

# THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 21, Number 6, June 2004



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By the time you read this, our match will have taken place at Remlinger Farm. Look for a report in next month's newsletter.

### **Coming up**

Before you know it, our Specialty Show and Obedience Trials will be on our calendars. Don't forget to volunteer to help (contact Barb Ironside at fawnhaven@comcast.net or Linda Walkley at mustardseedlabs@aol.com).

Also, we will have a Working Certificate test on Sunday, Aug. 1 on Whidbey.

If you did not receive a premium list, go to [www.barayevents.com](http://www.barayevents.com). The premium has complete information about the show, the obedience trials, and the WC (separate entry process).

### **Changing subjects—Money**

I often get questions about what the club does with its money. Well, first of all, the membership dues you pay don't go very far. If you receive the newsletter in hard copy, your dues barely cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. That is why we have asked everyone to sign up for the electronic version. Many of you have done so, and also told us how cool the newsletter looks in color!

*If* our income exceeds expenses at an event, we may do a number of things with the excess. For example, every year we make a donation for some type of research on Labrador-related health issues. Lately, the board has voted to give the annual donations to fund PRA research being conducted at Michigan State University by Dr. Brewer. The board believes this is a good investment choice, because the precise causes and origins of PRA are still uncertain.

A good portion of the money derived from events is used to replace outdated or broken equipment or to buy new equipment. For example, we recently bought garbage cans, popper guns, storage containers, coolers, and live and blank ammo for our field events.

For this month's match, we bought new posts and other incidental but necessary supplies, such as pencils, pencil sharpeners, clipboards, paper plates, chairs, and garbage cans.

The club's set of obedience jumps are easily over 20 years old and, although well-worn, still usable. We plan to put the jumps in the match trailer and purchase new ones for the obedience trials at our specialty show. Since we are going to have two obedience trials this year instead of one, the new jumps should get a lot more use.

The point of all this is not just to show that the board exercises good judgement in investing the club's financial resources. It also demonstrates that whatever excess money the club does have is used to benefit you and the events you enter.  
—Ron

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**July 8-9 Rose City Lab  
Club Specialty  
St. Paul OR**  
**July 24-25 Rose City Lab  
Club HRT,  
Sauvie Is OR**  
**July 30-31 PSLRA  
Specialty Show**

Newsletter Information:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

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

*The Retriever Believer* is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association in the interest of providing information and promoting the Labrador retriever. Non-member subscriptions are \$20/year. Contributions in the form of articles, letters or money are always welcome. Letters to the editor should not exceed one page of typeset in the newsletter. It is our goal to provide an open forum where members can present their views to the club. The editor and the board of directors reserve the right to decline publication of advertising and other material submitted for publication.

*The Retriever Believer* will publish brags (free) and Puppy Referral litter listings provided a club member owns either the sire or the dam and a \$10 listing fee has been paid to Puppy Referral. All litter listings and other advertising of litters must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

Membership in the PSLRA is open to anyone interested in Labrador retrievers. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families. Junior memberships are \$10 (for a separate listing in the membership book and a separate newsletter). Please note that new members require the signature of two sponsors on the application form.

Requests for information, applications and/or payment of dues should be addressed to:

**Joni Willing, Membership Chair**  
3602 122<sup>nd</sup> St. CT. NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8948  
hwilling@amerion.com

club business

## May Board Meeting Minutes

The regular May meeting of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Board of Directors was held on May 26, 2004. Minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted by email.

### Secretary's Report:

*New members:* Timothy Ghezzi, Rob Kvamme, and Mark and Sheila Wyatt were welcomed to the club.

### Correspondence:

—Spokane Dog Training Club announced a September Obedience and Rally seminar.

—Cooper and Cadie's announced a July Dogfest in Stanwood.

—Anonymous letter about 5-series was read.

—Family Dog Trainer flier about a Jane Savoie June workshop introduced.

—Monterey Bay Dog Training Club flier on June Obedience workshop read.

—Office Max announcement of club discount program presented.

—Prizeribbon.com announcement of sale of business to Oregon read.

**Treasurer's report:** \$13,863.15 total funds in checking, savings and CD, including \$1,966.76 in rescue savings. The hunt test profit was approximately \$3,000 and the tracking test almost broke even.

**Acknowledgments:** Thank you to Fred and Linda for hosting the meeting. Thank you to Cindy Meyer for chairing the hunt test, Nina Mann for doing the hunt test secretary job, to Laura Berger, chief marshal, and to the stake chairs, marshals, gunners and all the other volunteers. Thank you to Lee Foote for chairing the tracking test, to Robert Henry, Nina Mann and Barb Ironside for laying tracks, to Fred Drennan for making the awards and to all the other volunteers for hospitality, etc.

