

THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 23, Number 1, January 2006



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President's Message

We started 2006 off great with our annual awards banquet! The highlight for me was presenting the special awards to members who made extraordinary contributions to the club this year. Darlene Pado, our club treasurer, received the Member of the Year Award, Kristi Clark and Marlys Swanson received the President's Award, and Ron Perry received our first Volunteer of the Year Award. All four of these people have volunteered at most or all of our club events, have been dedicated, hard-working board members and have taken on many responsibilities, large and small, all year long. They have all given their time and their hearts to our club and I want to give them a special thank you.

Another highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the All-Around and Versatility Awards, for dogs who have earned titles in several areas of competition. These dogs represent what our club stands for, that the Labrador is truly "a dog for all reasons." Congratulations to all! I can't resist bragging here about my own Huxley and Rosie, who earned Versatility Awards. I'm so proud of them and they give me so much joy!

We also presented Certificates of Appreciation to volunteers who contributed to PSLRA this year in many different ways. My personal thanks to all of you. Several juniors also received awards for their accomplishments with their dogs this year. It is great to see how hard-working and accomplished our juniors are! Congratulations to all of you! And special thanks to Beckie Jensen for planning, organizing and putting on a fantastic banquet. Beckie really knows how to throw a great party!

Our next events are the Obedience/Rally Fun Match on February 19 and the Field Fun/Training Day on March 4. The entry form for the Obedience/Rally match can be found on the PSLRA website and in this newsletter. Contact me if you would like to help out at the obedience/rally fun match and Terrie Sato to help out at the field fun/training day.

Looking forward to working with all of you to make 2006 a great year for all of us!—Jan



Stephanie Harris and Barb Ironside shown handling their dogs in the ring at Puyallup

IMPORTANT DATES

February 19, Obedience Rally Show 'n Go, Nina Mann
harbortop@netzero.net
or Jan Palumbo
janpalumbo@earthlink.net

February 22 Board meeting

February 25&26, Work party at Greenleaf's for clean-up of grounds

March 4 Field Fun/Training Day, Terrie Sato
WDSato@aol.com

March 11-12 Seattle Kennel Club, Meet the Breed

Newsletter Information:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

Terrie Sato, Editor

31902 NE 139th St.

Duvall, WA 98019

e-mail: WDSato@aol.com

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:

Chantel Nahoopii, Membership Chair

3413 Woodcrest Lane

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

koalabs@msn.com

club business

January Minutes

The January Annual Meeting was held at the Best Western Hotel in Puyallup on January 14, 2006.

—The nominating committee presented the following proposed slate of new officers and board members:

President Jan Palumbo
 Vice President Dave Lawniczak
 Secretary Carole Jensen
 Treasurer Darlene Pado

Board Members:

Kristi Clark Bea Ferguson
 Stephanie Harris Vicky Hoskinson
 Becky Jack Cheri Levine
 Linda Maffett Nina Mann
 Chantel Nahoopii Ron Perry
 Susie Sharp

Election of the new officers and board members followed.

—Jan announced that volunteers were needed for the upcoming 5-series and Spring Hunt test and introduced the Hunt test chair, Cheri Wildes.

—Cheri Levine still has time slots to fill at the club information booth at the Sportman's Show.

—Nina Mann passed a sign-up sheet for Specialty class sponsorships.

—Mary Jane Sarbaugh gave the Rescue report. It included thanks to non-members who foster Rescue Labs until they are adopted: Lance and Nancy Robertson and Brandy Burton-Tarantino.

—All members and guests introduced themselves and the presentation of awards began with the Junior Achievement Awards. The Member of the Year Award was presented to Darlene Pado. Jan gave out two President's Awards for special contributions to Marlys Swanson and Kristi Clark. Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Ron Perry. Volunteer Appreciation Certificates were then awarded to a number of people.

—The All-Around and Versatility Awards were presented.

—Jan announced that the 2006 Specialty would be dedicated to Clary Tanner and that the club will offer a Challenge Obedience Trophy in her memory. — Carole Jensen

Membership

Address Change:

Merlyn Foote

5372 Skewes Lane

Freeland, WA 98249

Sheard, Barbara

M1-05 (2003)

19621 Bagley Lane North #S203

Shoreline, WA 98133

206-365-4004/Email elmerowl@msn.com

Vicari, Lori and Don

M2-06 (2003)

33013 210th Ave Se

Auburn, WA 98092

360-886-8005/Email LVicari@comcast.net

Jackson, Kathy and Jeremy M2-06 (2003)

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Graham, WA 98338

253-307-1104/Email Kathy@Karemy.com

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windycanyonlabs@hotmail.com

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425-35-1140 home/206-650-9462 cell

Dana Jones 206-255-8629

Craig, Patsy/David 231-548-1119/360-770-

6529 cell

New Members:

Storms, Colleen

M1-06 (2006)

128 Argus Ln "McStorms Canine Companions"

Kelso, WA 98626 360-423-1890/360-560-0234

Email cstorms@direcway.com

Eten, Richard and Hope

M2-06 (2005)

511 NW 414th St

Woodland, WA 98674-3114 360-225-5942

Darnell, Joseph and Jolee

M2-05 (2005)

6112 Shady Lane SE

Lacey, WA 98503

360-413-0103/360-789-8860

Email joejolee@comcast.net

Lynn Stewart and Colleen Doll Songline Labradors

1405 Pilot Way

Nanose Bay, BC

V9P 9B8 250-468-1430

Email you.me@telus.net

P.S.L.R.A. OBEDIENCE/RALLY SHOW N GO

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Country Classic Kennels
9332 99th Avenue NE
Arlington, WA 98223

Preregistration only—limited to 100 Obedience runs—50 in Novice, 25 each in Open and Utility
(If one class does not fill, another class may exceed its limits up to the total of 100.)

