

THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 24, Number 1, January 2007



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President's Message

As this is my last president's message I'd like to use it to tell you all how honored and privileged I feel to be a member of PSLRA and to have served as president. You are the most caring, big-hearted and fun-loving group of people I've ever known. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as president, and I thank you all for your help and support throughout the past two years.

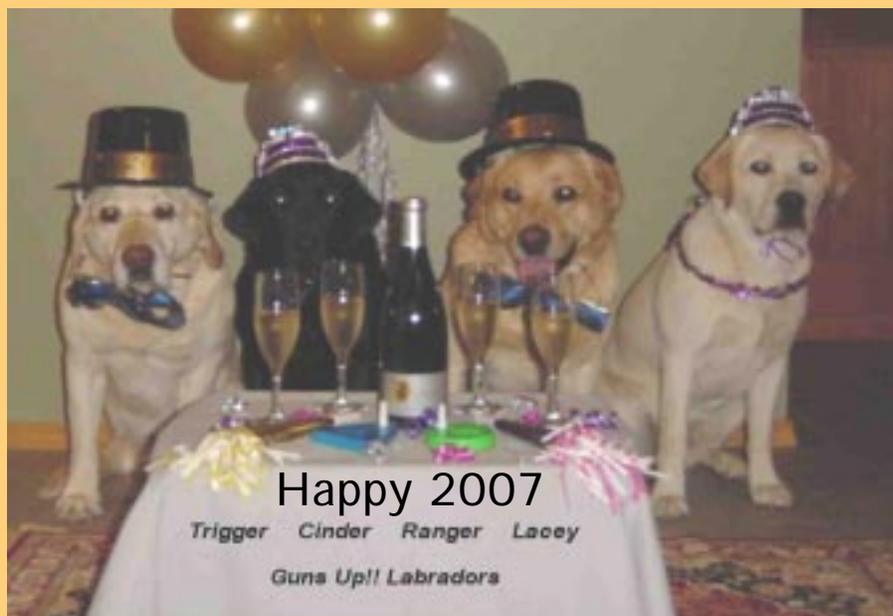
I particularly would like to thank the board members, the many people who chaired events, committees, and those who worked behind the scenes on our ongoing programs, for their tireless help and support. I would also like to thank the 100 + people who volunteered to work at our events throughout the year. So many people contributing is what makes our club great.

The PSLRA Board met on December 9 to evaluate accomplishments for 2006 and to plan our goals and activities for the coming year. We had a good year in 2006. We took several steps toward accomplishing our goals of expanding our activities to include more club members, expanding our outreach to the public, educating breeders and buyers, and recognizing volunteers. We will continue to pursue these goals in 2007. If you have any ideas for what you would like to see the club do in the next year please contact me or any board member.

Our first event for 2007 was our Annual Awards Banquet on January 13. Thanks to Perrin Christiansen for chairing it. A representative from Summit Assistance Dogs spoke to us about their training of assistance dogs. And we presented awards to members who have supported the club throughout the year. The banquet is always fun and is a great opportunity for new members and old members to meet and get to know each other.

One of my favorite quotations is from Mother Teresa, who said, "We can do no great things – only small things with great Love." I feel that this describes the members of PSLRA, and I feel blessed to know you all.

My warmest wishes and thanks to all of you. -Jan



IMPORTANT DATES

**February 19 Obedience/
Rally Show 'n Go, Nina
Mann, Jan Palumbo**
February 22 board meeting
**March 9 Field Fun/Training
Day**
**March 10-11 Seattle Kennel
Club, Meet the Breed
Booth, Lucy Isaacson
Logen**
**March 17-18 PSLRA Agility
Trial, Monroe, Wash., Dan
Selthofer**
March 28 Board Meeting

Newsletter Information:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

Sarah Fischer

2716 Morris Ave S.

Renton, WA 98055

e-mail: labradors@tynderlabs.com

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

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

Planning meeting minutes

A planning meeting was held before the Christmas Party at the Skills Center in Everett. Present were Jan Palumbo, Dave Lawncizak, Bea Ferguson, Darlene Pado, Stephanie Harris, Carole Jensen, Ron Perry, Terrie Sato and Franna Pitt.

We discussed last year's goals and felt that we had met them for the most part.

In 2007 we hope to implement a more structured mentorship program to encourage all members to take an active role in the club. We will continue to have Fun Days to connect new members with long time members. We discussed changing the wording on the membership form from asking what activities the applicant would be willing to volunteer for to asking what activities they would be interested in.

