes - You'll find me there

*By Permission from Sandy Rolling
Iowa City Golden Retriever Club*

Goldens Remembered
Image ©Debrah Muska, Animal Images - Modified from original

"Shadow"
GRRONY #00-15
Ronald MacHarris

"Quincy"
Quincy Tuck of Caymen, CGC
John and Lisa Andrews

"Cricket"
Sue and Jon Birch

Golden Tales is the official quarterly member newsletter of **The Golden Retriever Club of Central New York, Inc.** a Member club of **The Golden Retriever Club of America** and Licensed by **The American Kennel Club.**

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Inquiries, submissions and correspondence should be directed to: Judi Questel, Editor, 426 Lee Road, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail bonefeathers@yahoo.com



Meeting Highlights

- The Following Is Unofficial Summary -

GRCCNY Board Meeting

January 29, 2005

Finances: Our Treasury balance is \$3,430.58. Dues for 2005 are coming in and all bills are paid. There is an outstanding deposit to be made from the host kennel club of our November 2004 Specialty.

Maxine Clark is now our liaison to GRF, to the Public Education Committee of GRCA and to AKC/Public Education.

Board voted to discontinue Fun Day as we have known it for 11 years. Board voted that this Club will support Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York in any way possible should they wish to assume responsibility of an event similar to Fun Day. Board voted to provide ribbons for the Rescue Parade if asked, will offer CGC tests, and will consider providing a grooming tent.

Specialty Chair Beth Greenfield announced that judges are in place for the November 19, 2005 Specialty. Trophy Chair Carol Allen discussed an idea for trophies this year, that being donations to the Zeke Fund instead of hardware.

Club Title Awards were discussed and the requirement of attendance at 3 meetings plus participation in 2 events. In view of a reduced number of meetings and events, the Board voted to reduce the requirement to attendance at 2 meetings and participation in 1 event. This will take effect for the 2005 Awards. Board discussed the Versatility Award and agreed that the criteria will be made more objective by a point system, also effective in 2005.

Judges are in place for WC/WCX, and the date will be Saturday, July 30. Maxine Clark and Kathy McCloskey are being assisted this year by Audrey Coleman. A possible issue with the availability of Three Rivers has arisen and alternative locations are being considered.

Regular meeting schedule developed as follows, 7 PM, Lutheran Church, North Syracuse: April 5, June 9, September 8, October 5.

Events: WC/WCX July 30, Eye Clinic October 16 (tentative), Specialty November 19, Awards Dinner December 11.

DID YOU FORGET YOUR DUES?

If there is a reminder about dues next to your address label on this Newsletter, that means our records show that your dues for 2005 have not been received. Unless those dues are received by May 1st, your membership will have lapsed. This will be, then, the last issue of Golden Tales we can send you. We also plan to issue a Member Directory soon and would want to include your information, and can do so only if you are a member.

An individualized Dues Notice was included in your December issue of Golden Tales. With hindsight, we now believe that was less than a good idea but we were trying to save postage costs. If you need information about the levels of membership and/or the dues amount, please contact Carol Allen (carosal@twcny.rr.com or 315 469-7926). Carol will be away from April 7th to April 25th so contact her before or after that period.

Your membership is important to us. We hope it is to you, too.

**RAFFLE ITEMS
AROUND YOUR HOUSE?**

Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York will be coordinating Golden Reunion Day this year (as a replacement event for what was "Fun Day" for many years). The rescue volunteers are putting together a raffle of items of all sizes. Smaller items will be assembled into baskets. No item is too big or too small. Do you have an article or two that you would like to donate? In the north, contact Carol Allen at carosal@twcny.rr.com or (315) 469-7926. In the Ithaca area, contact Robert Miller at (607) 844-9520.

