

# THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association



Volume 22, Number 12, December 2005

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## President's Message

*PSLRA has a full calendar of events planned for 2006. The first is our Awards Banquet January 14 at the Best Western in Puyallup. The guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Salewski, DVM, who will speak about alternative health care for our dogs. Hope to see you all there.*

*In 2006 PSLRA will continue to work on our goal of involving more new members in club activities by offering more fun/training days. This year we will have five club-sponsored training opportunities: an obedience/rally fun match, a field and tracking fun/training day, our five series, an agility/rally/obedience fun/training day, and we will offer training in conformation handling prior to the judging and obedience run-throughs after the judging at our sanctioned match. These events are always fun. They give us an opportunity to train and to meet new people and learn from each other. Look on the PSLRA website for our Calendar of Events for 2006.*

*We will also continue our goal of providing information for puppy buyers about what to consider in buying a Labrador and for breeders on what their responsibilities are as breeders. Several of our breeders have developed a set of Guidelines for Puppy Breeders and Buyers. You can find these on our website!*

*Finally, we have a new goal this year which is volunteer recognition. The heart of our club is its volunteers, and we appreciate all who work so hard to make our events successful. This year we will be offering a special award for the "volunteer of the year" and we will be looking for other ways throughout the year to recognize the people in the club who work so hard to make our club outstanding.*

*Hoping the holidays and the New Year bring all of you the best! -Jan*



Cheri Levine and Leslie Douglas check out the gifts from the Christmas party gift exchange.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**January 7, Sho 'n Go  
practice, agility, rally &  
obedience, Argus  
Ranch, Debbie**

**Addicoat 206-992-4166**

**January 14 Awards Banquet,  
Puyallup, see page 9  
for details**

**January 28 & 29, Patti  
Schaefer Performance  
Dog Seminar, Family  
Dog Center,  
www.familydogonline.com**

Newsletter Information:

**Publishing of an article or advertisement  
does not constitute endorsement or  
agreement by the PSLRA.**

All submissions should be sent to:

Terrie Sato, Editor

31902 NE 139<sup>th</sup> St.

Duvall, WA 98019

e-mail: WDSato@aol.com

**Submissions must be received by the editor  
by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month.**

*The Retriever Believer* is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association in the interest of providing information and promoting the Labrador retriever. 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 other advertising of litters must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

**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:  
**Chantel Nahoopii, Membership Chair  
3413 Woodcrest Lane  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284  
koalabs@msn.com**

club business

## December General Meeting Minutes

The December general membership meeting of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association was called to order by President Jan Palumbo at 4:30 p.m. at the Everett Skills Center on Saturday, December 10, 2005.

Jan thanked Karen Coulombe and Heide Savidge for their work hosting and decorating for the Holiday Party.

Jan introduced and thanked the Nominating Committee, composed of Terrie Sato, chairperson; Barb Ironside, and Marlys Swanson, regular members; and Sharon Edwards and Merlyn Foote, alternates.

The following slate of Officers and Directors nominated by the committee were presented:

President – Jan Palumbo  
Vice President – Dave Lawniczak  
Treasurer – Darlene Pado  
Secretary – Carole Jensen  
Directors: Kristi Clark, Bea Ferguson, Stephanie Harris, Becky Jack, Cheri Levine, Linda Maffett, Nina Mann, Chantel Nahoopii, Ron Perry, and Susie Sharp.

The meeting was then opened to nominations from the floor. Linda Maffett nominated Vicki Hoskinson, and Vicki accepted the nominations. No other nominations were made so nominations were closed. A question was asked whether all the nominees could serve on the Board or whether there was a limit. There is no upper limit on the number of board members so all the nominees can potentially serve on the board if they are voted in. The slate as presented with the addition of Vicki Hoskinson was then approved.

Cheri Levine announced that volunteers were needed to staff our booth at the Sportsman Show and asked them to contact her.

Jan asked if anyone had any other business to bring up at the meeting, and as no one had anything else to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

–Jan Palumbo for Becky Jack, Secretary



## Membership

*Correction:*

Barbara and Harvey Hazen  
PO Box 307  
1649 Progressive Rd  
Wapato, WA 98951  
509-833-9705 and 509-833-9715

*e-mail change:*

Kenny Hubach  
kenny.hubach@thenewstribune.com

## Braggs

Tio finished his Rally Novice title at the Canada Del Oro show in Tucson. He went three for three. He is now **BISS Ch SR Belgairn Pictionary RN WC**. Tio is owned, trained and handled by Terry McFadden.

On November 26, 2005, at the Elsie Murray Kennel Club Shows in Cloverdale, B.C., **Int'l CH Fawnhaven Mischief Maker Delphi Am/Can CD JH WC CGC**, Murphy, finished his CKC CD. All three of Murphy's qualifying scores were second place finishes. Murphy was bred by Keith and Janice Anderson and is owned and loved by Darlene Pado and Barb and Don Ironside.

**Am/Can ShaRay's Nikolas of Whidbey JH** took Best of Breed both days at the Whidbey Island Kennel Club show. Nick was bred by Sharon Edwards and Christy Hoagland and is co-owned by Sharon Edwards and Ron Perry. He was beautifully handled in best of breed and the group ring by Tonya Struble, shown celebrating with Nick at right.