50 Rally Runs total

Indoors! Sportec rubber flooring and ring gates

Closing February 1, 2006

Obedience Novice through Utility

Rally Novice through Excellent



Judging starts at 9 a.m.

Rally will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Ring One, starting with Excellent

Novice Obedience will start at 9 a.m. in Ring Two

Open and Utility will start at 1 p.m. in Ring Two and use both rings
as soon as Novice is finished

Cost: \$10 first run through, \$5 for additional runs with the same dog.

Driving Directions: From the North or South: Take I-5 to Exit 200. (The 88th Street Walmart /Casino exit) Turn east on 88th Street. Go over the railroad tracks and through several lights to the stoplight at the end of 88th. At the light, turn right, heading south on 67th. At the first stop sign, turn left, heading up the hill on 84th. (Golf course on right.) Cross Highway 9 at the traffic light, then take the first left, which is 99th Ave. NE. Go half a mile on 99th. Country Class Kennels is on the left under an orange triangle reflector.

PUGET SOUND LABRADOR RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION, INC.
SHOW N GO Registration (Sunday, February 19, 2006)
Please Print. ONE dog per registration form.

Name of Owner _____

Name of handler if other than Owner _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Class(es) entered _____

Jump heights _____ high _____ wide Utility limited to 10 minutes each run.

Sits and Downs will be scheduled every 10 dogs.

As the owner or handler of the above dog, I agree that the above named dog has a current rabies vaccination and is, to the best of my knowledge, a healthy dog. I certify that the dog is not a hazard to persons, other dogs or domestic animals. I agree that I will abide by all the rules of the event. I agree not to hold the PUGET SOUND LABRADOR RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION, INC., its members, representatives or volunteers or Julie Germano, Country Classic Kennels and their owners, employees or representatives responsible for any claim of loss, injury or illness of any type to either person or dog or for any claims of property damage or loss during the event, and/or while on the event grounds, and/or in transit to or from the event grounds. I agree to take full responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any damage or loss to property or domestic animal, or injury or loss to any person due to the actions of the above named dog, any other dog in my possession, or due to the actions of a child under 18 years of age in my care. I agree that the event coordinators reserve the right to dismiss any dog or handler from the event if the event coordinators deem necessary.

Date

Signature (handler, owner, or parent of handler if under 18)

Make all checks payable to Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association (PSLRA) in US funds.

Mail all registration forms and fees to: PSLRA Show N Go, c/o Nina Mann
5706 312th St. NW, Stanwood, WA 98292

Entries close February 1, 2006

Amount Enclosed: _____

If you would like to help by judging or stewarding, we will refund your entry money!

The Issue Of The Silver Labrador

Frances O. Smith, DVM, PhD

Chair, Labrador Retriever Club, Genetics Committee

Over the past few years a limited number of breeders have advertised and sold dogs they represent to be pure bred Labrador Retrievers with a silver coat color—hence the term “silver labs.” At least some of these “silver labs” have been accepted for registration by the AKC. The rationale for this decision is apparently that the silver coat color is a shade of chocolate.

Interestingly, the original breeders of “silver” Labradors were also involved in the Weimaraner breed.

Although we cannot conclusively prove that the “silver” Labrador is a product of cross breeding the Weimaraner to a Labrador, there is good evidence in the scientific literature indicating that the Labrador has never been identified as

carrying the dilute gene *dd*. The Weimaraner is the only known breed in which the universality of *dd* is a characteristic. Recognized coat colors for purebred Labradors are black, yellow and chocolate. No shadings of coat color are recognized for black or chocolate Labradors in either the Labrador standard or the current research into genetic coat colors. The shadings recognized in yellow Labrador Retrievers do not depend on the presence of the dilute gene *dd* but are modifiers acting on the *ee* gene. The identified coat color genes in the Labrador include:

A	B	C	D	E	g	i	s	i
\	\	\	\	\		\		
a	b	c	e			t		

The omission of “*d*” and thus the impossibility of a *dd* dilute gene resulting from a pure Labrador breeding is certainly persuasive evidence that the silver Labrador is not a purebred.

It is the opinion of the LRC that a silver Labrador is not a purebred Labrador. The pet owning public is being duped into believing that these animals are desirable, purebred, and rare and therefore warrant special notoriety or a premium purchase price.

