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# THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

## Newsletter of the Puget Sound

## Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 21, Number 1, January 2004



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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The January Awards Banquet gave us the opportunity to give some special recognition to club volunteers and to elect new officers and board members.

The board unanimously voted to give lifetime membership to our founding members who did not already have such an honor. Previously the club gave membership to just one founder, Nina Mann. This year we added Georgia Gooch, Anne Morrison, Julie Kirk, Jane Paton, and Sandy Wasson. They join Nina, Joni Willing, and Evelyn Smith as lifetime members. Thanks to them, PSLRA has become a large group of people dedicated to the perfection of our breed. The structure they established over twenty years ago continues to thrive today, as manifested by our several well-run events, seminars, health clinics, and educational efforts. It is only fitting then, that we confer lifetime membership on our founding members.

This year's outstanding Member of the Year Award went to Cindy Meyer, for her *many* efforts on behalf of the club. In addition to being Field Chair and supporting our field events, Cindy coordinates volunteers for the January Sportsmen's Show and is active in Rescue as a foster home. We appreciate her positive attitude which keeps us all motivated to do things well for the club.

Barb Ironside received the President's Award for her many years of service as board member, and her ongoing volunteer efforts connected to all of our club events. She has given much to the club, much of it behind the scenes and not receiving the kind of recognition it deserves. Barb will chair this year's Specialty, and undoubtedly will be calling on all of us to help.

The club recognized our members who have volunteered their time and energy this year. Our club has a heavily visited web site, strong Rescue and Puppy Referral programs, an online Chat List just for club members, a welcoming committee for new members, and a number of fun/training days for new and inexperienced members. Last year, the club hosted its first agility trial. It was a hugely successful event, and the number of Labradors exceeded all other breeds entered.

We have been able to add events to our calendar while still maintaining the full schedule of our standard events. This year, we will be expanding the Specialty by holding two back-to-back obedience trials. These successes we now enjoy are due to our many club members who come forward to chair or volunteer to help with these events.

Finally, but certainly not the least, the Banquet enabled us to acknowledge the impressive achievements of our junior members. Their accomplishments set a high standard for the rest of us! Congratulations to our junior members.

--Ron

## IMPORTANT DATES

(see annual calendar on p. 11)

**Jan. 31 Membership renewal deadline**

**Jan. 31, Feb. 1 Seattle Kennel Club Show – Booth & Meet the Breed**

**Feb. 7, HRT Judges Seminar**

**Mar. 20, Fun Field & Confirmation Handling Day**

### Newsletter Information:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

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**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 \$20.00/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 \$10.00 listing fee has been paid to Puppy Referral. All litter listings and other advertising of litters must comply with the PSLRA Code or Ethics.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

It is only January and the PSLRA board has already put a great deal of time and effort into planning the year's events. A calendar is included in this newsletter. Please mark these events on your personal calendar and keep watch in future newsletters for more information. Event chairs are already in place for most of these functions along with contact e-mails. I believe the watch word for the year will be *volunteer*. Cindy Meyer, our field chair, makes a very eloquent plea for volunteers in this issue. Her request applies to more than field events. If you plan to participate, plan to volunteer to help. If you aren't sure about participating, volunteer and find out if the event is right for you and your dog. The entire club benefits when you say yes.

The club banquet was great fun, and the Junior awards were a welcome addition. I am delighted to have a Junior contributor to this month's newsletter. Jennifer Schmitke introduces herself in this issue and promises to share more of the lessons she has learned as an AKC Junior exhibitor in future newsletters. I hope her words inspire other Juniors to share their stories as well. Another very inspiring story comes from Monica Buchstatter and her dog, Riley. I first met Monica when Riley was a Novice A obedience dog. We have shared a love of both field and obedience events, and I have come to appreciate Monica as a wonderful trainer and a determined competitor.

This month's *Training Thoughts* takes on the controversial subject of corrections. I have shared my philosophy and invite you to write and share your ideas, also. One advantage of a club is the large number of people available as resource to help each other with our shared interest of Labradors. Sharing ideas and philosophies is an important perk of belonging to this club. I look forward to hearing from you.

Terrie



### CORRECTION:

We regret that the web site printed in last months article on **Fibrocartilaginous embolism** was incorrect. The correct web site is <http://www.redveterinaria.com/cyber/traumato2.php>.

## Club business

### December General Membership Meeting

Ron Perry called the meeting to order at 4:30 at the Newport Yacht Club on December 13, 2003. All members present introduced themselves, family members and gave their kennel names.

Linda Walkley read the slate of officers and board members on behalf of the nominating committee and asked for nominations from the floor. There being no additional nominations, Barbara Ironside moved the nominations be closed. Leslie Douglas seconded the motion. There being no dissent, the nominations were closed.

The trophy sponsorship list was passed around for anyone interested to sign up for the available classes. It was also announced that Darlene Pado is collecting pictures for the club booth.

Ron Perry mentioned briefly our upcoming 2004 events and Barbara Ironside asked for volunteers to help at the 2004 specialty. Joni Willing reminded everyone that 2004 dues are now due.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nina Mann, Secretary.



