

THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 21, Number 2, February 2004



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, the new year is already off to a flying start.

Cindy Meyer, Liz Skillingstad, Joni Willing and lots of other club members organized and staffed the club booth at the Sportsmen's Show in Puyallup last month.

Jan Palumbo, Cheri Levine, and Lucy Isaacson-Logen coordinated the club booth at the recent two-day Seattle Kennel Club show. Again, numerous club members took turns staffing the booth and answering all kinds of questions from the public. (See article on page 5.)

Special thanks to club member Darlene Pado who prepared new photos of our dogs for the booth. Thanks too to members Bill and Trish Reiter of Oak Harbor who fireproofed the booth material and are making new bags to hold the contents of the booth.

Last month I reported on the awards at the annual banquet, but forgot to thank Beckie Jensen for taking care of all of the banquet arrangements, and Barb Ironside for ordering all of the plaques we presented. Efforts behind the scenes, such as these, make our club truly special.

It won't be long before our next big events are upon us.

On Saturday, March 20, we will repeat last year's popular fun/training day for field and conformation handling. (See details inside.) It will be a good opportunity especially for new club members to learn some of the basics about field events as well as breed ring handling techniques.

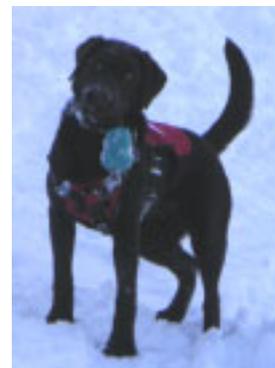
Watch next month's newsletter for the flyer and entry form for this year's Five Series. Back by popular demand, this year's event will be held on Saturday, April 10 and will include both an adult stakes and junior and senior puppy stakes. This event is another opportunity to have fun in the field and work on training your dog. It is also a good "warm-up" for the Spring Hunt Test in early May.

Keep in mind that *we really need a lot of volunteers* for all of these events so that everyone will have a chance to train and run their dogs. So please come prepared to help out, even a little, for the good of everyone involved.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone in the club who sent prayers, cards, e-mails, flowers, treats, videos, and other good wishes to me after my surgery. A number of members also assisted me with dog walking. For all of these expressions of generosity and concern, I am very thankful. I consider myself truly blessed to have you as friends.

--Ron

Sierra, avalanche search and rescue dog in training, see story on page 9.



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IMPORTANT DATES**Feb. 25 Board Meeting****March 20 Fun Training****Day for Field
and Handling****March 24 Board Meeting****April 10 5 Series Singles**

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

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Submissions must be received by the editor by the 22nd 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:

Joni Willing, Membership Chair

3602 122nd St. CT. NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8948

hwilling@amerion.com

club business

January Board Meeting Minutes

The regular January meeting of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Board of Directors was called to order on Jan. 14, 2004, by Ron Perry, President, at the home of Fred and Linda Walkley.

Correspondence was received from AKC approving the May 16, 2004, tracking test and requesting an update of our new officers after the annual meeting.

An email was received from LRC asking if we want a CC test at the hunt test this year.

Letter received from Cindy Meyer for newsletter.

New members Barbara Hazen, Hoodspport, and Alan and Julianne Cain of Snohomish were welcomed to the club.

The 2004 Calendar of Events was presented and discussed. The booth being organized by Jan Palumbo, Cheri Levine and Lucy Isaacson-Logen will be ready for the Seattle Kennel Club Show.

A discussion on when and where to hold the 5-series resulted in a vote to hold it on April 10 as planned and to rent Carlson's for the event.

The slate of judges for the spring hunt test will be sent to AKC. It was also agreed that we would include the new AKC event fee in our entry fees and would so note in the premium.

Because the Newport Yacht Club is being remodeled next year, it will not be available for our 2004 holiday party. Sharon will write up something for the newsletter and post to the chat list about our need for a new place to hold the party.

Dave Lawniczak will chair the October agility trial. He submitted figures on the cost of doing our own secretary job. It was M/S/V to purchase a laptop computer and software for the trial secretary. This would probably cost approximately \$1,800.

It was further M/S/V to approve Lisa Miller as judge for the trials.

Ron explained that the web site is still down owing to problems with transferring it to a new host, etc. Allison Hillius is working on the problems.

Sharon asked if we want to rent out our old show trailer to a man who wishes to

transport his Harley. Sharon will check with Jan Skewes on any insurance concerns and the Board will vote on this by email.

Thanks to Bill and Trish Reiter, the booth will be ready for the SKC show.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Mann, Secretary

Minutes of January 10, Annual Meeting

After our annual banquet at the Holiday Inn in Puyallup, Ron asked all the members to introduce themselves and their guests and give their kennel names. He then introduced Marlys Swanson who is collecting trophy sponsorship pledges and checks for the specialty and Darlene Pado, who is collecting photos for our club booth. He asked again for a volunteer to chair the setup and tear down of the booth at the Seattle Kennel Club. Cindy Meyer made an appeal for volunteers to help out at the field events.

Ron thanked the nominating committee for their efforts in producing a slate of officers and directors for the coming year. Ballots were passed out, marked and collected. Mary Jane thanked all the club members who have helped out the Rescue Committee during the year and gave some of the statistics of dogs rescued. Ron presented the President's award and the Member of the Year award and announced the awarding of life membership to the founding members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 so that the All-around Awards, Versatility awards and Junior Achievement awards could be presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Mann, Secretary

juniors

Give Obedience Competition A Try!

by Hailee Drege

Junior showmanship's popularity has steadily increased over the years. At a dog show, you will see several young handlers in the showmanship classes and occasionally in the breed ring. While junior showmanship is popular, junior obedience competition, I have found, is not. At obedience trials, there are few, if any, young handlers competing, especially in the advanced classes. For some reason, obedience hasn't caught on as well with juniors as showmanship has.