### Committee Reports:

*Specialty:* The premiums have been mailed and Marcy will put the premium up on the web. We need more proofing next year. Thanks to Sirinda for helping host the judges. Marlys will do phone calls to try to get sponsors for the last six classes. Merlyn will standardize the trophy labels. All trophies will be engraved

alike with only the year and the name of the winning dog, no breeders' or owners' names. The club will do all the engraving.

*Match:* Ron will check with Rose Goche on purchasing ring posts for the match. A work party is needed to sort stuff in the trailers. The old trailer will be used for storing stuff used at the match and the agility trial. Canopies will be divided between the trailer with the big ones going in the show trailer.

*Spring and Fall Hunt Test:* The judges for the fall test have been approved.

Because of the complaints about smoking on line, a statement will go in the premium and in the judges' letters asking them to refrain from smoking while dogs are under judgment.

*Tracking Test:* Jan Skewes is researching other grounds for next May and looking for judges. Lee Foote made very successful eight-foot poles and asked approval to make more. M/S/V to make as many as required up to a limit of 50 more.

*Website:* Marcy asked for input on what should go on it. She will put the puppy referral list on there as a separate page with a counter. The same information would go on there that we now mail out. Marcy asked for any ideas on design, content, etc.

*Code of ethics changes:* Tabled until August.

*Shandley book:* Text will be emailed to the Board so all members can read it.

**New Business:** We need more hunt test rosettes. M/S/V to buy them with the specialty rosettes. Nina will advise Winning Colors of how many we need.

—As Dr. Brewer is still the only researcher looking for the gene that causes PRA, it was M/S/V to send him \$1,000 for his research. Sirinda will write him a letter advising him that this money is for research, not overhead.

Next meeting will be held June 23 at a location to be determined.



## PSLRA Annual Specialty Show & Obedience Trials

PSLRA's annual Specialty Show is just around the corner. It is on Friday and Saturday, July 30-31, at the Island County Fairgrounds, on the south end of Whidbey Island. In addition to the conformation show and junior showmanship competition, this year we are having two obedience trials. The first one is on Friday and the second one is on Saturday. Friday's obedience trial will include regular classes only. Saturday's trial will also include non-regular classes and Team Obedience.

Friday night after the show we will have a get together with snacks, a guest speaker, and a short general meeting. Saturday night we will have the after show potluck and infamous Battle of the Baskets. All proceeds from this silent auction go to

support our Labrador Rescue program. We will also be having a great raffle throughout the show that benefits Lab rescue.

This year's conformation judge is coming from England. She is Janice Pritchard from Charway Labradors. Our sweepstakes judge is Annette Watkins, Crossfield Labs, in Virginia. Our obedience judges are Jean Rassbach and Kent Reedy. PSLRA member Larry Lober will assist with judging of Team Obedience.

The premium list for all of these great events has been mailed. If you did not receive one or if you know of someone who needs one, it is available by going to the club web site: [www.pslra.org](http://www.pslra.org) and clicking on the link that says, "Click here for Specialty Premium."

Overnight parking for RVs and trailers is \$15 per night (including electrical hookups). Tent camping is available for \$10 per night. There are limited motel and B&B facilities available so make those reservations right away.

It takes a lot of help to put on a successful show. I encourage all of you, even if you don't plan to enter a dog, to volunteer to help in some way. The premium list includes a list of all of the committee chairs. Please contact them to volunteer, or you can contact me and I will pass your name along to the appropriate committee chair.

I look forward to seeing you all there.  
Barb Ironside, Specialty Chair



## Labs Sniff Out Success at May Tracking Test

The PSLRA held another successful tracking test on Sunday, May 16 at the Snoqualmie Valley Habitat Management Area in Duvall, Washington. All entrants were Labradors. The weather was overcast with occasional showers—excellent tracking conditions. The tracking judges were Stephanie Gonyeau from Goldendale and Franna Pitt from Auburn. Nina Mann and Robert Henry were the track layers and got a work out in grass that was waist to chest high. Barb Ironside and Nina Mann were cross track layers for the TDX tests. A small crowd of devoted tracking enthusiasts showed up to cheer the entrants and wish them well.

Congratulations to Michelle Schraeder and Applejax Sir Walter Raleigh TDX on earning a new Tracking Dog Excellent title. Cheers went up as they emerged from the tall grass with leather glove in hand. All four TD entrants passed so congratulations are also due to Porter Mr. Hopeful TD and Kevin and Judy Huggett, Sharay Buckley Bone-A-Parte TD and Michelle Schraeder, Riversedge Midnight Breeze TD and Sherri Lazaruk, and Winroc Ruff 'N' Tumble TD and Kevin and Judy Huggett.

Thank you to Lee Foote for her hard work chairing this event, Fred Drennen for preparing the awards and to the track layers and judges for making this event possible. The traditional feast of smoked salmon, cheese, bagels and fruit was enjoyed by all in a celebration marking the end of the 2004 tracking test.



