

THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 21, Number 5, May 2004



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the last newsletter, the club held two major field events: the Five Series and the Spring Hunting Retriever Test. Both of these events were good examples of how well field events can be staged by a club such as ours.

The main ingredients that make the events successful are skilled event organizers, good judges, and a large number of willing volunteers.

The Five Series and the Spring HRT exemplify how these three combined so well.

An unlimited number of thank yous are due to everyone involved.

Organizers:

Kimberly Dotson chaired the Five Series flawlessly, even though it was the first time she had done so. She has already agreed to chair it again next year, and she will be the secretary for the Fall HRT. This shows true dedication to the sport and to the club.

Cindy Meyer chaired the Spring HRT, and Nina Mann was secretary. Both jobs take hours and hours of time, and they each did so without complaint. Both Cindy and Nina set high standards for others to follow and emulate.

Judges:

We had good judges for both events, many of them club members. Bryant Meyer and Chris Dotson judged the Five Series, a day-long event. Jeff Lusk, a youngster featured in a recent AKC article co-judged the puppy groups with Cindy Meyer. See the article on page 9. Jeff also helped a lot at our spring test.

Sharon and Chuck Hilton, Barb Ironside, and Bob Gunther judged at the HRT, and Anne Swindeman apprenticed.

Volunteers:

Last month, both Cindy Meyer and I put out the call for volunteers, and you responded in impressive numbers. Although I appreciate everyone's help, I would like to call out those people who gave an extra effort.

- Laura Berger was chief marshal.
- Fran Seagren, Liz Skyllingstad, Chris Dotson, Bryant Meyer were stake chairs; all of them served in that capacity for the two days of the test.
- Lee Foote, Dave Lawniczak, Chantel Nahoopii, Liz Scott, Carly Kellogg, Mark Hansen, Carol Moreno, Kristi Clark, Joni Willing and Jan Fernandez worked both days of the test. Cindy Busler and Alex, and Brenda and Gary Hubbard worked all day in masters.

By rough estimate, about 40 club members helped with the test, including several members of the board.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next month we will hold our match and fun/training day at Remlinger Farm in Carnation. We are looking forward to it. Check out the flyer and entry form on page 7.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 26 Board Meeting
June 12 Breed/
Obedience
Match
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

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:

Joni Willing, Membership Chair

3602 122nd St. CT. NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8948

hwilling@amerion.com

club business

February Board Meeting Minutes

Regular April Board Meeting was held on April 28 at Linda Walkley's home. Minutes of the March meeting were approved as submitted by email.

President's Report: Good turnout for Spring Hunt Test workers. Paid help less than half of Fall HRT.

—5-Series went well will try some new techniques next year to shorten the time.

New Members: Jan and Steve Korn and Richard and Christina Ramay were welcomed to the club.

Email Votes Prior to Board Meeting:

M/S/V: To approve WC judges for August 1 as Sharon Hilton is unavailable.

M/S/V: To approve Bryant and Cindy Meyer's purchase of field equipment.

Treasurer's Report: \$16,479.97 total funds in Checking, Savings and CD.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to Kimberly and Chris Dotson, Bryant and Cindy Meyer for their work on the 5-series and to Marcy Johnson for getting the website up and running.

Committee Reports:

—Specialty: Premium should be mailed May 24. Bea Ferguson will chair the Basket auction. There are still 18 or 19 classes available for sponsorship.

—5-series: We will plan on two sets of judges next year to speed it up.

—Spring HRT Everything is ready. Will try to rotate workers as much as possible.

—M/S/V that all event chairs and co-chairs, HRT Secretaries and others as approved by the board will receive thank you gifts.

Old Business:

—Trailer: Linda Maffett will check with Hugh on what time he has available to look at it.

—Website: Marcy Johnson is looking for input as what we want.

—Code of ethics: Tabled due to a number of absences.

—Shandley Book: Tabled till next meeting since new board members need to be informed.