In the 4-H program, juniors are required to participate in both venues (showmanship and obedience). Only recently has 4-H decided to adopt a new judging style, which will be reflective of AKC shows. In this way, junior handlers will no longer be penalized for showing their dogs at 4-H competitions in the same manner that is seen in the actual breed ring. Adjusting to this change, however, is confusing for many young handlers. Knowing the differences between 4-H rules and AKC rules can be difficult.

In obedience, the only major difference between 4-H and AKC competitions is the different classes. The 4-H program divides the obedience levels in a progression that is easier to train the dog for. AKC, however, is more advanced and has its class difficulty levels increase at a more strenuous pace. The judging criteria for obedience, unlike showmanship, remains fairly equal between the 4-H program and AKC competitions. The difficulty in scoring the dog/handler team increases in AKC, as well as the number of points required to receive a ribbon.

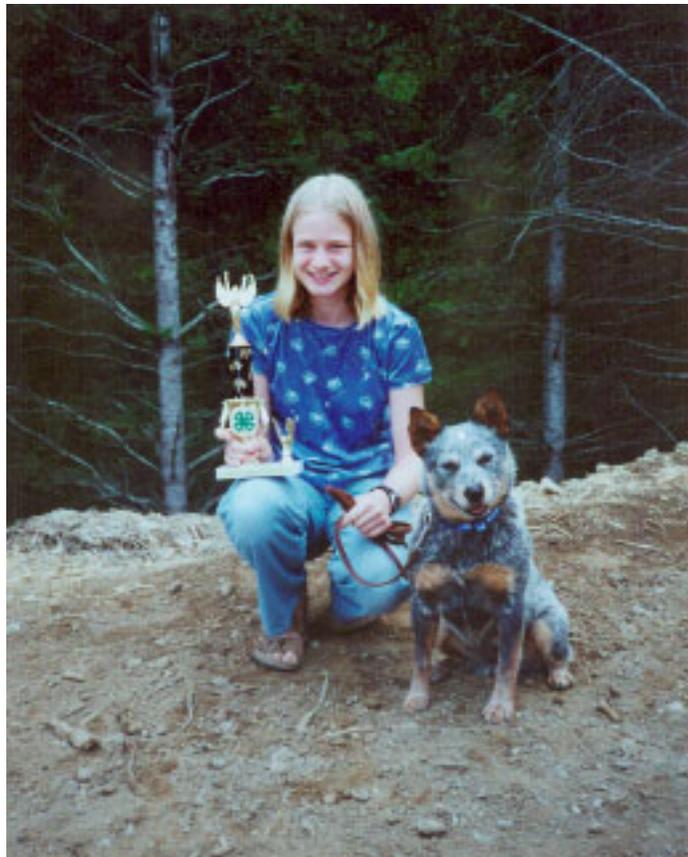
One of the most satisfying feelings in the world is to win, especially when you are 100 percent responsible for the results! Obedience training is not an overnight accomplishment. Yet, with lots of hard work and dedication, you and your dog can step into the obedience ring confident in your ability to win. Even against professional trainers, and other adults, you

have an equal chance of success. In obedience, there are several winners; as long as your dog performs all of the required exercises satisfactorily, you can receive a qualifying score and a "leg" towards your dog's obedience title. It doesn't matter how many dogs you compete with, or if you are the best one in your class. Everyone has good and bad days, and it is not uncommon to have losing streaks, but if you are determined and steadfast, you and your dog can become very successful in obedience competition.

Winning is fun in both showmanship and obedience. Both competitions are rewarding for the dog/handler team. Hopefully, more young handlers will notice how wonderful and rewarding obedience competition can be! Training

your dog takes lots of time and patience, but the results are worth it.

My name is Hailee Drege. I am 15 years old and vice president of the Dogg Dazed 4-H club of Stanwood, Wash., under the guidance of Linda Kriegel. I have trained my Australian Cattle Dog, Zoe of Cougar Creek, CDX, through the 4-H dog program. We are now training at the utility dog level! I have received numerous awards in both 4-H and AKC/CKC trials, and usually I'm the ONLY junior competing in my class at AKC trials! My Mom has roped me into training a second dog, our Brodie puppy, Cimarron Sam-I-Am of Cougar Creek, so I will have a Labrador pupil, as well! HaHa!



Hailee Drege and Zoe

The Clutch Chronicles



I believe Clutch has grown an inch this past week. His legs are gangly and his tail is long. He dove under Traveler and stood up, surprising them both by lifting Traveler off his feet. Clutch has hops. He can jump incredibly high. I have watched him entertain himself in his kennel by climbing the chain link, pushing up onto the ceiling and around again to the floor. This is a little like watching a long legged Fred Astaire dancing on the walls and ceiling, but slightly less graceful, of course. I find myself fascinated just watching his behavior. I placed a toy high on a bookshelf believing it to be out of reach. Clutch tried several times to jump up and get it. When that failed, he climbed the bookshelf as if each level was the rung of a ladder and reached the toy. I was amazed.