In an effort to have a more accurate gauge as to whether or not we are meeting our yearly goals, we have added a mid-term look at goals to the July Board meeting agenda.

A proposal was made that there should be a minimal annual charge to breeders to be listed on the club website. The monies accrued would be used to increase our outreach to non-members by placing small educational ads in the newspaper. Stephanie is still looking for contributors of short informational articles on the various venues Labs participate in to add to the website. She will also add a sample of the newsletter to the website.

The puppy buyer/breeder information developed this year will continue to be a work in progress.

We need to concentrate on finding speakers for our educational offerings at the Specialty and the Awards Banquet.

A suggestion was made that a planning notebook be implemented for all events that will include a timeline.

A discussion was held on whether or not to give volunteers gifts of appreciation along with their Certificate of Appreciation awarded at the Banquet. There were over a hundred individual volunteers at our events this year and in light of the large number, a suggestion was made that the certificates not include an itemized list of each event where they volunteered.

We then worked on dates for the upcoming year. See the club calendar on page 3. Julie Germano did not charge us for her facility use for the Fun Day. It was M/S/V to have Darlene send her a check for portapotty service.

The planning meeting was adjourned and the Holiday Party commenced. A brief general membership meeting was held to introduce the slate of prospective board members and officers for 2007. There were no additions to the previously published slate.

Submitted by Carole Jensen

From the Editor

My last newsletter as editor of the *Retriever Believer* has been an unexpected challenge. I find myself reluctantly finishing up my duties. Editing this newsletter has put me in touch with the membership. I have gotten to know many of you, if only through your written words, and feel you are all friends. It's a little tough to let that go.

However, I firmly believe that clubs and individuals benefit from change. Club responsibilities should be passed around so that new ideas can be shared. So, as a newly elected board member, I am moving on to work in other areas of the club, and I am delighted to introduce the new editor of the *Retriever Believer*, Sarah Fischer. Sarah not only agreed to take over as editor, she volunteered! This was a dream come true. Sarah will bring a fresh look to our club newsletter. Her technical expertise far exceeds mine and I am looking forward to reading her newsletters. Many of you have sent me great

Editor, continued on page 2.

PSLRA 2007 Events Calendar

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

January

- 13 Banquet – Location: Puyallup Fairgrounds; Chair: Perrin Christiansen
 24-28 Sportsman Show, Puyallup; Chair: Kristi Clark
 *** No Board meeting this month ***

February

- 18 Obedience/Rally Show 'n Go; Location: Julie Germano's Training Facility Contacts: Nina Mann and Jan Palumbo
 21 Board meeting

March

- 3 Field Fun/Training Day – Greenleaf's Farm, Monroe, Wash. Contact: ?
 10-11 Seattle Kennel Club, Meet the Breed and Booth; Contact: Lucy Isaacson Logen
 17-18 PSLRA Agility Trial. Location: TBD; Contact: Dan Selthofer
 28 Board meeting

April

- 7 5 Series; Location: TBD
 25 Board meeting
 29 Tracking Test; Snoqualmie Valley Habitat Management Area (formerly Cherry Valley), Duvall, Wash. Chair: Jennifer

Baerlocher

May

- 5-6 Spring HRT
 23 Board meeting

June

- 16 Breed/Obedience Sanctioned Match & Conformation Handling/Obedience Training prior to Match; Location: TBD;
 Chair: Darlene Pado, Marlys Swanson
 27 Board meeting

July

- ?? Rally, Agility & Obedience Fun/Training Day;
 25 Board meeting – review GOALS

August

- 3-4 Specialty Show and Obedience Trial, Langley, Whidbey Island, Wash. Chair: Sharon Edwards
 5 Working Certificate, Location TBD; Chair: Carole Jensen, Jessica Meadows
 22 Board meeting

September

- 8-9 Fall HRT
 23 Eye Clinic at Cascade Kennels, Woodinville, Wash. Contact: Nina Mann, MJ Sarbaugh
 26 Board meeting

October

- 6-12 LRC National, Portland, Ore.
 24 Board meeting

November

- 3-4 Agility Trial, Argus Ranch Facility, Auburn; Chair: Franna Pitt
 28 Board meeting

December

- 8 Holiday Party

The events calendar is available online at www.pslra.org/html/calendar.htm

Editor *continued from page 1*

pictures and stories and shared your experiences through the *Retriever Believer*. I know you will continue to share your Labrador lives with us. Please send your newsletter contributions to Sarah at labradors@tynderlabs.com.

