



Golden Tales

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January 2022

Howl-oween
Barn Hunt 2021



Gemstar's Lightning Strikes (Tanner)

2022 Officers & Board

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Welcome
New members!

ON THE COVER

*Gemstar's Lightning Strikes (Tanner)
loved by Julie DeKing
having just earn his RATCH*

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On the internet:
www.grccny.org

On Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GRCCNY/>

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Golden Tales will be June 2022
Deadline for submission of articles is June 10, 2022

Where to Send It ... For

Golden Tales - Website -Golden Retriever News

All members are encouraged to contribute and submit material.

Send to: Janet Gray:janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com

ALL brags, all material you'd like to see on our website (www.grccny.org)

Activity and Event Leaders

Awards
OPEN

CCA 2023
Bobbie Vassallo/Carol Krehel

Community awareness and Facebook
Julie Deking

Eye and heart clinic
Kari Mickinke/Lynn Mickinkle

Field
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GRNews
OPEN

Legislative Liaison
Lynne Meili

Membership
Lynn Mickinkle

Newsletter-Golden Tales
Janet Gray

Puppy Referral
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Specialty Show
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Sunshine
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WC/WCX
Maxine Clark
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Website
Deanna Rodriguez

Calendar of Events

2022

January

10 Golden Tales Deadline

February

10 General meeting @7pm

March

20 OKA Match
SOTC Building - Deere Rd Syracuse

April

4 Salt City Specialty
NYS Exposition Center

14 General meeting @7pm

May

June

9 General meeting @7pm

10 Golden Tales Deadline

July

August

11 General meeting @7pm

September

11 WC/WCX

15 General meeting @7pm

October

10 Golden Tales Deadline

13 General Meeting @ 7pm

16 Tentative Eye and Heart Clinic

December

Annual Holiday Banquet & Meeting
Sunday, December 4th
(Time and location TBA)

***NOTE: We will put the forms for all events
and awards on the website***



President's Message

Happy New Year 2022!!

I would like to wish you all a healthy 2022.

Our annual specialty is a “go” for April 2, 2022 at the NYS Exposition Center. Sue Foster will be judging regular classes and Mary Beth Konesky is our puppy and veteran sweepstakes judge.

All schedules for this winter for the Syracuse Obedience Training Club is on their website: <https://sotc.info/Shows-&-Seminar> There is an Obedience and Rally Trial, February 4-6. Check their website for more info.

On March 13 the Onondaga Kennel Association's St. Paddy's Match is all breed and obedience.

The GRCA National is scheduled for September 3 -11. So many events to talk about, but there is a Facebook group and info on the GRCA website. Since the show is in Monroe, Michigan, the hotels reservation will be gobbled up quick so it will take some planning if you plan to go.

Please check our website as we will be listing meeting dates, zoom meetings due to Covid etc. Any concerns you can call me at 315-363-0012 or grnelzb@aol.com.

I would like to take time to thank Carol Krehel for her service as president after taking over the job after Carol Allen's passing.

Keep your Goldens close because they are so special in so many ways.

Beth Greenfield
GRCCNY Acting President



Don't forget January 31st is the last day to renew your membership dues.

The Joe Mercer Award

Joe Mercer was a golden retriever owner and Board Member of the Western NY Retriever Club. After he passed, that club established an award for the golden retriever that was the most successful in non-ranked hunting competitions each year. The trophy and its base became property of the Golden Retriever Club of Central NY when the WNYRC was dissolved, and is now offered for award by them.

These are the current criteria for its award:

The owner of the dog must be a member of the Golden Retriever Club of Central NY.

One point shall be awarded to the dog for every passing score in non-ranked hunting events in a calendar year. At the present time these tests are licensed events sponsored by the AKC, GRCA, NAHRA, and UKC. Additional event sponsors and point values may be added at the discretion of the GRCCNY Board of Directors.

The dog with the most points will have an engraved plaque attached to the base with the year of award and its owner. In the event of a tie between dogs, the trophy will be awarded jointly with a plaque for each dog. Winner of the award will be allowed to keep the trophy for one year. The winner will be announced at the GRCCNY annual meeting in December.

Criteria for the awarding of the trophy may be amended by the Board of the GRCCNY as they see fit. The trophy and its base are property of the GRCCNY and are not offered for outright award.

Send passing scores to: Todd Clickner 55 Weider St. Rochester, NY 14620. **OR** email them to: tclickner@hotmail.com. with the subject: "Joe Mercer Award"

Include: Dog name, Owner name, Event and date, sanctioning body (AKC, NAHRA, etc.), and level (Started, Senior, Master)

Questions? Email me at: tclickner@hotmail.com subject: Joe Mercer Award



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OPEN POSITIONS
Leader for AWARDS and a reporter for the GRNews

Lifetime Study Update
from Carol Krehel

An exciting and encouraging development occurred on December 5th, when the study got back its first genetic sequencing in its search for answers about the cancers in our Golden Retrievers. They have looked at approximately 4 million DNA biomarkers and locations and broken it down to about 2,000 that have differences between the dogs with cancers and the controls.