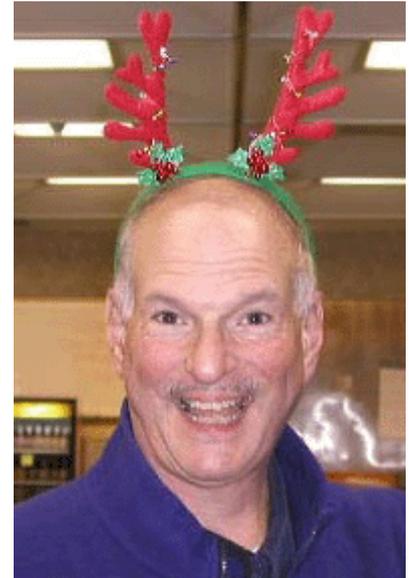


**Quail Run's Hot August Nite, CD WC CGC** finished his CD on Sunday, November 20 at Whidbey Island Kennel Club. His first leg was earned at the Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club in October, and legs two and three were earned at Whidbey Island Kennel Club. Gus is owned, bred and trained by Cindy Freeman, Quail Run Labradors.

**Int. CH. Cimarron Sam-I-Am of Cougar Creek, CD, CGC** finished his CD title at WIKC on November 19, 2005. Sam went three for three for his title, starting with the Chuckanut trials earlier this month. Sam is trained/handled by Cecilie Drege, Cougar Creek Labradors, and was bred by Laura Steward, DVM.

## Christmas Party

Ron Perry shows off his reindeer antlers, top, and Richard and Christina Ramay make an entrance, below.



## Volunteers Needed For The Sportsman Show

It's that time again. January 25 through January 29 is the Puyallup Sportsman Show. This show is a great opportunity for our club to exhibit the versatility of our breed and educate the public. PLSRA and Cheri Levine, Chairman, are looking for both human and animal volunteers to help promote dog breeding and ownership for Labradors, "A dog for all reasons."

Please email Cheri Levine at [cherimlevine@hotmail.com](mailto:cherimlevine@hotmail.com) or call her at 425-888-2719 if you could please give a few hours of your time. We are looking for help for a minimum of two hours for the following days:

- January 25 - Wednesday 12 noon to 8 p.m.
- January 26 - Thursday 12 noon to 8 p.m.
- January 27 - Friday 12 noon to 8 p.m.
- January 28 - Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- January 29 - Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For all those who volunteer, you have free entrance into the show for the whole day. So come and show your support for the club and enjoy the day! The weekday help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.—Cheri Levine

# LRC Nationals, 2005

by Nina Mann

When I think of this year's National, the first thing that comes to mind is RAIN! We had plenty of that. I was lucky actually. Because I went early to help with the Tracking Test, I got one day of no-rain and a chance to see the beginnings of the autumn colors before they were literally rained out. The specialty was in Rhode Island, on the spacious grounds of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, visible from the freeway, so easy to find.

The tracking test was actually held 45 minutes away in Connecticut, which gives you some idea of how short the distances are in New England. The private farm offered rolling meadow pastures and deciduous woodlands which made for great test grounds. The first TDX dog couldn't make the left turn in the woods and over a tumble down stone wall, but the second one did that beautifully and ran the whole test with confidence only to miss the last turn in open grass! What a heartbreaker. The TD dog, however, thrilled us all with her confident performance as she ran a perfect track though only a youngster of about a year and a half.

Back to Rhode Island the next day where Rally started out the day with 50 enthusiastic competitors. Time in the schedule dictated the small entry as sweepstakes started at 11 a.m. and continued through the afternoon. Meanwhile the first of two Agility trials was going on in still another ring. You can see that scheduling all the events for The National Specialty is rather like making a jigsaw puzzle, trying to fit everything in and create as few conflicts as possible. Did I mention that it rained on Wednesday?

Thursday, judge Bonnie Threlfall had 199 bitches entered in Ring One, choosing the pretty bitch from the AmBred class as her winner, Tamerica's California Dreamin, a Brodie daughter, after which Erik Bergishagen judged the 34 dogs entered in non-regular classes. In the two Obedience rings going on at the same

time, Michael Woods and Mary Diesem between them judged the 71 dogs entered in the various obedience classes. As I stewarded for Michael all day, I wasn't able to watch the bitch classes, but I can offer first hand knowledge of the rain. It poured! I have to congratulate the dogs—and their handlers—not daunted by the weather at all, the qualifying rate was high and a lot of dogs had very high scores. I believe the same was true in the second Agility trial whose judge wrote me about the good teamwork and good sportsmanship she saw.

Thursday night everyone was in high spirits for the Captain's Table Buffet, and bidding at the silent auction was brisk. Three regional clubs pitched in to help the National club put on the specialty events. Their very talented members had done wonders with the decorations and thought up a few lively games that people now in dry shoes were glad to join.

Friday brought the climax of the conformation judging as well as the second Agility trial. It rained again, of course, but actually almost stopped for a while in the afternoon during Breed judging. As you may know, Erik selected the yellow dog, CH Aquarius Center Court Delight for his BOB and the yellow bitch, CH Lobuff's Puffin at Hollyridge for BOS.

We weren't done yet, however, and neither was the rain! Saturday, up in Connecticut, almost on the Massachusetts border, we held the Hunt Test, Working Certificate test and Conformation Certificate Test. The grounds there are beautiful, especially in October, with woods, cornfields and small lakes to run on. It was hard to appreciate the beauties of the grounds while peering out from under our rain hoods, but I have been there before. The very game committee set up a line of pop-up tents for headquarters and even held a lovely raffle and a tailgate barbecue under their precarious shelter. The chowder and chili were very welcome! I worked at the WC,

so I can report on the excellent work by the dogs there in the mud and rain. Thirty five of the fifty entered passed, and we had only two no-shows even though the roads getting to the grounds were flooded and several major routes closed by the police. Connecticut by this time had declared a state of emergency with several small towns reporting 12 inches of rain in a one or two day period!