Let me take a moment, stand on my soap box, and say something about volunteering. It is my hope that people join the PSLRA to support the Labrador Retriever. For a \$20 membership fee you get a great newsletter, informative chat list and web page and a club that each year dedicates money to education, health and rescue as concerns the Labrador Retriever. That is a lot of bang for the buck! However, you can get even more

from this club if you volunteer. I learned a long time ago that you get out of something, what you put in. If you don't think you are getting much from your club membership, you are not trying very hard. Every time I volunteer I get more than I give. Talking and sharing ideas, learning new skills and building new friendships makes every hour spent time well invested. Even when conditions are less than pleasant and I am climbing into my car shivering cold and wet after an outdoor day with Labrador friends, I find my mind racing to process all of the ideas and knowledge gained from the day. It is not the goal of any club to have a few people do all the work. It is the goal to share the work. If every one of you

volunteered to do a small amount this year, think how much we could accomplish as a club. And think how much you will have gained from your membership. Make it a resolution....volunteer.

Thanks so much to Chris Roth for her dedication to making the newsletter look good. Thank you to Ron Perry for making sure the newsletter gets to all of you. And thank you to all who so willingly contributed. I've had a great time as editor.

Terrie

Amateur Field Training Drills

by Terrie Sato

The cold, short days of winter can be a time of frustration for amateur field trainers. It becomes increasingly difficult for training groups to meet. The weather is bad and makes for uncomfortable training conditions. No one wants to spend hours in the field working on training set ups. The solution? Use the winter months to study your training books and magazines and brush up your skills with drill work.

Drills by definition are methodical teaching tools. They use repetition to sharpen skills, and most drills can be run without the aid of a training group. Many drills and variations on drills have been developed over the years. A drill can be found for almost any training level. However, most drills are based on the assumption that the dog understands the need to retrieve. A compelled retrieve or force fetch is definitely helpful in achieving success through drill work. Drills have fascinating names such as the three legged drill, single T, double T, walking baseball, No-No drill and wagon wheel. Drills can be used to teach marking (watching a bird fall to the ground and marking its location), lining (going directly to a bird or bumper in a straight line), handling (taking directional casts from the handler at a distance to find a bird or bumper) and obedience (go as sent despite distractions).

It is interesting to note that perfecting the drill is not always the goal. This is because drills are artificial situations. They are set in a controlled environment to guarantee a certain amount of success. The actual drill does not always transfer well to field situations. However, the communication and trust established in the drill should transfer to the field. In fact, learning to read your dog and building trust

and communication skills may be the greatest benefit of drill work.

Probably the drill most often used to teach handling in field training is the single T. The set up includes a back pile of bumpers well marked by a pole or bucket. Ideally, this drill is initially set in a flat yard with the back pile about 100 yards from the starting position. The procedure for working this drill can be found in many books and magazines. One of the best descriptions of teaching the T pattern can be found in *Smartwork, Volume One* by Evan Graham. Another book filled with great pictures and explanations is *Blind Retrieves* by James B. Spencer. It is important to remember that drills can be run in less

than perfect conditions. If you do not have a flat 100 yard area, do not despair. Many dogs have learned to handle with less space on a mini T. Training time should be kept short. A lot can be accomplished in fifteen to twenty minutes. Keep in mind that if a dog has picked up five bumpers from a back pile 100 yards away, it has run 1000 yards. That is over half a mile. Drills require concentration as well as physical exertion so watch for signs of fatigue. A dog that is tired will begin to perform poorly. Fatigue hinders learning. Once the dog has become familiar with the handling concepts introduced in the T pattern, a gun station and mark can be added to the picture. A mark on the way to the back pile can help a dog learn the difference



Barb Sheard's Jamee wistfully waits for weather more suited to field training.

between the cues to mark and the cues to pick up a blind. The dog can learn the concepts of running blinds in front of a gun station, behind a gun station and through the arc of the fall by practicing with an already established T pattern. Move the T pattern set up and teach it in a field with patches of cover or difficult terrain, and a dog will get lots of practice taking casts in difficult situations. Do not be satisfied that your dog can simply take the cast that is given to a known pile of bumpers. It is easy for the dog to work on auto pilot. Create situations where the dog has to think and might make mistakes. Drills are useful in helping dogs learn to solve problems.

