

# The Retriever Believer

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 33, Number 4, April 2016



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*Bonus Says,*



*Labs Need Obedience  
See page 7*

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**April 20, Board Meeting, teleconf.**  
**May 7,8, Spring HRT, Peppers, Liz Gibson**  
**June 11, B Match, Jennifer Hajny & MJ Sarbaugh**  
**June 11, Membership & Board Meeting**  
**June 18, Fun Match, Renton Park, Lizzie Moir**

**Newsletter Information:****Publishing of an article or advertisement**

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**Submissions must be received by the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Please use "newsletter ideas" in subject line.

*The Retriever Believer* is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association. Non-member subscriptions are \$20/year. Contributions in the form of articles, letters or money are always welcome. Letters to the editor should not exceed one page of typeset in the newsletter. It is our goal to provide an open forum where members can present their views to the club. The editor and the board of directors reserve the right to decline publication of advertising and other material submitted for publication.

*The Retriever Believer* will publish brags (free) and Puppy Referral litter listings provided a club member owns either the sire or the dam and a \$10 listing fee has been paid to Puppy Referral. All litter listings and litter advertising must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

Editor: Fran Seagren

Layout: Chris Roth

**Membership in the PSLRA is open to anyone interested in Labrador retrievers. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families. Junior memberships are \$10 (for a separate listing in the membership book and a separate newsletter).** Please note that new members require the signature of two sponsors on the application form.

Requests for information, applications and/or payment of dues should be addressed to:

**Stephanie Harris, Membership Chair**

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**club business****March members, board meeting**

PSLRA Board and General Membership Meeting was held Wednesday, March 23, 2016, Factoria, Washington. Meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by Stephanie Harris. In attendance were Officers and Board of Directors: Shelah Frey, Jill Mahoney, Marlys Swanson, Nina Mann, Diane Sullenberger, Stephanie Harris, Brenda Hubbard, Lizzie Moir, Kimberly Dotson, Marcy Johnson, and Jennifer Hajny. Members present were Mary Jane Sarbaugh and Jim Olson.

**Officers Reports**

*President:* Stephanie Harris—There were comments on the chat list about the club not holding a Spring Field Fun day. Unfortunately we did not have any volunteers step up to chair this event, and without volunteers our events don't happen. We welcome volunteers and NEED volunteers to run our events. If you are interested in chairing, co-chairing, or volunteering at a club event, please contact Stephanie Harris.

*Vice President:* Shelah Frey— Also mentioned Fun field day was put off and grounds are not available at this time.

*Secretary:* Jennifer Hajny— Correspondence received from AKC regarding recent events that have closed. Received contracts for five of the hunt test judges.

*Treasurer:* Jill Mahoney—Report available upon request. A reminder that in accordance with our bylaws, we are not able to accept checks from Canada. All funds must be drawn from a US bank, through PayPal, or money order. Contact Jill Mahoney with questions.

**Acknowledgements**

The PSLRA Board would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering at recent club activities:

*Board and Membership Meeting:* Thank you Shelah for finding a location.

*Seattle Kennel Club:* Marcy Johnson, Denise Hetland, Cathy Hakola, Dana Richmond, Stacey Gnyp, Kari Sharpe Audette, Janis Churchill and daughter, Bea Ferguson, Paul Guttenburg, Jeleen Guttenburg, Jill Mahoney, Stephanie Harris, and Linda Maffett. A special thank you to Marcy Johnson for getting new posters for the booth that include an

illustrated standard and the true colors of the Labrador.

*Meet the Breeds:* Paul Gothenburg, Jeleen Guttenburg, Linda Maffett, Bea Ferguson, Angela Rogalla, Denise Hetland and her daughter, Stephanie Harris, and Jill Mahoney

**Committee Reports**

*Variable Surface Tracking and Tracking*

*Dog Urban Tests Recap:* See write up, description, and acknowledgements by Franna Pitt elsewhere in this newsletter.

*Seattle Kennel Club Recap:* Marlys reported it went super! We had volunteers for each time slot. Lots of positive feed back on the booth. We need to add a few items for the booth, a fire extinguisher and cleanup supplies, before the next event. The new posters looked great. It was recommended we provide talking points for booth volunteers that include do's and don'ts. See acknowledgments for list of volunteers that helped.