## I'm Looking For A Mate



Contact: Phil Weber  
 Phone: 425-478-7310  
 E-mail: phildweber@comcast.net  
**Kirby Son of a Nugget SH**  
 Excellent Marker and Water Dog Hard-Charging and Determined

- 4 Year Old Yellow Lab
- SH Hunter
- Working on his Masters
- Excellent Hunter for Waterfowl and Upland Birds
- Eyes are CERF Certified as Normal
- Hips are rated GOOD by the OFA

**Sire:** FCAFC SUN VALLEY NUGGET 2000 Top Amateur Dog  
**Grandfather:** FC NAFC MD's Cotton Pick'n Cropper

*If you would like to pass along Kirby's outstanding blood lines and hunting qualities to a litter this spring, give Phil a call.*

—paid advertisement—

A story for the season...

## Beginning the Healing Process: The Timeliness of a Therapy Dog

*This is a story about something that never should have happened. This is a story about a small child who was attacked by a pack of wild dogs. His body was severely mauled, and he was in the process of being dragged into the bushes by his head when he was rescued. His rescuer was his grandmother who also was attacked and bitten as she fought off the dogs. The boy was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington.*

*Shug, my six year old golden retriever, and I are registered Pet Partners® through the organization, Delta Society®. Harborview is one of the hospitals where Shug and I work. We work with one of the Child Life Specialists, Melissa Christiansen, who is quite knowledgeable in the area of animal-assisted activities and therapy.*

*During our briefing on patients we would be seeing that day, Melissa told me about this child. She had spoken with the family about there being a therapy dog on the unit, but they refused to see the dog. Understandable, since it was dogs that had brought their child to this hospital just a few days earlier. Melissa gently let them know that there would be therapy dogs on the unit from time to time during their stay. Melissa and I both understood the need for this child and his family to "get back in the saddle" sooner rather than later.*

*On our next visit, Melissa again approached the family about their being a therapy dog on the unit later in the day and asked if they would like to have a visit. The family warily agreed that the dog could come to the door and no further. They wanted to take a look. I knew each of our moves from that point on needed to be very intentional, meaning each move needed to have a definite reason for occurring. Melissa, Shug and I approached the patient's door. Melissa walked in first while Shug and I hung back out of sight. Melissa let them know we were outside the door. When Melissa invited us in, I let myself be seen by the family and child first, then brought Shug to my side. I deliberately placed my hand in his collar as I introduced him. I then asked Shug to sit, to show them he was under control. I then told them a little about Shug, his breed, his age, and how much he weighed. I asked the little boy how old he was. "Almost four," he proudly said. His head was up and he seemed curious about Shug.*

*I told him and his grandmother I would be glad to bring Shug into the room, a little*

*closer to his bed if that was okay. The child looked at his grandmother and she nodded. I could only imagine how difficult this was for her to allow an unfamiliar dog in her grandson's room. Being a parent, I can imagine she wanted to protect him from ever being hurt again. She placed much trust in Melissa, Shug, and me by allowing us to be there. What an honor. Shug and I slowly walked into the room. I kept my eyes on the child and grandmother, looking for signs of fear. That would indicate for us to stop. I told the child I would bring Shug as close to his bed as he wanted and he could tell us to stop any time. Well, we stopped when we could get no closer. We were right beside his bed.*

*Because his bed was high, he couldn't quite see Shug, so I asked him if he wanted to see one of Shug's tricks, of getting up in a chair. He and his grandmother agreed, and this is where I saw the first signs of smiles from them. After placing a sheet on the chair that had been placed beside the bed, I had Shug get up in the chair with his head turned away from the child. I didn't want Shug's mouth (that included teeth) getting close to the child first. Shug had his back to the child and I asked if he wanted to touch Shug. He very tentatively reached out and touched Shug's back. Big smile. "He's soft!" I asked if he would like to see Shug's face. He agreed. All the while I continued to watch their faces. I wanted to make sure all were comfortable with the child's choices, but I wanted to shift the decision making power to the child. It was important for him to feel in control of this situation. I turned Shug around and Shug licked the child's hand. The child giggled. Then he got a serious look on his face and asked, "Does he bite?" This opened the door for me to discuss his accident with him. I said, "No, Shug doesn't bite. Harborview would never let me bring a dog in here that could harm a person. Shug has gone through some training and even took a test to show what a nice dog he is." (Keep in mind I was talking to an almost four year old.) I went on to say, "I know what happened to you at home, and that makes me feel very sad. Those were bad dogs. I don't like being around bad dogs. They scare even me. But, not all dogs are bad. Many dogs are good. Shug is one of the good dogs." I could have gone on and explained how to be safe around dogs, but I would have lost him. "Wah wah wah" would have been all he heard after a time. He needed to hear "bad dogs" to validate the feelings he was sure to have, and "good dogs" to begin the healing process. We kept this visit short in order not to tire the child out.*

*On the next visit, the child was on bed rest precautions after surgery to his wounds. With the family's permission, we again brought Shug into his room and onto a chair by the bed. Shug stood and hung his head over the boy. The child reached his hand up and patted Shug's head and nose. He held his hand still right in front of Shug's nose until Shug licked it. There were lots of giggles and an exclamation about how Shug's tongue felt funny. His grandmother commented how nice it was to see her grandson smile. In order to give him a sense of empowerment, I had him give Shug the "sit" command a couple of times. We left him and his grandmother smiling.*