Currently they are testing 8 Golden Retrievers with B cell lymphoma, 8 with hemangiosarcoma and 8 controls. While there are other cancers that occur, the study has not yet had large enough numbers to adequately study at this time.

There is a lot of work to do and since every hero dog gives annual samples and all of these samples are kept, maintained and labeled they have the ability to look back at each case and learn. One exciting outcome for the future may be early detection as well as early indicators before a cancer even appears. In addition, they may learn of symptomology that would indicate problems well in advance and the diagnostics to treat them with the results helping both humans and canines.

We are thankful to our hero dogs and to the Morris Animal Foundation and the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study for this very important research that will improve the health and longevity of our wonderful breed.



Allie

Judi Questel's **Allie** (SunKissed Go Ask Alice) earned her STAR Puppy certification AND her Trick Dog Novice title on January 4, 2022 at the tender age of just 19 weeks!



Gus

Janet and Tom Gray's **Gus** (Angus Hold My Scotch @ Cayuga Highlands) earned his STAR puppy certification in August 2021. He is working on his CGC, learning nosework and volunteering at our local assisted living facility.

Did you know we are now on Facebook? You can access us from your facebook page (just search for Golden Retriever Club of Central New York) or press the facebook link on our club website: WWW.GRCCNY.ORG. You don't need to have a Facebook account to see our facebook page, but you will need a facebook account if you would want to "like" our page or post a picture of your pooch.





Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York's Final Chapter

Submitted by Janet Gray

December 2021, Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York (GRRC-NY), took it's final step in dissolving the rescue, by donating over \$63,000 to the Golden Retriever Foundation (GRF). Monies were designated to the General Fund and to be used wherever needed. GRRCNY benefitted many times from GRF's "April Fund" for rescues' medical expenses.

Here is the letter I received from John Cotter, President, GRF.

Janet, on behalf of the Golden Retriever Foundation, I want to thank the Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York for the very generous donation. I cannot thank you and your members enough for your generosity and confidence in our mission of research, rescue and education. I can assure you we will use the money wisely.

I did note on your card the donation is in honor of GRRCNY co-founders Marcia Martin, Deb Wood, Sallie Lennox, Janice Brown and Carol Allen. I had the privilege of working closely with Carol Allen when I was previously on the GRF board and the GRCA board as well. She was a wonderful person that unfortunately left us way too soon.

I also understand the GRRCNY has decided to close down after about 25 years of operation. I am sorry to hear that but can certainly understand reasons for doing so. Rescue work is a series of many hard tasks over many hours. We certainly respect the effort and dedication of your members through the years to find, accept, train, love and place Golden Retrievers in their forever homes. It has to be very satisfying to know you made a difference in our doggies lives and the many families who were fortunate to work with you.

Please remind members to hold their heads high and be very proud of their accomplishments. The world is much better for all the work your club has done. We can't thank you enough.

*Respectfully,
John Cotter
President*

Golden Tales is the official 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. Original and republished material is selected on the basis of quality, author credentials, and potential interest to members, but implies neither acceptance nor endorsement of content, methods, or products by GRCCNY.

We are honored to have received multiple Dog Writers Association of America awards.

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Inquiries, submissions and correspondence should be directed to:

Janet Gray: janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com



What's in a title??

This issue's dog sport is **Barn Hunt!** There are several titles your golden can earn in this fun sport: Novice Barn Hunt (RATN), Open Barn Hunt (RATO), Senior Barn Hunt (RATS), Master Barn Hunt (RATM), Barn Hunt Champion (RATCh), Master Champion (RATChX), Crazy 8s Bronze (CZ8B), Crazy 8s Silver (CZ8S), Crazy 8s Gold (CZ8G), and Crazy 8s Platinum (CZ8P).

Julie DeKing and her boy Tanner will explore the sport of **Barn Hunt**.

Barn Hunting with a Golden Retriever

By Julie DeKing

Barn Hunt is a sport that tests a dog's ability to climb and tunnel over and under bales of straw, and search for rats that are hidden in the course (in safe PVC tubes that allows no harm to the rats). The courses build in difficulty from Barn Hunt Instinct to Barn Hunt Master. The courses are timed and once the dog finds the rat the handler needs to be able to recognize the dog's indication on the rat tube (and not an empty tube or a tube of used bedding). The handler then has to give the "rat" call to the judge. That tube then can be taken off the course by a "rat wrangler" who is in the ring. Once all the rats are found on a course (it ranges from 1-5 depending on the level of course being completed), and the dog has completed a climb onto a bale and the tunnel, the course is clear and a qualifying leg is earned towards the respective title. The titles are recognized by the AKC. If the dog fails to find all the rats, fails to complete the climb or tunnel, or the handler calls "rat" on a tube that does not contain a rat, the team is not qualified (NQ).