Next Meeting: May 26 at Linda Walkley's



Katie, owned and handled by Dixie Humble, stands proudly by her second place ribbon won at the 5-series.

New members

Korn, Jan & Steve

M2-04 (2004)

6510 NE Sundance Lane

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

(206) 842-6119/

slkorn@earthlink.net

Ramay, Richard & Christina

M2-04 (2004)

7824 202nd Place SW

Edmonds, WA 98026

(425) 771-6623/cionrar@msn.com

Specialty Trophy Donations

Organizing and putting on events for our members is what it is all about, but the club needs your help to do this. Class sponsors are needed for our Specialty Show at the end of July. By sponsoring one of these classes you are paying for the ribbons and trophies for the class you have chosen. This is important for the club as it helps to defer some of the costs of putting on the event. If you cannot sponsor a class, please volunteer to help at our upcoming events.

If you would like to sponsor a class, please contact Marlys Swanson, marlyss982@aol.com or call 360-658-7604. If you have already signed up to sponsor a class, please make the check out to PSLRA and mail to Marlys Swanson, 3512 93rd Pl. NE, Marysville, WA 98270.

The following classes are still available to sponsor. The cost of sponsorship is listed next to the class:

CONFORMATION DONORS

Reserve W.D. \$45
Novice Dog \$30

7-9 Veteran Dog \$30
9-11 Veteran Dog \$30
11 and over Veteran Dog \$30
Reserve W.B. \$45
9-11 Veteran Bitch \$30
11 and over Veteran Bitch \$30
Brood Bitch \$30
Brace \$30
JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PRIZES
OBEDIENCE TRIAL PRIZES (Friday)
Utility A \$30
Utility B \$30
Highest Combined Score from Open and Utility \$45
OBEDIENCE TRIAL PRIZES (Saturday)
Open B \$30
Utility B \$30
Veteran Class \$30
Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Classes \$55
Highest Combined Score from Open and Utility \$45
Highest Scoring AKC Champion of Record in the Regular Classes with an AKC Hunting or Field Title \$30



The ABCs of a Dog Show

by Shelah Frey

The American Kennel Club has many events in which titles are offered. Dogs who achieve these titles are entitled to have them listed on their pedigrees and certificates, and in event catalogues. These titles become an official part of a dog's record with the AKC. Titles not earned at an AKC sanctioned event may not be listed and the club may be penalized and fined for listing them in their catalog.

Dog shows (conformation events) are intended to evaluate breeding stock. The size of these events ranges from large all-breed shows, with over 3,400 dogs entered, to our local specialty club show, with approximately 200 Labradors. The dog's conformation (overall appearance and structure), an indication of the dog's ability to produce quality puppies, is judged.

Judges examine the dogs, then give awards according to how closely each dog compares to the judge's mental image of the perfect dog described in the breed's official standard. The standard describes the characteristics that allow the breed to perform the function for which it was bred. These standards include specifications for structure, temperament and movement. The judges examine (go over) each dog with their hands to see if the teeth, muscles, bones and coat texture conform to the breed's standard. They view each dog in profile for overall balance, and watch each dog gait (move) to see how all of those features fit together in action.

To be eligible to compete, a dog must:

- be individually registered with the American Kennel Club
- be six months of age or older
- meet any eligibility requirements in the written standard for the breed

Battle of the Baskets

The battle of the baskets is a silent auction to benefit rescue held in conjunction with our annual Specialty, July 30-31. The auction will be Saturday evening.

This is not your every day, run of the mill, silent auction. The *Battle of the Baskets* has become a bit of a friendly challenge.

Here's what you do to participate:

- * Find a couple buddies to help generate creative ideas and share expenses; then put together a basket of goodies to donate.
- * Your basket may carry a theme like the *Barbie Basket* I purchased last year, or a basket can represent a particular region like the *Dry Side* basket from our friends East of the Mountains, or the *Japanese* basket Nina has promised for this year.

The basket auction has become a great way to channel the competitive spirit we share, while helping support the breed we love.