The repetitive nature of drills can give a handler a sense of false security and unrealistic expectations if care is not given in analyzing exactly what the dog is learning. The No-No drill, also referred to as the chair drill, is a good example of this problem. This drill requires the dog to take a straight line through or over an obstacle on its way to a back pile. Most commonly the obstacle is a low jump, a log or two chairs. Allowing the dog to go around the obstacle would defeat the purpose of the drill. But what exactly is the purpose of this drill? Many feel this drill teaches dogs to take a straight line. Anyone who has taught the retrieve over the high jump as an obedience exercise and has had trouble throwing a dumbbell over the jump realizes that at best this teaches dogs to look for obstacles to jump before and after retrieving. Want proof? Mark a bumper pile and teach your dog to jump an obstacle on the way out to the pile. Start close to the obstacle and work your way backward so that the dog has to make the decision to take the obstacle on the way to the pile. Now mark a new pile eight to ten yards away from the original pile and move your dog so that he can run a straight line to the new pile without going over the obstacle. Most dogs will still seek out and take the jump on the way to the new pile even though it is no

longer part of the line to that pile. The usefulness of this drill as a lining drill is in doubt. However, it is useful in teaching dogs to deal with obstacles. Still, it will be a rare occasion when a dog will need to run between two chairs or go over a jump in a test or hunting situation. The real benefit of this drill comes from the words *no-no*. If this drill is used to teach the meaning of the words, *No, Here* each time the dog tries to go around the obstacle, the dog learns to deal with being called back in training. It begins to learn to look for a new route and if it chooses to quit, it learns about refusal corrections. What better place to teach a dog the consequence for failure to go than in the safe environment of a yard drill?

Drills can serve many purposes. They can provide exercise, obedience training, an introduction to new concepts and a way of analyzing what your dog really understands. Drills can be worked alone or with the aid of a training buddy. They require very little time and very little equipment. For additional thoughts on training drills read Mike Lardy's *Total Retriever Training* booklet or check out the retriever training magazine, *Retrievers Online* (www.retrieveronline.com). Don't let the winter months dampen your field dreams. Spring is just around the corner so get working on those skills.



Eight-week-old Piper can't wait for training time so she conducts her own drills with a bumper substitute suited to the season. Piper is from Stephanie Harris' Am/Can Champion Skyfire's Oughta Be A Law CD JH WC x Skyfire's Kodiak Bombshell.

AKC Eukanuba National 2006

by Joni Willing

In August I received a phone call from Sharon Edwards asking if I would like to go to Long Beach, Cal. to the 2006 AKC/Eukanuba National show with a group. I had to think about it for only about one minute before I said yes. You see I have been on these excursions before with most of this group, and believe me we have always had fun. I would look forward to it.

All I needed to do was make reservations for the correct day and the correct airline, just making sure I was on the same one with as many as were traveling that day and hour. OK that was easy—rooms were reserved by Ron Perry, event tickets were going to be purchased by Linda Walkley as soon as we could decide how many were going and how many were seniors. All was well, some were going to drive, some flying early to celebrate a wedding anniversary, one to see her mother in San Diego beforehand, and one even had to work for a day or so down there before she could join us. We would meet at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel where we all had room reservations. It was also show headquarters and a short, convenient walk to the Convention Center.

We all had been watching our (PSLRA) two Labradors during the year earning their way to the invitational by winning BOBs, Groups and BIS wins. The most important part was that these two dogs, Ch Sharay's Nikolas of Whidbey RN JH owned by Ron Perry and Sharon Edwards and CH Double Dutch D'Artagnion RN JH NAP owned by Els Crisafulli, were there with their owners and handlers so we could all enjoy their spotlight moments with them.

Everyone had their reservations, but we didn't count on Mother Nature to deal a large hand in our plans to get out of town. We couldn't communicate often because the power was erratic or not at all. Snow, ice, wind, trees down and rivers overflowing as well as closed roads in general made travel difficult. Plans changed: Tonya, Nick's handler, couldn't get out until Thursday, so she was on the plane with us. Ron Perry and Nick were able to get out on Tuesday; Barb Ironside had her flight cancelled, but got out the same day on another flight.