**CLUB TITLE AWARDS
REQUIREMENTS CHANGES**

The Club's Board of Directors, at a meeting in January, voted to change the meeting attendance and event participant requirement. This was done in recognition of the fact that we are having fewer meetings and fewer events in which members can participate. Effective for the December 2005 Awards, the requirement will be attendance at two Club Meetings and one Club Event. (Note: Fun Day is now "Golden Reunion Day" and is actually sponsored by Golden Retriever Rescue of CNY. Because this Club is supporting this event, participation in this event will qualify as a Club-sponsored event.) CJA

**IN MEMORIAM
CECELIA MASSARO**

We sadly learned recently of the January death of member and former Board member, Cecelia Massaro. Our condolences are extended to her son.

Membership Information

GRCCNY invites as new members, anyone with an interest in Goldens! Applications are available from the Club secretary, or at www.grccny.org/memb_app.pdf.

Membership Options:
Individual- \$25, Household - \$30, Associate (non-voting) - \$25.

We encourage membership in the Golden Retriever Club of America. Applications and further information may be obtained from Deborah Ascher, P.O. Box 69, Berthoud, CO 80513-0069, (970) 532-3124 or from the GRCA website at www.grca.org/grca-app.htm.

**Golden Retriever Club of Central New York
2004 Budget Overview**

Income:	
\$2735.00	Dues
329.31	Specialty (11/04) net gain
115.21	Fun Day (5/04) net gain
477.00	Fun Day Raffle (5/04) net gain
405.69	Eye Clinic (10/04) net gain
327.29	WC/WCX (7/04) net gain
72.00	Merchandise sales (2004)
175.00	Public Education/Litter Fees (2004)

\$4636.50

Expenses:	
\$ 768.00	Newsletter (2004) printing and postage
181.35	Web site (2004)
701.00	Insurances (2)
250.00	Donation to GRF/Zeke Fund
180.00	Banking costs
100.00	GRCA member club dues
281.25	Public Education/Advertising Post Standard
150.31	Misc. postage and copying
25.00	CGC evaluator fee
45.00	Catalog advertising, Nationals and Obedience
463.08	Member awards (12/04)

\$3144.99

The Library



Contact Club Librarian Judi Questel for complete list or to borrow via U.S. Mail. 315-393-5379 or bonefeathers@yahoo.com

What You Missed...

If You Don't Subscribe* to *Golden Retriever News!*



Nov - Dec '04 (240 pgs.) Highlights: Meet Winston Maxfield (L.Blythe). Goldens "Down Under" (A.Mills). Perspectives - For Posterity (R.Hovan). Ask the Health and Genetics Committee. Conformation - Owner vs. Professionally-Handled Champions Part II (J.Krawsczyn). Is Your Dog In Pain or at Risk for Injury? (S.Farber). Spotlight on Rescue (C.Allen). Reach for the Stars! (B.Bischoff). Food For Thought: Mad Cow and Wasting Disease (S.Greene). GRCA Annual Reports - 2004. Chubby Baby (J.Pepper). Obedience - Why Am I Having A Problem With Scent Articles? (C.Cleveland). Tracking - Article Indications (R.Janoch). Agility - Agility Without Obstacles Part II: Crossing Patterns (C.Miele). Field - Improving Your Dog's Performance Part II: Back to Basics, Corrective Marks and Drills (P.Walsh). Plus other additional features and reports!

◀ **Cover, Nov - Dec 2004**

Jan - Feb '05 (276 pgs.) Highlights: 2003 - 2004 GRCA Challenge & Perpetual Trophies. GRCA Annual Meeting Minutes. Ask the Health and Genetics Committee. Beyond the "Big Four" - Swallowing Problems (A.Hubbs,DVM,PhD). Certificate of Conformation Assessment Test (B.Gay/M.Schlehr). Meadow (S.Sharpe). Weight: A Matter of Life or Death? (S.Farber). 2004 National Specialty Report. Obedience - Don't You Dare Steal My Joy! (C.Cleveland). Interview - Teri Poetker (C.Minnier). Field - WC/WCX - One Judge's Point of View (P.Walsh). Conformation - Owner vs. Professionally-Handled Champions Part III (J.Krawsczyn). Reach for the Stars! (B.Bischoff). Tracking - New Beginnings (R.Janoch). Plus other additional features and reports!