*Meet the Breed Recap:* Maryls made suggestion to provide hand wash for people petting the dogs next year. See write up and acknowledgements by Marlys elsewhere in this newsletter.

*Field Chair Report:* Jim Olson reported the need to purchase poppers and a case of shells. Motion by Jill Mahoney to purchase the items requested by Jim. Seconded by Shelah Frey. Motion passed unanimously.

*Rescue Report:* Look for the report in this newsletter, along with the 2015 rescue statistics.

*Hunt Tests:* Email from Liz Gibson stating bird cost will be less than last year; this is a correction from the February BOD minutes. Everything is on track. Pat Murphy is going to purchase the bird crates from the club. Judges are all approved.

*Fun Match:* June 18 at Renton park. Full slate of judges. All-breed obedience is being offered. Terrie Sato will be taking pre-entries for the Match. Day of match entries will cost more than pre-entries. Budget will be submitted via email.

*Agility Trials:* Jill reported the judges have been approved. AKC fees have been paid, as well as the deposit for the site.

*Specialty 2016:* Working hard and getting everything lined up. Judges have been

approved. New jumps need to be purchased. Motion by Kim Dotson to purchase a new set of jumps, Diane Sullenberger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Jill Mahoney and Lizzie Moir are co-chairing the event with Terrie Sato obedience chair. Christina Richmond is the rally chair.

*Health Clinic:* September 25. Venue is most likely at Riverdog in Issaquah. We are still working out the details. Doctors are on board. Looking for a volunteer vet for the DNA swabs.

*Fall WC:* Looking at dates in September. Kim and Chris Dotson are chairing the event. Watch for more details.

#### Old Business

*Policy on judges' gifts*—Policy will stay the same at this time.

*Event judges' contacts*—Contacts will be sent to the BOD for review via email.

#### New Business

*Specialty Fundraising*—Stud Dog Auction. The membership discussed the benefits of holding a stud dog auction at this year's specialty. Mary Jane Sarbaugh made a motion to strike the last sentence of the code of ethics regarding the stud dog auction. Brenda seconded the motion. Votes: in favor-8, opposed-2, abstained-1. Motion passed.

*Sponsorships*—The club has never asked for sponsorship for our KISS show, but it was suggested the KISS specialty be included in the sponsorships. Diane Sullenberger made a motion to solicit sponsorships for the KISS specialty classes. Shelah Frey seconded motion. Motion approved unanimously. For the second day Annual Specialty, it was suggested we raise the sponsorship fees as the fees have not been raised in thirteen years. Marlys Swanson made a motion to raise the sponsorship from \$25.00 to \$30.00 for the Annual show, and to add sponsorships of \$20 for KISS. The larger awards will be listed for more. Shelah Frey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

We need your sponsorship!! Please contact Zoelea Jones Vey (ezvey@mtaonline.net) to sign up for class sponsorships.

*Awards, Medallions, and Pins*—Nina noted that we only have one medallion left

for the award plaques, but she has more with clips. Nina is going to cut the "clip" part off and use them on the award plaques. There are also 300 pins that will be put to use at the specialty.

#### Open Discussion

—Marcy Johnson has a new specialty site she is willing to go look at. She will report back to the Board.

—Brenda Hubbard needs more decals. She will contact Linda Maffett.

Next Teleconference April 20. There will be another membership meeting June 18 in conjunction with the Fun Match.

Adjourned: 8:50

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## The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. - 2015 CHF Award

#### From the President of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing diseases in all dogs, celebrated 20 years of canine health research milestones at the 5th annual *Canines & Cocktails* event in December 2015. The following was posted on the CHF website:

*"The AKC Canine Health Foundation is proud to highlight two decades of innovative research funding, providing dog owners with education and information on canine health,"* said Susan Lilly, chief executive officer of CHF.

*"This event is an opportunity to celebrate the many diverse and successful areas where our donors and investigators have impacted the lives of dogs and their people. Without the support of those who recognize the importance of what we do, these efforts could not continue."*

As part of the evening's festivities, The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. received the **2015 CHF President's Award** recognizing the club's exceptional contributions for advancing canine health. Since 2002, the Club has contributed over **\$344,477** to support canine health research.