## FIELD NEWS

### ASK NOT WHAT YOUR CLUB CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CLUB

#### A Note from the Field Chair:

I know it seems to be months away but the field events will be upon us sooner than we think. It takes lots of planning and more time than anyone could ever know, but all the events the chair people put on are always successful. WHY?

Because of the people that volunteer!

I would like to thank the club members that always spend the time from start to finish, you all are a blessing to me. And I for one would like to take my hat off to you all.

Without you we would be nothing. **Thank you**, for always being there and always leading a hand, your hard work and friendship is greatly appreciated.

The hardest thing for a chair is to find willing people to commit their time. We, as all of you in the club have other things in life to do, but as a club member of any club we all need to do our part. Please help this club to be successful in everything we do. **Volunteer!**

**BURN OUT** Have any of you ever been burned out in something you love to do? I, for one, never thought I would ever feel that way about something I love so much...

I love to help in any way I can, but I always find myself doing too much. It would

be nice to have new blood come and spend some time learning something new. This club has so much to offer that you will never know about unless you find time to help.

Please call your Event Chairs to volunteer to help!

Our Upcoming Events are always listed in the newsletter and the chairperson's phone numbers are attached. Contact them and please **VOLUNTEER!**

Thank you,

Cindy Meyer, PSLRA Field Events Chair

**I can't think of anything that brings me closer to tears than when my old dog – completely exhausted after a full and hard day in the field – limps away from her nice spot in front of the fire and comes over to where I'm sitting and puts her head in my lap, a paw over my knee and closes her eyes and goes back to sleep. I don't know what I've done to deserve that kind of friend.  
Gene Hill, "The Dog Man"**

## JUNIORS

### MY EXPERIENCES

By Jennifer Schmitke, 13

I first started showing Labrador Retrievers when I was eight years old. My mom had been taking training classes for obedience with my first Labrador, Angel, Dakota Springwood Angelica B CD. I went to watch my mom show for the very first time at a match. I saw kids showing and thought I was missing out on something. At one of our very first "real" shows, we met Terry McFadden. I was showing Angel in the Open Black Bitches class at the Kachina Kennel Club Match. I won the class and went into the Best of Breed ring. Astonishingly, I won Best of Breed.

The minute I turned ten I started showing at bigger shows in the Junior Showmanship ring. Terry introduced me to Dani, SR Ms T's Dani McMax of Bar-K CD, my first junior dog. We began traveling around Arizona, and this is when I really began to get the hang of showing in Juniors. Terry had been showing dogs for a while before

she met us and knew a lot of people/juniors that we hadn't known previously. Since I had just started, Terry introduced me to Emily Owen-Jones, an Open Senior, who co-owned Dani and Terry's male, Toadd, but mostly showed Australian Cattle Dogs. Emily started teaching me the basics of showing a dog correctly. Then we also began talking to Holly and Judy Niece. Holly and I would meet at a park to practice, and she would teach me some of her techniques to help me become a more skilled handler. Holly had started her junior career with Labradors and is now an AKC Junior judge. After I had been showing Dani for about a year and a half, she and I had earned my three Novice Junior wins and advanced into the Open Junior class. It seemed like it took forever to get the three wins to move into Open



Junior, but it was only about ten months.

The competition became more challenging with each show I attended, so Terry let me work with and get to know her champion, Toadd, Ch Ms T's BoMar Been There Done That CD JH. It did not take long for us to form a bond and once Terry saw that he and I could be a good team, she signed me onto his ownership papers and that is when my career as a junior began to take off. I started going out of state to Albuquerque, New Mexico and California shows for specialties. I also started going to shows sponsored by the Australian Shepherd Club of Arizona, where they allow juniors with other breeds to show in juniors. I was getting reserve Best Junior Handler there for about two years. When I became a better handler, I moved up to the Open Senior Class in 2003. Then I finally began to start winning my class and taking Best Junior more often.

At my first Albuquerque Labrador Specialty, I took Best Junior in 2002

showing Toadd, and he also took Best in Show Specialty with Joyce Standish handling him. It was so exciting! For the Albuquerque Specialty in 2003, which I wasn't going to miss, being the defending Best Junior, I had just arrived home from a Band Festival trip to California at two in the morning and in a few hours I would be on the road again on the way to the show in New Mexico. I was not going to miss this show because I wanted to defend my title of Best Junior Handler. I successfully defended my title and with that, won a huge Chrome Tack Box and two beautiful rosettes, one green and one pink. This was also my first time working for a professional handler, Bonnie DeMille. I learned a lot of important facts from Bonnie and other professional handlers on how to groom different breeds of dogs and what the judges look for in a certain breed. One of my other favorite specialties is the San Diego Labrador Retriever Club, where I also took a Best Junior in 2002. Aside from the joy of winning, I also won a Black Labrador Retriever key ring plaque (which in my family it is now used for hanging leashes and collars) and a beautiful green and pink rosette.