Tracking test participants include (l-r) Franna Pitt (judge), Kevin Huggart and his two dogs, Stephanie Gonyeau (judge, in background), Sherri Lazaruk and Michelle Schraeder.

# The Clutch Chronicles



May was an interesting month for me and Clutch. I felt as if the tables were turned and it was my turn to learn from my puppy. The PSLRA hunt test provided Clutch with his first attempt at earning an AKC recognized title and provided me with an education. Clutch is young to be competing, but I knew he was able to pick up birds on land and in water and deliver to hand so I thought he should earn that Junior Hunter title without too much trouble. At least that was my reasoning when I entered him in the test. However, the day of the test I was reminded that there is more to a hunting test than picking up birds and delivering to hand. Clutch spent most of the day in the car while I ran the older dogs on their marks. He did get out to stretch his legs briefly but then was back in the car to wait his turn.

It was nearly 1 p.m. when I was called to run Clutch on the land series in Juniors. Approximately 50 dogs had run before us and we were near the end of the list of dogs in our series. There was not much time for me to watch the test or for Clutch to acclimate himself to the situation. I pulled him out of the car and tried to walk to a holding blind. There was no walking to be done. Clutch could see the guns and he could smell the birds and he reared on two legs and tried to back slip his collar. He wanted all of the birds. He did not want to wait in a blind. He tried to dart around the blind, go over the blind, and finally, he tried to go under the blind. I could only keep him in a sit by grabbing fur at his collar and on his butt and physically holding him in position. I know from past experience that manners in the holding blind and on the line are every bit as important as the ability to retrieve. As tests get more complicated, control becomes an increasing factor. The short goal of Junior Hunter is not nearly as important as the long term Master Hunter goal. I realized from his behavior in the holding blind that Clutch was not ready to compete. Though he picked up the first bird with a small hunt and had a nice line to the flyer, he got lost in the

scent of fifty other shot birds and couldn't quite get up the hill to his flyer. This confirmed my feeling that he is not yet prepared for a test situation. I swallowed my pride and scratched him from the next hunt test. He needs more practice.

We were lucky enough to have another yellow pup come and stay with us for a few days. Reign and Clutch are almost exactly the same age. At first glance there is quite a bit of difference between the tall, lanky, inquisitive Clutch and the stout, sturdy doe eyed Reign but it soon became apparent that mentally they were in the same place. They postured and raised hackles when first introduced—all young male foolishness. It was not long before they were trotting side by side. Suddenly they touched noses, and, as if it were some unspoken signal, they both took off racing, still side by side. Tug of war was a favorite game. I believe they hold the world's record for the longest game with no winner. It became apparent that neither dog wanted to win. They just wanted to play. These young fellows became such good buddies that I soon found myself to be obsolete except at meal times. This is why I never own more than one pup at a time. I want my pups to focus on me. However, two young dogs presented me with a great opportunity to teach down/stays in a distracting environment. In a down next to each other, they took turns poking and prodding each other in an attempt to get the other in trouble and both learned a bit about self control.

Yes, May was a very educational month for me. I learned a lot from my young dog. I learned that patience is a virtue. I should maintain my goals but not rush my dog training. Clutch will be seen again at a test when he can sit in a blind and heel to the line. I learned from the two pups that first impressions aren't all that important. It appears that it is a lot more fun to exercise with a friend. I also learned that winning or losing isn't nearly as important as just getting to play the game. This month the lessons were for me. Thanks Clutch!

## New Members

Ghezzi, Timothy A M1-04 (2004)  
17021 – 11th Ave NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155-5109  
206-440-7799/GHEZZI73@hotmail.com

Rob Kvamme M2-04 (2004)  
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Lynnwood, WA 98037  
425-792-8554/rmkvamme@aol.com

Wyatt, Mark & Sheila M2-04 (2004)  
618 – 36th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98122  
206-329-8331/wyatt.m@comcast.net

Selthofer, Dan M1-04 (2004)  
326 S 314th Place  
Federal Way, WA 98003  
509-429-8533/agilabs@hotmail.com

Murphey, Jed & Lisa M2-04 (2004)  
4601 – 152nd Place SE  
Bothell, WA 98012  
206-714-4539/jmurphey@windermere.com



### SHOW INFO LINKS

Links for dog show information:  
Superintendents for AKC dog shows:  
<http://www.akc.org/dic/events/super.cfm>

Canadian K.C. dog shows:  
<http://www.canadiankennelclub.com/default-refresh.asp>

A good dog show website:  
<http://www.infodog.com/showinfo/showmain.htm>

## junior showmanship

# Who is the Judge Judging, You or Your Dog?

by Jennifer Schmitke

In the Junior Showmanship ring you would often think that the judges are judging the junior handler's dog not the junior. That is not true. Judges are judging how you show and present your breed of dog, your knowledge of procedures in the ring, your ability to present your dog to the best of your ability, whether you and your dog work together as a team, and your appearance.