Despite Barn Hunt being originally developed as a way to test working dogs ability to hunt for vermin, it is a sport that can be enjoyed by all breeds and dogs with physical disabilities. It is a great sport for handlers who are new to dog sports as they can have early success at the lower levels. The lower levels can also be suitable for older dogs as the courses are lower in height, the tunnels shorter in length, and the number of rats in the course is lower. However, the upper levels in Barn Hunt are challenging, and can be difficult for even the most experienced dog handler.

Barn Hunt is a very fast growing sport across the US, and golden retrievers are participating. In January of 2021 the owner of the Barn Hunt Association released the numbers of the top 10 breed registrations and titles to the public. There were 1247 Golden retrievers at that time registered with the Barn Hunt Association. That placed 6th in breed numbers for the sport. Of those 1247 goldens, 537 had earned the Barn Hunt Instinct Title(5th of all breeds). 535 had earned the Barn Hunt Novice Title(6th of all breeds). 280 had earned the Barn Hunt Open Title(7th of all breeds). 143 had earned the Barn Hunt Senior Title (6th of all breeds). 63 had earned the Barn Hunt Master Title (10th of all breeds). 35 had earned the Barn Hunt Champion Title (10th of all breeds). 16 goldens had earned the Master Barn Hunt Champion, which is not in the top 10 breeds to earn this title. It is difficult to say why golden retrievers despite being the #6 most popular breed in the Barn Hunt Association have less of a percentage of dog reaching the upper title of Master, Champion, and Master Champion titles. Goldens do tend to be their goofy selves in the ring and often spend time saying hello to people watching from outside the ring, the judge, and the rat wranglers in the ring which interferes with their hunting. And forget it if someone in the ring had treats in their pockets earlier in the day, as at least I know my golden will know it and try to get into those pockets!

My journey to Barn Hunt Champion with Tanner started in the summer of 2018 when I was brand new to dog sports. Tanner and I started dock diving in the middle of July and I was loving the time we were spending together. I was also making a lot of new friends in a world I had never been a part of before. I heard a dock diving competitor talking about Barn Hunt and I had no idea what it was, so I went home that night and watched every video I could find online. I thought it looked like fun, and was excited about the possibility of having another sport that we could

start after dock diving season was over.

That November I was able to take a couple intro to Barn Hunt lessons with a local trainer. Tanner was able to get introduced to the sport and the rats, and on our second lesson was hunting learning to indicate on the hidden rat tubes. Unfortunately, the Barn Hunt trial season had ended and all training was on hold until after the winter. In early Spring we started taking private lessons at Central Bark Canine Events in Central Square. After some continued lessons Tanner was performing all the requirements for a Novice course (finding 1 rat, performing a tunnel, and performing a climb, all in 2 mins or less. We entered our first trial in June of 2019. Tanner earned his instinct title at that trial, which requires the dog to indicate the rat tube out of 3 tubes sitting side by side in a cradle on the ground.

Tanner quickly moved through the Novice and Open Barn Hunt Titles with multiple first place and High in Class placements. He was having fun and definitely seemed ready to hunt when we entered the ring. Unfortunately when we moved up to the Senior level we hit quite a road block. At this level the number of rats increases from 2 rats to 4 rats in the ring and the time increases from 2:30 mins in Open to 3:30 in Senior. Double the number of rats but not double the amount of time. Tanner also started to learn that while he was working to hunt the rats in the ring he would not get rewarded with treats when he found them (you are not allowed to bring treats in the ring during a trial). So instead of finding the rat and indicating to me that he found it, he would just move on. Our trainer calls this “cataloging”. He was finding all the rats (from what I was told), but wasn’t “telling me”, or I was missing the subtle indication he was giving. After finding all of them he would start to make his way back around the ring and start to indicate the rats, but then we would run out of time. We were stuck in the Senior level for an entire year! It took a lot of lessons and training to get past that road block (complicated by a halt in both training and trials due to COVID), but in Sept 2020 will finally get our Senior Title! This was by far the most challenging part of our journey.

Once at the Master level the game significantly changes. You have 4 mins 30 seconds in the ring. There are a total of 8 tubes in the ring. There can be any number of rats from 1 to 5 in the ring and the handler is unaware of the actual number. The rest of the tubes are full of used rat bedding (called litter). When in the ring, the handler must not only call the rat tubes correctly, but must also be able to recognize that the dog has found all the rats on the course and call the course “clear” correctly. This makes it significantly more difficult. It takes training to be able to read your dog to know when they have stopped hunting, and know that they have adequately searched the entire course. If you call “clear” and there are still rats on the course you are disqualified. And add to all of that a super happy, silly, high energy golden who likes to zoomie through the tunnel and say hello to the judge and the rat wranglers, and this can be extremely challenging! Despite the higher challenge Tanner managed to get his Barn Hunt Master title (5 qualifying Master trials) in a couple months of time in the fall of 2020.