After Albuquerque 2003, Toadd retired, what a great way to retire! Terry kept the tradition going and put me on another one of her dogs, Toadd's granddaughter, Dusti! In the short amount of time I have been showing Dusti, we have accomplished a lot. I attended the Sahuaro State Kennel Club in Goodyear, AZ and also the Papago Labrador Retriever Club Specialty. I happened to be really sick but tried to stay focused throughout the show. At the Specialty, Dani and I took second in veteran's conformation class and third in the veteran's obedience class at the specialty. The next day I still wasn't feeling good, but I ended up winning my class in juniors and also winning Best Junior! The day after, there was a conflict between Juniors and the Labrador Breed ring, so I used my back-up dog, Ivyhill Desert Willow UD (from Dian Sullivan), a female Labrador that I co-own with our friend, Jill Wallis, and she also did a wonderful job showing with me too! She helped me win first in my class the second day of juniors.

Another show I enjoy is the Labrador Retriever Club of Southern California because I meet a lot of friends, including Shawna Brooks, who I ended up hanging out with a lot at the AKC/Eukanuba National Invitational Championship. In order to attend the Eukanuba National Invitational Championship, I needed to win five times in the short period of time that they request and have a grade point average of 3.0. I have a 4.33 GPA but if I don't keep it up though, my mom won't let me show, so I had to take school work to shows, including Eukanuba. This event took place on December 3, 2003. I was so excited to finally be attending something as big as this, let alone that I was representing the Labrador Retrievers with Dusti! Dusti and I were the only Labrador Retriever team in the 90 or more juniors. Even though I did not make the cut to go onto the finals, I had a blast just being there and watching my friend, Shawna, showing her Golden Retriever, take third and cheering for Christine Tye's champion black bitch, Millie, in the group ring! My goal for this upcoming year is to make it to Eukanuba again and to the 2005 Westminster Kennel Club. I also want to keep on showing Dusti towards her championship, hopefully, and my younger brother's new pup, Bea. Bea and I make our first appearance in the ring together at Palm Springs this weekend in the 6-9 class. It will also be my first juniors show of 2004 with 21 in my Open Junior class.

Thank you for letting me introduce myself and talk about juniors. I'd like to do more articles for the newsletter on juniors in obedience and field as well as junior showmanship in the future.

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## The 2003 AKC Obedience Invitational

By Monica Buchstatter

Terrie Sato asked me to write about my trip to Long Beach, California, for the AKC Obedience Invitational, held in December 2003.

I am so proud of Riley for getting invited to the event. He's been nationally ranked in the top 10 for Labradors with OTCh points for the last three years. But we needed to be in the top 10 percent to be invited. 2003 was his last year of competing in obedience and, with some luck, we made it.

I asked my obedience instructor Andrea Vaughan to travel with me and Riley down to California. We drove because I just didn't want to fly my dog. We also had three other friends that were traveling down to compete.

We left the weekend after Thanksgiving, and we anticipated having some heavy traffic on Sunday. Sure enough we did, traveling only 70 miles in two-and-one-half hours. South of Stockton, California we bailed off of I-5, heading to the coast. We had planned enough extra travel time to go along the coast and really enjoyed the beautiful, winding roads.

We started down the coast on Monday morning and decided to work on Riley's hardest exercise throughout the day. We did the utility signal exercise in four different locations, with the most memorable at Pebble Beach Golf Course, next to their beautiful practice green. Yes, I asked permission. The staff was very nice and we had a great lunch there as well. Since we didn't have an extra \$375 (each) for a round of golf, we continued on our way. We also did signals in the rain at a scenic park along the coast, at our hotel in the morning and in the dark at a rest area that evening. The idea of all that practice was to make signals fun and challenging for Riley, with big rewards for doing them correctly. We were trying to change his attitude about this exercise. We arrived in Long Beach around 10 p.m. and slept well on the fluffy beds at the Hilton.

The competition started on Wednesday morning. The format is quite different from a regular obedience trial. There are six rings set up, and each competitor goes to each ring and does parts of both Open and Utility classes. My goal for the first day was to pass all the exercises—which was quite a lofty goal. Although Riley can do some beautiful work, he sometimes

goes into “lab-land” and doesn’t pay attention on the distance exercises. The day went great, I was hardly nervous at all and Riley was giving me his best work. At the end of the day, I was pretty sure that Riley had passed all of the exercises, but you never know. You find out the results at the dinner on Wednesday night.

Dinner at the hotel was very good and we had a great time at our table. I was seated with some very well known obedience competitors and instructors from all over the country, and it was nice to talk with all of them. During dinner they announced the 32 dogs that would be competing again on Thursday, one by one. I was thrilled to hear “number 18 qualifier is

Labrador Retriever OTCh Riley...” and our whole table cheered for Riley. To tell you the truth, when I looked over at Coach Andi, I started to cry from happiness, and then she did, too. After all the names were announced, we started to plan for the next day. I hugged others that did well then skipped dessert and headed up to the room take care of Riley.