*On our third and final visit, we saw our little friend in the hall. He was up and restless. He broke into a big smile when he spotted Shug and here he came down the hall, grandmother in tow. As he approached, I knelt down and held Shug's collar. I knew as he got closer, Shug was going to look much bigger in his eyes. They were almost eye to eye once he got to Shug. He reached over and threw his arms around Shug's neck. He gave Shug a kiss on the head. Then, I gave him a second leash I had connected to Shug's collar and had him take Shug for a walk around the hall. Every once in awhile I would have him stop and tell Shug to sit. Shug willingly complied (did I say he is a golden retriever?). I did this, again, to empower the child. This was a much more potentially out of control situation, with us walking in the hall. This was quite different from Shug sitting in a chair beside the child's bed. But, the child didn't miss a beat. He welcomed Shug with open arms and a kiss. He didn't stop to analyze the situation. He entered into it willingly and with trust. The nurses who knew the child's story just stopped in their tracks and watched as he walked a dog that was bigger than he was past them. Their looks ranged from amazement to absolute joy.*

*The child was discharged and returned home shortly after this last visit, after spending weeks in the hospital. Do I think the child went home healed? Physically, yes. Mentally and emotionally? Probably not. But, without a doubt the healing process had begun. It started with a knowledgeable staff, a trusting family, an intentional handler and appropriate therapy dog, and one very brave little boy. We wish him well. Job well done, Shug.*

—Christi Dudzik



# TPLO Surgery – Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy

by *Monica Buchstatter*

We all have hopes and dreams for our new pups and when I got my yellow Labrador, Deuce, in December of 1998, I set my goals pretty high for him. I wanted to earn a MH and an OTCH. I learned that you can try all you want but sometimes you have to re-evaluate your goals.

We earned our JH in 2000 and then I decided to work more seriously on his obedience career. I had hopes of showing both of my dogs at the same time in obedience—which can make for some pretty hectic days, but fun, too. I try to work to high precision with my dogs in obedience, but I'll admit that while Deuce is great at the moving exercises, his weakness is stays. So, he was ready to GO in obedience, but not ready to STAY. I just kept plugging along with training, hoping he'd mature and be able to do his stays. Deuce is VERY active and he's had some injuries from time to time—sprained toes, sprained shoulders, knees, and we keep coming back, slowly rehabbing him. I also limit myself to two dogs, so, as one gets older, I hope to have a younger one competing for a while.

After six plus months of on and off limping Deuce had surgery on his left knee in July of 2002. He went into his first surgery in excellent shape. He'd been swimming every day for 30 days, since I was trying to rehab him. Once we knew he was having surgery I just kept working him in water to get him as strong as possible before surgery.

His recovery from the first surgery was basically for the first six to eight weeks to make sure the bone was healing. This meant confinement—to a crate. (All that swimming fitness was probably gone at three weeks.) At six weeks I had the

x-rays done to verify that the bone had healed and from there started a slow rebuilding process. I began by five minutes of leash walking, multiple times per day. Even though I used a pinch



Deuce's rehab from surgery number two included beach walks on the Long Beach Peninsula.

collar, he would explode out of the crate, hit the end of the leash and then we'd walk. Deuce also had to learn to sit "correctly" on his rear leg. As an obedience dog my goal was to have him sitting squarely in a tight sit position – this takes stretching and practice, especially after injury and surgery. Walking was slowly increased to 10 minutes, and increased weekly if Deuce wasn't limping. I had some ultrasound done to him, too, and was given stretching exercises. Just like people, extension and contraction are important to gain your movement back. We began by warming up at a walk and then increased

to a trot in straight lines, with a walk five minutes, trot five minutes, walk five minutes regiment. We then increased the time.

At four months post surgery I wasn't happy because he was still stiff and limping and so I consulted another vet in North Carolina that specializes in rehab for dogs. I sent this doctor video that he analyzed. He gave me treatment info and exercises to help with Deuce's movement and fitness.

I heated the sutured area for 10 minutes, using a microwavable heating pad, then rubbed the suture area to break up scar tissue. It's amazing how this loosened up the area. I also was told to walk Deuce SLOWLY on a treadmill. He adapted quite well to the treadmill and was ready to go hop on the treadmill three times a day for 15 minutes. He would have to concentrate so hard to stay at the right speed. We also walked around cones, then progressed to trotting both on the treadmill and around trees in my yard. I quickly saw improvement and was happy that I had contacted the specialist for this information.

After seeing good improvement, I started working on obedience exercises. It's amazing how little they forget, but the precision is what takes the longest to obtain. By the summer of 2003 I was ready to enter Deuce in Novice and he had a nice novice career. Stays were still an issue, but he was entered six times with five first places and two High in Trials. I was excited to move on to Open and so we went back to training.

Then he started limping again. It was sporadic and I was hoping for the best. But part of my warm-up for Deuce before a show is that I run him either on bumper piles or between 2 people. I call it 'getting the jet-fuel burned off'. It shouldn't cause a problem but I could see some more limping. In the back of my mind I thought



Deuce shown in his home for four weeks following the second surgery

of the potential of the second knee having problems – the vets warn you that over 50 percent of the time this can happen.

I showed him at Moses Lake in April 2005 but I knew something was wrong. The next week he fell during the broadjump, wet floors or ? Then he fell again on the broadjump outside. I was pretty sure that he had the beginning of another knee problem. I started asking friends and vets and after a phone consultation I was pretty sure that surgery was the right move. The sooner the better as far as I was concerned.