After you reach your Barn Hunt Master Title it requires 10 more Master course qualifying runs to obtain the Barn Hunt Champion Title. Tanner moved through his first 8 Qs prior to the summer break (Barn Hunt outside in the summer is very hot, and we choose not to participate from June to September). He did continue to train over the summer working on getting him to hunt quickly and indicate strongly. It’s a balance of using treats for praise and not using treats when he finds the rats in practice, so he doesn’t stop indicating in trials when he doesn’t get the treats! He is extremely food driven. When he finds the rats in trials he always looks at me like “OK, give me the food Mom!”

In the fall when trials started back up at Central Bark, Tanner had a difficult time getting the last 2 qualifying runs. He always hunts better when it’s been a while since the last time in the ring, and we were doing a lot of trials and practices over that time period. He gets bored easily! He finally got his Barn Hunt Champion (RATCH) title on 10/24/21!!! He is the 2nd golden retriever in NY State, and only the 43rd golden retriever in the country to receive the RATCH title!

I would love to see more golden retrievers at the Barn Hunt trials. Tanner provides some comic relief in the ring as his hunting style is certainly different than the border collies and Belgium Tervurens who are frequently at the top of the class at Central Bark trials. For more info about this super fun sport follow Barn Hunt Association, LLC on Facebook, or take a look at the website: www.barnhunt.com. Or please feel free to email me with any questions at juliedeking@gmail.com.



Tanner and his RATCH ribbon



Tanner hunting for the rat



Tanner posing for his admirers

BARN HUNT



Tanner indicating on a rat

Vets and Pets Under Stress
by Deanna Rodriquez, DVM, CVSMT
dr238@cornell.edu

You have probably been in this situation already. Your pet is not feeling well—not eating, experiencing an upset stomach. You call your primary care veterinarian and unfortunately, they cannot see him/her today and add your name to their cancellation list. In a worry, you drive to the emergency clinic but are greeted with a 4 to 6-hour wait or worst-case scenario, turned away. On the other side, you are excited to have added a new puppy or kitten to your family, but unfortunately, cannot be seen at your veterinarian for several weeks. In both circumstances, you probably feel lost, worried, and frustrated. The truth is the veterinary world has changed.



Deanna Rodriquez, DVM

Prior to the pandemic, veterinary medicine was already experiencing stressors. A large portion of veterinarians began to retire leaving their hospitals with available positions that would be very difficult to fill. Aside from this, veterinarians are among the top professions experiencing mental health issues and burn-out. A 2018 study from the CDC shows suicide rates among those in the veterinary profession were significantly higher than for the general U.S. population. How high you ask? According to the American Veterinary Medical Association statistics, 1 in 6 veterinarians have contemplated suicide. With veterinarians leaving the profession because of retirement or mental health, more hospitals are closing or under-staffed and there are less veterinarians to see the growing number of pets.

Now, let's discuss the current pandemic concern. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) released new poll data confirming that close to one in five households acquired a pet since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. While this is wonderful news, let's remember that there are fewer practicing veterinarians. To add to this, new safety protocols have altered the flow of daily appointments. Curbside care requires the pet to leave their parent, which for some, may lead to nervousness and more time for the veterinarian to make the pet feel comfortable in the exam room. Curbside care also involves a lot of phone conversations which can sometimes result in a game of phone tag. If the hospital does allow for entry, then usually it is limited to 1 pet parent, the veterinarian, and their technician. Anyone else is asked to either wait in their car or in the waiting area to limit exposure.

So how do we try to relieve some of the stressors affecting pet owners, veterinarians, and pets? Here are a couple of suggestions:

- 1) **Book ahead.** If you know your pet is due for vaccinations in the next few months, give them a call now to ensure availability. Similarly, if you know you are going on vacation next month or two, make sure your pet is current on their vaccinations and has their boarding reservations already set. As a reminder, there is no such thing as an “emergency kennel cough” vaccine.
- 2) **Call ahead for emergency care.** If you are concerned that your pet is experiencing a medical emergency, call your primary care veterinarian to see if they can see your pet that day. If they cannot, then contact the emergency clinic closest to you to see if they are receiving cases and can see your pet. Below is a list of veterinary emergency clinics to keep on hand:
 - a. Veterinary Medical Center in Syracuse, NY (315-446-7933)

- b. Cornell University Companion Animal Hospital in Ithaca, NY (607-253-3060)
 - c. Upstate Veterinary Specialists in Latham, NY (528-783-3198)
 - d. Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Services in Rochester, NY (585-424-1277)
 - e. VCA Colonial Animal Hospital in Ithaca, NY (607-257-3650)
- 3) **Consider telemedicine.** If you are uncertain if your pet needs emergency medical care, then a telemedicine consult may be helpful. Veterinary Medical Center offers a pre-screening triage service with VetTriage. For pet poisonings, please contact Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661 or ASPCA Animal Poison Control at 888-426-4435. There are fees associated with these telemedicine consults.
- 4) **Be kind.** It is wonderful when your pet can be seen in a timely manner to address his/her concerns. It is, however, a frustration when they cannot be. It is not that your pet is valued as less than, it simply means that the veterinarian or veterinary hospital most likely is booked, understaffed, and working through their lunches/breaks to meet patient care and demand. Always keep in mind that veterinarians and pet owners have the same goal in mind—keeping your pet healthy and safe.