Cover, Jan - Feb 2005 ▶



* Subscription to GRNews is included with membership in The Golden Retriever Club of America See pg. 2 or consult your Club Member Handbook-Directory for contact information.

More Club News & Events

Activity & Event Leaders

- Puppy Referral**
Sallie Lennox & Carol Allen
315-469-7926 -- carosal@twcny.rr.com
- Licensed Specialty Show-Trial**
Beth Greenfield
315-363-0012 -- BGreenfield@oneidahealthcare.org
Carol Allen, Trophy Chair
315-469-7926 -- carosal@twcny.rr.com
- Eye Clinic**
Sue Birch
315-363-2712 -- arrow@borg.com
- Internet Web Site**
Lee Painting
315-524-2234 -- lpainting@aol.com
- Member Records/Database**
Liz Moran
315-699-1322 -- emoran@localnet.com
- Golden Tales Newsletter - Club Library**
Judi Questel
315-393-5379 -- bonefeathers@yahoo.com
- WC / WCX**
Maxine Clark
315-963-8682 -- maxine.clark@wordnet.att.net
Kathy McCloskey
315-445-9682 -- kmcclosk@twcny.rr.com
- Annual Banquet / Annual Raffle**
Lisa Andrews
315-455-6874 -- quinala2@aol.com
- Golden Retriever News Correspondent**
Carol Lantiegne
315-963-8403 -- puppies@adirondac-goldens.com

WELCOME
New Members

Karen Anderson and Nancy Law,
Brooktondale
Rescue Honorary

Larry and Marilyn Colenzo, North Syracuse
Rescue Honorary

Christine Larson, Pittsford
Rescue Honorary

Dean and Kim Marble, Mt. Vision
Rescue Honorary

Eric and Beth Mau, Warners
Rescue Honorary

Denise Orman, Marietta
Associate

Richard and Jean Raaflaub, Warners
Rescue Honorary

Gary and Cheryl Robinson, Victor
Rescue Honorary

* Election Required for Individual or Household Applicants

Supporting our Military Family

Sending thoughts of good wishes and speedy return for not just one, but both, of Tom and Judi Questel's sons as they serve with our military in Iraq. Sean is an Army Air Ambulance medic currently on a 12-18 month deployment near Balad, Tony is a Marines Communications Specialist on a 6-9 month deployment in Fallujah.



Where to Send It ... For
Golden Tales - Web Site - Golden Retriever News

Photos - Brags - Memorials - Letters - Stories

All members are encouraged to contribute. To save time and avoid confusion, all submissions are to be directed to Janis Tyler. Material will be published, as appropriate, to *Golden Tales*, the Web Site, and/or *Golden Retriever News*. Send via U.S. Mail or Email. Photos returned on request.

Janis Tyler, 8587 Bayview Drive, Cicero, NY 13039
lok4fantom@aol.com

Meeting Schedule

APRIL 5TH - TUESDAY

JUNE 9TH - THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 8TH - THURSDAY

OCTOBER 5TH - WEDNESDAY
(ANNUAL MEETING)

TROPHY FUND TO BENEFIT CANCER RESEARCH

This year, rather than offering a Trophy for Class Winners, we are asking sponsors to pledge to the Golden Retriever Foundation, Zeke Fund. At this time, only a pledge is being requested. Later, you will be asked to honor your pledge by submitting your check for the pledged amount to GRCCNY. A check from GRCCNY for the total amount of all pledges will be sent to the Golden Retriever Foundation immediately after the November 19th Specialty. The Specialty Catalog will indicate that "a donation in your name (in memory of _____, if you choose) has been made to the Golden Retriever Foundation, Zeke Fund. We will provide a certificate to each Class Winner that reflects the donation and that it was made by you.