The event changes quite a bit on the second day—we are now in four rings, and you go head to head, with single elimination. The number 1 dog competes against the number 32 dog, number 2 vs. number 31, etc. You also have two judges in the ring watching you. We went head to head against three other teams, one by one, and we emerged the winner. You never know your scores—the judges call you both back in the ring afterwards and congratulate you both on being there, then shake the hand of the winning team. It’s exciting, because it all happens so fast. Then you get ready for the next round.

I can honestly say that I concentrated on what Riley needed so much that I didn’t have much time to get nervous. The other competitors were all so nice, we wished

each other luck before competing and usually talked afterwards. The smiles, good luck wishes and thumbs up from friends were great, too. Some people came from Washington just to see the event, and they were very supportive of Riley and I. Andi was great—I couldn’t have asked for anything else from her. She brought me water, left me alone for quiet time with Riley, brought me lunch without being asked, supplied chocolate when needed and made sure I was at the right ring at the right time. We fine tuned our performance right up to the end and it paid off.



I could never have imagined doing as well as we did at this event, we were one of the last four dogs competing and just being there

was wonderful. It was two Golden Retrievers, a Border collie and Riley in the final four. We competed against one of the Golden Retrievers before lunch. Then they make you wait to find out if you are going to compete for first place or third place in your next round. Lunch seemed to take forever. They called all four of us to the ringside and then announced who would be going for third and fourth place. Since our name wasn’t announced, we would be competing for first place against Louise Fox-Meredith and her Border collie, Twister.

Our last two rounds were great, with bleachers full of onlookers clapping at the end of each of the exercises in the class. We each did a full open run, then a full utility run—again with two judges in the ring.

I am thrilled to say that we placed second to Twister—it was close and I am so proud of Riley, who qualified in every exercise that day. He was the most focused that he had ever been in the ring and we were a team. What a great way to end his competitive career.

(Editor’s Note: I feel that there are several facts that Monica modestly left out of her story. To fully appreciate Riley’s accomplishment it needs to be noted that he is OTCh Riley UDX JH. An Obedience Trial Championship (OTCh) is earned only by defeating other dogs in both the Utility B and Open B classes. A total of 100 points is needed to earn an OTCh. The number of dogs in each class determines the points earned in that class. It is often necessary to *win* the class to earn points, though occasionally second place also qualifies for points. Riley earned his OTCh in January 2002. This alone is a huge accomplishment. It also needs to be noted that Riley is an ILP registered Labrador. Riley was homeless and wandering the streets as a puppy when Monica rescued him. He has gone from being a homeless dog with no future to being recognized as the second best obedience dog in the country. I am thrilled that the PSLRA can claim Monica and Riley as our own!)

## The Clutch Chronicles

Clutch is five months old and has reached the equivalent mentality of a two-year-old child. He has exhibited the “I don’t want to hold your hand” syndrome as he is no longer concerned with keeping me in his sight. He has also begun showing signs that he thinks he may have a choice when it comes to obedience. This does not make him a naughty puppy. This is simply a typical development stage. For the novice puppy owner, this is the crucial time to get a pup into a good obedience class before frustration and chaos become the norm.

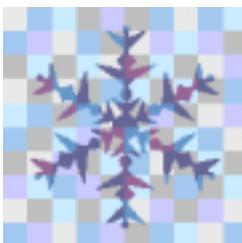
Clutch has demonstrated that he can respond appropriately to verbal commands, but this does not mean that he has complete understanding of his responsibility to obey. When he is wearing his leash, I have a tool to help enforce his commands. Since I do not want him to learn that he does not need to obey, he wears his leash or a long line most of the time. If I call him and he is too busy to come, I can pick up the leash or line and enforce the necessity to listen and respond. I actually look

forward to his civil disobedience as it gives me training opportunities.

We had one scary moment during the holidays. My husband called with panic in his voice as he found Clutch playing with a toy that was covered in blood. I was fairly confident that there was no serious problem but took the boy in my lap and examined him from toe to head. As I suspected, he was missing two prominent baby teeth, one on each side. I was thankful that Clutch was used to a thorough exam as it has been a part of our normal routine each day. I have since found other teeth in odd places, and teething seems to have brought on a whole new chewing stage. Clutch especially enjoys the texture of magazines. He seems to have developed a taste for current events as *Time* magazine is his chew toy of choice.

Though he is still getting marks in the field, we are concentrating more on his obedience. This includes walking in heel and sitting to both verbal and whistle commands. Clutch wears a dummy e-collar when we do our field exercises. He receives no pressure from the collar. However, it will be a tool I will use to apply pressure as his training progresses. If he is used to wearing it now, he will only associate it with working in the field and not with pressure. The collar should be nothing to fear.

Clutch has proven to have a number of skills that I believe athletic coaches would find useful. With my boys home during the holidays, it is common to hear the thump, thump, thump of a basketball being dribbled in the house (not allowed) and outdoors. Clutch has proven to be as fond of basketball as are my boys. And he is tough on defense. He places himself in front of the dribbler and after observing the tempo for a few seconds, rushes in and steals the ball. With his timing, I think I've got a number one draft pick on my hands!