We visited the pet store and Clutch came home with some new toys. Taking Clutch to the pet store was like watching a wide eyed child in a candy store. He wanted to see all of the items at once. Soft toys don't last long so we shopped for tough, sturdy toys. I tried to get Clutch interested in the Kongs, but it was obvious that I was the mother trying to push the educational toys as opposed to the good toys on the other shelves. I steered him away from the smoked bones, rawhide chews and cow hooves. Since rawhide swells when wet, I've never liked giving it to puppies. I've known two dogs that nearly choked to death when tearing off a piece of rawhide and attempting to swallow it whole. The rawhide covered the esophagus and the dogs could not cough it up without assistance. Bones and cow hooves have been known to break teeth and upset stomachs. Why is it that all the good stuff is bad for us? We purchased a Kong hard rubber bone and ball both of which contained spots to place treats. I picked up a can of Kong Stuff'n, a product that was new to me. It is liver paste in a pressurized can, and a little dab in the treat holes helped turn those boring rubber toys into wonderful chew treats. We also

picked up a soft frisbee. Neither one of us could resist it. The frisbee lasted three days. Clutch ran and jumped and ran and jumped. He brought the frisbee back for me to throw again and again. When I put it away, he still found it and brought it to me for play. Traveler also loved the frisbee. The competition between the two of them to be the first to snatch it from the air and bring it to me made for some spectacular catches. However, a soft frisbee loved by two dogs soon becomes a tug-of-war toy. It did not hold up well to such tough Labrador games. Still, I will probably buy another one and bring it out as a special treat. It was such fun!

Observation is my best tool to help me determine what Clutch understands as his field work progresses. He has shown me that a multiple gun station situation with one gunner moving from station to station is an entirely different situation from multiple gun stations with two gunners. He now knows that something exciting will happen at both stations even if the gunner doesn't move. He had learned that our gun stations were mostly made up of chairs in the field. He now knows that sometimes gunners hide behind blinds. It was interesting to watch him totally ignore the gun station set up behind a camouflage blind. I guess that's why it is called camouflage. He is learning the serious business of fetch and hold. He has started back piles in preparation for handling drills. Though it still seems too cold for water retrieves, my husband caught Clutch swimming in our seasonal pond just for fun. Hmm, perhaps he is a candidate for the Polar Bear Club.

CORRECTIONS

Life membership should have included Leslie Douglas. The correct listing of new life members should read Georgia Gooch, Anne Morrison, Julie Kirk, Leslie Douglas, Sandy Wasson, and Jane Paton.

Tracking Test chair correction: Under the Tracking Test, Lee Foote should be listed as contact. She's chairing it this year. Lee's phone number is: 206-367-7481/ e-mail lafrh@earthlink.net

New Members

Davis, Rick/Plonkey, Dana M2-04 (2004)
13710 Manor Way
Lynnwood, WA 98037
(425) 743-1601/email
DP517@verizon.net

Dizon, Ruby C M2-04 (2004)
12107 – 167th St Ct East
Spanaway, WA 98381
(253) 536-0940

Merickel, Melissa/Somers, Jim M2-04 (2004)
1554 Deer Ridge Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 675-7014/email
melissamerickel@msn.com

Picketts, Bill & Shirley M2-04 (2004)
17103 NE 32nd St
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 883-0497/pickhouse2@aol.com

Popp, Charlene M1-04 (2004)
8317 – 25th Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 789-6787/charpopp@comcast.net

Roberts Mike M1-04 (2004)
1281 Schmuck Road
Sequim, WA 98382
(360) 582-1558/mars@rbertz.com

Webster, Richard M1-04 (2004)
4850 East SR 302
Belfair, WA 98528
(360) 275-9116/websterrb@charter.net

Joncas, Kate/Traylor, David M2-4 (2004)
330 NW 78th St
Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 706-5901/kate@dirtcircus.com



PSLRA Booth Attracts Visitors

by Jan Palumbo

The new and improved PSLRA Booth attracted hundreds of visitors at the Seattle Kennel Club show Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. It featured our new club scrapbooks, 31 new photos of our Labradors doing what Labradors do, newly fireproofed fabric, our beautiful Labrador table cloth and PSLRA banner, many of our favorite old photos, and information about our club, breeders and puppies.

Many visitors stopped by the booth to inquire about owning a Labrador and joining our club, and to get some love from the many club Labradors who were staffing the booth along with their people. Thanks to all who helped out to make the booth a big success. Thanks to Lucy Issacson-Logan, who put it all together and set it up the day before the show, and to Trish and Bill Reiter, who upgraded it, including making it meet the fire code. Thanks to Darlene Pado, who did a fabulous job printing, matting and laminating all the new photos, and to Tera Jones and Bonnie Tuinstra for creating our beautiful new scrapbooks. Special thanks to all those club members who volunteered to sit at the booth, answer questions and show off their Labradors during the show: Lucy Issacson-Logan, Cheri Levine, Sharon Edwards, Ann Studebaker, Marcy Johnson, Kristi Clark, Linda and Hugh Maffet, Franna Pitt, Dave Lawniczack, and Nina Mann, who drove all the way down from the north to help with the booth, even though she wasn't showing, and packed it into her van and hauled it home to store it for us.

Thanks

My lifetime membership came as a very pleasant surprise. thanks for thinking of this for our little group of "long haulers." I'm sorry I was unable to attend the banquet to accept this award in person. It's certainly been a pleasurable, rewarding association, but it's still hard to believe that 20 years have passed since I first joined. Long may the club live and prosper! --Julie Kirk

Thank You

I received a nice note and certificate in the mail the other day from the club. Honestly, it brought tears to my eyes! Thank you everyone for the lifetime membership (and now I feel extra guilty for not making it to the banquet). I feel like I have received much more from PSLRA than I have ever given, but am proud to have been one of the first few people that said, "Let's do this!" We have the best Labrador club in the country and it is an honor to be a member! Sincerely, Sandy Wasson

BRAGS

Ginger Spice Girl and Cheri Levine earned their first Excellent A agility leg in Jumpers with a second place at the Seattle Kennel Club show. It was Ginger's first time running on carpet and in front of a huge crowd. She then went on to work the Lab booth and was a great ambassador for the breed.