We are all concerned and alarmed by the incidence of cancer in our wonderful Goldens. None of us are untouched by this, and we believe it is the wish of our membership that we contribute to cancer research in this way. We have established a minimum pledge for each class and certainly would welcome a greater amount if you wish.

As we researched the idea of contributing to the Zeke Fund rather than award trophies, we learned that the idea wasn't as novel as we had assumed. A west coast club is doing this for a May Specialty; another east coast club is preparing to do this, too. In future years, if the idea takes hold, we're hopeful that the GRF will find a way to accept individual donations, thus making it possible for the donation to be income tax deductible. For this year, this is not possible.

Please contact Trophy Chair Carol Allen (315 469-7926 or carosal@twcny.rr.com) to discuss which Class you would like to support.

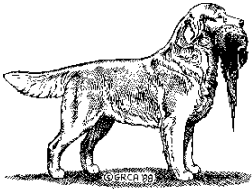
Conformation:

1. Best of Breed. Minimum pledge: \$50.00
2. Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. Minimum pledge: \$45.00
3. Best of Winners. Minimum pledge: \$35.00
4. Winners Dog. Minimum pledge: \$35.00
5. Winners Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$35.00
6. Reserve Winners Dog. Minimum pledge: \$30.00
7. Reserve Winners Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$30.00
8. Open Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
9. Open Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
10. American Bred Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
11. American Bred Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
12. Bred by Exhibitor, Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
13. Bred by Exhibitor, Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
14. Novice Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
15. Novice Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
16. Best Puppy. Minimum pledge: \$25.00
17. 12-18 Month Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
18. 12-18 Month Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
19. 9-12 Month Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
20. 9-12 Month Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
21. 6-9 Month Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
22. 6-9 Month Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
23. Veteran Dog, 8-10 Years. Minimum pledge: \$20.00
24. Veteran Bitch, 8-10 Years. Minimum pledge: \$20.00

25. Veteran Dog, 10 Years and Older. Minimum pledge: \$20.00
26. Veteran Bitch, 10 Years and Older. Minimum pledge: \$20.00
27. Best Veteran. Minimum pledge: \$25.00
28. Hunting Retriever Dog. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
29. Hunting Retriever Bitch. Minimum pledge: \$15.00

Obedience:

30. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Trial. Minimum pledge: \$50.00
31. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Novice A. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
32. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Novice B. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
33. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Open A. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
34. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Open B. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
35. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Utility A. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
36. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever in Utility B. Minimum pledge: \$15.00
37. Highest Scoring Golden Retriever with Hunting/Field Title. Minimum pledge: \$15.00



Our Club's Column in *Golden Retriever News*

By Carol Lantiegne, Club Correspondent

Carol's submissions to Golden Retriever Club of America for publication

in Golden Retriever News appear here for the benefit of members who have not yet joined GRCA.

Ed. Note: As *GRNews* is published bi-monthly and *Golden Tales* is quarterly, there are times when two articles will appear here. This is one of those "catch up" issues.

AN EXCEPTIONAL DOG LADY

From Nov/Dec 2004 *GRNews*

It's been a long time since my last Open obedience title, around six years, I think. My overwhelming obsession with successfully competing at the Master Hunter level has eaten up my available time, energy and pocketbook necessary for higher-level training. The horrendous winter of 2003 was driving me crazy with inactivity, so I dug out my jumps and set them up in a friend's unheated pole barn where she and I bundled up in down jackets and insulated boots and worked on Open obedience exercises. When spring finally broke, I was right back out in the field and had no problem putting obedience on the back burner again. Two litters of puppies plus chairing a hunt test kept me from making a whole lot of progress toward field legs during the summer, so by August, I needed a "fix." Got those jumps out again on the back lawn and was pleasantly surprised to find that last winter's lessons were still fresh in Ruby's mind.