## TRAINING THOUGHTS

### The Correction Dilemma

by Terrie Sato

Is it fair to correct a dog? Are corrections stressful? Are corrections unkind? These are frequently asked questions that provoke a great deal of discussion and disagreement in the dog training community. Let's take the emotion out of the correction argument and take an honest look at dog corrections.

By dictionary definition a *correction* is all of the following:

- 1) The act of correcting or setting right,
- 2) That which is offered as an improvement,
- 3) The act or process of disciplining,
- 4) The act or process of neutralizing an undesired quality.

To many people a correction seems like a random act of violence inflicted on a dog. As I read the dictionary definition, it is my understanding that a correction is a positive. It should be designed to produce a positive change in behavior. In dog training, I see corrections as information given to the dog to help the dog make good choices.

Are corrections an essential part of dog training? There is no definitive answer to this question. It may depend on the dog. It may depend on the trainer. However, the natural example of a bitch with her puppies gives some insight into the nature of a dog's ability to understand a correction. A mother certainly disciplines her puppies. She might give a verbal correction in a warning growl or a physical correction in the form of a nip or pinch. Dogs learn about corrections at a very young age. For this reason, using corrections in training is certainly a logical path to take.

Learning anything new is stressful. Think back to school days when you were faced with something new to learn. At first it may have been confusing and you may have wanted to quit, but thank goodness your parents and teacher wouldn't let you. They may even have used a verbal

correction to keep you *focused* on your lessons. Perhaps you were *forced* to study. It seemed stressful at the time, but in retrospect you are probably glad that someone insisted you stick with it and learn. Now think how hard it would have been to learn if your homework had never been corrected. If you took a test and your teacher handed back a paper and said, "Some of this is right, but some of this isn't," and gave no further information, you would probably be frustrated. In a like manner, it is frustrating for a dog to be trained or educated without giving it complete information. Some behavior is right and some is wrong. It just seems fair to let the dog know what it is doing wrong as well as what is right.

It is true that for a correction to be effective it is necessary to offend the dog. This is the discipline part of the definition. Note that I did not say it is necessary to *punish* the dog. A correction is not punitive. If a dog is offended by a correction, it will change its behavior. Not all dogs have the same threshold for being offended. My two Labs were running across my field unaware that I had moved my horse turnout which was bounded by electric fence. Both dogs touched the fence at the same time. One dog leaped away with a surprised yip. He obviously was offended by the hot-wire. He decided to change his behavior by avoiding the area. The other dog walked over to the fence and put his shoulder against the wire. He stepped back and decided to solve the problem by going under the fence. He obviously was not nearly as offended by the hot-wire. It is clear that not all corrections are equal to all dogs. Therefore, much of the confusion about using corrections effectively involves how much and when. The answer to how much is relatively simple: as little as it takes to change the dog's behavior. The determination of when to correct is a little trickier.

Timing is everything in dog training. Corrections are made after the dog is educated. Corrections present dogs with a problem. The dog's goal should be to stop the correction and to prevent the correction. Before the dog can do this, it must first have acquired the skills necessary to be able to stop the correction. Take the example of a puppy leaving a puddle on

the floor. If the puppy is not mature enough to have good bladder control, it has no way to prevent the puddle and therefore prevent any correction associated with the accident. Correcting a puppy at this stage in its life for a puddle on the floor would be an improper use of a correction. However, a puppy that has repeatedly gone to the door to indicate it needs to go out demonstrates that it has a certain amount of control. A puddle left by this pup might warrant a correction.

In another example, a dog may fail to come when it is called. Sometimes an electronic collar is used to correct this situation. To an uneducated dog this is indeed a random act of violence. If the dog does not know to stop the correction by coming to its owner when called, an e-collar stimulation might well result in a flight response by the dog in an attempt to outrun the correction. This is the opposite of the desired response and the dog might be labeled "tough and stubborn" because it continued to run away even though corrected. In fact, it may well have simply been reacting to fear. However, if the dog is first taught to *come* and then taught to stop a collar correction by coming, the use of the collar is no longer a random surprise to the dog and the dog will have the skills needed to avoid the correction altogether.

There are many kinds of dog training corrections. To avoid stress, it is necessary for the dog to understand the correction. This means that the dog needs to understand that corrections have a cause and effect nature. As dog trainers, it is important that we explain this relationship to our dogs *before* we correct them. One difficulty with corrections is that when trainers find one that works, the tendency is to use that correction indiscriminately. A pop on the leash is often first introduced when a dog is pulling on the leash. However, the same pop may then be used to try to make the dog *sit*, *down* and *come*. Though it is true that this correction may be effective in helping enforce all of these commands, the effectiveness is diminished when the possible appropriate responses are so numerous and varied. The dog does not know exactly how to stop the correction or what behavior is needed to prevent the correction. There are simply too many choices. This leads to confusion and

causes stress. For example, a dog is told to *down*. The dog looks away and does not respond. The trainer pops the leash. The dog has several choices. It could lie down. It could go into a sit as sometimes a sit makes the trainer happy. It could lean against the trainer so the trainer would realize it is not pulling on the leash. It could try to leave. Avoiding the problem by leaving probably seems logical and might be a successful solution if the trainer decides that the dog is leaving because it can't handle a pop correction. In fact, the true problem is simply that the dog can't guess the appropriate response to the correction. This leads to another basic rule in the use of corrections. Do not correct without telling the dog how to avoid another correction. "No, down" would have helped clarify the appropriate response to the pop correction for the dog. I believe a dog should understand that it controls the correction. It can stop a correction by changing its behavior from an inappropriate response to a correct response. It can prevent a correction all together by responding appropriately to a learned command. When the dog understands it controls a correction, fear is no longer a factor.