CH Himoon Twist N' Shout was WD and BOS at the Seattle Kennel Club Show. This completed his championship title. Twist is owned and bred by **Lucy Isaacson-Logan**.

U-UD HR Nomad Take the High Road took first place in Utility B and second place in Open B for High Combined at the MVDTC UKC show on Sunday, Jan. 25, for a total of 13 UKC OTCH points. Traveler is owned and trained by **Terrie Sato**.

WANTED

1 to 2 year old midsize female lab for training as a service dog.

- ☞ Dog will be used as a mobility dog for a woman with MS.
- ☞ Going to an excellent home.
- ☞ Dog must have stable temperament and enjoy retrieving.
- ☞ Must have good hips, elbows and eyes.
- ☞ Able to pay reasonable fees.

Please contact Theresa Hampl at
Dynamite Dog
206-463-2870
dogconsultant@hotmail.com

Let's Party!

Our PSLRA friendly group enjoys a party, but this coming December we will be without a party room. Due to the Newport Yacht Club being remodeled we are looking for a new large party spot.

Now, if you all wouldn't mind coming to Whidbey island, (I hear the groans) we could have the party at the American Legion hall. But, since many folks are averse to the ferry ride, I said to our board of directors, "We must have some members in this club who also belong to the American Legion, VFW, Eagles or some other organization with a large club house with kitchen facilities." Do we?

Of course, we need to be centrally located for these events, so our members from the far north (Whatcom/Skagit area), and from the deep south (Chehalis/Vancouver area), and east of the mountains (Ellensburg/Yakima) can all manage to get there. You folks on the peninsula can just plan to spend the night.

While we are asking, how about club members who work for a school district like I do? We need grounds on which to have our fun match. I filled out the form to use our school grounds for the obedience part of our specialty trial on Whidbey. I warn people that I will have to hurt someone if it gets messed up. Or the club will have to support me if I lose my job. So, any good ideas for parks, or school grounds?

If you have any thoughts, you can respond to me or any of the board members. You will find all our contact info in the newsletter.

Thanks in advance, Sharon Edwards



Meet the Officers and Board

Officers

President: Ron Perry

Member since 1993— Currently serving second year of second term as president. Ron has been owned by several Labradors since 1978. He has served on the board since 1995 and has been club vice president, specialty chairperson, and hunt test stake chair. Ron is a board member of the Rainier Hunting Retriever Club and is active in the Washington State Obedience Training Club as a class instructor. Although he sometimes exhibits in conformation, his main interests are field and obedience events. His two adult Labs Tara and Alex compete in Master Hunter. His puppy Nikolas is training on birds and in obedience and will show in conformation when he becomes old enough.

Vice President: Linda Walkley, Mustardseedlabs

Member since 1996—Fred and I have two all around awards for Sonny and Artie and are now working on our latest addition Reign for his all around titles. What fun it is to have a puppy in the house again. We have been hosting most board meetings at our home for the last few years, as well as the Christmas Party at the Newport Yacht Club. We've also been mailing the newsletter for those who have chosen not to receive it by e-mail. I have been hunt test secretary and am currently co-chair for the 2004 specialty.

Treasurer: Nina Mann, Harbortop Labs

Founding Member 1983—I was born and raised in New York City, having as one of my favorite stories the book *May I Keep Dogs?* Impractical choice for a city girl. But after Don and I were married and moved to Seattle, things changed. We had four kids and now I have seven grandchildren, and I think it would be fair to say that since retirement my life has gone to the dogs!

I brought my first serious Labrador bitch back from England in 1978 and a chocolate bitch from Connecticut in 1980. These two girls were my foundation bitches and everything in my kennel goes back to them. My littlest girl, now three months, is six generations down from both of them.

Along the way they have given me titles in every AKC venue except field trials and have made me proud of them as guide dogs, assistance dogs, and search and rescue dogs while reinforcing my belief in the Labrador retriever as a Dog For All Reasons.

Treasurer: Sirinda Krueger

Member since 1996—Sirinda has also served as secretary and as the Specialty trophy donation chair. She lives in Redmond with her husband Bill, three Labradors, and three llamas. There has been a Labrador in the household since 1986, but the real Labrador activity began in 1998 with the 'second generation' of Labs when Sirinda began breeding and competing in conformation, agility, and obedience. All three Labradors have a Companion Dog title and Bear and Chloe are training in open obedience. Bear and Chloe have agility titles, as well, and Sirinda is a member of the Rainier Agility Team.

Board

Linda Maffett, Sunnydaze Labradors

Member since 1989—This is my first year as a board member. I lived in Bellingham up until last year and the distance made it a bit difficult for me to be any more involved. Since I am now living in Seattle, with my new husband, Hugh, it made sense to get more involved with the club when I was asked. I have in the past held the position of Membership Chair as well as chairing the annual PSLRA Eye Clinic a couple of times. I was Puppy Referral Chair a LONG time ago too! This year I am applying for my junior stakes judges license, so I hope to see many of you out there running your young Labradors at junior hunt tests.

These days you will primarily see me in the breed ring but we have some youngsters that we hope to start running in the hunt tests and maybe even one for a CD or TD title. Well, you might see my novice husband doing that one!

Marcy Johnson, Sound View Labradors

Member since 2002—Our family have been members of PSLRA for two years now but added our first Labrador to the family four years ago.

I met my husband Alan, when we were 17 years old and we will celebrate our 15th wedding anniversary in September. We have two children, Samantha 13 1/2 and Michael 12, three Labradors, two cats (all black) two birds, one horse and numerous fish! Yes, we live in Seattle!

We have always had animals of some sort in our home, but deciding to get a Labrador was a big step. I absolutely fell in love with every aspect of this breed and can't believe I wasted so much time living without one!