When a judge looks at how you present your breed of dog, they are seeing if you have brushed and groomed the dog according to its standard. They also look for the way you "show off" the physical features in your dog. For instance, with a Labrador retriever you would want to show off the dog's facial expression, its chest, good topline, and good angles. Pointers are a head and tail breed and you would want to show off their lips, eyes, tail set, and good angles.

If a judge is judging you by your knowledge of procedures in the ring, they would be looking for how you enter the ring, what you do after you enter the ring, how you stack your dog, if you understand what the judge is saying when they are telling you to do a pattern such as an "L," "T," or "triangle."

A judge looks at your ability to present your dog the best you can. When they are doing this, they look for the way you present the dog to them after you have set your dog up. They notice if you kneel on the ground and hold the tail of the dog, or if you stand in front of your dog free stacking it. They also look for how you free stack your dog in front of them at the end of the pattern: Is the dog facing with its head towards the judge or placed where the judge can see the dog's angles and how the dog stacks.

You and your dog should work as a team. This means when you are doing a circle

around the ring, you are moving your dog at a smooth and steady pace so that you do not interfere with the dog's movement. A bad example would be if you lean on your dog while you are stacking it.

The final and most noticed thing that a judge sees is your appearance. Your appearance should be neat and clean, your hair should be out of your face so that it is not swishing from side to side, this is very distracting. For a girl, your outfit shouldn't be too short, if it is a skirt, or too long where it is flopping in your dog's face. A boy should wear dressy pants and T-shirt. Most junior handlers wear suits, which I prefer because they make you look poised and serious about showing, and they also have pockets that you can put your bait in.

Don't forget to make sure you look like you are having fun, try to smile even if you're nervous. I hope these tips help!

## PSLRA 5-Series

The 5-Series was a lot of fun for all. We had a great turn out, and a warm sunny day once the fog lifted and we were able to get under way.

The day would not have gone as well without the help of the following people: My co-chair's Cindy Meyer and Kristi Clark, Jan Fernandez for taking care of lunches, Adult Series Judges Bryant Meyer, hubby Chris, Puppy and Junior Handler Judges Cindy Meyer and Jeff Lusk, Adult Series Marshal all day Tracy Unger and excellent score keeper Darlene Pado, Mark Hansen for rebirding all day, pop/throwers Terrie Sato, Jan Palumbo, Tony and Christy Borden, Barb Ironside, Jerry Keating, Jan Fernandez, Mike Forman, Rhonda Lahey, Doug Gallucci, Michael Carsley, Vicki Sironen, Kristi Clark, John Willits, Bobbie Meyer, John and Judy Lorenzo, Laura Berger and gun crew Adults Don Aker and Gregg Mourges, Jerry Keating, puppy and junior handler gunners Cody Meyer, Jason Briggs, Doug Gallucci. As you can see, a

(See picture of 5 Series Winners, Don Aker and Jenny on page 11)

LOT of people helped, which was nice because we could limit the amount of time people spent in the blinds.

Congrats to the following qualifiers:

**Adult Series:** first place Don Aker and Jenny, second place Dixie Humble and Katie, third place John Lorenzo and Raider, fourth place Kristi Clark and Amber, other qualifiers Ron Perry and Alex, Cindy Meyer and Grady (Liz Skillingstad owner), Carol Moreno and Amber, Jeff Lusk and Fire, Kimberly Dotson and Annie, Christy Borden and Lola, Ron Perry and Tara, Carol Moreno and Skye, Tony Borden and Mel, Mike Forman and Wyatt, Joan Fetty and Classy, Terrie Sato and Dickens, Mike Young and Buster, Terrie Sato and Traveler, Mark Hansen and Liz, Barb Ironside and Chance, Peter Colley and Toby, Jerry Keating and Teaque, Dan Goodman and Rowan, Larry Robertson and Molly, Amy and Breaker.

**Junior Puppy:** first place Mark Levine and Strider, second place Rick Price

and Drake, Bobbie Meyer and Roc, Kristi Clark and KC, Linda Maffett and Mee Mee.

**Senior Puppy:** first place Jon Roberts and Duke, second place John Willits and Riley, third place Jon Roberts and Rio, fourth Place Terrie Sato and Clutch, Ron Perry and Nick, Kimberly Dotson and Jake, Michael Carsley and Sam, Mary Fisken and Juliet, Marion Cadwell and Cookie, Kristi Clark and Jade, Linda Maffett and Raven, Barb Ironside and Molly, Ann and Don West and Duchess, Amanda and Remy, Sly Caditz and Buck.