The second surgery was done in April 2005 and Deuce was confined to an x-pen in the house for four weeks, then a six by six outdoor kennel (with a lid). As soon as Deuce was home, I incorporated the suture area heat, stretches, sit/stand/drop exercises, walking and circles to his daily routine at least three times per day. The second vet just didn't think the dog needed to be quieted down as much as the first vet. My life had changed at home, too, so Deuce had the added bonus of walking in sand and water on the Long Beach peninsula about every three weeks. Those beach trips were physically hard on him, he limped more than usual in the mornings, but I think it helped him too. Each trip he did more walking, deep water walking, deep sand walking, deep water trotting, and eventually he was allowed to retrieve, but only in the water. After three months I also swam Deuce

once a week, but stood in the water with him – he was up to 25 minutes pretty quickly and he was looking good. When he stopped limping in the morning, I knew he was ready to begin obedience training again.

After about four months I decided to set some goals and attend the Eastern Washington shows, some of my favorites. Happily, he completed his CDX within six months of surgery and it would have been faster if he hadn't flunked a set of stays! We're back in training for utility and I'm excited to show him, he's a fun dog.

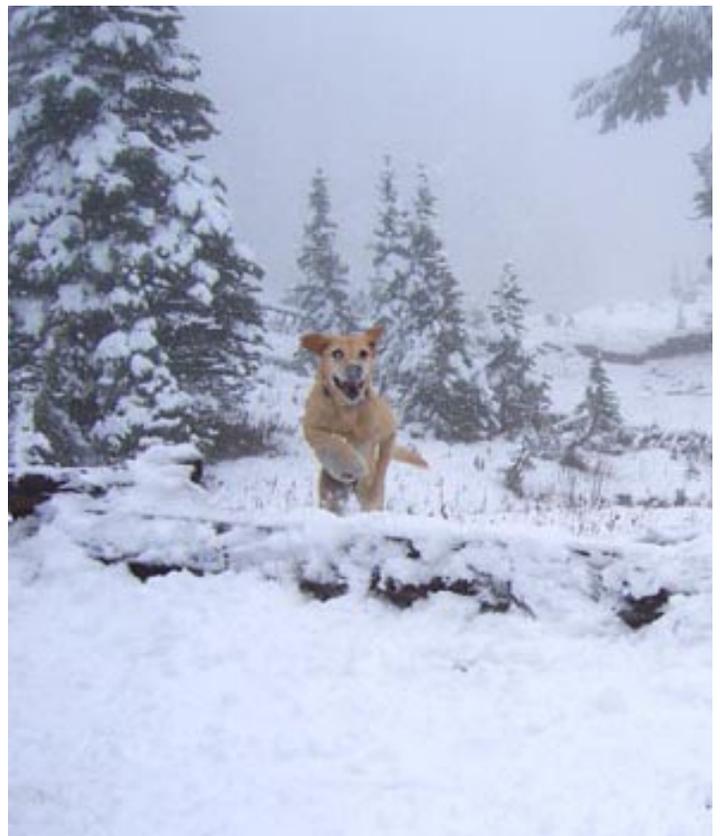
As I look back at my notes from both surgeries I can tell you I was much more nervous with the first surgery than with the second. Part of my nervousness was understanding the surgery, picturing Deuce dealing with the confinement period and then being interested in doing the best rehab possible. For the second surgery I knew I could manage Deuce and the doctor was less concerned with confinement – he had plenty of experience with dogs doing incredible (bad) maneuvers shortly

after surgery. Two different surgeons performed the operations. One was board certified, the other was not. I went with recommendations when I chose each surgeon. I was not unhappy with the first surgeon, but due to scheduling I chose a different surgeon for the second operation.

Here are some websites that I found helpful:

- [www.petsurgery.com/tibialplateaulevelingosteotomy](http://www.petsurgery.com/tibialplateaulevelingosteotomy)
- [www.vethab.com](http://www.vethab.com)
- [www.slocumenterprises.com](http://www.slocumenterprises.com)

I hope that you never have to experience knee problems with your dog, but maybe my experiences will help you feel more comfortable trying to help your dog if it's necessary.



It was all worthwhile!

# Pat Hastings Seminar –Structure In Action

Tri-Cities Washington, October 29, 2005—part one

by Julie Kirk

Mark your calendars for April 13, 2006! That's your next opportunity to attend a Pat Hastings Seminar on *Structure in Action* in Vancouver, British Columbia, at K-9 Connections. Contact Ona Steffensen (ona@brookwoodshepherds.com). The most recent seminar sponsored by Columbia Basin Dog Training Club here in Tri-Cities was the third one I've attended; I've learned more at each one.

For those who haven't been exposed to Pat Hastings, she is a judge, a former dogfood sales representative, a retired professional handler, a former Doberman breeder and the author of *Tricks of the Trade—Another Piece of the Puzzle*. To help their clients pick puppies for future breeding (and show) Pat and her late husband Bob, also a handler, developed a method of evaluating puppies that would be reliable to predict adult structure. They consulted mechanical and structural engineers who could look at the dogs from a functional viewpoint, without a breed preference. They also consulted veterinarians, orthopedists, the breed standards and observed the dogs in motion. The result, after hundreds of evaluations done at seven, eight and nine weeks of age with follow-ups at 18 months, was a system of evaluation of structure that is reliable when done within three days of eight weeks. Evaluations done at this age, using their method, proved reliable 100 percent of the time. Done at other ages, the results were not reliable predictors of later structure. Pat has now evaluated upwards of 24,000 pups using this method.