We enjoy duck hunting and hunt testing with our dogs as well as some obedience. We have just started in the show ring with our first Sound View bred dog. I am very excited to be a part of the board this year. I have met some wonderful and giving people in this group who have mentored me through my first two litters as well as breaking me into hunt testing and conformation showing. I feel truly blessed to be part of such an amazing group of people.

Marlys Swanson

Member since 2002—We previously owned mixed breed dogs, so this is our first experience owning a purebred Lab. When we had the idea to purchase a Lab I thought we simply wanted a new pet. Since, I have begun learning more about hunt tests, obedience, agility and conformation and loving it. We have twin boys that I hope will become interested in working with our dog as well. My husband plans to take up bird hunting. I wanted to be on the board so that I could meet others and be an active member of PSLRA.

Darlene Pado

Member since 2001—While I grew up with dogs (Welsh Terrier and Lhasa Apso), I did not own my first Labrador until just a few years ago. I'd always wanted a black Lab and when the time was right, I took a job that did not require travel and bought a house in West Seattle; a month later, Black Rock Life of Reilly (Reilly) entered my life. I was inexperienced about puppy-buying (my parents bought our Welsh Terrier at a pet store), but thanks to the internet I managed to research breeders and find a kennel that bred an all-around dog with a look I liked. I purchased Reilly from

Linda and Dale Brummett of Black Rock Labradors in Kirklin, Ind. and fell in love with him immediately. At the time, I was primarily interested in competition obedience, and I took classes with Reilly at the Family Dog Training Center in Kent. We both enjoy obedience, and Reilly earned his CD title and one leg of his CDX in 2003.

Through meeting and talking with others in the dog-world, I became interested in learning more about my chosen breed and showing in conformation. While he is a champion in my heart, Reilly is at the tall end of the standard and is not show-quality. I'd always planned on getting a second dog and since I like a challenge, I decided I would like to find a nice chocolate dog to show. Linda Brummett once suggested I look up Barb and Don Ironside of Fawnhaven Labradors (Reilly is out of Fawnhaven, Twigs, and Valleywood lines), and in September 2001 I sent Barb an e-mail inquiring about her upcoming Archie/Bessie litter and mentioned that I owned a dog related to her Kory and Shooter. She invited me out to their home, and after we talked she agreed to let me have the chocolate male pick of the litter; unfortunately, that litter did not work out and neither did a few others. This process taught me a lot about patience, working with a good breeder, and waiting for the right dog. And in May of 2002, Fawnhaven Mischief Maker Delphi (Murphy), a Shooter son I co-own with the Ironsides, came home.

While I was waiting for a puppy, Barb introduced me to PSLRA and encouraged to me to get involved in the club. I wanted to learn about field work but since I did not hunt, was leery of guns and really knew nothing about training a field dog, I wasn't sure if this was something I would ever be able to do. Barb got me to come out to one of PSLRA's fun field days and also introduced me to Brad Turner and his field training group. I also volunteered at the 2002 PSLRA spring hunt test and have volunteered at several tests since then, working in popper/thrower stations and running birds; volunteering is an excellent way to learn about the sport. In the spring/summer of 2003, I ran my dogs in their first hunt tests, and Murphy earned his Junior Hunter title in May and Reilly

finished his title in July. We are now training for Senior Hunter.

Last summer, I took a tracking class and am currently training Reilly for his TD title. I started showing Murphy in conformation in 2003 and have received a lot of support and guidance from Barb, Don and PSLRA. Since Murphy is from lines that are slow-to-mature, he will not be shown much over the next year or two, but I still plan to attend shows to watch and learn. I don't know if I will ever breed Labradors, especially since I prefer to keep males, but I do want to continue learning about them and enjoying their company. I also want to continue developing the friendships I have made within PSLRA, and I am glad to have the opportunity to be a part of the PSLRA board and give back to a group that has taught me a lot.

Editor's note: More board bios on page 11.

March 20 Training Day

Saturday, March 20 marks the date of the first fun training day on the PSLRA schedule. This event will be held at Greenleaf's Field just south of Monroe on Hwy. 203 and will begin at 10 a.m. Experienced club members will be on hand to offer instruction in both handling for the conformation ring and getting your dog started retrieving for field events.

This is a terrific opportunity to meet club members, socialize your dog and get in some training time. Pigeons will be available for live shot retrieves at a cost of \$4/bird. Young puppies will be introduced to birds in preparation for the WC and field training practice. The equipment used at hunt tests will be available so that both you and your dog can become familiar with it. Learn about holding blinds, gun stations and wingers. Learn how to stack, gait and bait your dog for the conformation ring. Find out what collar and lead is appropriate for showing. Bring a sack lunch and rain or shine, plan on spending the day!

For more information contact Terrie Sato at 425-788-6628, WDSato@aol.com.

Editor's Corner

The new membership books will be ready soon thanks to the efforts of Joni Willing. These books are incredibly handy for locating fellow club members. I use mine all the time. If you want a membership book, you must be a member so please renew your membership with Joni now.

This month's newsletter has some terrific stories. Thanks to Allison Quiggle for sharing her experiences training her Labrador, Sierra, as an avalanche rescue dog. Reading Allison's story made me reflect on how little credit most of us give our dogs. They are capable of so much! I also want to thank Hailee Drege for her article encouraging other juniors to try obedience. It is always a pleasure to see Hailee at the obedience ring. She's one of the busy juniors that our club recognized at the banquet in January. I very much appreciate the time she took to share her thoughts on obedience. Finally, I want to thank Nancy Dyson for taking on the Training Thoughts question this month. Nancy believes in the versatile dog. She has not only put Obedience Trial Championships on two dogs, but has also put tracking, hunt and agility titles on her dogs. She teaches competition obedience classes in Bellingham. I believe Nancy's article helps us to think outside the box to make obedience a creative process for both dog and handler.