**Junior Handlers:** Katie Dotson and Annie, Clair Fernandez and Leo, Ben Hansen and Pearl, Steven Hansen and Amber, Jessica Dotson and Jake, Kristin Hansen and Rex, Jaimie Hansen and Liz.

If I missed any one I apologize. The day was GREAT and I look forward to chairing this event next year.

Warm regards, Kimberly.

# BRAGS

**Bayviews Black Zach's Buddy JH** went four for four to finish his Junior Hunter title passing two tests in California, the Sand and Sage test and the PSLRA test. Buddy is owned by Ray and Suzanne Gardner and trained and handled by Brad Turner.

**Little Miss Katie IV JH CD** finished her Companion Dog title at obedience trials in Idaho with third place finishes in her last two trials. Katie is owned and trained by Dixie Humble.

**SMK Fawnhaven Taking A Chance JH**, "Chance" finished his JH at the Rainier test. He was bred by Barb and Don Ironside and Marilee Thacker and is owned by Barb and Don. Sire: Fawnhaven Major Attitude MH CC; Dam: Can Ch Fawnhaven Ishtar O'Fercroft CD WC.

**FrogCreek Smackwater Jac**, "Jackie," qualified at PSLRA and also at RHRC for the first and second wings of her JH! Not bad for an almost five-year-old couch potato girl! Jackie is owned by Liz Skillingstad. Grateful thanks go to Bryant Meyer who handled Jackie.

**Toastin's Sports Fan SH AX AXJ CD** earned his CD in three straight shows finishing on May 8 at Klamath Dog Fanciers. Owned/bred by Mary Beth Lamb.

This Memorial Day weekend in Graham, Washington at the Tervuren agility trial **Can. CDX Cedarwoods Country Diva UD CGC MXJ** and now **MX**, also, received two double Qs to give her the last two legs to get her MX. Now, on to her MACH! Reba is owned and trained by Julie Germano.

**U-UD HR Nomad Take The High Road UDT SH Can CD** earned his sixth UDX leg at the Mount Baker Kennel Club show on May 15 and his seventh leg at Puyallup on June 5. Traveler is owned and trained by Terrie Sato.

**Angelwood Magic Penny WC CGC**, owned and trained by Marlys Swanson, earned her first CD leg in Novice A with a fourth place at Puyallup on June 5. This was the first time in the obedience ring for both Marlys and Penny.



Marlys Swanson and Penny earned fourth place and their first leg in competition at Puyallup.



Traveler, owned and trained by Terrie Sato, recently earned two more UDX legs.

## Listing Your Litter

by Marlys Swanson

So you have a litter to sell, now what do you do? You can contact me, Marlys Swanson, for the current breeder forms or you can find these forms in the files at the Yahoo groups. After you have read and completed the form, make copies of the eye, hip, elbow and any other certifications for the dam and sire. Send the entire package with \$10 to me and your litter will be listed for three months in the newsletter and sent out in response to inquiries for litter listings.

Once I receive your package, I review it to be sure copies of all certifications are enclosed and the requirements for listing your litter have been met. These requirements include hip, elbow certification and eye clearance. Eyes must be checked within one year of the breeding and a copy of the ACVO or CERF provided. When I receive the eye clearance I look for the date the exam was performed, making sure that all dates on the form match, and I look at the comments to be sure the eyes have been found as normal. For hips and elbows, we accept clearances from OFA, PennHip (Hips only), OVC and WindMorgan. We do not accept any preliminary clearances.

In addition to the required clearances, breeders can provide other clearances such as heart or other joint clearances. These will also be listed with the litter information.

The breeders are required to send in updates on a regular basis. Periodically, I will contact the breeders to ask if there are any updates for their listing.

I send the current listings to the board, to Terrie for the newsletter and to Merlyn Foote who sends out the listings for inquiries. I send updated listings as soon as possible to be sure that Merlyn has the most current listing. The \$10 minimum listing fee is provided in support of our rescue program. To support the ongoing work of our rescue program, we also ask that breeders donate \$10 per puppy sold through the listing.



## The Workings of Puppy Referral

by Merlyn Foote

Puppy Referral is a service PSLRA offers its breeders and potential buyers looking for that special puppy. Marlys Swanson works with the PSLRA breeders preparing the list of available litters. I mail the list to those requesting it.

All requests for puppies go through our PSLRA voice mailbox (425-402-1362). Callers leave their name, address, and some leave little messages. Every few days I check the mailbox, take off the names, and mail out the litter list along with two other information sheets. Pretty cut and dried.

As you might expect we receive the most requests in spring and summer. For example in December of 2003 we had only 15 calls. While in March of 2004 we had a record 42! A log of all calls is kept. I also note the date they called and the date the information was mailed.