All proceeds will go to help rescue!

If you are interested in donating a basket, please let us know and we'll add yours to our ever growing list.

We look forward to hearing from you,
Your auction referee's
Beckie Jensen—timbrlab@tx3.com
Bea Fergeson—Babfergie@aol.com

The Clutch Chronicles



I am a firm believer in the use of the crate as a maintenance tool for dogs. My dogs are crated in the car. Driving down the road is the one time I do not want my concentration broken by dog kisses. Crates keep my car relatively clean. In a crate the dogs are contained and won't get thrown from the car or lost in the panic that can follow if I am involved in a serious accident. My dogs also sleep in crates at night. I will admit to trying to coax Traveler into sleeping with me on a vacation once, but it irritated him that I read in bed and he jumped off to find peace and quiet (no page turning) in his crate. If the dogs are crated at night, I know they are safe and my house is safe. No surprises will be found on the floor in the morning. No furniture will be chewed and no food will be stolen. They will still bark to alarm us if someone tries to break in, and if we should have a house fire, the dogs will be easy to locate and remove from danger. Crates keep my dogs safe.

Clutch has presented me with a new problem. He can escape from his crate. The problem first became apparent while we were with a group in the field. It was a sunny day and I had the car windows down and the back open for ventilation. A yellow dog suddenly appeared out of nowhere and joined the dog at the line. I wondered who had let their dog wander up to the line and remarked that the dog looked like Clutch. It was Clutch. The barking dogs, the quacking of duck calls and the gunfire had been too much for him. He couldn't wait for his turn. Back at the car, his crate door was open and I wondered if I had just forgotten to close it after airing him. The next time I met with a group of friends to train, it happened again. He had definitely gotten his crate door opened by himself and squeezed himself through the partially opened car window. There is a theory in behavioral psychology that says intermittent rewards create the strongest reinforcement. This means that even occasional success is enough motivation to keep trying, and indeed keep trying harder. I used a leash

and snap to make sure the crate door stayed closed. This worked for awhile, but not for long. Returning Clutch to the car after he once again joined me in the field, I saw that my leash was snapped in two.

While I was pondering how to best deal with this situation, Clutch expanded his reputation as an escape artist. He began to escape from his crate at night. These are two different types of crates. The fact that he had been successful getting out of one crate had obviously inspired him to try with the other. I used a bungee cord across the front of the crate, fastening it on both sides. However, once again I found the little Houdini running free in the morning. To heighten the mystery, the bungee cord was still intact and in place, and the crate door was still closed. I decided I needed to discover his technique for escaping. I crated him and went about my business waiting to see if the unusual crating time would inspire an escape effort. Sure enough he made his escape attempt. The method of choice? Brute force. He charged that crate door like a battering ram. By butting the flat of his big Labrador head against the crate door he managed to jar it open just enough to slip out. I have a new respect for the term bull headed.

When I travel with Clutch, I now use two strong metal clamps to help keep the crate door closed. We have added a piece of wood to the front of his house crate with the use of the bungee cord which has helped to stabilize the door and keep it from being jarred open. It takes a little more effort to let him out of his crate but at least I know he is safe. I may start referring to Clutch as my little jarhead. I hear that jarhead is also the nickname for a Marine. Since both Clutch and the Marines are tough as nails, I think it fits. *Semper fi!*

Dog Shows, continued from page 3

Spayed or neutered dogs are not eligible to compete in conformation classes at a dog show because the purpose of a dog show is to evaluate breeding stock. However, in Specialty shows, an altered dog can be exhibited in some classes. These classes will be listed in the Premium by the show-giving club.

Most dogs in competition at conformation shows are competing for points toward their AKC championships. It takes 15 points, including two majors (wins of three, four or five points) awarded by at least three different judges, to become an American Kennel Club "Champion of Record."

The number of championship points awarded at a show depends on the number of males (dogs) and females (bitches) of the breed actually in competition. The larger the entry, the greater the number of points a male or a female can win. The maximum number of points awarded to a dog at any show is 5 points.