From The Labrador Retriever Club newsletter, Winter 2006

Speaking Out

By Dr. Michael Woods

Well! My last column, “Questions Seeking Answers: Impertinent Little Questions Looking for Strong, Forceful Answers,” seeking information about what individuals thought about the state of the breed and the quality of judging in the breed had a tremendous response, about on par with an advertisement in a “lonely hearts column” from a 450 lb., 80 year old, sickly, poverty stricken guy seeking a lasting and intimate relationship with any contestant from last year’s Miss America pageant. My e-mail was flooded with ONE response! Not that it wasn’t an excellent response—thoughtful, insightful, knowledgeable—it’s just that I was expecting a little more.

Right now, I’m sitting in front of the computer thinking of what the problem was with the last column. Maybe people just don’t read articles in “The Labrador Retriever Club News;” maybe people just look at the pictures? (It’s supposed to be the other way round; isn’t it?) Maybe it just wasn’t a very good column? (Naaaah! That can’t be right!) Perhaps, nobody gives a rat’s butt about the state of the breed? And, we all think that judges do a

wonderful job with Labradors? (Although, that’s not what I hear around the breed ring.) Or, perhaps, the column just wasn’t controversial enough. We seem to need more and more extremes to get us interested these days. Remember the old movies where one person got shot and it was dramatic. Now, the equivalent of the population of China has to be exterminated before the audience sits up and takes notice.

Maybe what a column needs is the equivalent of the tear gas bomb that was thrown into the Dogo ring at this year’s World Dog Show in Argentina. It was a stupid, reckless act, but it sure did get everyone’s attention. So, here’s the bomb for this column: the reason there is so much bad judging by non-breeder Labrador conformation judges is the fault of the Labrador breeders!

Wait a minute, you say! It’s not breeders doing the miserable judging. That’s true! But, what’s in the ring is what breeders produce. How are non-breeder judges supposed to have any idea of what the breed should be like when they are looking down a lineup and see no consistency of type? I’m not talking about ‘style’ here. A dog has type or it doesn’t

have type. You’re either pregnant or your not. There’s no such thing as a little bit. But, all standards give breeders some leeway to indulge personal preferences. These personal preferences are known as ‘style.’

I might like a dog with a little more length of leg than you. You might like a bitch with a little more length of loin, but which is still short coupled. The breeder in the next town could like a slightly darker or lighter eye, a little heavier set dog, or a dog with less or more spring of rib. That’s the freedom the standard gives us—to breed a dog that has a style peculiar to our kennel, to our individual likes and dislikes.

But, the standard does not give us the leeway to breed a Labrador that lacks undercoat, that has a head like a Rottweiler, that has a muzzle so short it could hardly pick up a Wood Duck, that has so much bone and body it looks like a small Mastiff, or that is so short on the leg it looks like a caricature of the breed. Yet, nonbreeder judges are constantly exposed to these dogs in the ring. As my one responder stated, “I have many show friends with other sporting breeds, and

Speaking Out, *continued from page 4*

they are always asking me “What is going on with Labs...the Labrador is starting to look something like the “draft division” of the Working Group. Again, in my opinion, and the opinion of some sporting friends, the Labrador is starting to resemble the Clumber and Sussex spaniels more closely, than any of the retrievers in the group. I don’t think that is what we should be striving for in our breed.”

It would seem that, if we want non-breeder judges, to do a better job with our breed, we need to educate them by showing them what a Labrador should be. You might argue that judges should know type in the breed, but, like all of us, judges learn from what they experience. If all they see is lack of type, is it any wonder that they ‘blink’ on a good dog, which looks so different from everything else in the ring?

I’ve been judging Labradors and all-breeds for a lot of years. I haven’t yet met a judge who said, “I don’t care if I do a lousy job.” Judges have egos; they want to get other assignments; they want to be respected. That’s not to say there aren’t incompetent judges, judges who don’t have ‘an eye’, judges who are political. But, the vast majority of non-breeder judges want to do a good job, want to put up the typey dog. But, that’s hard to do when there’s so little type in the ring for them to see.

Ah! You say, why don’t these judges go to some specialty shows and find out what type is all about. Well, there’s a problem there too. Anecdotally, I remember one specialty I judged. As I left the ring after one class, a long time breeder judge, one for whom I have a great deal of respect, commented sympathetically, “You had a hard time with that one, didn’t you.” Immediately following, the AKC Rep sidled up, looked me in the eye, and dogmatically stated, “I didn’t like the dog you put first.” “Well,” I retorted, “I didn’t like him either, but there wasn’t a heck of a lot of choice. He was the only one with a semblance of type.” The show was a Specialty; there were 30 plus in the class; the class was Bred-by Exhibitor! What

would a non-breeder judge learn from looking at this class, other than these are the kind of Labrador breeders want?

At another specialty, a disgruntled exhibitor from the Open Black class asked why I had done nothing for his dog that had gone Winners Dog at one of our most prestigious specialties a week or so before. The dog in question could hardly waddle around the ring. To say that it was grossly overweight would be an understatement. Yet, a breeder judge had put this dog up.