I do get a variety of messages. Of course, the most common is the color and sex they are looking for—surprise, yellow females. However, the chocolates are getting very popular, too. I bless the ones who say, “We really don’t have a color preference. We just want a healthy puppy from an ethical breeder.” We also get a few requests for BIG labs. A 110 pound female or the 150 pound male. And we’ve had a few that want “one of those small miniature labs.” Is that a breed?

There are the calls from families who have had to put a loved and valued dog to sleep. You can hear the catch in their voice and immediately the tears spring to my eyes, too. I pray they find another forever friend from one of our breeders.

I am amazed at the calls we receive from Texas, New York, Florida, New Mexico, etc. I send them our packet and wonder if they have a clue where Puget Sound is.

So, that’s how my part of puppy referral works. I hope this will encourage our breeders to list their litters with PSLRA Puppy Referral.



# Don't Tie Your Shoes!

by Nina Mann

Everyone knows that you take off your shoes and put on slippers when you go into a Japanese house, but did you know that inside the house you take the slippers off, too, when you enter a bedroom or other room with tatami mats on the floor. And if you go into a bathroom, there are special bathroom slippers there that stay in the bathroom. Many Japanese wear thongs and those special white socks with a place for the toe. Very useful!

I stayed with my son in the old part of Tokyo, with many small old houses, small shops and lovely gardens. Most of the shops have container gardens outside their doors and sometimes big container gardens along the curb. Parking bicycles also leaves very little room for actually walking! There are millions of bicycles everywhere, most not even locked to their racks, just left for the day. There is very little crime and the function of the police force is to aid citizens. Once as we were walking along, my son carrying my one-year-old grandson, a police car turned on its lights, swooped over next to us and the young policewoman leapt out and handed us the shoe that had fallen off the baby's foot. I have difficulty moving that scene to Seattle! All first graders walk to school without their parents. They are taught to cross the busy streets with arm upraised to make them more visible. Each school issues different colored caps to the children so the police can tell which way to direct them if they get lost.

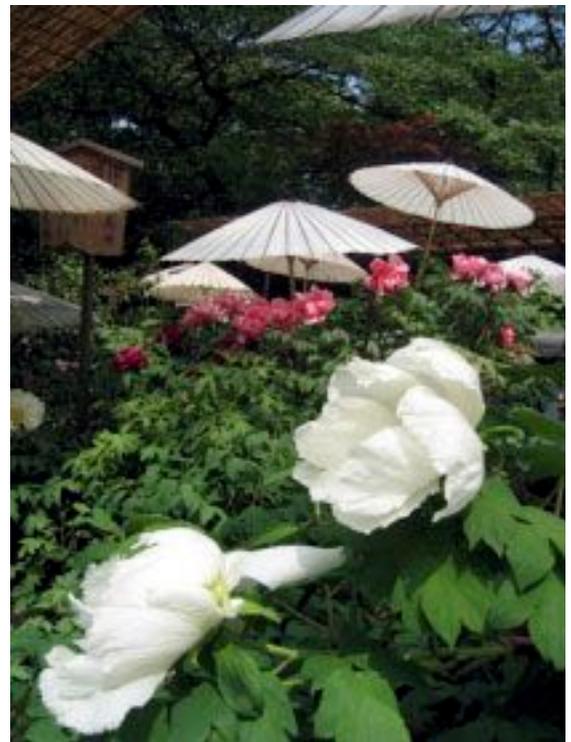
There aren't many dogs walking the streets with their owners and I never saw a stray. Mostly the dogs are small although I did see one or two Labradors and Goldens in the parks. Tokyo is full of parks and we often picnicked in them for lunch, buying bento boxes to eat under the cherry trees. (I was there just after the cherry blossom festival and in time for both the azalea festival and the peony festival.) There are also "noodle" stands where you can eat very economically from huge bowls of a delicious broth with



Nina's granddaughter Emilia at the cherry blossom festival

various types of noodles heaped in them. Very filling! I missed having any bread. There are bakeries and you can buy delicious bread but it isn't served in restaurants. There are, however, whole stores devoted to "sembei" various crackers, salty and sweet, most wrapped in seaweed.

The trains and subways are magnificent. We took a bullet train to Nagoya then to Takayama in the interior to watch the spring festival parade. This was Easter but no baskets, eggs or bunnies. It really brought home the fact that this is not a Christian country. We watched the floats with their colorful Shinto shrines and lanterns and next morning rented a car to drive up into the mountains to Shirokawa-go, an old village



In the peony gardens, each plant has its little parasol.

where the houses still have thatched roofs. It's not a restored village like Williamsburg. It's real and people live and work there in their houses with two-foot thick thatched roofs. We stayed in an "onsen" sort of a bed-and-breakfast with the addition of dinner and a bath. After scrubbing you go outside and relax in an outdoor mineral pool. Dinner is about eleven tiny dishes served on a tray in the dining room, with at least one dish cooked at table on a leaf over a tiny pottery grill. You sit shoeless on the floor, of course, and I found that I really don't bend in the right places!