A small show was scheduled on an August weekend that I had available so I thought, why not? We entered on Sunday only, under a judge, Pat Scully, I'd encountered quite a few times during my years of obedience. I was scared to death of her. Many years ago, like around twenty, I showed TIGATHOE'S MORNING MIST CDX under Ms. Scully at a show near Canandaigua, NY. We NQ'd but a dear pal of mine, now gone, Leslie Doersam with WINDJAMMER'S TALI ME BANANAS did qualify, as did only a handful of others. Feisty Pat Scully was so totally disgusted by the poor performance of most of the class that she literally ripped us to shreds after presenting the few ribbons. She ranted about the so-called competitors who wasted not only their time and money, but also the time of the other entrants, the show-hosting club, the superintendent and the judge. She raved about the shame we should feel for the disgraceful insult we were to the wonderful sport of dog obedience...WOW! I've never forgotten the lecture and I wonder how many other times she's been compelled to dish it out.

Since then, I've shown under her in Novice a number of times, always on my best behavior and never expecting a placement, knowing how high her standards are, but I never again entered her ring unprepared!

Sunday's show was on a humid day with intermittent cloud cover, which we all hoped would last until after the group exercises. Pat looked great – long black skirt, very colorful white and neon colored top – just as brusque and businesslike as ever. A little heavier and a little grayer, just like me, after 20 years...

Happy, friendly little ADIRONDAC RUBY REDDOG CD, MH, WCX entered the ring and flitted through heeling and drop on recall. The retrieve on flat and over high jump were completed with no fronts, rather a quick flip right to heel position. As we were leaving the ring following our broad jump, Ms. Scully asked if by chance she was a field dog, due to her "deliveries." I acknowledged that Ruby is a Master Hunter and the judge – whom I thought was so hard hearted – gave me a huge hug right in the ring! She was so proud of a team that had trained to that level in one venue and now was pursuing advanced work in another. She said, "You didn't accomplish that title by sitting home watching TV!" I was flabbergasted! To have earned the respect of such a demanding professional was a wonderful surprise. The sun came out, making the temperature almost unbearable but Ruby remained obedient through the stays. As Pat handed me my fourth place ribbon she announced to the spectators that THIS is a MASTER HUNTER, putting Ruby and me on top of the world. That fine lady is a true lover of talented dogs, trained to be all they can be. Her neighborhood may be obedience but her world is dog sport.

I know many of our members are out there collecting various legs and points and I expect a deluge of new titles very soon. For now, it looks like most new titles were earned at our very own WC/WCX test in July. We had a full slate of 30 entries, all Goldens for the first time ever. New WC's were earned by ADIRONDAC DANDELION WHINE (Clark) and ADIRONDAC GOLD STANDARD CD, JH (Lantiegne). WCX titles went to TARAT'S AIM FOR THE STARS CD, SH (Coleman), AMBERTRAIL'S ROCKETS RED GLARE** (Coleman), SUNFIRE LEO THE LEG BREAKER JH (Coleman) and ADIRONDAC MOUNTAIN EIRE CDX, JH, OA, OAJ (McCloskey). Therapy dog ADIRONDAC DUCHESS DAPHNE WC (O'Connell) will show off her new JH title at the nursing home.

⇒ Continued on Pg. 8





Rescue Reporter - By Carol Allen

Your Club endorses and promotes the work of Golden Retriever Rescue of Central NY and encourages your individual support through membership, donations and volunteered assistance. For more information contact Carol Allen at 315-469-7926.

First and foremost, the volunteers of Golden Retriever Rescue of CNY want to say a big THANK YOU to the many members of the Golden Retriever Club of CNY who made monetary contributions during the Holiday season. Because of the generosity, we do not have to make decisions about treatment based on a treasurer's report. Our goal, once a Golden is accepted into the program, is to treat that dog as we would one of our own. If we had to continually look at our bottom line before providing that treatment, it would make the work of rescue far more difficult. We are also the only rescue program of which I am aware that provides reimbursement for gas should a volunteer request it. While the rate isn't high (14 cents a mile), and with the price of gas it's a barely break-even thing, it does make travel for rescue less a burden on the several volunteers who do most of it. Again, THANK YOU.