Check out the upcoming events and try to get out to a few of them. This club offers so much to its members. The training day should prove to be fun and educational. Volunteer to help at the five series in April if you want to see some great Labradors at work in the field. See you there!

Terrie



Training Thoughts

Lagging on the Figure 8

by Nancy Dyson

How do you train for figure 8s and teach your dog not to lag? Lagging on the outside of the figure 8 is a problem often seen in the ring because the dog actually has to move *faster* than the handler to maintain correct heel position. In an effort to solve the problem, our first inclination always seems to be to pop the dog forward with the leash. Unfortunately, because dogs resist pressure, this will serve only to make the problem worse. However tempting, don't do it!

It would actually be unusual for a dog to lag *only* on the Figure 8 and not during straight line heeling —particularly on the fast—though the lagging may be much more apparent on the Figure 8. As a first step, therefore, and just to be sure, I would go back to basics and make certain the dog understands where heel position is and reward him a lot just for being in that position. After spending several days on that, I would practice right turns with a key word such as *hurry*. Have food in your right hand. With the dog sitting in heel position, heel forward two or three steps then take the first step of your right turn (for me, this is with my left foot). At the same time say *hurry* and bring the food over in front of your dog's nose, almost pulling him with the food to drive around that turn to the right. Release, feed and praise immediately. You don't even need to finish the turn. It's the first step that's important and that first step is the same signal for the dog whether you're turning right or beginning the outside circle of the Figure 8, it's merely a question of degree.

Once the dog is responding to the word *hurry* to get the food, start doing large right circles telling the dog to *hurry*. Walk faster and faster, releasing and rewarding frequently but further around the circle each time. Pump your dog up with enthusiastic encouragement. If you still need some extra oomph, try sound effects like "whee" along with the *hurry*. Our dogs love it when we're silly with them. At this point, the food—or you can use a toy now—can be in either hand but toss it

to your right to release the dog forward so he's driving the entire time. By now, if you're doing it right, *hurry* should be a pretty exciting word for your dog! Of course, you won't be able to say *hurry* to your dog in the ring and it's important to phase it out with the food as you get closer to showing. But if you say it often enough in practice, you and your dog will automatically start *thinking hurry* any time you go to the right.

Now add some spice to your heeling practice. Put out eight or ten cones, poles, chairs, whatever, about eight feet apart in a long straight line. Practice heeling in serpentine always remembering to say *hurry* as you go to the right. Occasionally, do a complete circle or two around one of the cones then continue with your serpentine. (See Fig. 1.)

Change your pace while doing this, too, sometimes running, especially when going to the right, but sometimes going very slowly too just to surprise your dog. Don't forget to sometimes do circles to the left as well and to do those very slowly or even at a run. Dogs love not knowing what's coming next.

You could change the exercise again by having two lines of four or six posts. The posts in each line will be eight feet apart and the lines will be eight feet apart from each other. Do various patterns around all these posts—sometimes serpentine, sometimes figure 8s from any post to any

post in either line, sometimes heel all the way around the outside of the posts in a big rectangle. Switch back and forth and in and out and surprise both you and your dog. (See Fig. 2 for an example.) Try

straight line heeling approaching one of your posts. When you reach the post, zoom all the way around it then continue your straight line. Not only is all this much more fun than a regular ol' figure 8 but it sharpens up your footwork as well as your dog!

Any training becomes boring for you and your dog if the routine is never varied. Everyone seems to enjoy agility because it's always different but there's no reason obedience training shouldn't be the same way. With imagination and enthusiasm, heeling can be like dancing with a favorite partner.

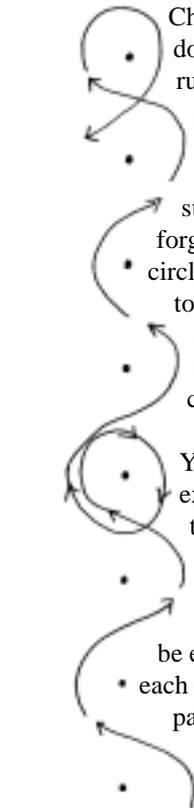


Fig. 1

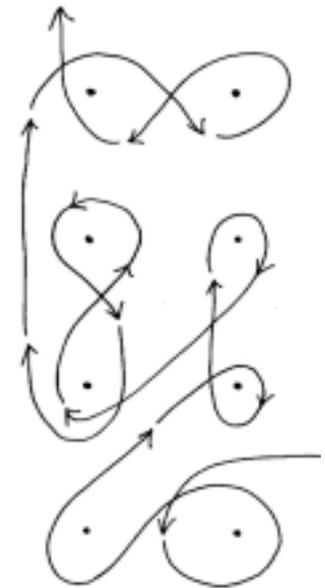


Fig. 2



Nosy Lab Learns to Save Lives

by Allison Quiggle

Australian shepherds, border collies, Chesapeake Bay retrievers, German shepherds, golden retrievers, and Labrador retrievers have all been successful avalanche rescue canines. The ideal avalanche rescue dog will have strength and agility, a good coat, immense loyalty and prey drive, and most importantly scenting abilities. Dogs that come from parents with hunting or working backgrounds have been very successful. I became involved with Avalanche Search and Rescue Dogs as a member of the Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol. Crystal Mountain has had success working with a variety of breeds, but particularly with Labradors retrievers.