The point schedule for Division 8 (Washington, Oregon and Idaho) is:

1 Point	2 Dog/4 Bitches
2 Points	12 Dog/16 Bitches
3 Points Major	21 Dog/28 Bitches
4 Points Major	30 Dog/44 Bitches
5 Points Major	46 Dog/74 Bitches

Classes

Males and females compete separately within their respective breeds, in six regular classes. The following classes are offered, and are divided by sex:

Puppy - For dogs between six and 12 months of age, that are not yet champions

12-to-18 months - For dogs 12 to 18 months of age, that are not yet champions

Novice - For dogs six months of age and over, that have not, prior to the date of closing of entries, won three first prizes in the Novice Class, a first prize in Bred-by-Exhibitor, American-Bred, or Open Classes, nor one or more points toward their championships.

Bred-by-Exhibitor - For dogs that are exhibited by their owners and breeders, but are not yet champions.

American-Bred - For dogs born in the United States from a mating which took place in the United States, but are not yet champions.

Open - For any dog of the breed, at least six months of age.

After these classes are judged, all the dogs that won first place in a class compete again to see who is the best of the winning dogs. Males and females are judged separately. Only the best male (**Winners Dog**) (**WD**) and the best female (**Winners Bitch**) (**WB**) receive championship points. After WD is awarded, the second place dog in the

winner's class must come back into the ring to compete for **Reserve Winners Dog (RWD)**. After WB is awarded, the second place bitch in the winner's class must come back into the ring to compete for **Reserve Winners Bitch (RWB)**. The Winners Dog and Winners Bitch then compete with the champions for the Best of Breed award. At the end of the Best of Breed Competition, three awards are usually given:

—**Best of Breed (BB or BOB or BISS)** - the dog judged as the best in its breed category. At a specialty show, this would be BISS, Best in Specialty Show;

—**Best of Winners (BOW or BW)** - the dog judged as the better of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch;

—**Best of Opposite Sex (BOS)** - the best dog that is the opposite sex to the Best of Breed winner.

At specialty shows **AOM** or **JAMs** are awarded. Award of Merit or Judges Award of Merit. Usually one AOM/JAM is awarded for every ten champions competing in the Best of Breed competition.

Ribbons

Each dog that receives an award is given a ribbon by the judge. The color of the ribbon indicates the type of award the dog has won.

Blue - for first place in any regular class. Also awarded to the winner of each group competition, usually in the form of a rosette.

Red - for second place in each class. Also awarded for second place in each group competition, usually in the form of a rosette.

Yellow - for third place in each class.

Also awarded for third place in each group competition, usually in the form of a rosette.

White - for fourth place in each class.

Also awarded for fourth place in each group competition, usually in the form of a rosette.

Purple - to the winners of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch classes. Since these are the classes in which championship points are earned, these ribbons are highly coveted.

Purple and White - to the Reserve Winners; that is, the runners-up to the winner of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch classes.

Blue and White - to the dog that wins Best of Winners; that is, the better of the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch winners.

Purple and Gold - to the dog judged Best of Breed in each breed competition. This is highly coveted because it allows advancement to the Group competition.

Dog Shows, continued on page 11

JUNIOR HUNT TEST HANDLER

My name is Ben Hansen. I am thirteen years old. I first became interested in hunt tests when my dad started running our black Labrador, Rex, four years ago. In 2001 my dad bought a dog named Liz, another black Labrador. He had finished three of the four legs on her junior hunt

finish her. So far, I have completed her CD title and completed three legs of her junior title and I hope to get her final test done on May 2. Most of the rules I learned from my dad and, on occasion, through trial and error. The most important thing is that the junior handler



works the dog so that the dog will respond to what the junior handler tells the dog to do. I think the hardest thing about hunt tests for juniors is getting embarrassed when their dog messes up. I get over it when I watch adults mess up on the same bird.

title before he and I went down to Sauvie Island to a hunt test. He handed me the whistle and told me I could run her on her final junior hunt test. I was ecstatic. I ran up to the truck to get her. At the awards ceremony they called my number and I haven't stopped running dogs since then.