I’m not suggesting that there are no wonderful typey Labradors around. There are. Or that there aren’t numerous breeder judges who reward both type and conditioning. But, all too often at specialties, Labradors that are extremely out of condition, overdone, short on leg, and lacking proportion, win. To compound the problem, too often breeder judges put up dogs that they consider typey and are willing to forgive terrible movement, even unsoundness. Again, breeders, both exhibitors and judges, are at fault for saying to the non-breeder judge that this is what we want you to put up.

The reality is that, on one level, non-breeder judges do the breed a great service and are an effective balance to breeders and breeder judges. They keep us from being extreme. You know the syndrome: if bone is good, huge bone is more desirable; the shorter the tail the better; so he has 7 missing teeth, who cares, he has type. Many non-breeder judges have had long experience in dogs and refuse to use a dog that is deplorably conditioned or verging on unsoundness, especially if that dog comes from a breed that should be functional. These judges demand soundness and condition, especially in dogs considered for Group placements or BIS. They force us to strive for these characteristics, as well as for breed type, if we want to compete at the highest levels.

However, I sometimes wonder if we know what soundness and good movement is for our breed, because

we’ve seen so much bad movement. One of the most frustrating comments I have heard from exhibitors is that a Labrador, one of the better movers I have recently seen, does not move correctly for the breed. I grant that this dog does not move like most of the Labradors in the show ring, fortunately. He does, however, move correctly for the breed, with freedom, drive, power, covering adequate ground. He does not move like a setter, a spaniel, or a Golden. He moves like a Labrador should, but many at ringside don’t recognize what good movement in the breed should be and condemn it because it is different from so many other exhibits.

Many non-breeder judges use the question ‘Can this dog do a day’s work?’ as a starting point for their evaluation of the breed. These judges are not just interested in how the breed looks, but in how it should function. I’ve heard more than a few non-breeder judges comment, “You couldn’t get most of these dogs in a boat with a crane! And they’d have a heart attack after one bird!” These judges want a dog they believe can do the job for which it was developed. Our job as breeders and exhibitors is to assist these judges to recognize and reward the type that goes with the function.

If we want better non-breeder judges, breeders must show them type. There is no sense telling judges what type is; they have to see it. We need to show them typey dogs in good condition. We need to have some consistency in the show ring, so that these judges learn to recognize the characteristic of our breed. If we don’t, we only have ourselves to blame for the poor quality of judging that we all complain about.

I am always eager to hear any comments on my writing. Here’s hoping that some Miss Americas answer the old guy’s ad. I can be reached at michaelwoods@aol.com or by snail mail at 18 Bayberry lane, Charlestown, RI 02813.

(reprinted from Labrador Retriever Club News with author’s permission)

Rescue Report 2005

by Edith Bryan

Over the past few years, there has been a gradual change in the animal welfare world in the Puget Sound area, and this has resulted in a change in the relationship between our Lab rescue program and the shelters and the public.

In the past, Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue was seen as the place to go for purebred dogs. If you couldn't find the breed you were looking for at the shelter, a referral was made to the SPDR breed rep. Now, however, the resources of Petfinder.com have replaced SPDR as the primary referral place for folks looking to rescue a purebred Lab.

Through SPDR, we will, of course, still continue to rescue Labs from shelters as needed, but we are no longer contacted frequently by most of the major shelters, including those in King and Pierce counties. Many of the area shelters have developed successful foster care programs on their own, greatly reducing our need to foster Labs from the shelters. And most of the Labs in many of the area shelters are adopted through the shelters from listings posted on the PetFinder network. We do continue to track the Labs that are reported in shelters and are available to help when there is a Lab with special needs.

Most of our time and resources, therefore, are now spent in matching up Labs that are listed with us through SPDR with applicants on our waiting list, and in educating both listers and adopters about the steps necessary for successful adoptions. The Labs that we do take in for foster care now are mostly those with health or behavioral issues that need to be evaluated.

We appreciate all of the members of PSLRA who contributed to the success of our rescue efforts in 2005 by visiting shelters,

evaluating dogs, providing temporary foster care and transportation, making endless phone calls, keeping the records and providing words of encouragement! We are grateful for the wonderful financial support for our rescue program provided by PSLRA and send extra special thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the fund-raising raffles and basket auction—and to all those who generously purchased raffle tickets and made astounding bids at the auction! We also owe a heart-felt thank you to several volunteers for SPDR who are not club members but have opened their hearts and homes to Labs in need of foster care, medical attention and behavior training. As we did last year, we would like in particular to acknowledge the many contributions of foster-care providers Brandy Burton-Tarantino and Nancy and Lance Robertson.

As always, we can be very proud of our club's record for wholeheartedly supporting the rescue of our beloved breed!

Lab Statistics 2005

Total Labs reported: 202

Males: 121, Females: 81

Age: 0 – 2 years: 110, 3-6 years: 70, 7+ years: 22

Spayed/neutered: yes: 122, no: 64, unknown: 16

Origin: shelter-120, owner-70, other-12

Outcome:

Owner kept: 5

Owner placed: 10

Left with owner/unplaceable: 6

Left in shelter/outcome unknown: 16

Adopted by shelter clients: 94

Owner redeemed: 9

Returned to breeder: 4

Adopted by SPDR adopters: 51

Euthanized: 7 (age-1, health-3, temperament-3)

Juniors awarded at the banquet included, left to right, Clarissa Henry beaming as Sharon Edwards reads her list of accomplishments while Ron Perry is ready with her award certificate; center, Jessica Steward is very serious about the work she does with her dogs. Sharon presents the certificate while Ron Perry and Jan Palumbo look on; right, Josh and Daniel Swanson have everyone laughing as they receive their awards.