Dr. Deanna Rodriguez is a 2009 graduate of Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine and is certified in veterinary spinal manipulative therapy. She currently practices at Manlius Veterinary Hospital in Manlius, New York.

When I am Old...

I shall wear Turquoise and soft gray sweatshirts...and a bandana over my silver hair...
 and I shall spend my Social Security Checks on Sweet Wine and My Dogs...
 and sit in my house on my well-worn chair, and listen to my dog's breathing.
 I will sneak out in the middle of a warm Summer night and take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow...
 and when people come to call, I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs... and talk of them and about them...
 The Ones so Beloved of the Past and the Ones so Beloved of Today...
 I still will work hard cleaning after them and mopping and feeding them
 and whispering their names in a soft, loving way.
 I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat like a jewel, and I will be an embarrassment to all...and my family...
 who have not yet found the peace in being free to have dogs as your Best Friends...
 These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall... and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep,
 to greet you as if you are a God.
 With warm eyes full of adoring love and hope that you will stay and hug their big, strong necks... and
 kiss their dear sweet heads... and whisper to them of your love and the beautiful pleasure of their very special company....
 I look in the Mirror... and see I am getting old.... this is the kind of woman I am...and have always been.
 Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me, accept me for who I am,
 my dogs appreciate my presence in their lives...
 when I am old this will be important to me...
 you will understand when you are old.... and if
 you have dogs to love too.

Author Unknown



TITLE AWARDS 2021

Gemstar's Lightning Strikes (Tanner)

RATM – Barn Hunt Master
DMX – Dock Master Excellent
HDN – Hydrodash Novice
RATCH – Barn Hunt Champion

Storybook's Serenity Murphy M (Murphy)

RA – Rally Advanced
RE – Rally Excellent
DM – Dock Master
HDN – Hydrodash Novice
SCN – Scent Work Container Novice
SIN – Scent Work Interior Novice
SEN – Scent Work Exterior Novice

Painting-Storybook Serenity Duffy R (Duffy)

RE – Rally Excellent
IntCH – International Champion (conformation)
NatCH – National Champion
HDN – Hydrodash Novice
CAN CH – Canadian Champion

Topmast Rain Dancer (Dancer)

RN – Rally Novice
BN – Beginner Novice
NA – Novice Agility
OAJ – Open Agility Jumper
NF – Agility FAST Novice
AXJ – Excellent Agility Jumper
OA – Open Agility
CCA – Certificate of Conformation Assessment
OF -Agility FAST Open

Emeline's Fishin for the Big One (Burleigh)

RN – Rally Novice

Wynwood's Shining Star

WC – Working Certificate (field)
RN – Rally Novice

Five O'Clock Rocks (Wilson)

MBJ – Master Bronze Jumper
JH – Junior Hunter
ADHF – Agility Dog Hall of Fame
VCX – Versatility Certificate Excellent



Versatility Award

Julie DeKing and Tanner

RA – Rally Advanced
AX – Agility Excellent
JH – Junior Hunter
CD – Companion Dog (obedience)
BCAT (150 points toward FASTCat)
VC – Versatility Certificate
WCX – Working Certificate Excellent (field)
MX – Master Agility Excellent

TITLE AWARDS 2021

Twincreek's Fight Song (Demi)

NA – Novice Agility
NAJ – Novice Agility Jumper
OAJ – Open Agility Jumper
CCA – Certificate of Conformation Assessment
OA – Open Agility
AXJ – Excellent Agility Jumper
AX – Agility Excellent
DM – Dock Master

Waynewood How Sweet It Is (Lyla)

CDX – Companion Dog Excellent
SCN – Scent Work Container Novice
SIN – Scent Work Interior Novice

GRCA National Specialty Ocala Florida

The National was held the week of October 22-30, 2021 in and around Ocala Florida.

It started with Master, Senior and Junior Hunt Test and WcWex at the Lazy J Ranch, From what I understand they had a wildlife expert keeping the pond clear of gators. Former member Erin Burch posted pictures of alligator road kill. The field trial also was held at the same location mid week with Open, Derby, Amateur and Qualifying classes.

The International Equine Center held the remaining events. This center had many outdoor and indoor equine arenas equipped with all the most updated technology. All the action was on 3 jumbo screens. The Equestrienne hotel in the center of it all was stunning.

GRCA had access to two huge arenas with a sandy floor that was good for dog events, I was an evaluator for the CCA and we had a full compliment of entries.

The Golden Foundation Gala was a huge event hosting the Top 20 dogs from 2020 and 2021. Everyone glammed as it was Derby theme. Sorry I did not have room in my luggage for a hat. The Best of Breed judging started on Friday and ended at 8pm Saturday.