My dad picked up a yellow Labrador named Pearl and said I could start her and

After a few tests didn't go so well, I didn't get as embarrassed; but I did have to explain to my dad why my dog didn't succeed on that test. I like it when the judges give juniors advice on handling their dogs. My dad and I train our dogs after school and on weekends. Sometimes it is hard because of homework and other activities, so my dad and I try to get out at least three times a week. My favorite part



of a hunt test is seeing my dog working the field for the bird and, of course, getting ribbons. I encourage juniors to participate in hunt tests because they are a lot fun and you get to spend time with your dog. I hope to go to Master Nationals with Pearl eventually.

BRAGS

Cougar Creek Paint It Black, (Mick) went WD, BOW, Best Puppy, AND, Best Of Breed over specials, from the Bred-by class! Mick just turned nine months old the day before the Kiwanis show on April 2 in British Columbia. Mick is halfway to his CKC Championship! He is bred handled, and adored by Cecilie Drege of Cougar Creek Labradors.

Cougar Creek Paint It Black, and **Cougar Creek Dixieland Jazz**, went RWD and RWB at the Renaissance show April 4, in B.C. Both are bred and loved by Cecilie Drege, Cougar Creek Labradors.

ShaRay's Nikolas of Whidbey, (Nick) took his puppy class each day of the Kiwanis Shows in B.C. on April 2, 3 and 4. He won best Lab Puppy on the third and WD and BOS on the fourth. Nick was bred by Sharon and Ray Edwards and handled in conformation by Sharon and by Beckie Jensen. Nick placed fifth in the Senior Puppy stakes at the PSLRA 5 Series. Nick's sister, **ShaRay's Tara of Whidbey SH CD PP**, and his brother, **ShaRay's Alex of Whidbey SH CD PP**, qualified in the Adult 5 Series. All three were handled by Ron Perry.

Timberline's Victoria completed her Canadian Championship at Kiwanis Shows in B.C. April 3 and 4. Victoria was winners bitch Saturday and Sunday and was Best of Breed Sunday over specials. Bred by Beckie Jensen, Victoria is co-owned by and lives with Sharon Edwards.

Nipntuck Skyfire Too Much Fun won her BBE class and was Best Bred by Exhibitor Bitch at the Potomac Lab Specialty! Caper was shown by breeder and co-owner Becky Jack and cheered on to her win by co-owner Stephanie Harris.

Nipntuck Skyfire Too Much Fun was also WB and BOW under breeder judge Susan Huntzinger at the Timberland shows for two points.

Skyfire Sofa King Smokey Moe was WD and BOS under breeder judge Susan Huntzinger at the Timberland shows for two points. Smokey was shown by breeder Stephanie Harris and is owned and loved by Bruce and Mary Robinson.

Dusti (**Ms T's Dusti Winds Over Char-Don CGC**), took WB from BBE at the Silver State KC in Las Vegas and Best

Bred By with my co-owner/co-breeder, Janet Schoonover, showing her. She then took a BBE Group 1. Jennifer Schmitke took first in Open Junior on Sunday, also, with her pointer. She was second on Saturday with her lab.—Terry McFadden

Under Judge Franz Neuwirth I have finished my first Breed Champion, **Willoridge's Bodhi Dharma of Riley**. Before you get too carried away laughing at his name, rest assured that it is now in my contract that any puppy I co-own needs my approval on registered names. He finished in four shows. My girl, **Willoridge's Cider House Rules**, won her bred by class and took Reserve Winners Bitch. My eight month old chocolate dog, **Willoridge's Free Cup of Cappicino**, who was Best of Breed at Bremerton won his class. The Judge later told me he is going to be one hell of a dog when he matures. He is out of Rah and Zero (Int CH Willoridge's Rascal Flatts).—Greg Phillips

We are proud to announce that **Am/Can. Ch. Chablais Singing In The Rain JH** (Tenor) finished his American Championship at the Ephrata-Moses Lakes Kennel Club shows April 10-11. Next stop, the obedience ring! Tenor was bred by Jean-Louis Blais (Chablais) and is owned, loved and snuggled by Beckie and Alexis Jensen.