Dog training corrections will forever provoke controversy and heated discussion. This is a good thing as we should all evaluate our training techniques from time to time. If you are having problems, be a problem solver. Evaluate what your dog has shown you it knows. Then ask yourself if you've given your dog the tools it needs to improve by telling it both when it is right and when it is wrong.

## BRAGS

**U-CD Blythmoor's Undeniable, CD OA OAJ TD WC VCDI**, completed her Tracking Dog title at Luckiamute DTC's test on November 19, 2003, which makes her also a VCDI. Sabrina is owned and bred by Margie Dykstra and Camille Jones.

On Sat. of the Puyallup shows, **Nipntuck Miss American Pie** was WB from the 9-12 month puppy class for her first points—a Major. With an entry of 77 Labradors,

we were thrilled for our little chocolate puppy bitch! Owned/bred/shown by Becky Jack.

**Dave's Pretty Penny, CDX, JH, OA, OAJ, AJP, AXP, CGC, WC, NAC, ASCA NA** earned two more legs towards her Master Excellent Agility Standard Preferred (MJP) title and two more legs towards her Master Excellent Agility Jumpers Preferred (MXP) title while competing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the PVDF Agility Trial over the second weekend in January. This puts her count of qualifying legs for the MJP title at 7, and the MXP title at 6. 10 qualifying legs in each are required to earn these titles. Penny, who will turn 9 this Valentine's Day, is owned, trained and spoiled rotten by Dave Lawniczak.

**Traynors Decadent at Duckndogs** (Ch Caorunn's Decurion x Ch Duckndogs Ice Whine JH WC CGN) won RWB at her first show out of the 6-9 month class at the Auld Lang Syne shows under Richard Beauchamp. Cathy Tweeddale

**Nipntuck Skyfire Too Much Fun** was WB at the PSLRA supported entry under breeder judge Wendy McNaughten for her third major. Caper was bred by Becky Jack of Nipntuck Labradors and is owned by Becky and Stephanie Harris of Skyfire Labradors.

**Skyfire Sofa King Smokey Moe** was WD, BOW & BOS at the PSLRA supported entry under breeder judge Wendy McNaughten for his first points – a major! Smokey was also RWD at the BCLRC specialty under breeder judge Jan Grannaman. Smokey was bred by Stephanie Harris of Skyfire Labradors and is owned and loved by Bruce and Mary Robinson.

**Skyfire's Elietta Ica AX, MXJ** earned her 5th leg towards her MX and a Q in JWW at the BTCWW trial in Elma Dec. 27-29th. She also earned 2 Qs in JWW at the Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers trial Jan. 9-12th. She had beautiful contacts all 7 days! Ellie was bred by Stephanie Harris, is owned by Ed Parsons and Donna Dykstra, and is handled by Ed Parsons.

**Zoe of Cougar Creek, CDX, CGC,** finished her (CDX) title at the Puyallup shows on 1/10/04. Zoe is an Australian Cattle Dog, and is trained and handled exclusively by 15 yr old Hailee Drege; proud parents, Curt and Cecilie Drege of Cougar Creek Labradors.

**Himoon The Duke At Clovercreek** Jake attended his first dog show in Canada at the Auld Lang Syne Dog Association on December 20, 2004 in Chilliwack, BC. Jake was Reserve Winner's Dog and Best Puppy in Breed. He was bred by Lucy Isaacson-Logen, and is loved, owned, trained, and handled by Chris & Kimberly Dotson.

**Int CH Koa Maui Da Hawaiian Supaman, JH, CD, WC, CGC** qualified Friday at the Puyallup show in Novice B Obedience to earn his CD and qualify for his All Around Award. Maui is loved (and by those who know me) SPOILED!!! by Chantel and the rest of the gang of Koa Labradors.