A storm was forecast for Wednesday night bringing freezing rain, so Sharon Edwards, who had been out of power on Whidbey Island for several days, Bea Ferguson, who lives in the hard hit northern part of Washington along with me (I live in Gig Harbor and deal with the Narrows Bridge and hills.) decided that it would be better to go to a motel on Wednesday night. Good thinking as we arrived at the airport on time without incident.

Our plane took off on time Thursday a.m., Jeannie, Beckie Jensen's friend, Tonya, Sharon, Bea and I were on our flight. We met Linda and Fred Walkley who had driven down, Barb

Ironside, Bob and Beckie Jensen, who were celebrating their anniversary, Jan Skewes, Ron Perry and Nick at the hotel. There were many others from PSLRA and the Northwest there for Agility and fun and other friends from the Northwest showing, participating and enjoying their trips.

I thought the decorations for the rings and Convention Center were very impressive, as they had magnificently decorated Christmas trees in the rings with beautiful ornaments and had many decorations throughout the halls, making it a virtual wonderland. The many booths from all over the country made shopping an adventure. The dogs were all beautiful, but, of course, the Labradors were the best of the best. It was very noisy in the buildings, but you didn't mind it too much, as there was an excitement that traveled throughout the area. It was awesome to see the top dogs perform in agility, obedience and conformation.

We split up to sightsee; some went to Disneyland, toured the *Queen Mary* and in general took in as many of the local sights as possible. They have free bus service in the tourist area around the hotel, so we used it a great deal, and I also took a trip down memory lane. Tom and I lived on Ocean Blvd. and on Nieto 61 years ago, so Bea and I took a bus ride out where I used to live so I could see if it was anything like it used to be. It wasn't!

Thank all of you that helped make this trip memorable. It was loads of fun, great company and, as I have said, I am ready to go again one day. When do we leave?



PSLRA members and friends on the *Queen Mary*: Barb Ironside, Linda Walkley, Jan Skewes, Beckie Jensen and Jeany Llapitan.

Braggs

U-CDX Fawnhaven's Mariah CDX, AX, AXJ, OAP, OAJP, earned her well-deserved retirement from competition when she completed her Open Jumpers Preferred agility title with a second place finish at the SnoKing Agility trial on November 4. Owner, trainer and handler Nancy Harney wants to thank Mariah for all her efforts over the years, even when she didn't see the point, and for giving her the opportunity to explore the wonders and the magic of dog training! **Fawnhaven's Amazing Grace WC**, earned her first and second legs in Novice B obedience at the Whidbey Island Kennel Club trial on November 18 and 19. **Fawnhaven's Amazing Grace WC** earned her CD at the Tacoma Kennel Club obedience trial on January 12, 2007, and she qualified again in Novice B at the Sammamish Kennel Club trial on January 13. Gracie is owned, loved and trained by Nancy Harney with assistance from U-CDX Fawnhaven's Mariah CDX, AX, AXJ, OAP, OAJP.

I have felt so blessed in having puppy **Master**, pictured below, and the joy he has brought. Just past his 12 month birthday, I had his OFA hips and elbow preliminary x-rays done. After 10 years taking and developing x-rays myself, I thought they looked fabulous but this particular veterinarian said he didn't know about the elbows. So, I prayed and left it up to God. Yesterday, the OFA report came back PERFECT! He recently went Winners Dog at a booster sponsored by the Canadian National Labrador Club and has nine points with three puppy sporting group wins. Diann Sullivan-August



Himoon Deep Sea Diver, Scuba, won Reserve Winners Dog at the Tacoma Kennel Club show and Winner's Dog the next day at the Sammamish Kennel Club show in Puyallup in mid January out of the 12 to 18 month class. Scuba is bred, owned and loved by Lucy Isaacson-Logen of Himoon Labradors.

From Sandy Wasson, Romany Labradors: At the Puyallup agility trial **Romany Cimarron Satori CD, NA, NAJ, OAJ**, double Q'd for his second Open Standard leg, and his first Excellent Jumpers leg! Tori is owned by Sandy Wasson, bred and co-owned by Laura Steward.



The Goose Man, shown by Chantel, above, has added some new initials to his name. He is now **Can CH Koa's Top Gun, WC**. He was WD, and BOW for five points Saturday, December 16, 2006, at the Auld Lang Syne Society show. He earned all his points from the Bred By class and he is the first Champion here at Koa Labradors, so needless to say we're thrilled. Now on to finishing that CD and JH! Proudly bred, owned and spoiled by Chantel, Al and Kawai Nahoopii, Koa Labradors.