At this seminar Pat went into more depth than previously on how particular defects affect the function of the dog depending on what exactly was the underlying problem (bone, muscle presence or attachment, ligaments, etc) and what activities the dog might be asked to perform. Among the attendees were agility and obedience competitors,

herders, retrievers, coursers and water-working dogs.

Pat evaluates an eight week old litter of pups the night before the seminar, then uses the pups to illustrate good structure and flaws. Participants also get to present their adult dogs for evaluation. At this seminar, the presenters had brought dogs to find out about the advisability of doing agility work, whether two dogs were suitable breeding partners, causes of weird movement, and reasons for specific behaviors in training and performance.

Pat evaluates using a point scale with the middle score reflecting what the average show dog (or one who conforms to the breed standard) would look like. She makes allowances where necessary for widespread structural flaws in breeds with small gene pools. She has opinions about type, but that's not a part of the evaluation. She recommends that people not fully practiced in her method use a nine-point scoring scale rather than the five points she uses, to allow more room to differentiate between pups. Pups may be evaluated in any order, but Pat always does it "in show catalog order," dogs first and then bitches, the first time through the litter. Then she evaluates each pup again, starting with the lowest scoring pup and working upwards through the scores to the top one. When any pup falls below the average score for a particular area, Pat rules the pup out of a breeding program and as a competitive performance dog, and some flaws may rule out certain types of pet homes as well.

Throughout the seminar, Pat talked about the way the structure of each breed was developed to serve specific functions. When dogs are put to tasks for which their structure is lacking, their performance will suffer as a result or they may present training problems, due to the limitations of their structure. Indeed, she said, good structure is even more important for performance dogs than for those in the show ring, and breeders must

recognize that their "not show quality" pups should not be placed in performance homes just because they appear to have lots of pep. Such pups may have the drive to work despite discomfort, but they may also have shorter working lives and have training "problems" that are caused by physical limitations. In fact, "busy" pups may be so to compensate for physical problems, and it is wrong to assume that this apparent energy will be enough to make them fine as performance dogs, hikers, or children's pets. Breeders should be able to guide prospective owners by knowing what each pup's assets and limitations are.

The most important parts of the evaluation are (1) to have someone other than the breeder do the evaluation and do it away from the breeder's home (2) to use a mirror so the evaluator can see the pup at a distance (and with the side of the brain that deals with images) (3) to put the scores on paper and (4) to pick the pup up properly so that it will relax into a natural stack. Properly picking up the pup is a skill which has to be practiced, but not on pups under seven and a half weeks old, as their overall bone, ligament and muscle development is inadequate to give a true picture before then. It's better just to get them used to being on the grooming table and getting a treat when they stand still. Pat showed us how to get the maximum effect with minimal lifting of the pup, holding it under the jaw and under the back legs, backing it up over the grooming table several times and then suspending it very briefly. Usually the pup relaxes into a natural stack. The only pups who will fight being picked up are those with ewe necks (caused by weak ligaments,) but Pat can still get these up and into the stack by being gentle and quick.

Hastings, part two, continued in January 2006



Christmas party fun, top left, Karen Coulombe and Heide Savidge, hostesses for the event, draw names for the door prizes while members Cheri Wildes, Liz Scott and Sharon Hilton enjoy the good company; top right, Linda and Fred Walkley in good cheer; center, everyone bends and stretches to make room for dessert (actually a count for the gift exchange); bottom, Chuck Hilton and Don Aker deep in conversation as Cheri Wildes opens her gift and Lucy Isaacson-Logan looks on.

## Request for Labrador Pictures

My name is Julia Barnes, and I work for a publishing company called First Stone, based in the UK. We are working on some new address books featuring dog breeds. The books will contain interesting facts and info about Labradors and lots of great photos.

We are looking for all types of photos: portraits, head studies, puppies, adults, action, with people/children, playing, competing in any of the canine sports, working.

All contributors will be acknowledged in the address book and will also receive a complimentary copy of the book on publication (September 2006). The deadline for receiving photos is January 15, 2006. The information for sending photos is listed below. With many thanks for your help with this project.

### SENDING PHOTOS

\* We can accept original photographs or transparencies (sent to PO Box 8, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6YD), which will be scanned and returned by post.

\* Alternatively, we can accept scanned or digital photos in JPEG, Photoshop, Tiff or Picture Viewer format (sent to swilliams@firststonepub.co.uk). These should be saved at a resolution of 300 dpi, and no smaller than 12 cms (4.724 inches) along the shortest side. We can accept 72 dpi photos providing they are no smaller than 50 cms (19.685 inches) along the shortest side. If you are unsure about the resolution of your photos, please send a sample photo to swilliams@firststonepub.co.uk

## Annual Awards Banquet

**Location:** Best Western, Puyallup 253-848-1500, Georgian Room

**Date:** Saturday, January 14, 2006

**Social hour:** 6 p.m. **Dinner:** 7 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person.

Please send reservations to:

**Beckie Jensen**  
**P.O. Box 304**  
**Wilkeson, WA 98396**

Reservations may also be made via e-mail.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at:

**timbrlab@tx3.com**  
**(360) 829-2808**

This is a wonderful time to join in the festivities while helping acknowledge the efforts of others. Several awards are presented, as well as the voting in of our new board of directors. We do need a head count for the dinner by January 11; so don't delay in making your reservations.

**Happy Holidays! Beckie Jensen**

**LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 12/13/05 that conform to the PSLRA Code of Ethics.** Information is as submitted by owners and provided as a service to the public. Listings of litters are in no way an endorsement by PSLRA of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after three months.