Braggs

Kim Hayes reports that at the Puyallup show she and **Windycanyons Heavy Pack**, Packer hit the Novice A Rally course for their first ribbon.

Els Crisafulli came down from Alaska to run agility at the Puyallup shows and reports that Sassy got three double Qs in excellent and her young black bitch, Caddie, Q'd three times.

Int CH Koa's Kauai Elegance, CD, JH, WC, CGC, had a great weekend at the Puyallup dog shows. She earned her first CDX leg on lucky Friday the 13th and her second CDX leg on Sunday with a third place finish. One more to go! Ellie is spoiled by us at Koa Labradors.

Can CH Huntson Reign of Mustardseed RN finished his Rally Novice title at Sammamish Kennel Club in Puyallup. Owners Fred and Linda Walkley. Bred by Karen Coulombe.

Am/Can CH ShaRay's Nikolas of Whidbey JH took best of breed at the Sammamish Kennel Club show on January 14. He also earned a Novice Rally leg the same day and a second leg on Sunday, January 15, at the Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers Rally Trial.

New All Around Lab: **Can Ch Fawnhaven Hunter O'Snowyriver JH RN** finished his Novice Rally title on January 14 at Puyallup, and **Am Can Ch Timberline Big Ben At Fawnhaven SH** qualified for two Rally legs at Puyallup. We'll be going for his RN title, making him an All Around Lab, at Seattle Kennel Club. Both boys are owned by Barb and Don Ironside.

Romany Cimarron Satori CD, NA finished Novice Standard Agility title at Puyallup and obtained his first leg in Open Standard the next day with a first place! He also received second leg toward Novice JWW title. This was only his second trial weekend! Tori is owned and handled by Sandy Wasson, co-owned and bred by Laura Steward.

Club member sends news

Patsy and David Craig of Skagit River Labradors moved to the Midwest last year and sent this note to PSLRA members back home.

Dave and I went to Rochester, Michigan, about 275 miles south of where we live and took one of our Emma x Tank puppies for evaluation and possible donation to their Leader Dog program.

They said she was just what they were looking for. I had contacted them the previous week and talked to them about the puppy. We had to send five generation pedigrees and health clearances on both parents. We were given a tour of their very impressive facility. They can accommodate up to 350 dogs at one time. I just had to wear my PSLRA sweatshirt for the picture.



In the late '70s and early '80s when we lived here, we donated 15 puppies from different litters. We are still keeping busy hanging pictures and shoveling snow. I am driving a school bus for our local school, only a little over an hour twice a day. I miss you guys and am trying to make connections with the Labrador club people in Michigan. There is only one club here and it is "downstate." I have plans to go to Washington the end of February and hope to see some of you then.—Patsy



Liz Scott and Mark and Cheri Levine enjoy the club banquet.

Pat Hastings Seminar –Structure In Action

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

by Julie Kirk

Pat went over the details of the evaluation starting with the overall proportions of height and length, the front assembly, head, neck and chest, then the topline and torso and on to the rear assembly, croup, and tailset. At each stage she pointed out the consequences of structural strengths and weaknesses, such as being easily pushed off balance by having barrel hocks, jumping or swimming poorly with slipping hocks, having difficulty whelping with a tipped pelvis, not wanting to pick up heavy birds with a ewe neck, or tiring during extended upland hunting with small lungs caused by a short sternum (“herring gut.”) A full rundown of my notes would take a couple of pages, so I will just suggest you read the book and go to the next available seminar.

Pat told us the neck and head should be entirely ahead of the shoulders and front legs. She showed us how to tell if the legs are too short or if the body is too long or the chest is too deep all of which have negative consequences for various activities. (Too long, strains the back muscles when running, chest too deep can make it hard to get into/out of a boat, legs too short mean the dog has to work harder to carry the body around.) She showed us how the way the pup lets his feet hang (or not) and his topline during the brief suspension can be indicative of problems in front and rear angulation. As a sidelight, she explained why the German Shepherd Dog was bred to have such extreme angulation in the rear and how that naturally produces the over-reaching and/or “daisy-clipping” front movement, needed to get the front feet out of the way of the rear ones.

The head and neck should be well above the topline. Pat showed us how to find the angles and lengths of the shoulders and upper arm and how to tell if the neck is too short, or ewed, or the shoulders set on too far forward. Upright shoulders will present difficulties for tracking (harness chafing) as well as for jumping activities. Short necks and/or too upright shoulders

will hinder retrievers in picking up game. Likewise ewe necks, which are not necessarily long but have weak ligaments, will keep a dog from being a strong swimmer and make it hard for the dog to pick up heavy game. A dog which moves out at the elbows at eight weeks may not move that way later; if his elbows are stable when you rock him back and forth at the shoulders, the loose elbows will probably go away as the ligaments tighten up. The prosternum does not have to be prominent to be wide enough, but you do have to be able to get a hold on it. If you can't, you may wind up with a dog with no chest.