Rocking M Retriever's has a NEW Canadian Champion, **CAN/INT'L CH Rocking M Little Miracle**. Congratulations to Cindy and Bryant Meyer and their NEW Champion!

Cosmo finished his Rally Advanced (RA) title on Saturday at the Puyallup shows making him **Int'l CH Windycanyon's Cosmopolitan Lad CD RA JH**. Cosmo is owned and trained by Sarah Fischer.

At the Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers Association show on Jan 14, **MBIS Am/Can Ch Sharay's Nikolas of Whidbey JH RN** went Best of Breed under breeder Judge Sue Willumsen. He then took a Group First. At the Rose City Classic in Portland, Nick won Best of Breed (Jan. 20) under breeder Judge Cornelia (Connie) Howard, who judged the PSLRA specialty in 2000. She also gave Nick the group win. The next day, Nick won BOB and a Group Fourth. Nick is co-owned by Ron Perry and Sharon Edwards and handled beautifully by Tonya Struble.

PUGET SOUND LABRADOR RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION SHOW N GO

ALL-BREED OBEDIENCE AND RALLY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007

Closes February 10, 2007. Schedule will be posted at psra.org on February 15, 2007

Pre-Registration Only - First Run \$10, Second Run \$8 (with the same dog)

Location: Country Classic Kennels 9332 - 99th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223

From I-5 North or South: Exit 199 at Marysville

Go East on SR 528 (also 4th St)

Turn left (north) onto SR 9

Turn right (east) onto 84th St NE (0.6)

Turn left (north) onto 99th Ave. NE (0.6)

Turn left into Country Classic Kennels

The building is set back off the road

From SR 522 in Woodinville

Exit onto SR 9 (north) Snohomish/Arlington exit

Continue approximately 20 miles

Turn right (east) onto 84th St NE (0.6)

Turn left (north) onto 99th Ave. NE (0.6)

Turn left into Country Classic Kennels

The building is set back off the road

Questions? Contact: Nina Mann, harbortop@netzero.net
or Jan Palumbo, janpalumbo@earthlink.net

Name _____

Address _____

Breed _____ Call Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Obedience # of runs _____ [] Novice [] Open [] Utility Jump Height _____

Rally # of runs _____ [] Novice [] Advanced/Excellent Jump Height _____

Utility and Open Obedience will be scheduled in the morning, starting at 9 AM, limited to 25 each.
Rally and Novice Obedience will be scheduled in the afternoon, starting at 1:30 PM, limited to 40 each.
Sits and Downs will all be done outside to save time, and if you are running both morning and afternoon events, every effort will be made to schedule you as close together as possible.

Make all checks payable to PSLRA in US funds and mail entries and fees to:
PSLRA ShowNGo, c/o Nina Mann, 5706 312th St NW, Stanwood, WA 98292

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 Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association, Inc., its members, representatives or volunteers, or Gulie Germano, Country Classic Kennels, their owners, employees or representatives responsible for any claim of 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 they deem it necessary.

Date

Signature (Owener, handler or parent of child under 18)

Secret Agent Pup



Where do I begin? Things have been changing faster than I can keep track of around here these days. There was, in fact, turkey for everyone, and man does it taste good! Things seemed pretty normal around here until one night, Kawai, Mom and Grandpa brought a tree into the house! Now that's a new one for me, let me tell you. At first, I was a little upset,

Mom brings in a tree for the boys to pee on, but us girls still had to go outside to go to pee. Okay, before you say it, I now know that if the boys even thought about peeing on this tree, they'd be in SO much trouble. So Mom stuck the tree in the living room and then started putting all these shiny toys (I mean ornaments) on it and then colored lights.

Apparently this will happen once a year and it's called a Christmas tree, although I'm convinced it's called "Darn it Nyah, leave it alone!" We woke up one morning and there were a bunch of wrapped boxes underneath the tree, even some for us. Some big chunky guy in a red suit came in the house during the night. Kawai made it very clear to us dogs that we were to leave him alone! What an adventure that month was.

Then this month, I think I've lost all of my dignity. I had my first heat cycle, which to me is no big deal, but apparently it is a big deal with the house's beige carpet. My Mom put these things on me (in season pants) that are SO not very flattering, nor are they comfortable at all! Talk about being so out of sorts to begin with, having this constant urge to clean myself and then having these darn britches in the way. Have you ever tried to walk with one of these things on? Not so easy, but obviously very funny for some people! Which by the way is a source for great entertainment with Kainalu. Apparently she's had to wear one before and has mastered the art of getting it off herself. So she had no problem taking it off me, much to my mother's disapproval!