Sierra, an 8 month old puppy, works daily along with one other puppy, and four Level III certified rescue dogs. A chocolate Labrador retriever from Oak Harbor, Sierra has been training with me ever since her first steps in the snow last fall. Since her first chairlift ride alongside me, Sierra has been exposed to new adventures on a daily basis. In addition to chairlifts, she has become accustomed to traveling on snowmobiles, snow-cat machines, and toboggans in only three short months. She has also become comfortable traveling alongside me on skis. Although the most valuable skill of an avalanche rescue dog is searching for buried victims in the



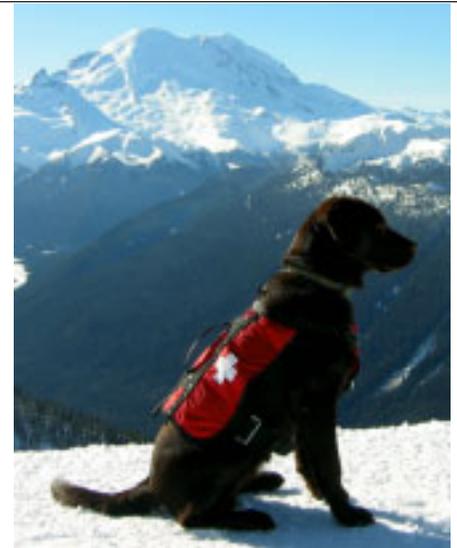
Allison and Sierra in training

snow, there are many things that the handler and dog must train for in order to become a successful rescue team.

A rescue dog and handler can search an avalanche path as much as eight times faster than a well trained avalanche rescue team. A specifically trained dog can greatly increase the odds of a live recovery in an avalanche burial. As opposed to many search and rescue dogs that are taught to "track" a specific scent on a surface, avalanche rescue dogs are trained to "scent" a victim by following a scent's path through the air. A buried victim's scent will rise to the snows surface via air vapors traveling the path of least resistance. The scent is then carried by the wind in a "scent cone" originating at the victim. Once a dog picks up the unknown scent, it pinpoints the scent to the location of its greatest intensity. A handler must then work with the dog to locate the victim buried several feet below.

Avalanche specific training begins with a puppy playing frequent games of "hide-and-go-seek." This is in addition to obedience and socialization training. Hiding a puppy's toys or treats quickly progresses to hiding them under something such as a rug or a thin layer of leaves. This trains the dog to investigate further when they cannot see the origin of a smell. Training quickly progresses to "runaway" games that involve the handler running away from the puppy while it is enticed to quickly follow the person. This activity can be combined with both praise and a physical reward, causing the puppy to associate the reward with the "find." Eventually, the puppy will seek the handler after longer periods of time or in further away locations.

Mastery of this game can then be transferred to the snowy environment. The runaway game evolves to the handler hiding in a trench-like hole, requiring the puppy to look down at the snow in order to locate the person. After practicing this activity with a dusting of snow on top of the handler, so that the person is not seen



right away, the puppy is ready to search for victims in deeper holes. At this point the puppy is also ready to search for a person they did not see running away. This is referred to as a blind search. Sierra and I are currently working on searching for victims about one foot below the snow surface, buried loosely to allow the scent to rise quickly. As a team, Sierra and I can locate the victim in a blind search quickly. Eventually, she will be able to work with an increased number of distractions during her search, as well as search for victims of deeper burials. Sierra's greatest pleasure is locating her victim and receiving praise and play time with her searching specific reward toy. In the future, the search alone will be a great source of pleasure. She also will learn how to travel through more difficult mountainous terrain, as well as to work around helicopters, avalanche control explosives and many other challenges.

As for now, Sierra looks forward to each day that she comes to work with me as another day to play in the snow. Although she is a "working dog" in training, being able to spend the time at work and with the other Crystal Mountain dogs is invaluable. The socialization is beneficial, but Sierra also learns by watching the certified dogs. This spring, Sierra and I will test as a team for a Level I certification. Ideally, at this level, Sierra will be able to locate a victim buried in the snow in less than 15 minutes. In the future, she will work towards quicker times and more difficult situations. As Sierra rests tonight, she looks forward to her future, as this is the only way of life she knows for a Labrador retriever puppy.

PSLRA Newsletter Input: LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 2/5/04 that conform to the P.S.L.R.A. 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 P.S.L.R.A. of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after 3 mos.

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 50th 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 Corene if you need a Litter Listing form, to be used for ALL litters.**
 - All Breeders must update their litters each week with Corene Musga via email (corenemusga@comcast.net) as to the sex and color of puppies you have sold. The listing will be deleted after 3 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: **Corene Musga, 19904 SE 300th Street, Kent, WA 98042.**
 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 Corene Musga) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue.

LITTER NOTICE FORM (Please obtain from Corene.)

Litter Born 10/22/03 (1YM Available)

Sire: CanCH Chablais Singing In The Rain JH
OFA 28F, OFEL 28, CERF 10/06/02
Heart Cleared 16 mos.
Dam: CanCDX Cedarwood Country Diva UD, MXJ,AX,CGC
OFA 28E, OFEL 28, CERF 11/16/02
Litter: 4YM, 2YF
Contact: Julia E. Germano (360) 653-1959
Email: labresort@aol.com
(Listed 11/30/03;01/01/04) Arlington, WA

Litter Born 11/28/03 (1BF, 1CF Available)

Sire: Am/CanCH Skyfire's Oughta Be A Law CD,JH,WC
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 09/13/03
OFA Heart Cleared 17 mos.
Dam: WindyCanyon's Ima Pink Lady
CDX,SH,OA,OAJ,CGC
OFA 24 E, OFEL 24, CERF 3/16/03
OFA Heart Cleared 25 mos.
Litter: 2BF, 3BM, 2CF
Contact: Anne Swindeman (509)457-8392
Email: windycanyonlabs@hotmail.com
(Listed 11/30/03;1/1/04;1/23) Yakima, WA

Litter Born 12/01/03 (1BM, 1YF, 1YM Avail)