**Am/Can/ Int'l Ch. Chartwell's Crown Jewels Am/ Can CD, CDX, NA, NAJ, WC**, CeeJay finished his CDX at the Sammamish show on 1/10!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! This has become one pretty long name, but it looks that much better now..... Nah, I am NOT a proud Mom!! On to JH and more agility titles! Laura Berger

**U-UD HR Nomad take the High Road UDT SH, Can CD** earned two UDX legs at the Puyallup Cluster for a total of four. Ten are needed to complete the title. On Sat. 1/10, Traveler was High Scoring Labrador from the Open B class with a score of 198. Traveler is owned and appreciated by Terrie Sato.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the PSLRA is open to anyone interested in Labrador Retrievers. Annual dues are \$20.00 for individuals, \$25 for families. Junior memberships are \$10.00 (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 122<sup>nd</sup> St. CT. NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8948  
[hwilling@amerion.com](mailto:hwilling@amerion.com)

### **New Members 2004:**

Cain, Alan & Julianne M2-04 (2003)  
6009 Pilchuck Tree Farm Road  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
(360)691-2088  
[whitehorsevista@earthlink.net](mailto:whitehorsevista@earthlink.net)

Hazen, Barbara M2-04 (2004)  
350 N Mountain View Drive  
Hoodspport, WA 98548  
(360)877-9608/email  
[hazenlabs3@yahoo.com](mailto:hazenlabs3@yahoo.com)

### **Change of address:**

Misha Lynch  
20684 Starbird Rd.  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98274  
360-445-3566

Don and Barb Ironside  
[fawnhaven@comcast.net](mailto:fawnhaven@comcast.net)

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## **RESCUE**

### **RESCUE REPORT 2003**

Submitted by Edith Bryan

We are pleased to report another successful year in Lab Rescue, thanks to the contributions of many PSLRA members - and several non-members who have volunteered through Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue. Rescue volunteers have done everything from visiting shelters and fostering dogs to keeping the records, mailing out handbooks and making endless telephone calls. As always, we have spent a lot of time on education as we try to help adopters select just the right dog for their family.

Once again we send special thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the extraordinarily successful rescue raffles and silent auction and to everyone who generously donated to these fund-raising

events. And we greatly appreciate all of you who supported rescue this past year by buying a record number of raffle tickets and bidding generously on the silent auction baskets!

Our numbers this year are about the same as last year, after several years of steady declines. With Labs continuing to be the most popular breed in the country, we can expect an on-going need for our rescue efforts, unfortunately. As usual, we have had approximately twice as many males as females in need of rescue. Interestingly, this year we have noted a decrease in the numbers of dogs less than 2 years of age and a substantial increase in the 3-6 year old category. We placed 83 Labs with AKC papers in new homes this year - nearly all of these were dogs who were "listed" with us by their owners through Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue.

The area shelters have worked closely with us to help find homes for every abandoned Lab who is healthy and adoptable. We have had good success in referring adopters directly to specific Labs at the shelters, and have thus reduced our need to provide foster care. Each stray Lab who is helped out of the shelter by our rescue program makes room for another shelter dog to have a better chance at being adopted, too.

Once again, we can be very proud of our record as a club for whole-heartedly supporting Labrador retriever rescue!



**PUGET SOUND LABRADOR RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION**  
**HRT Judges Seminar**  
 Saturday, February 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2004

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**Place:** Tacoma Sportsman Center  
 1640 Canyon Road East  
 Tacoma, WA 98375

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 4 PM

**AKC Rep:** Jerry Mann

**Cost:** \$ 35.00

CLOSING FOR THIS SEMINAR IS JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2004

**SPACE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 50 PEOPLE**

Mail completed Judges Seminar form below with payment to:

**Seminar Chair:** Cindy Meyer  
 P O Box 5242  
 Spanaway, WA 98387  
 Phone: 253.846.9583  
[rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net)

-or-

**Co-Chair:** Liz Skyllingstad  
 P O Box 7427  
 Tacoma, WA 98406  
 Phone: 253.752.1696  
[lsky@harbornet.com](mailto:lsky@harbornet.com)

**\*\*NO E-MAIL RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED\*\***

Refreshments and lunch will be provided

————DETACH AND SEND WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO “PSLRA”————

Judges # if known: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**PSLRA Newsletter Input:** *LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 1/15/04 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 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 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](mailto: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 300<sup>th</sup> 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 8/23/03 (2BF Available)**

Sire: Lewis River's Souper Mann, MH, NMHT  
OFA 24E, OFEL 34, CERF 11/10/02  
Dam: Huntsalot Awesome Abbie, WC, JH  
OFA 30G, OFEL 30, CERF 10/6/02  
Contact: Cindy & Brent Meyer (253) 846-9583  
Litter: 3BM, 5 BF  
Email: [rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net)  
(Listed: (9/30,11/02/11/27;12/31)  
Spanaway, WA

#### **Litter Born 9/19/03 (3CF Available)**

Sire: FC M & M's Cooper  
OFA 42G, OFEL 72, ACVO 8/18/03  
Dam: Kingsland's True Blue  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 3/19/03  
Contact: Teresa Meredith (253)845-1311 or (253)376-3635  
Email: [kingsland\\_labs@hotmail.com](mailto:kingsland_labs@hotmail.com)  
(Listed 9/28/03;12/4)  
Puyallup, WA

#### **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](mailto:labresort@aol.com)  
(Listed 11/30/03;01/01/04)  
Arlington, WA