My biggest adventure was taking the train from Nagoya by myself to Amagasaki and then changing to go to Sanda, where our club member Stephanie Worrall lives. Most Japanese have studied English in school and think they speak it, but they pronounce it so differently that neither party can understand the other. If I said STOP and the person I said it to said Ess-Tow-Pe, we certainly wouldn't know we spoke the same word, but both of us could read it if it were written down. I made it to Stephanie's, however, with only a few missteps and we set off on the weekend for a dog show, crossing two islands in the Inland Sea, which bears quite a resemblance to the Straits of Juan de Fuca. We drove for several hours on a very good but very expensive toll road.

I believe that we were the only two non-professional handlers showing Labradors, which does put you at a slight disadvantage when all the Japanese judges come from the ranks of the professional handlers! After you pay your \$70 entry fee (ouch!) you still don't know who you have entered under. The premium lists three or four judges qualified to do the sporting groups, but you don't know which one will do Labradors till the day you

arrive! It was our luck to get the judge that didn't believe in chocolate Labradors the last time Stephanie showed Thomas!

The classes are all very similar to ours up to a point, but ending up with a King instead of a Best in Show. (There is also a Queen.) You have to belong to the JKC to handle a dog in the ring. Most of the dogs being shown have either been imported or are from at least one imported parent. It was an all-breed show and, looking around, I didn't feel that on average most of the breeds had as good specimens as I would expect to see in the Northwest. To become a champion in Japan you must earn four CCs, one of which must be a major CC, defeating a certain number of

dogs, similar to our majors. I don't think there are many Obedience trials, but a new champion must take a test for trainability before receiving his title, heeling about on the level of a CGC and performing a couple of tricks, like dead dog, for example.

Japan is a very different culture, but the people are extremely friendly. I quickly found out why so many friends who had been there before gave me the same piece of advice: "Take lots of money!" It's no place to live on the tourist scale, but can be done as my son is doing by living Japanese style. It's much more interesting that way, too, but it helps that my daughter-in-law speaks fluent Japanese!



Returning to the U.S. with Nina is her visitor from Japan, Thomas.



**PSLRA Newsletter Input: LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 4/5/04 that conform to the P.S.L.R.A. Code of Ethics.** Information is as submitted by owners and provided as a service to the public. Listings of litters are in no way an endorsement by P.S.L.R.A. of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after 3 mos.

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

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

**Litter born: 5/4/04 (1 YM & 1 YF)**  
 Sire: FC AFC Sun Valley Nugget  
 OFA 26G, OFEL 59, CERF 11/21/03  
 Dam: Rocking "M" Diamante Jaune  
 OFA 27G, OFEL 27, AVCO 2/15/04  
 Litter: 6 YM, 2 YF  
 Contact: Cindy & Bryant Meyer  
 Email: [rockingmlabs@qwest.net](mailto:rockingmlabs@qwest.net)  
 Listed 3/21/04, 6/7/04 Spanaway, WA

**Litter born 4/16/04 (3 YM Available)**  
 Sire: FC AFC Yellowstone's TNT Explosion  
 OFA 29G, OFEL 59, CERF 04/2004  
 Dam: Cropper's Round Lake Royal Honey, SH  
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 10/19/03  
 Litter: 6 YM, 4 YF  
 Contact: Bob & Evelyn Gunther (206) 782-8081  
 Email: [bgunthers@aol.com](mailto:bgunthers@aol.com)  
 Listed 4/25/04, 5/27/04, 6/7/04 Seattle, WA

**Litter born 3/26/04 (2 BF, 3 BM, 1CM, 3 CF Available)**  
 Sire: Liberty's Dutiful Joe at Echo Lake  
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 10/19/03  
 Heart cleared 3/13/03  
 Dam: EchoLake's Shelby Tirzah WC JH  
 OFA 25F, OFEL 25, CERF 11/28/03  
 Litter: 2 BF, 3 BM, 3 CF, 1 CM, 1 YF  
 Contact: Mark Pearson 360-653-6002  
 Listed: 5/6/04 Marysville, WA

**Litter born 4/16/04 (3 BF, 3 BM Available)**  
 Sire: Dunn's Marsh Cougar Blue Heaven  
 OFA 31G, OFEL 31, ACVO 1/22/04  
 Dam: Bayview's Tequila Sunrise  
 OFA 33G, OFEL 33, ACVO 3/27/04  
 Litter: 3 BF, 3 BM, 1 YF, 1 YM  
 Contact: Karen Bannerman (360)588-0463 days,  
 (360) 588-0463 evenings Email: [Jusban@aol.com](mailto:Jusban@aol.com)  
 Listed: 5/12/04 Anacortes, WA