She showed us how to assess the rear angulation and how to tell if various parts of the rear legs are too long or too short. Hocks should be not more than one third of the height of the rear assembly as measured from the point of hip to the ground. If the hocks slip, the dog seeks to support its weight on its front end and has trouble jumping, turning and swimming. Barrel hocks and cow hocks represent an imbalance of muscle on the outer or inner thigh respectively, and both lead to instability in the rear due to the lack of opposing muscles to stabilize the legs.

If knees turn out, the dog will compensate in one of three ways, all of which transfer the weight bearing as much as possible to the hips and diminish rear spring. If the whole leg rotates out from the hip it puts a strain on the hips, even if the hips Xray as good to start with.

Pat also showed us how to check the pelvis for being level and not tilted (the latter can cause difficulties in whelping, so is undesirable in males who can pass it on as well as bitches), how a gay tail is related to a short leg and a flattened croup and how to feel whether a thigh is narrow (limiting rear drive by limiting the amount of muscle that can develop there) or wide.

Wrinkles over the shoulder indicate problems in front assembly, over the hips indicates a weak union between spine and loin. The loin (as measured from the end

of the ribs to the pelvis) should be not more than one third of the total length from withers to hip. A long loin can accentuate issues in front or rear assembly.

Pat talked about herring gut, a defect where the sternum is not long enough and so the rib cage is rather short and square and showed us a new method of assessing whether it is present or not, by gauging the distance from the end of the sternum to the navel (these should be close together.) A dog with herring gut has less stamina for long periods of sustained exertion, such as hunt test or agility training, because the lungs are smaller to fit in the smaller space. Also the other organs which ordinarily lie inside the ribcage, will be left unprotected in the abdominal cavity. We all wondered if studies would show a connection between herring gut and tendency to develop torsion, but so far Pat knows of no studies on the topic.

Pat touched briefly on nutrition, reiterating what she has said in the past — nutritionally based structural flaws can often be corrected if the growth plates haven't closed. She believes that if your food is producing good structural results, you should not change it. Conversely, if you see a problem developing like knuckling over at the wrists or splayed toes, you might want to change foods to something less rich and see if the problem will go away. In the wild, pups don't get premium food, they get the leftovers, lower in protein and fat. Pups who seem not to be gaining weight are probably being fed food that is too hard for them to digest and one should try feeding a notch less protein without necessarily switching brands.

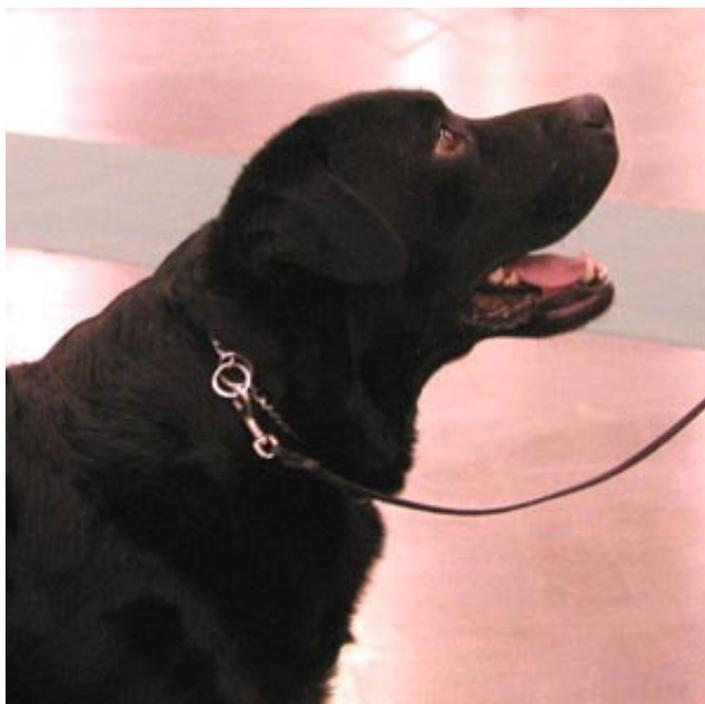
Can this evaluation method help breeders identify the pups with the best prospects for improving the breed's structure? YES, and more importantly it can help them avoid choosing pups who have good type, but also serious structural faults. Can this method help performance enthusiasts choose pups whose structure will support

Hastings, *continued on page 9*

Hastings, *continued from page 8*
 the types of activity they plan for it?
 YES! Can it help breeders guide pet
 buyers to pups whose structure will be
 well suited to their lifestyle? YES! Is it
 foolproof for picking a show winner? No,
 because winning does not depend on
 structure alone — it depends also on type,
 which is not part of Pat's evaluation,
 substance, which can be lost between
 eight weeks and adulthood, size, which
 can't be predicted from the eight-week
 evaluation and of course presentation.
 However, as Pat pointed out, if our only
 goal in producing a litter is to produce
 show winners, we are not being good
 stewards of the breed.