I got home in time to see the last groups and finalists via ACKTv.

Yes, I was exhausted as I headed out of Orlando airport, but it was great to see my golden people, meet new ones from around the country, help out with judges education, give out armbands and cheer on some great dogs.

I never did buy anything from the vendors but came home with three tote bags loaded with loot.

Beth Greenfield



“Carol Allen Memorial Golden Member Award

Deanna Rodriguez was awarded Carol Allen Memorial Golden Member Award.

“Deanna came to GRCCNY first as a speaker. She educated us about canine chiropractic care, which is one of her areas of expertise. She also owns an active Golden, Bentley.

She joined the club about 5 years ago full of enthusiasm and great ideas. Her love of the breed and her care for animals and the education of their owners has been evident since the beginning. Deanna has been a true asset to the club. She volunteers regularly, is always eager to help and attends just about every event.

She stepped up to become our secretary three years ago and has done a wonderful job. She also got involved with our speaker thank you gifts on her own, feeling that it was really important to recognize each person individually. She took the time to find just the right gift and then she donated the gift to the club. She also noticed that the website for the club was outdated and began researching and designing a new site spending many hours and over a year working on our new site.



Deanna and Bentley

Deanna consistently represents our club. She is a true friend and champion for our Golden breed. Always anxious to learn more and to contribute, we have seen her progress with Bentley. In addition, she has been an advocate for us at several community events and volunteers frequently including at the eye and heart clinic for the full day. Ready to help out in any way she can, we all recognize her value and appreciate her tireless efforts.

She is co-chair for our 2022 Fun Day with Julie DeKing and I know the two of them have been planning a terrific day that we won't want to miss.”



Deanna Rodriguez, Billy Lockhart, and Bentley

Heart of Gold Award

Journey to GRCA National Specialty 2021

by Rue Chagoll
ruechagoll@gmail.com

Ocala, Florida appoints itself the horse capital of the world. Proof to that brag began to unfurl as we drove the last fifty miles of our two day journey from central New York. Dozens and dozens of huge horse pastures blanketed the landscape, with ornate gateways spaced miles apart on either side of the highway. Absolutely gorgeous countryside. But the most eye-popping sight lay yet ahead.

The World Equestrian Center, opened just a year prior, sprawling over 300 acres in the midst of this horse country, is one of the most amazing sights I've ever beheld. The notion it conjured in my mind is Disney World for horses and horse people. The list of facilities and attractions on the grounds boggles the mind. Consider just these few: Five arenas and two exposition centers, each one equivalent in size to the new Expo Center at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse! Twenty horse barns with more than 2,000 individual climate controlled stalls. Eighteen outdoor rings. Dozens of turnout paddocks. And on and on. Take a few minutes to view the online brochure at <https://worldequestriancenter.com/ocala-fl/>

Our only cause for pause came as we first entered the arena to set up crates and gear for the agility trial. The floor ... wasn't a solid floor. It was ... sand. But the footing was terrific for all the events – agility, obedience, conformation – and both handlers and dogs performed well on it. Only later did we learn this wasn't just ordinary sand, but a scientifically formulated sand/clay composite, the texture and resilience of which could be climate-adjusted for specific performance requirements.

Lisa Mitchell and I spent six days in Ocala at a rented Airbnb, complete with fenced yard for Rook and Lexi to unwind after each day's activities. Four days we devoted to the National with entries in agility/obedience/rally, visit to a hunt test, watching breed competition, taking advantage of an excellent eye clinic, shopping of course, and most importantly – renewing old acquaintances and forging new friendships. We also did the tourist stuff, checking out several excellent area restaurants, glass bottom boat ride in famed Silver Springs state park, and this being horse country – yup, a two hour trail ride. Note to those who may be wondering: Titanium hip joints flex quite well in the saddle! The mounting and dismounting wasn't pretty, but yours truly nevertheless grinned like a kid.

Now, let pictures tell the rest of the story. Enjoy! RC



Agility rings had their own building. Exhibitors had ample room to align crates around the perimeter. Facing away in the foreground, Lisa Mitchell waits for a call to walk-through. She competed in Master classes with Rook, and Novice with Lexi. Handlers enjoyed running on the special sand/clay composition; footing was excellent and the surface was easy on feet.



Breed, obedience and rally obedience competition shared an arena, separated by merchandise tables offering everything Golden and everything GRCA, along with an impressive array of all GRCA's national trophies. Giant overhead screens projected live action in both breed rings throughout competition, viewable from anywhere in the galleries or on the floor. Every member club's banner, including our own, was prominently displayed opposite the breed rings.



Sign of the times. Participants complied, and huge spacious arenas with superb ventilation made for a secure-feeling environment.



Participants queue for the very popular CCA evaluations in a corridor near the breed rings. Our own Beth Greenfield was one of the judging panel. Thank you, Beth for this and one of the conformation ring photos!