**Litter born 5/1/04 (1 YM, 1 BM Available)**  
 Sire: Lobuff Bobwhite at Chucklebrook  
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 02/26/04  
 Heart cleared 1/7/2004  
 Dam: Can. CH Himoon Takes Twota Tango, CGC  
 OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 10/19/03  
 Heart cleared 10/23/02  
 Litter: 4 YM, 2 BF, 1 BM  
 Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456  
 Email: [cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com](mailto:cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com)  
 Listed 5/15/04, 5/20/04 Arlington, WA

**Litter Born 5/30/04 (2CF, 3BF, 2CM, 3BM)**  
 Sire: Can Ch Sunnydaze Black Max SH CGC  
 OFA 24G, GDC OFEL 45, CERF 03/03/03  
 Hips, Elbows, Shoulders and Tarsus GDC 44G  
 Heart cleared 7/3/2001;  
 Dam: Harbortop Cinder A'Redwick JH  
 OFA 26G, OFEL 26, ACVO 03/07/04  
 Litter: 2CF, 3BF, 2CM, 3BM  
 Contact: Julie Kirk (509) 588-6712 or (509) 588-6712  
 Email: [redwick@televar.com](mailto:redwick@televar.com)  
 Listed 5/15/04, 5/31/04 Benton City, WA

**Litter expected 6/21/04 (Yellows expected)**

Sire: Sunnydaze Brouhaha  
 OFA 25G, OFEL 25, ACVO 3/27/04  
 Dam: Nipntuck Sunnydaze Count Me In  
 OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 5/24/04  
 Litter: Yellow  
 Contact: Linda Maffett Days: 360-961-5269  
 Evening: 360-961-5269  
 Email: [sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com](mailto:sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com)  
 Listed: 5/31/04 Seattle, WA

**Litter Expected 6/19/04 (Yellows expected)**

Sire: Can Ch The Flying Fortress Hunts-On Am/Can CD, JH, WC, CGC, TT, Pet Partner  
 Wind Morgan 19mos #1390 Hips, elbows, shoulders, hock; ACVO 10/02/03; Heart cleared 22mos  
 Dam: Jessie Royal Norsky  
 OFA 27G, OFEL 27, CERF 11/15/03  
 Litter: All yellows expected  
 Contact: Eric Lien Day (206)915-7624  
 Evening (425) 868-4388  
 Email: [Norsky31@earthlink.net](mailto:Norsky31@earthlink.net)  
 Listed 6/7/04 Sammamish, 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.*

**Black Female, 14 Months (intact)**

Chelons Sleepless Knight X Chelons Morning Mist  
 She is very active, will make a great agility, obedience or hunting companion. She is crate trained. She loves to be around people, have had her hunting and does a really nice job. She has some obedience training. Contact: Vicki Barnhart (360)263-3232 or email [vbarnhart@TDS.net](mailto:vbarnhart@TDS.net)  
 Listed 04/05/04 LaCenter, WA

**Chocolate female, 3 years old (intact)**

VERY sweet and calm, loves kids, plays well with others, and loves her Costco doggie bed. Basic obedience and house manners, crate trained, no bad habits, loves the park and the car too!  
 Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269 or email [sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com](mailto:sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com)  
 Listed 5/5/04

**MORE NEW MEMBERS**

Karl, Shelbie & Steve M2-04 (2004) 6305 Lindsay Dr SE #A Auburn, WA 98092 (253) 833-3231/ <a href="mailto:shelbiekarl@msn.com">shelbiekarl@msn.com</a>	Sponsored by Linda and Hugh Maffett
Parkinson, Kim M1-04 (2004) 6546 – 156 <sup>th</sup> Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98106 (425) 644-0296/ <a href="mailto:kim@parkinson.com">kim@parkinson.com</a>	Linse, Jane Robbs- M1-04 (2004) 6712 – 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW Seattle, WA 98136 (206) 937-2150/ <a href="mailto:Robblinse@msn.com">Robblinse@msn.com</a>
Prins, Karen M1-04 (2004) 14572 NE 58 <sup>th</sup> St Bellevue, WA 98007 (425) 861-5794/ <a href="mailto:karenprins@verizon.net">karenprins@verizon.net</a>	Paley, Jon & Pam M1-04 (2004) 4143 – 118 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 889-5041/ <a href="mailto:paleys@comcast.net">paleys@comcast.net</a>

**Don Aker and Jenny** display the First Place trophy and ribbon from the PSLRA 5 Series



No caption can say as much as this picture does.





***The Retriever Believer***  
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***Terrie Sato, Editor***  
***31902 NE 139<sup>th</sup> Street***  
***Duvall, WA 98019***

## **PSLRA Specialty Show & Obedience Trials July 30-31**

**Working Certificate Aug. 1**

Info online at [www.barayevents.com](http://www.barayevents.com) or [www.pslra.org](http://www.pslra.org)