To publish **LITTER LISTINGS** in the newsletter, the following information **must be available**:

- Elbows and hips must be certified on both the sire and dam. Dogs and bitches whelped before 5/1/87 are exempt from elbow clearance requirements and will be marked OFEL N/A. Prelims are not acceptable! The board has recently agreed to accept PennHip clearances that score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher, passing Wind-Morgan clearances, and clearances from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in Canada. Female Labradors (bitches) with a Wind-Morgan, Penn Hip, or OVC clearance must not be bred before the age of 20 months, or 24 months with an OFA clearance. Male Labradors (dogs) with a Wind-Morgan, Penn Hip or OVC clearance must not be bred before the age of 12 months, or 24 months with an OFA clearance.
  - Eye clearances on both parents annually. After the dog's examination at age 10, annual examinations are no longer necessary.
  - Heart clearances will be included in the listing at the discretion of the breeder.
  - A PSLRA member must own either the sire or the dam and must submit the listing for a non-member.
  - **Please contact Marlys if you need a Litter Listing form, to be used for ALL litters.**
  - All Breeders must update their litters each week with Marlys Swanson via email (marlyss982@aol.com) as to the sex and color of puppies you have sold. The listing will be deleted after three months from the first litter listing date unless she hears from you.
1. Mail the completed form and a check for \$10 (operating expenses for Breeder Listing and Puppy Referral Programs) to: **Marlys Swanson, 3512 – 93<sup>rd</sup> Place NE, Marysville, WA 98270.**
  2. Your litter notice will appear in the next PSLRA newsletter **if** it conforms to the Code of Ethics.
  3. If you know that the Litter Listing and the Puppy Referral programs have helped you sell your puppies, **please send a donation to PSLRA** (c/o Marlys Swanson) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue.

LITTER LISTING FORMS available from Marlys Swanson

**Litter born 9/16/05 (Available 2 BM, 3 YM, 1 BF, 1 YF)**

Sire: Cimarron Runnin in the Rain  
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, ACVO 6/24/05  
Dam: Sunrise Get a Dream  
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 3/26/05  
Litter: 2 BM, 2 BF, 4 YM, 1 YF  
Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093  
Email: Katie\_Somers@msn.com  
Listed 11/27/05

Quincy, WA

**Litter expected 10/8/05 (Available 2 YM)**

Sire: BISS Can Ch. Ghoststone's Boomtown, JH  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 11/13/04, OFA Cardiac  
1/22/05, OFA PRA 1/27/05  
Dam: Rocking M's Crystal Clear  
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 2/27/05  
Litter: 4 YM, 5 YF  
Contact: Cindy or Bryant Meyer (253) 846-9583  
Email: rockingmlabs@qwest.net  
Listed: 8/29/05, 12/10/05

Spanaway, WA

**Litter born 10/8/05 (1 YF available)**

Sire: BISS CH Sureshot Hyspire Impressive  
OFA 24 G, OFEL 24, OFA Cardiac, 17 mos.  
ACVO 05/20/5  
Dam: Nipntuck Harlequin Double Trouble CD  
OFA 35 G, OFEL 35, ACVO 09/12/05  
Litter: 4 YF, 1 YM, 1 BF, 1 BM  
Contact: Diane Sullenberger (360) 652-8271  
Email: harlequinlabradors@yahoo.com  
Listed: 11/09/05, 12/10/05

Arlington, WA

**Litter born 10/11/05 (Available 2 BM)**

Sire: Int. Ch Hiltonhall's Rainbow Warrior WC  
OFA 24 E, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05  
Optigen Clear, Heart clear 34 mos.  
Dam: Chelon's MoonShadow  
Windmorgan hips, elbows@19mos., PennHip 80<sup>th</sup>percentile,  
Cardiac normal 9/26/04, ACVO 11/20/05  
Litter: 1 YM, 2 BF, 3 BM  
Contact: Chuck & Sharon Hilton (425) 334-0303  
Email: Hiltonhall@msn.com  
Listed 12/6/05

Snohomish, WA

**Litter born 11/14/05 (Available 1 YM)**

Sire: Ch Raintree Riff SH  
OFA 31G, OFEL 31, ACVO 9/14/04  
Dam: Toastin's Roussanne JH OA OAJ  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 11/7/05  
OFA Heart Echocardiograph 19 mos  
Litter: 4 YM, 4 YF  
Contact: Mary Beth Lamb (541) 488-5660  
Email: toastn@charter.net  
Listed 11/17/05, 11/26/05

Talent, OR

**Litter born 11/16/05 (Available 3 YF, 1 YM)**

Sire: BISS Can Ch. Ghoststone's Boomtown, JH  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 11/13/04, OFA Cardiac  
1/22/05, OFA PRA 1/27/05  
Dam: Ridge View Amazin Perfection  
OFA 24 G, OFEL 24, OFA Cardiac 41, ACVO 9/25/05  
Litter: 5 YF, 4 YM  
Contact: Kristen Reiter, DVM (360) 320-0941 or  
Evening (360) 240-1040  
Email: kris\_daren@verizon.net  
Listed 11/11/05, updated 11/26/05

Oak Harbor, WA

**Litter born 11/23/05 (Available 2 BM, 1 YM)**

Sire: Sunnydaze Peterson's Thor SH  
OFA 25G, OFEL 26, CERF 12/07/04, OFA Cardiac  
10/06/02  
Dam: Redwick Roughcut Ruby  
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 3/20/05, OFA Cardiac 3/18/01  
Litter: 5 BM, 1 CM, 1 YM, 2 BF, 1 CF  
Contact: Julie Kirk (509) 588-6955 or Eve (509) 588-6712  
Email: redwick@televar.com  
Listed 11/26/05, 12/13/05