According to Dr. Diane Brown, CHF Chief Scientific Officer, *"The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. truly exemplifies the spirit of giving for the benefit of canine health. Their generosity and dedicated efforts to advance quality health research in partnership with CHF is making a difference for the world's beloved Labrador Retrievers and all dogs."*

We couldn't have done this without your interest and support!

My congratulations to each of you,

**Fred Kampo**  
President  
The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

# Rescue Report

## Lab rescue statistics for 2015

Here is a summary of our rescue activities in 2015. The total number of Labs “reported” includes those in Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue (SPDR) reports from the area shelters and does not reflect the number of Labs that we handled in our rescue program. Many of these Labs were adopted right from the shelters, either by shelter clients or by SPDR applicants that we referred to specific Labs at the shelters. Most of the Labs that we placed directly through our rescue program came from owners who could no longer keep their Labs, or from shelter dogs with medical or behavioral needs that we cared for in one of our foster homes. This number, though, gives a broad picture of the Labs in the Puget Sound area needing new homes in 2015.

Total Labs reported - 130

Males: 88

Females: 42

Age

0 - 2 years: 38

3 - 6 years: 36

7+ years: 56

Spayed/neutered

Yes: 91

No: 29

Unknown: 10

Origin

Shelter: 92

Owner: 34

Other: 4

Outcome

Owner kept: 2

Owner placed: 6

Left with owner: 1 (unplaceable)

Left in shelter: 14 (outcome unknown)

Adopted by shelter clients: 67

Redeemed by owner: 8

Returned to breeder: 1

Adopted by SPDR adopter: 25

Euthanized: 6 (age-1, health-3, temperament-2)



Recently adopted 8-year old Boston

## Successful Meet the Breed

Greetings all,

This year, the *Meet the Breed* event at Seattle Kennel Club was a huge success.

For those that aren't familiar with *Meet the Breed*, Seattle Kennel Club has rings set up for clubs to come and share information with the public about their breed. Each club is allowed approximately thirty minutes. The public comes into the ring and has the opportunity to meet and play with our dogs. It is a great opportunity for people to talk with breeders and owners and learn more about our Labradors. This is different from the breed booth that we staff upstairs.

This year Seattle Kennel Club had three rings set up so that there were three breeds featured all at the same time. We had a wonderful array of all three colors of Labs. The ring was filled with many families looking at our dogs and asking questions. The ring was pretty much full the entire time and I couldn't even keep track of how many visitors came and went. The public really enjoys this event.

I would like to thank all those who came and shared their dogs.

Paul and Jeleen Guttenberg

Linda Maffet

Bea Ferguson

Angela Rogalla

Denise Hetland and her daughter

Stephanie Harris

Jill Mahoney

If I missed anyone, PLEASE let me know!

Marlys Swanson



## Tracking Tests Run Smooth

Sunday, February 28, 2016, marked the third PSLRA Tracking Dog Urban and Variable Surface Tracking tests. These are AKC's urban versions of tracking tests and include areas of non-vegetation (asphalt, bark, concrete) as well as vegetation (lawn, grass). The TDU, or Tracking Dog Urban is the newest title, and is an entry-level urban track. The VST, or Variable Surface Tracking test, is the most difficult of AKC's four tracking tests. As of now, we have had three dogs pass at our TDU tests, one each year, and none as of yet, in our VST test.

This weekend was lovely for tracking. Plotting day, Saturday, found all the tracklayers, most of the committee members and the judges spending the day in mild and sunny weather plotting the tracks for Sunday's tests. Our PSLRA tracklayers were Nina Mann and Lee Foote with Michelle Brown doing chief tracklayer duties for the TDU tracklayers. We had several non-PSLRA members committing two full days as tracklayers for the tests - Patty Moon, Sarah Kahn, Judy James, and Rene Romberg. Jan Palumbo served as Secretary for the tests and won the cuteness prize by bringing her new puppy for everyone to dote on. Fred Drennan and Maggie Susman also served on the committee and were entered in the tests.

Sunday morning, we all met again at Headquarters in Hamlin Park, Shoreline, being joined by the cadre of nervous handlers. The light, intermittent rain kept the scent fresh, even if it wasn't quite as comfortable for the workers as plotting day. In and around Hamlin Park and Fircrest School, four dogs had their shot at the TDU test tracks, and one at the VST. One dog, a Black and Tan Coonhound from Oregon, followed the good scent and is now the first Black and Tan Coonhound with an AKC TDU title. Nina got the award for stinky feet, as her tracklayer. We then moved to the east side of Lake Washington and St. Edwards Park and Bastyr University. One more had a chance at the TDU, and two at the VST. The Clumber Spaniel came within a few yards of passing. All the other dogs showed tracking prowess, but didn't quite make the grade this time.