Applejax Sir Walter Raleigh TD (Rollie) bred by Kellie Harris and **Sharay Buckley Bone-A-Parte** bred by Sharon Edwards both earned their CGC. Then at Hurricane Ridge in Sequim, Rollie suddenly and briefly got his act together and got his first Novice JWW leg with a first place and a perfect score of 100.—Michelle C. Schraeder

I finally gave Clover all the right cues at all the right places and she Q'd for her final leg in Excellent Standard Preferred! Now she is **Normandy Four Leaf Clover, CD, OA, AXJ, AXP, OJP!**—Franna Pitt

Ed and Ellie, **Skyfire's Ellietta Ica AX, MXJ**, earned two Standard legs and one Jumpers leg this past weekend. The Standard legs were her eighth and ninth towards her MX (just one more to go) and the combined Standard and JWW legs on Sunday gave them her fourth Double-Q

towards their MACH. They earned 30 more points towards their MACH, too. Sixteen more QQs and 520 points to go. It sounds rather daunting!—The Dykstra's

U-UD HR Nomad Take the High Road UDT, SH, Can CD earned his fifth UDX leg at Timberline on April 4. Traveler also earned his third Master Hunter leg at the PSLRA test. Traveler is owned, trained and handled by Terrie Sato. My Golden Retriever, Dickens, also picked up his third Master leg at the PSLRA hunt test.

Little Miss Katie IV JH earned her first Senior leg at the PSLRA hunt test. Katie is owned, trained and handled by Dixie Humble. Katie also placed second at the PSLRA Five Series.

Congratulations to Gordie McGhie for handling **Twigs Fawnhaven Dancyn With Attitude Can JH** to her title in four straight tests. Ginger is now working on her Senior Hunter skills. Her talented parents are: Fawnhaven Major Attitude MH CC and Can Ch BISS Twigs Dancing With My Shadow CD SH. Ginger is owned by Bonnie and Gordie McGhie and Don and Barb Ironside.

Int CH Koa's Kauai Elegance, CD, WC, CGC and now **JH** finished her Junior Hunter title at the wonderful PSLRA test May 2, 2004. This helped Ellie earn her Versatility Award to go along with her All Around Award. Ellie is just 27 months old. She was owner trained and handled to all of her performance titles. She's spoiled by the Koa Labrador Gang!

NEW TITLES

Wyntercreek Ryder at Blu Top WC and **Int. CH Wyntercreek Glory Be** both earned their CDs at Moses Lake on April 10, placing third and fourth, respectively. Both dogs were bred by Mary Jane Sarbaugh, and Ryder is co-owned with Jennifer Hajny (Mary Jane's daughter). Glory is owned by Mary Jane.

WindyCanyons Dark Ranger (Call name, Strider) owned by Mark Levine, Son of Skyfire's Oughta-be-a-Law and WindyCanyons I'm a Pink Lady, won first place in PSLRA 5 Series Junior Puppy Stakes! We are so proud of his first win. He has officially started his ribbon wall!

Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association Breed / Obedience Sanction Match Saturday June 12, 2004

***** Come Join in the Fun *****



This years event is being held at **Remlinger Farms** in **Carnation**
Please see below for directions and the addition of our new **intro classes**.
Immediately following the judging is a **potluck & brief membership meeting**.
PSLRA will be providing **pizza** and **drinks**. Please bring something to share.

Last names, A-L Salads, M-Z Chips or Desserts.