The seminar was over too fast. I was
 sorry my buddies from PSLRA could not
 be present. My recommendation is to buy
 the book, practice the procedures and go
 to the next seminar if you possibly can.
 You can find the book at dogwise.com
 and a list of upcoming seminars at
dogfolkenterprises.com. And please don't
 schedule any litter evaluations with Pat
 for January 15 to 18 until after my litter
 due November 23 is born and my own
 appointment is made.

Puvallup Show



Top, Christina and Richard Ramay's dog Nitro stands patiently in the conformation ring; bottom, Perrin Christianson shows in the Bred-By Dogs ring; left, Stephanie Harris' dog George shows great attention and a kind eye.

LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 1/21/06 that conform to the PSLRA Code of Ethics. Information is as submitted by owners and provided as a service to the public. Listings of litters are in no way an endorsement by PSLRA of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after three months.

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

- Elbows and hips must be certified on both the sire and dam. Dogs and bitches whelped before 5/1/87 are exempt from elbow clearance requirements and will be marked OFEL N/A. Prelims are not acceptable! The board has recently agreed to accept PennHip clearances that score in the 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 Marlys if you need a Litter Listing form, to be used for ALL litters.**
 - All Breeders must update their litters each week with Marlys Swanson via email (marlyss982@aol.com) as to the sex and color of puppies you have sold. The listing will be deleted after three months from the first litter listing date unless she hears from you.
1. Mail the completed form and a check for \$10 (operating expenses for Breeder Listing and Puppy Referral Programs) to: **Marlys Swanson, 3512 – 93rd Place NE, Marysville, WA 98270.**
 2. Your litter notice will appear in the next PSLRA newsletter **if** it conforms to the Code of Ethics.
 3. If you know that the Litter Listing and the Puppy Referral programs have helped you sell your puppies, **please send a donation to PSLRA** (c/o Marlys Swanson) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue.

LITTER LISTING FORMS available from Marlys Swanson

Litter born 9/16/05 (Available 2 BM, 3 YM)

Sire: Cimarron Runnin in the Rain
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, ACVO 6/24/05
Dam: Sunrise Get a Dream
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 3/26/05
Litter: 2 BM, 2 BF, 4 YM, 1 YF
Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093
Email: Katie_Somers@msn.com
Listed 11/27/05, 01/17/06

Quincy, WA

Litter born 12/05/05 (Available 1 CM, 1 CF)

Sire: Ch Belgairn Tom Jones
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart OFA
Dam: Willoridge's Cider House Rules
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 11/14/04
Litter: 3 CM, 2 CF
Contact: Greg Phillips (360) 392-6971 or (360) 201-0266
Email: greg@willoridgelabs.com
Listed 12/16/05, 01/14/06

Ferndale, WA

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

Sire: BISS Can Ch. Ghoststone's Boomtown, JH
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 11/13/04, OFA Cardiac
1/22/05, OFA PRA 1/27/05
Dam: Rocking M's Crystal Clear
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 2/27/05
Litter: 4 YM, 5 YF
Contact: Cindy or Bryant Meyer (253) 846-9583
Email: rockingmlabs@qwest.net
Listed: 12/10/05, 1/18/06

Spanaway, WA

Litter born 12/22/05 (Available 2 BM)

Sire: Ch Belgairn Tom Jones
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart OFA
Dam: Can Ch Sunnydaze Supernatural
OFA 54G, OFEL 24, CERF 10/3/05
Litter: 5 BM, 1 BF
Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269
Email: Sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com
Listed 11/9/05, 01/17/06

Bellingham, WA

Litter born 10/11/05 (Available 2 BM, 1 BF)

Sire: Int. Ch Hiltonhall's Rainbow Warrior WC
OFA 24 E, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05
Optigen Clear, Heart clear 34 mos.
Dam: Chelon's MoonShadow
Windmorgan hips, elbows@19mos., PennHip 80th
percentile, Cardiac normal 9/26/04, ACVO 11/20/05
Litter: 1 YM, 2 BF, 3 BM
Contact: Chuck & Sharon Hilton (425) 334-0303
Email: Hiltonhall@msn.com
Listed 12/6/05, 1/17/06

Snohomish, WA

Litter born 12/28/05 (Available 2 CF)

Sire: Int Ch. Bayviews Blazing Payton WC
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 11/19/05, Heart clear 11/19/05
Dam: Skyfire's Phoenix WC
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart clear 9/25/05
Litter: 5CF, 3 CM
Contact: Jennifer & Mike Hajny (509) 968-3888
Email: blutopfarms@hotmail.com
Listed 1/7/06, 1/17/06

Ellensburg, WA

Litter born 11/23/05 (Available 2 BM)

Sire: Sunnydaze Peterson's Thor SH
OFA 25G, OFEL 26, CERF 12/07/04, OFA Cardiac 10/06/02
Dam: Redwick Roughcut Ruby
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 3/20/05, OFA Cardiac 3/18/01
Litter: 5 BM, 1 CM, 1 YM, 2 BF, 1 CF
Contact: Julie Kirk (509) 588-6955 or Eve (509) 588-6712
Email: redwick@televar.com
Listed 11/26/05, 1/17/06