Then the coolest thing of all.....Tons and tons of white stuff fell on the ground. Kainalu said it's snow and there is nothing like it. Who knew you could butt tuck so fast in this stuff. It was cold and quenched my thirst as I ran and ran and ran. Must have been pretty entertaining because Mom, Dad and Kawai couldn't stop laughing. Best part is we even got Maui out there to butt tuck with us. That was a sight, five dogs doing the butt tuck

around the yard in the snow. Snow is so much fun, I was pretty bummed to see it gone this morning.

I have some more cool adventures planned. Mom and I are entering our first dog show next weekend; we'll be in the Senior Puppy class (nope, no idea what that means other than "standing still = food!"), and I'm sure we'll do tons more walking. I give Mom credit. She has this New Year's Resolution thing. Not sure what it is supposed to be, but it does mean that she takes all four of us young dogs for an hour walk every day! Way too much fun.

But, I've been typing for too long, my paws are sore and I hear Mom coming! Until next time, Agent Nyah K9 signing off.



Kawai Nahoopii, shown here at the PSLRA Christmas party, helped prepare the family dogs, including Agent Nyah, for a visit from St. Nick.

Membership

New e-mail address:

Allison Hillius

Allison@devonshirelabs.com

Mike and Nancy Merickel
merickelmn@comcast.net

Travis and Sarah Fischer
labradors@tynderlabs.com

New Member:

Jennifer L. Mora

24230 SE 44th St

Issaquah, WA 98029

(206) 234-3447

Email loganmora@earthlink.net

LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 1/22/07 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 (mlswanson@verizon.net) 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 10/3/06 (Available 1 BF)

Sire: Am/Can CH Skyfire's Oughta Be A Law JH CD WC
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 9/25/05, Heart echo clear,
Optigen Normal/Clear
Dam: Int Int'l CH Harbortop Death By Chocolate CGC, WC,
JH, Am/Can CD
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 2/27/06
Litter: 2 CM, 3 CF, 2 BF
Contact: Heide Savidge (425) 231-0122
Email: Lyte_My_Fyrelabs@hotmail.com
Listed 12/27/06, 1/8/07 Snohomish, WA

Litter born 10/25/06 (Available 2 BM, 2 BF, 1 YF)

Sire: Skyfire Sofa King Smokey Moe
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, CERF 6/15/06
Dam: Grandquest Lucyskyofdiamonds
OFA 28F, OFEL 28, CERF 6/15/06
Litter: 3 BM, 2 BF, 3 YF, 1 YM
Contact: Bruce and Mary Robinson (509) 899-2163
Eve: (509) 968-3144; Email: robinsonfamily@fairpoint.net
Listed 12/18/06, 1/11/07 Ellensburg, WA

Litter born 11/21/06 (Available 3 YF, 1 YM, 4 BF, 1 BM)

Sire: Cimarron Runnin in the Rain
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 8/1/06, OFA Heart
Dam: Three Trees Farm Baroness Jesse Ray
OFA 30E, OFEL, ACVO 8/18/06
Litter: 3 YF, 1 YM, 4 BF, 1 BM
Contact: Joyce and Jon Jacobson (206) 949-1144, eve (206)
842-7919 Email: jetli591@cs.com
Listed 1/1/07 Bainbridge Island, WA

Litter born 12/14/06 (Available 3 YM, 1 YF)

Sire: Am/Can Ch ShaRay's Nikolas of Whidbey JH RN
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 8/20/06, Heart Clear
Dam: Can Ch Cedarwoods Lady Pearl
OFA 28E, OFEL 28, CERF 10/9/06, Optigen Clear
Litter: 3YM, 4 YF
Contact: Rita Welters (360) 592-5482
Email: dsbsons@msn.com
Listed 1/8/07, 1/20/07 Bellingham, WA

Litter born 12/14/06 (Available 1 BF)

Sire: Ch Ghostone Hyspire Dressed to Impress
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/06
Dam: Int. Ch. Wyntercreek Ryder at Blu Top CD WC CGC
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 9/24/06
Litter: 1 BF, 1 BM, 3 YF, 2 YM
Contact: Jennifer Hajny (509) 962-8579
Email: blutopfarms@hotmail.com
Listed: 12/19/06, 1/1/07 Ellensburg, WA