Two Labradors were entered, and both did nice work on their tracks, just not quite good enough to earn the coveted titles.

After the test, we were all treated to a fabulous brunch, compliments of Fred Drennan and Terry Massagli. It is worth coming to the event just for the food! Our judges, Sil Sanders and Stephanie Gonyeau gave us a synopsis of the tracks and awarded the Coonhound a framed certificate and PSLRA medallion.

*Franna Pitt*

Carla Curtis with newly titled, Wyeast Where's Waldo TD shown with our judges Stephanie Gonyeau on the left and Sil Sanders on the right.

Carla Curtis, the owner from Salem, Oregon, was really thrilled to now own the first Black and tan Coonhound in the U.S. with a Tracking Dog Urban title. I had the pleasure of laying her track. It was a good test and we are only sorry that neither of the Labradors entered, one in TDU and one in Variable Surface Tracking, were able to pass these two hardest tracking tests.

*Nina Mann*



# Obedience Keeps Dogs Happy and Safe

by Terrie Sato

Do you have a young dog in need of a job? Or, perhaps you have a retired show dog or a rescue dog in need of a new career. Maybe your hunting dog is looking depressed now that hunting season is over. Setting a goal to earn obedience titles can be a lot of fun as well as a great bonding experience for dog and owner. Training for obedience titles can be rewarding and probably won't take as much time as you think.

Getting started is easy. You will need a leash, a collar, a long line (about twenty feet of light rope with a snap on the end), a dumbbell and some treats. A platform is an optional handy piece of equipment. There are three subjects your dog needs to learn in order to earn a Novice title. These are *heel*, *come* and *stay*. Two additional skills, the retrieve and jumping, are needed to earn a CDX and Utility title. You can work on these skills concurrently to build a long obedience career for you and your dog.

*Come* when called, or *recall*, is one of the most important commands we teach all of our dogs. If you have a puppy, you must take the puppy outside to potty several times a day. Think how easy it is to practice a recall if every time you take your puppy out, it is wearing a long line. Keep treats in your pocket. When your pup has finished airing, call it to you. If your pup does not come on the first call, pick up the long line and give a little tug as you move away. Reward with praise, play, and a treat when your pup comes to you. If you take your pup out six times a day, you have practiced six recalls every day. In a week's time you will have practiced *come* when called forty-two times! That goes a long way towards building a solid recall.

*Heel* is a position. The dog is positioned on your left side with its shoulder in line with your knee. This is true whether you are standing still or moving. The picture on the left shows an example of the heel position. Bonus is lined up with Lee Foote in the heel position looking



attentively at Lee. Attention is ideal, though the obedience regulations do not list "attention" as a requirement. You will want your dog's attention because if your dog is watching you, it will not be sniffing the ground, pulling on the leash or watching the activities in the next ring. Your dog will be obedient if it is paying attention to you.

The first technique you will use to teach your dog attention as well as other positions is called *luring*. By using a piece of food you can lure your dog to look at you and you can lure your dog into a position. Lee is using a treat to demonstrate luring Bonus into a stand while in heel position. At first the dog is rewarded immediately. It is a good idea to use a praise word before you reward with

the treat. This word might be *Good*, *Yes*, *Wow*, or anything you choose that sounds like sincere praise. This is similar to using a clicker. "Click and treat" is the mantra. A clicker is clumsy in my hands, so I prefer a praise word. "Say it and pay it" is my mantra. Both techniques are effective, so use what works for you. The idea is to eventually no longer need to lure the dog into



Obedience, *continued from page 7*

position. While withholding the treat, the dog will offer the behavior that has produced the reward in the past and you can praise and give a delayed reward. In this way, the dog will learn to come to heel position and even walk in heel position. But enough of behavioral psychology, here is your beginning heel homework.