Benton City, WA

Litter born 1/4/06 (Available 4 BF, 1 BM, 2YM)

Sire: Skyfire Dangerous Company
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, CERF 9/17/05, Optigen Normal
OFA Cardiac
Dam: Int. Ch Wyntercreek Ryder at Blu Top CD WC CGC
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 8/3/05, Optigen Normal,
Cardiac Normal
Litter: 4 BF, 1 BM, 2 YM
Contact: Mary Jane Sarbaugh/Jenn Hajny (360) 221-6121
Email: labsix@whidbey.com
Listed 1/17/06

Langley, WA

Litter expected 1/21/06 (Blacks & Yellows)

Sire: Can Ch. The Flying Fortress Hunts-on Am/Can CD, JH, WC, CGC, TT, Pet Partner
 OFA 44G, OFEL 44, OFA Heart 22mo, ACVO 9/25/05, Windmorgan 19 mos – Hips, elbows, shoulders, tarsus
 Dam: Int. Ch. Kelly Firey Embr of Priceille
 OVC Hips & elbows clear 11/2003
 ACVO 12/12/05
 Litter: Blacks & Yellows expected
 Contact: Deborah Price (360) 305-1155, eve: (360) 398-8903
 Email: dpricedogs@aol.com
 Listed: 01/18/06 Lynden, WA

Litter expected 1/24/06 (All Yellow)

Sire: Int Ch. Devonshire Mi Majestic Rain
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 03/7/05
 Dam: Kelsey's Precious Jade CD WC
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 11/22/05
 Litter: All yellow
 Contact: Kelsey Williams (360) 629-3641
 Cell: (425) 870-8559
 Email: crimsonlabrador@hotmail.com
 Listed 1/7/06 Stanwood, WA

Litter expected 2/3/06 (Blacks and Chocolates expected)

Sire: Am/Can CH Skyfire's Oughta Be A Law JH CD WC
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, Wind-Morgan Hips, Elbows, Hocks & Shoulders, Heart clear by Echo, CERF 9/05, Optigen A1 normal/clear.
 Dam: Skyfire's Kodiak Bombshell
 OFA Hips 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/05, Heart Clear 22mo
 Litter: Blacks & Chocolates
 Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 925-1259 or (509) 929-5227
 Email: stephanie@skyfirelabs.com
 Listed 12/29/05 Ellensburg, WA

Litter expected 3/8/06 (Black and Yellow expected)

Sire: CH HySpire Slim Shady
 OFA 27 E, OFEL 27, ACVO 05/20/05, Heart OFA
 Dam: Sunnydaze It's All About Mee, JH
 OFA 24 G, OFEL 24, ACVO 1/26/06
 Litter: Black and yellow expected
 Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269
 Email: Sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com
 Listed 01/18/06 Bellingham, 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 PSLRA. Price will vary.

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

Sweet, mellow boy who is looking for a family of his own. Second pick puppy in the litter, both parents have all their clearances. Merlin is a quick and willing learner. Crate trained, raised with kids and other animals, started retrieving, loves the birds.
 Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 925-1259
 Email: stephanie@skyfirelabs.com
 Listed 11/17/05, 1/16/06 Ellensburg, WA

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

Sweet and very loving.
 Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787 6093
 Email: Katie_Somers@msn.com
 Listed 11/26/05, 01/17/06 Quincy, WA

Yellow Male, 12 months (on 11/26/05) intact (must be neutered)

"Harry" is a big, sweet, good natured boy. Parents have all health clearances. Very beautiful light yellow with black pigment, he would make a super family companion. Vaccinated, dewclaws removed, hips x-rayed normal, healthy and easy to work with.
 Contact: Cecile Drege (360) 435-0456
 Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com
 Website: www.cougarcreeklabs.com
 Listed 11/26/05, 1/16/06 Arlington, WA

Yellow Female, 12 months (as of 12/10/05) spayed

Basic obedience, crate trained, very sweet girl. Loves everybody and animals. Loves to play.
 Contact Julia Wilson (360) 332-4844 or (360) 920-6648
 Email: juliaw8@juno.com
 Listed 12/10/05, 12/22/05 Blaine, WA

Yellow Male, 2 years, 3 months (12/26/05) intact (must be neutered)

Basic obedience, crate trained, OFA good hips, clear elbows. He has a wonderful personality, great with people/children and other animals.
 Contact Julia Wilson (360) 332-4844 or (360) 920-6648
 Email: juliaw8@juno.com
 Listed 12/27/05 Blaine, WA

Black Male, 5 months (as of 1/21/06) intact

Crate trained very, very sweet. Potential show or wonderful family dog. Out of Ch Cameo's Brigadier General and Orions Star Over Blackthorn.
 Contact: Marcy Johnson (206) 510-3467
 Email: Marcy@SoundviewLabradors.com
 Listed 1/21/06 Seattle, WA



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

If you have not renewed your 2006 membership, this is the last issue of the newsletter you will receive.

Membership Renewal Notice — 2006

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

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

Please print plainly and send promptly!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country (if not USA) _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

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

Email address _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically? _____

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

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

_____ Field _____ Tracking _____ Agility _____ Obedience _____ Conformation _____ Other