Litter born 12/18/06 (Available 3YF, 2 YM)

Sire: Blackthorn's Here For The Party
OFA 24E, OFEL, ACVO 10/14/06, Optigen Clear
Dam: Rocking'M's Crystal Clear
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 2/26/06
Litter: 3 YF, 2 YM
Contact Bryant or Cindy Meyer (253) 846-9583
Email: rockingmlabs@rockingmlabs.com
Listed 1/5/07 Spanaway, WA

Litter expected 1/10/07 (Available all yellow)

Sire: Int. Ch. Rocking M Go For The Gusto KC RN CD
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 2/26/06, Optigen Clear
Dam: Int'l Ch. Rocking M' Little Miracle
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, ACVO 2/26/06, Optigen Clear
Litter: All yellow
Contact Bryant or Cindy Meyer (253) 846-9583
Email: rockingmlabs@rockingmlabs.com
Listed 1/5/07 Spanaway, WA

Litter expected 2/28/07 (Available Blacks and Yellows)

Sire: Am/Can Ch ShaRay's Nikolas of Whidbey JH RN
OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 8/20/06, Heart Clear
Dam: Interlochen Sadie Shady Slope
OFA 28G, OFEL 24, CERF 8/30/06
Litter: Blacks and Yellow
Contact: Greg McCowan (509) 467-1008
Email: gregde@comcast.net
Listed 1/22/07 Spokane, WA

Litter expected 3/05/07 (Available all black)

Sire: BISS CH Boradors By George
 OFA 26G, OFEL 26, CERF 9/2006, Optigen Clear
 OFA Cardiac
 Dam: Can CH Sunnydaze Supernatural
 OFA 54G, OFEL 24, CERF 9/2006, Optigen Clear
 Litter: All Black
 Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269
 Email: SunnydazeLabradors@hotmail.com
 Listed 1/7/07 Bellingham, WA

Litter expected 3/10/07 (Available Yellow and Black)

Sire: BISS Ch. Sureshot HySpire Impressive
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/06, OFA Heart
 Dam: Am/Can Ch ShaRays Fair Emma
 OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 9/26/06
 Litter: Black and Yellow
 Contact: Marlys Swanson (360) 658-7604
 Email: MLSwanson@verizon.net
 Listed 1/9/07 Marysville, 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 PSLRA. Price will vary.

Black Male 3 years (must be neutered)

Very sweet, mellow, small/stocky boy. Is a show champion, has OFA hips, elbows, CERF, cardiac normal, optigen normal. No health or behavior issues known. To a special, loving home only. We love him dearly.
 Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456
 Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com
 Website: www.cougarcreeklabs.com
 Listed 11/16/06, 01/15/07 Arlington, WA

Black Female, 5 months (as of 11/16/06) (Intact)

Show Prospect, nice coat and bone. Both parents have all clearances. Am/Can CH Ghostone Boomtown X Sunrise Desert Rose (Briar X Flurry)
 Will meet at the pass.
 Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787-6093 or (509) 398-1470
 Email: Katie_Somers@msn.com
 Listed 11/16/06, 1/15/07 Quincy, WA

Black male, 5 months (as of 11/16/06) (Intact)

Already swims, loves people and other dogs will not be a big dog. No health issues.
 Will meet on top of the pass.
 Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787-6093 or (509) 398-1470
 Email: Katie_Somers@msn.com
 Listed 11/16/06, 1/15/07 Quincy, WA

Black Female, 1 year (as of 11/16/06) (Intact)

Very sweet, but on the small side. Likes water and birds. Would make a good family dog that hunts. Parents have all clearances. Will meet at the pass.
 Contact: Katie Somers (509) 787-6093 or (509) 398-1470
 Email: Katie_Somers@msn.com
 Listed 11/16/06, 1/15/07 Quincy, WA



Already happy in a new home is New Year's baby Rion, shown being welcomed to the family by 10-year-old Tori. Tori and Rion are owned by Fred Drennan and Terry Massagli. Rion was bred by Anne Swindeman of WindyCanyon Labradors.



The Retriever Believer
Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association
Web: www.pslra.org
Sarah Fischer, Editor
2716 Morris Ave S
Renton, WA 98055

Membership Renewal Notice—2007

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: _____

Email address _____

Note: You will receive the monthly newsletter electronically unless you otherwise notify the membership chair.

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

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