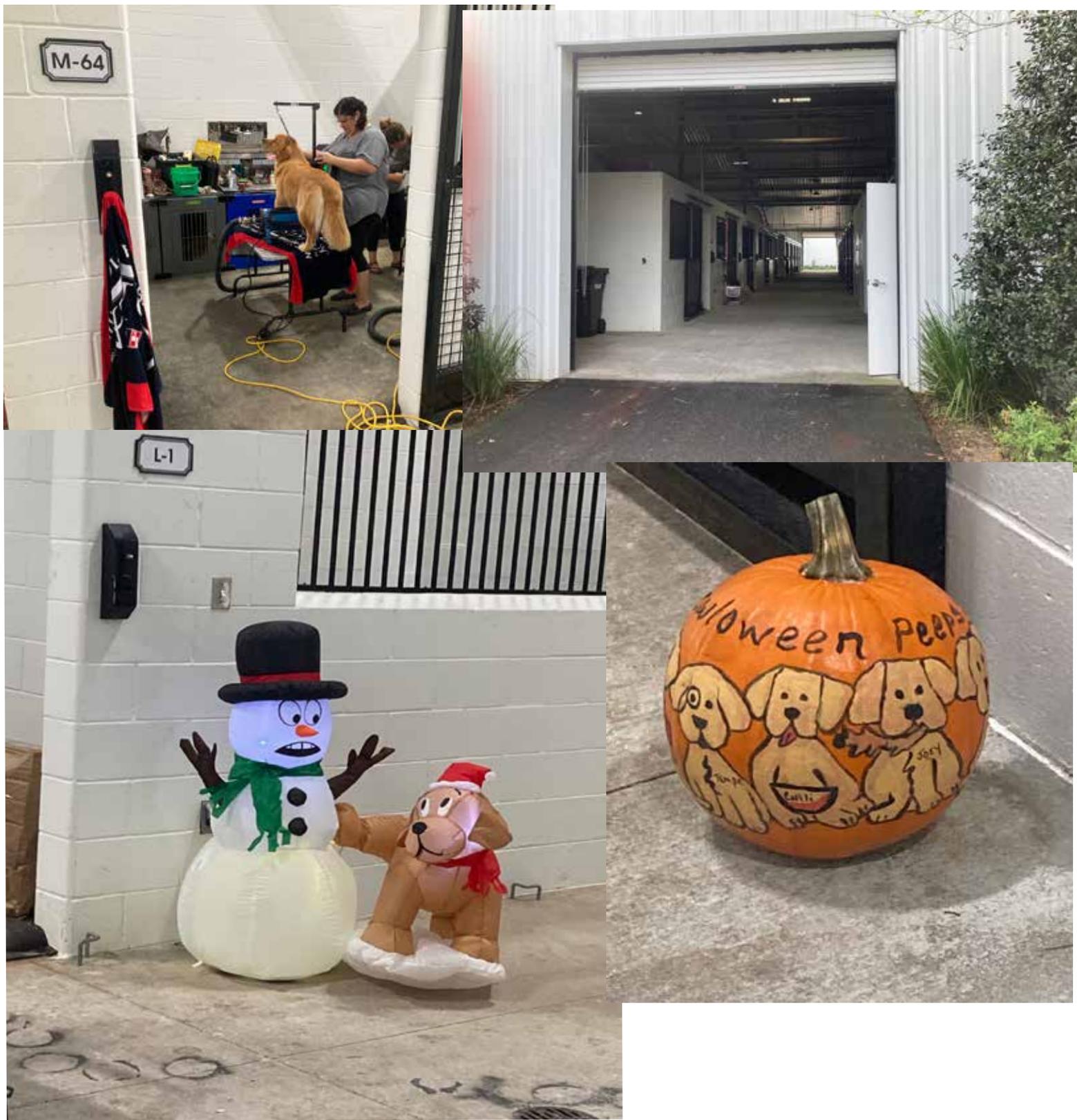


A terrific veterinary ophthalmologist from Purdue University gave Rook a very thorough examination utilizing several state-of-the-art instruments, screening for GRPU (Golden Retriever Pigmentary Uveitis). "Good News: results negative!"





Obedience and rally obedience competitors had ample crating space in proximity to rings. Lisa Mitchell and Rook strutted their stuff in two obedience and three rally classes, accumulating a fistful of qualifying and placement ribbons. Rue Chagoll and Lexi earned a green ribbon in Rally Intermediate and celebrated a near-qualifying run in Novice obedience.