Sire: Lor-Al's Direct From Tantara
OFA 24G, OFEL 25, CERF 6/13/03
Dam: Blackwaters Bella Donna
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 11/15/03
Litter: 1Ym, 1BM, 2YF, 1BF
Contact: Laura Steward DVM (360) 876-6199
Email: cimarronlabs@earthlinknet
(Listed 2/5/04) Port Orchard, WA

Litter Born 12/6/03 (2YM, 2BM Available)

Sire: CH Himoon Twist'N Shout
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 10/19/03
Dam: Rocking M's Crystal Clear
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 10/19/03
Contact: Cindy & Bryant Meyer (253) 846-9583
Email: rockingmlabs@qwest.net
(Listed 12/27/03) Spanaway, WA

Litter Born 12/20/03 (5BF, 3BM Available)

Sire: Rocking M Diamante Deu Noir
OFA 27G, OFEL 27, CERF 2/16/03
Dam: Southshore Libby-Dee-Belle
OFA 43G, OFEL 43, CERF 8/8/03
Litter: 6BF, 3BM
Contact: Todd & Beth Walker (360) 748-3787
Email: bandwalker@hotmail.com
(Listed 12/27/03) Chehalis, WA

Litter Expected 2/07/04 (All Blacks)

Sire: CH Langshotts Gale Force from Kim Valley
 OFA 27G, OFEL 25, CERF 9/13/03
 Dam: Orions Star Over Blackthorn
 OFA 25F, OFEL 25, ACVO 8/07/03
 Litter: All Blacks Expected
 Contact: Vicky Hoskinson (360) 856-0649
 Email: cameolabs@comcast.net
 (Listed 2/4/03) Sedro Woolley, WA

Litter Expected 2/19/04 (All Yellows)

Sire: CH Lubberline Martingale
 OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 6/21/03
 Dam: Int.CH Cameo's West Side Story
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 8/07/03
 Heart Cleared 10/06/02
 Litter: All Yellows Expected
 Contact: Vicky Hoskinson (360) 856-0649
 Email: cameolabs@comcast.net
 (Listed 2/4/03) Sedro Woolley, WA



**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 prospective 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 P.S.L.R.A. Price will vary.

2 Year Old Black Male, intact/will neuter. Basic obedience, sweet dog, OFA Good Hips, OFA clear elbows, ACVO eyes. Crate trained. Just loves people and other animals. Contact: Julia W. Wilson (360) 332-4844 or cell (360) 920-6648. Email: draytonharbor@juno.com
 (Listed 12/7/03) Blaine, WA

Meet the Board--Continued**Becky Jack, Nipntuck Labradors**

Member since 1985

In 1985 I brought my very first dog to the PSLRA "Trilabathon" at Cascade Kennels. Since I grew up showing horses, I knew I wanted to be involved in the sport of dogs as soon as I graduated from college. My first years were primarily focused on obedience, where I put UD titles and all breed High In Trials on three different dogs. However, with marriage and my kid's arrivals (Tucker, 12, Kate, 10, and Will, 7), we now show mostly in the breed ring. I feel extremely lucky to have bred and/or owned nearly a dozen specialty winners and eight champions. I am very pleased to serve on the PSLRA Board for the third year. What a marvelous group of people. I also serve on the NLRC Board, where I have been the newsletter editor since 1996, and my husband, Kim and I are also on the Board of the Northwest chapter of Cure Autism Now.

Merlyn Foote, Somerset Labradors

Member since 1987

My husband and I bought our first Labrador Retriever in 1962. Since then we've always had a Labrador in our home. When we went to Saudi Arabia, in 1971, two Labs went with us. We returned home in 1974 and have been continually involved with our dogs—and dog clubs. I joined PSLRA in 1987 soon after moving here from California. I have served as show chair, and on trophies and catalogs, H.T. marshal and now on puppy referral. PSLRA is a great group of people with many activities available for club members. I encourage everyone to get involved. If you have a question, comment or want to volunteer at one of our activities call a board member. Names and phone numbers are printed in the newsletter. Let us hear from you.

Mary Jane Sarbaugh, Wyntercreek Labradors

Member since 1986

We got our first Labrador in 1976. We just wanted a nice "pet"—look where she took us! I live on Whidbey Island where I have my own grooming business at home and do a little boarding. I have two daughters, Jessica and Jennifer (both grown and married) and a son, Clark. I have served as chairperson for the Fun Match, Specialty, WC and Five Series Singles. I have been the newsletter editor, served several terms on the board, chaired the eye clinic and served on the rescue committee since its inception. I am honored to serve on the board.

Sharon Edwards, ShaRay Labradors

Member since 1988.

Currently serving on the board.

Previous offices: Vice President, President, and board member
 Previous Committees: Specialty chair (4), HRT chair, WC/5-series co-chair, Eye clinic chair (3), Tracking test co-chair, LRC National Agility chair, agility match chair and general grunt to many other committees!

I am most proud of creating our club puppy referral list & organizing the first eye clinic during my term as PSLRA president. I was "into" horses most of my life and have "gone to the dogs". I live in Langley, on Whidbey Island, where I am a clerk in our middle school library since 1975. Ray & I have been married for 37 years, have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two wonderful grandchildren. We feed dogs in the two digit numbers, and co-own multiple others. We also have a handsome Champion Bernese Mountain Dog, Vinnie. I breed, train and handle my own dogs in conformation, agility, hunt tests, obedience, & therapy. In my spare time I enjoy my grandkids and even get in some reading!

Watch for more Board Bios next month.



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

This is your final Newsletter if you haven't yet renewed your membership.

Contact Joni Willing Membership Chair
memberchair@amerion.com
253-858-7445