1. With your dog sitting in front of you and the leash attached, have treats in your hand. When your dog looks at you, “praise and treat.”
2. When your dog is looking at you a lot, move yourself to your dog’s side. Again, praise and treat when the dog is looking at you. Use the leash to help keep the dog in heel position if it wants to move to sit in front. You are telling the dog that it is rewarded for attention in front (needed later for the recall exercise) and in heel position. Feed with your left hand so that you do not draw the dog across your body.
3. Using your leash to keep control, say “heel” and walk slowly in a straight line with food in your left hand held just over your dog’s head. Be sure to reward your dog along the way. Perhaps at three steps, five steps or ten steps depending on the ease with which the dog can walk along with you and keep focus. When your dog is successful at a slow pace, move to the next step.
4. Say “heel” and walk at a normal pace, in a straight line, with food in your left hand held just over your dog’s head. “Praise and reward” for good attention.

If you spend five minutes every day teaching your dog to heel, this process might take a week or maybe a little longer depending on your dog. When you think your dog can follow the lure at a normal pace at home, take the show on the road. Can your dog sit and pay attention at the park, a schoolyard or in front of a grocery store? You are now adding distractions and putting your dog in new situations. Be patient. You may need to start over with step one in each new location.

Be careful. Do not believe your dog understands the command *heel* just because it can walk in heel position while following a lure. If I follow a friend in a red car to get to a destination, I still will not know how to get there on my own. I’ve been busy keeping track of the red car and not learning the way. But I will feel more comfortable the next time I go because the path is familiar. Eventually, I am so familiar with the road that arriving at the destination is easy even without following my friend. It has become a comfortable habit. It is the same with dogs. They must learn their obedience commands to the point where they become habits. This happens over time, but following a lure initially is the beginning of forming that habit.

The *stay* command can be difficult for dogs to understand. Dogs do well with commands that call for action. However, the *stay* implies a lack of action and can be tricky to explain. This is a command that requires a high standard in training. At home, do not tell your dog to “stay” if you are not prepared to maintain and enforce the command. Find a casual command such as *place* or *go to your bed* to keep your dog out from under foot. In training, keep your dog on leash and stay close as you teach the *sit/stay* and *down/stay* commands.

The use of a platform can be helpful in teaching the *stay*. In the picture Cindy Olson is using a lure to teach Shadow to sit on her platform. Jim Olson helps Shadow learn to stay on her platform by holding her in place. She is quite young but will quickly learn the difference

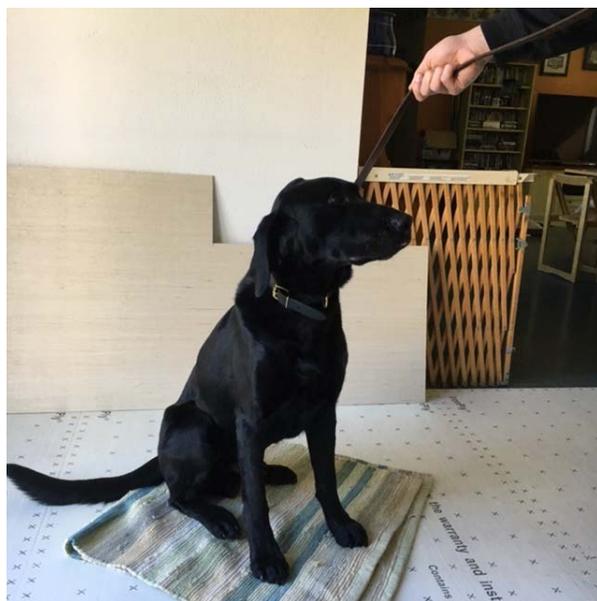


between staying on her platform and making the mistake of jumping off to the ground. Shadow can also learn to down/stay on her platform as demonstrated in the picture showing Cindy luring Shadow into the down position.

When working on the *stay* exercise be sure your dog feels safe. In the picture below, the flooring is slippery so Bravo is sitting on a rug. His handler's hand is on the leash ready to slide up to keep him sitting in place if needed.



Here's an idea for a practice assignment. During a TV commercial, practice a *sit/stay* with your dog. During the next commercial, practice a *down/stay*. During the third commercial, practice another *sit/stay*." Three *stay* practices a day make for twenty-one in a week. Good job dog training! You've accomplished a lot. You'll be in the obedience ring in no time!



A special thanks to Lee Foote and Bonus, Jim and Cindy Olson and Shadow and Bravo and Andy Sato for their help.



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*Volunteering  
is Fun!*