#### **Litter Born 11/03/03 (1CF, 1CM, 1BF Available)**

Sire: Bayviews Trygger Happy  
OFA 36G, OFEL 36, ACVO 03/02/03  
Dam: Daybreak Hot Chocolate  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 03/02/03  
Litter: 2CF, 2CM, 1BM, 1BF  
Contact: Debbie Needham (360) 826-3838  
Email: [dneedham@cnw.com](mailto:dneedham@cnw.com)  
(Listed 12/27/03; 12/29;1/1/04)  
Sedro Woolley, WA

#### **Litter Born 11/28/03 (2BF, 2BM, 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](mailto:windycanyonlabs@hotmail.com)  
(Listed 11/30/03;1/1/04) Yakima, 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](mailto: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: [bandtwalker@hotmail.com](mailto:bandtwalker@hotmail.com)  
(Listed 12/27/03)  
Chehalis, 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 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 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](mailto:draytonharbor@juno.com)  
(Listed 12/7/03) Blaine, WA

**PSLRA 2004 Events Calendar**

**NOTE: Dates and locations are subject to change. Check the newsletter for details.**

- January**  
10 Banquet  
14 Board meeting  
21-25 Sportsman Show, Puyallup, Contact: Cindy Meyer, [rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net)  
31 Seattle Kennel Club, Contacts, Lucy Isaacson-Logen, [himoonlab@msn.com](mailto:himoonlab@msn.com), Jan Palumbo, [janpalumbo@earthlink.net](mailto:janpalumbo@earthlink.net), or Cheri Levine, [cherimlevine@hotmail.com](mailto:cherimlevine@hotmail.com)
- February**  
1 Seattle Kennel Club (second day)  
7 HRT judges seminar, Puyallup, Contact: Cindy Meyer, [rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net) or Liz Skyllingstad, [lsky@harbornet.com](mailto:lsky@harbornet.com)  
25 Board meeting
- March**  
20 Field & Conformation Handling Fun/ Training Day at Cherry Valley, Chair: Terrie Sato, [wdsato@aol.com](mailto:wdsato@aol.com)  
24 Board meeting
- April**  
10 5 Series at Carlson's Farm, Fall City; Chair: Kimberly Dotson, [clovercreeklabs@aol.com](mailto:clovercreeklabs@aol.com)  
28 Board meeting
- May**  
1-2 Spring HRT, Carlson's Farm, Fall City; Secretary: Nina Mann, [harbortoplabs@cs.com](mailto:harbortoplabs@cs.com); Chair: Cindy Meyer, [rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net)  
16 Tracking Test, Cherry Valley: Contact Nina Mann, [harbortoplabs@cs.com](mailto:harbortoplabs@cs.com)  
26 Board meeting
- June**  
12 Breed/Obedience Match & Conformation Handling/Obedience Fun/Training Day, Match Chair, Kimberly Dotson, [clovercreeklabs@aol.com](mailto:clovercreeklabs@aol.com)  
23 Board meeting
- July**  
28 Board meeting  
30-31 Specialty Show and Obedience Trials, Langley, Whidbey Island, Chair: Barb Ironside, [fawnhaven@comcast.net](mailto:fawnhaven@comcast.net), co-chair, Linda Walkley, [mustardseedlabs@aol.com](mailto:mustardseedlabs@aol.com)
- August**  
1 Working Certificate, Whidbey Island, Co-chairs: Liz Skyllingstad, [lsky@harbornet.com](mailto:lsky@harbornet.com) and Marcy Johnson, [marcy\\_johnson@msn.com](mailto:marcy_johnson@msn.com)  
25 Board meeting  
28-29 Fall HRT, Pepper's Farm, Carnation; Contact: Cindy Meyer, [rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net)
- September**  
22 Board meeting
- October**  
2-3 Agility Trial, Argus Ranch Facility, Auburn; Chair, Dave Lawniczak, [dalawniczak@comcast.net](mailto:dalawniczak@comcast.net)  
17? Eye Clinic at Cascade Kennels, Woodinville; Contact: Mary Jane Sarbaugh, [labsix@whidbey.com](mailto:labsix@whidbey.com). **Note: this date is tentative and may be changed**  
27 Board meeting
- November**  
17 Board meeting
- December**  
4 or 11 Holiday Party

**Membership Renewal Notice 2004**

Membership renewal dues are now owed to the club. Dues are payable each year by **January 31<sup>st</sup>** **Print plainly and send promptly!** **Checks made out to PSLRA and Mail To:**

Joni Willing, Membership Chair  
3602 122nd St NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8948  
Questions: [memberchair@amerion.com](mailto:memberchair@amerion.com)

*Make checks payable to PSLRA*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically? \_\_\_\_\_ (check for YES)

Type of membership (check one):  
 Individual \$20.00  
 Family \$25.00  
 Junior \$10.00

I am interested in the following:  
 Field  Tracking  Agility  
 Obedience  Conformation  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  Committee Work





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

## Upcoming Dates of Importance:

- Jan. 31, Membership renewal deadline***
- Jan.31 & Feb. 1, Seattle Kennel Club  
PSLRA Booth and Meet the Breed***
- Feb. 7, HRT Judges Seminar***