As most Golden Retriever Rescue programs are experiencing, the ages and the health conditions of the Golden GRRRCNY is asked to accept are changing. Dogs are older; dogs have more medical complications. This implies a longer time in the foster home and a greater financial outlay. Currently in Foster homes are:

- Three senior females (one is heartworm positive and is being treated).
- Two senior males (one is 12 ½ years old).
- Three females, mid-age, two with mild seizure disorder.
- One young female with behavioral "issues" that the Foster home is working hard to address.

The "turn around" time on younger and healthier Golden Retrievers can be rather short. While there are usually many high-quality applicants interested in these dogs, we are always interested in receiving applications from caring, committed applicants (preferably with a fence).

The Newsletter of GRRRCNY ("The Barquer") is issued quarterly. If you have adopted from GRRRCNY or ever made a financial contribution, you then are receiving The Barquer. If you do not receive it and would like a complimentary copy, please contact me.

See you at "Golden Reunion Day" on May 14th.

Our Club's Column cont. from pg. 7

IF IT WORKS FOR OBEDIENCE, WHY NOT HUNT TESTS?

From Jan/Feb 2005 *GRNews*

Our President, Carol Allen was sent a copy of the proposed AKC hunt test regulation revisions, and shared them with me. I carefully pondered the pros and cons of each proposal, but, relax, I'll save my in depth analysis and opinions for my hunt test club!

In the process of delving into the hunt test programs varied criteria, I found myself re-visiting the basic premise of what a dog must do to pass and title, and how the "non-competitive" standard scoring is applied. Modeled after obedience, where theoretically every dog that adequately performs the exercises qualifies, in essence, it is possible to have a 100% pass rate. The reason obedience judgment works so well and is super fair to entrants is because each level of difficulty is split into an A and B class. The requirements are exactly the same for either class, but the skill level of the dogs and handlers can be vastly different.

I think the Junior and Senior levels of competition at hunt tests are coping alright with single class entries, especially

now that more than 50 senior entries will require a split to insure adequate time to complete the test. I think Master is a whole different story.

Looking at obedience classes, Novice A is for handlers who have never titled a dog at that level and they must be the owner. Novice B is for more experienced handlers and/or pros with no restriction on ownership. Open A is for dogs who do not yet have a CDX title...those still striving, also owner handled. Open B is for finished dogs and those reaching for super-dog status of OTCH. Likewise for Utility. All levels require the same number of passes for a title, three.

Hunt tests require four passes for Junior and Senior titles but FIVE for a Master title. I've never seen any justification for the additional master requirement. What I have seen, and documented is the breakdown of entrants at the master stake at Finger Lakes Retriever Club over the past 10 years. On average, about 50% of all master entries are either professionally handled OR have already completed the MH title. So here we are, all lumped together under judgment. I think it's pretty impossible for a handler in his first master test to perform on a par with a pro, or against a finished Master Hunter. Let's say, theoretically, the

➔ **Continued on Pg. 9**



Views from the Doghouse

By Judi Questel, Editor

*Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of "management."
This column is the price y'all have to pay for stickin' me with this job.*

Come on, Spring!

It appears the cold weather has driven our Club members into hibernation, as little has been heard from anyone over the past few months. If my household is any indication, by now we are all getting a touch of spring fever and looking forward to getting out with our four-legged friends. I know I can hardly wait until the ground firms up enough for me to drag out all my equipment and start working on various dog sports. Spring can't come fast enough at this point, and I am expecting the return of the Brags column with the next issue of Golden Tales!

In looking forward to the rest of this year and what our Club has planned, there should be something of interest just about everyone. While Fun Day is no longer, we can all support and enjoy the GRRONY Golden Reunion Day on May 14th. Offer to help out with an unfamiliar venue, such as non-field people volunteering at our WC/WCX tests. Bring your dogs to the Eye Clinic and have them checked out. Come to the Specialty and cheer on fellow club

members, even if you don't participate in conformation or obedience yourself. And mark the Annual Awards Dinner on your calendar now – this is for all club members, not just those who have earned an award during the year. Come on out and experience all the Club has to offer!