Benton City, WA

**Litter expected 12/21/05 (All Black expected)**

Sire: Ch Belgairn Tom Jones  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart OFA  
Dam: Can Ch Sunnydaze Supernatural  
OFA 54G, OFEL 24, CERF 10/3/05  
Litter: All Black  
Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269  
Email: Sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com  
Listed 11/9/05

Bellingham, WA

**Litter expected 12/23/05 (All Yellow expected)**

Sire: BISS Ch Ghoststone's Louie Downtown CD WC  
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 3/21/05, Heart OFA  
 Dam: Ch Ms T's Dusti Winds over Char-Don CD RN WC  
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 2/19/05

Litter: All Yellow

Contact: Terry McFadden & Janet Schoonover (480)834-4138  
 Email: mstslabs@cdx.net  
 Listed 12/13/05 Mesa, AZ

**Other Dogs That A Breeder Has Decided To Place**

(Note) Owners of all dogs that are listed here have filled out and signed a PSLRA "Listing Form" disclosing to perspective buyers any known health and/or temperament issues and are on file with the Breeder Listing Chairperson. These dogs are usually well socialized, frequently have some training, and are very desirable as companions. These dogs may not meet either owner's requirements for show or field performance or the code of ethics for breeding. Prospective buyers are encouraged to ask whether these older dogs have acceptable clearances on eyes, hips, and elbows and the reason why the dog is being placed. The listing of other dogs in no way constitutes an endorsement by PSLRA. Price will vary.

**Black Male, 12 months (as of 11/27/05) neutered**

Very sweet boy that needs lots of attention. Also, very active. House breaking started, has basic obedience.

Contact: Irlanne Warren (360) 352-9373  
 Email: thistledown1@juno.com  
 Listed 9/24/05, 11/27/05 Tumwater, WA

**Yellow male, 6 months (as of 11/17/05) intact**

Sweet, mellow boy who is looking for a family of his own. Second pick puppy in the litter, both parents have all their clearances. Merlin is a quick and willing learner. Crate trained, raised with kids and other animals, started retrieving, loves the birds.

Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 925-1259  
 Email: stephanie@skyfiirelabs.com  
 Listed 11/17/05, 11/26/05 Ellensburg, WA

**Yellow Female, 5 1/2 months (as of 11/26/05) intact**

Sweet and very loving.

Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093  
 Email: Katie\_Somers@msn.com  
 Listed 11/26/05 Quincy, WA

**Yellow Male, 8 months (as of 11/26/05) intact**

Loves the water, good hunting prospect and family companion.

Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093  
 Email: Katie\_Somers@msn.com  
 Listed 11/26/05 Quincy, WA

**Chocolate Female, 8 months (as of 11/26/05) intact (must be spayed)**

Lovely dark chocolate girl, very sweet temperament, obedience training started. Loves to swim and retrieve. Great family dog or performance competition prospect. Both parents have all clearances. Microchipped, vaccinated, healthy.

Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456  
 Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com  
 Website: www.cougarcreeklabs.com  
 Listed 11/26/05 Arlington, WA

**Yellow Male, 12 months (as of 11/26/05) Intact (must be neutered)**

"Harry" is a big, sweet, good natured boy. Parents have all health clearances. Very beautiful light yellow with black pigment, he would make a super family companion. Vaccinated, dewclaws removed, hips x-rayed normal, healthy and easy to work with.

Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456  
 Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com  
 Website: www.cougarcreeklabs.com  
 Listed 11/26/05 Arlington, WA

**Yellow Male, 16 months (as of 11/29/05) neutered**

Loving personality, basic obedience, crate trained, three wings on Junior Hunter title, force fetched, sweet disposition, good with children and other pets.

Contact: Kimberly Dotson (253) 538-7972,  
 cell (253)278-1116  
 Email: clovercreeklabs@msn.com  
 Listed 11/29/05 Tacoma, WA

**Yellow Female, 12 months (as of 12/10/05) intact (will be spayed)**

Basic obedience, crate trained, very sweet girl. Loves everybody and animals. Loves to play.

(She has special medical needs)  
 Contact Julia Wilson (360) 332-4844 or (360) 920-6648  
 Email: juliaw8@juno.com  
 Listed 12/10/05 Blaine, WA

**Black Female, 12 months (as of 12/10/05) intact (will be spayed)**

Basic obedience, crate trained, fun loving, sweet dog. She loves all creatures. She's a big puppy.

Contact Julia Wilson (360) 332-4844 or (360) 920-6648  
 Email: juliaw8@juno.com  
 Listed 12/10/05 Blaine, WA



David Frey, Randy and Kristi Clark visit at the Christmas party.



*The Retriever Believer*  
Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association  
Web: [www.pslra.org](http://www.pslra.org)  
Terrie Sato, Editor  
31902 NE 139th Street  
Duvall, WA 98019

## Membership Renewal Notice — 2006

Dues are payable each year by January 31. Checks should be made out to PSLRA and mailed to:

**Chantel Nahoopii, 3413 Woodcrest Lane, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284**

Please print plainly and send promptly!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country (if not USA) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: All telephone numbers listed here will be printed in membership booklet.*

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \$10

I would like to volunteer for the following types of events:

\_\_\_\_\_ Field \_\_\_\_\_ Tracking \_\_\_\_\_ Agility \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience \_\_\_\_\_ Conformation \_\_\_\_\_ Other