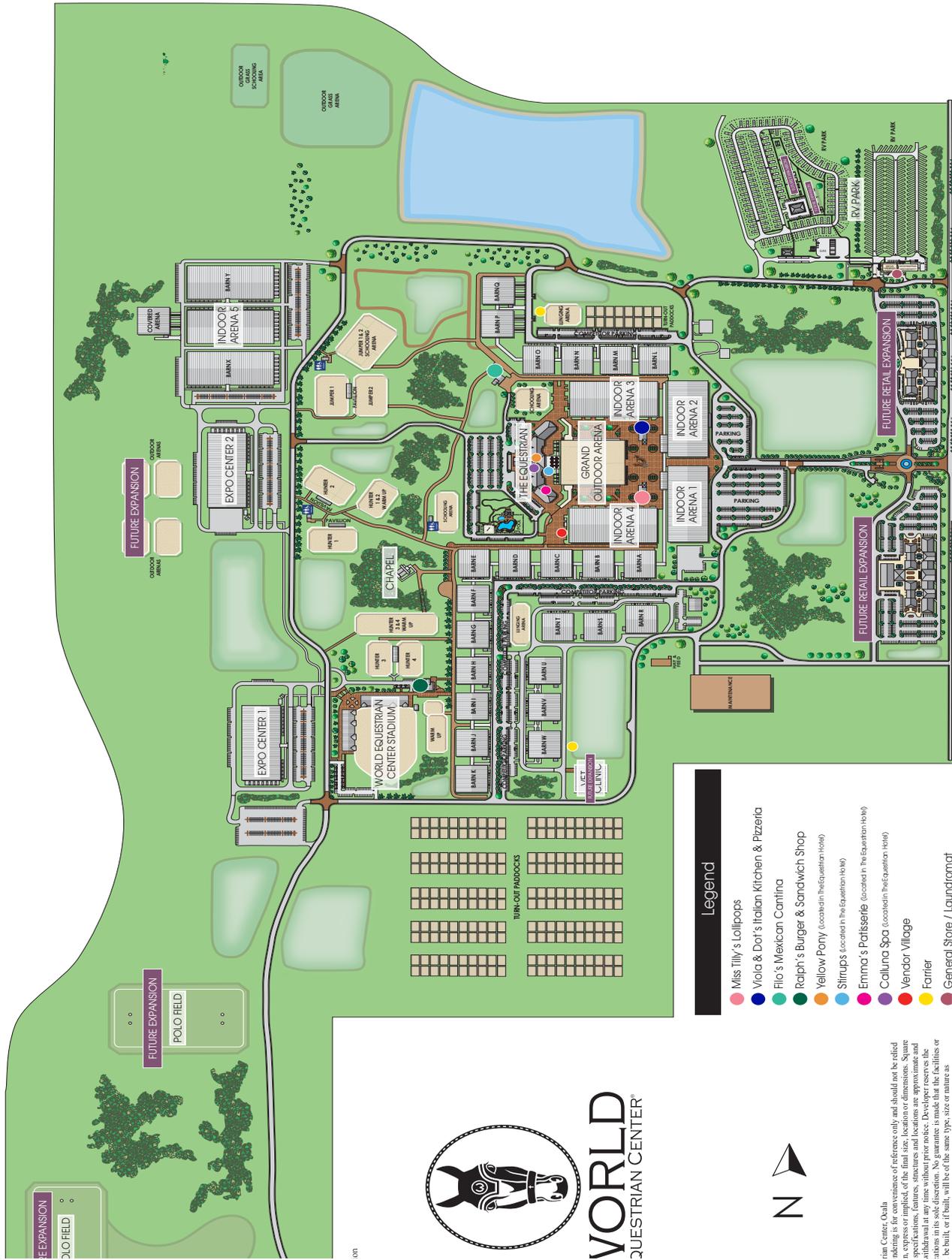
Many breed competitors rented individual horse stalls to set up and do their grooming in an immaculate and wonderfully social-distanced environment. Bathing facilities abounded in each barn and stalls could be locked overnight to secure gear. And in tradition of the equine world, many chose to adorn their stalls in seasonal themes. Take a close look to understand why Frosty the Snowman appears to be panicking!



We visited a land series at the Junior stake one day so Lisa (still somewhat a newbie to field) could see first-hand what she and Rook would need one day to do to earn a Junior Hunter title.



No trip to the national would be complete without some time out for R&R. Lisa Mitchell rewards herself for a successful day with an adult beverage of the margarita variety while awaiting dinner on an open air but screened porch overlooking a scenic lake near Ocala. Rue and Lexi enjoyed a stop at Hilton Head Island on the return trip home for a tennis ball romp on the beach. And hey, you can't visit horse country without going for a test drive!



The World Equestrian Center is advertised as the largest equine sports facility anywhere in the world. Of the 7 huge (each 130,000 sq.ft.) indoor facilities, our National Specialty occupied but two (arenas 2 & 3). More facility information on the WEC may be found at <https://worldequestriancenter.com/ocala-fl/>



Golden Retriever Club of Central New York Inc.
PO Box 2812
Syracuse, NY 13220-2812

Change Service Requested



Upcoming Events



Looking ahead in 2022

February

10 General meeting @7pm

March

20 OKA Match

SOTC Building - Deere Rd Syracuse

April

4 Salt City Specialty
NYS Exposition Center

14 General meeting @7pm