Photo by Judi Questel

Diva attentively watching Westminster...taking lessons?

Our Club's Column cont. from pg. 8

random draw happens to assign #1 - #7 to pros. The judges will be given a skewed perception of their test and the average caliber of the dogs entered. Even though the dogs are to be scored against a standard, rather than other dogs, 7 faultless performances followed by a first timer will undoubtedly reflect vastly different scores, due to a higher degree of perfection established in the judges' minds. Since the entry limitations of 60 dogs in Master were implemented, most clubs are prepared to offer a B class. The cost of an extra set of judges, the necessary additional equipment and manpower are just things clubs are now resigned to deal with if necessary. I would love to open some discussion about requiring an A and B class in Master, like our obedience model. Master A would be for untitled dogs, owner handled. B would be for pros and finished Master dogs working to gain Master National qualification. The test set-up leeway available to master judges is huge while still staying within the parameters of the AKC regulations. Unquestionably, judges have the option of presenting either a more user-friendly test vs. one loaded with ultimately complex series, some of which actually penalize "hunting" dogs who problem solve on their own and reward over-trained "robotized" dogs taught to avoid areas of "heat". The requirements of a master test have plenty of meat and potatoes as written in the AKC regulations. Starting there, judges can elevate the level of difficulty almost to the impossible and still be within AKC approval. Unlike obedience, where there are limited opportunities for the judges to set up a more difficult pattern, hunt tests, and especially master level tests

include so many factors, like terrain, weather, cover, number of entries, all of which can affect the actual test that dog #1 attempts compared to what the last dog faces. I've not heard or read anyone else's thoughts on this topic, but it works so well and fairly in obedience, shouldn't hunt test entries be similarly divided? If enough of us agree, perhaps the AKC would consider making the change and level the playing field in Master Hunter tests.

I recently attended our annual eye clinic where I had 7 goldens evaluated. I am glad my task is just to write the column and not have to do what our eye clinic volunteers do! We had 110 total dogs, 40 of which were goldens. As usual, the chaos was extremely well organized, and like so many others, I thank my fellow club members for making such a valuable contribution.

We've picked up some dandy titles and I expect some more at our November 13 supported entry specialty. A first place win in Utility finishes ONE ASH BRIT'S TRUE GLORY ALE CDX WC (Puzon).SUNFIRE LEO THE LEG BREAKER JH WCX (Coleman) adds his SH and Can. WCI. Two new Master Hunters go to ADIRONDAC MY-TEE MARCY CDX SH WCX (Kogut/Lantiegne) and ADIRONDAC PATENT PENDING CD SH WCX (Lantiegne). AMBERTRAIL'S ROCKETS RED GLARE WCX(Coleman) and TARAT'S AIM FOR THE STARS CD SH WCX Can. CD (Coleman) both have earned Can. WCI's. TIGATHOE'S OMEGA CDX JH WC (Lantiegne) has been awarded OD status.



Meetings

All meetings at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 435 Main Street, N. Syracuse unless otherwise indicated. On Route 11 (headed north) on the right. You can also access from South Bay Road.

April 5 (Tues)
7:00PM Regular meeting

June 9 (Thurs)
7:00PM Regular meeting

Sept 8 (Thurs)
7:00PM Regular meeting

Oct 5 (Wed)
7:00PM Annual meeting (election)

Activities

WC/WCX July 30 (Sat)
Location to be determined

Eye Clinic Oct 16 (Sun)
Date tentative
9:00 am Village Vet, Wampsville

Specialty, Nov 19 (Sat)
8:00 am (time tentative)
NYS Fairgrounds

Awards Dinner, Dec 11 (Sun)
Details to be finalized

In case of inclement weather, information regarding meeting or event cancellations may be obtained by calling Carol Allen- 315-469-7926



Golden Tales

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