Judges for the day: **Conformation** – Deb Kvamme, **Sweepstakes** – Linda Maffett,
Junior Showmanship & Exhibition – Becky Jack, **Obedience** – Jan Palumbo

All judging is held outdoors; bring appropriate weather protection.

Professional handlers may show only their own dogs. Champions are not eligible for competition.

Sweepstakes Classes: 4-6 months, 6-9, 9-12, 12-15, 15-18 months. Only dogs/bitches winning first place in these classes are eligible to compete for **Best in Sweeps & Best Opposite in Sweeps**.

Conformation Classes: 4-6 months, 6-9, 9-12 months. These are considered puppy classes, only dogs/bitches winning first place in these classes are eligible to compete for **Best Puppy & Best Opposite Puppy**.

12-18 months, American Bred, Bred by Exhibitor, Open. These classes are considered **Adult** classes. Only dogs/bitches winning first place in these classes are eligible for **Best Adult**.

Junior Showmanship Classes: All Peewee through the best in Junior Showmanship will be the first classes offered.

Exhibition only: Peewee handler classes are divided as follows: Children under 6 and those over 6 but not yet 10 years of age.

Novice Junior, Novice Senior, Open Junior, Open Senior. Only the first place winners of the regular junior classes will be eligible for **Best Junior showman**.

All children entered in Peewee's, and regular junior showmanship classes will receive a beautiful participant rosette, and a fun doggie gift.

Exhibition Only Classes: Altered dogs, Altered Bitches. These dogs/bitches are not eligible to compete for any further prize.

Obedience Classes:

Novice A&B, Open A&B, Utility A&B

High in Trial and High Combined rosettes will be awarded if applicable.

PSLRA MATCH ENTRY FORM

Day of Match Registration from 8:30-9:45 a.m., all judging to start approximately 10 a.m.

Sex: _____ **1st Class:** _____ **2nd Class:** _____

Registered name: _____ **Call name:** _____

Breeder : _____ **Owner:** _____

I agree to hold PSLRA and its members harmless from any claim arising out of entry in this match.

Pre-Entry due by June 2nd ~ \$7.00 first class, additional classes \$3.00 same dog.

Day of Match Entries ~ \$10.00 first class, additional classes \$5.00 same dog.

Signature: _____ **Total fee:** _____

Please mail your completed entry forms along with your check made payable to PSLRA to: Kristi Clark
28615 41st Ave S, Auburn, WA 98001.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Kimberly Dotson, Match Chairperson @ (253) 538-7972 or
clovercreeklabs@aol.com

~ Added Fun ~

Obedience: Introduction to obedience and answering of questions outside in the obedience ring. Approximately **9 a.m.**

Conformation: Introduction to conformation plus a small handling class outside in the conformation ring.

Approximately **9:30 a.m.**

Directions to Match: Take Highway 203 and head towards Carnation. The turn into Remlinger Farms is located just south of the Carnation city limits, on the south end of the bridge over the Snoqualmie River.

training thoughts

Beginning Weave Pole Training, part two

by Franna Pitt

Clicker Method

I've been a clicker skeptic for many years. Out of frustration (desperation?) I decided to try it on Clover last year—after failing many trials for weaving incorrectly. It worked so well, I am using it on three other dogs with fast, happy and accurate results. This method uses a standard set of weave poles, no channels or fancy vees. Disadvantages are that timing is everything—you get what you click—and they start at a slow pace instead of running as is possible with the channel and vee methods.

To start, your dog must know what the clicker means—Treats! Teaching that part is a lot of fun for the dog. Get comfortable,



Figure 4 – Clicking through the first three poles. This is Lonie's first time weaving, and she made it through all six poles three times!

have a pocket or bag full of wonderful treats (that's usually **anything** for a Labrador), your **hungry** dog and a clicker. Make a click and immediately give the dog a treat. Repeat numerous times. As soon as you can click and the dog immediately looks at your treat hand, you're ready to start. Show trained dogs learn this especially fast. It took Clover half of a session. It took Kiss even less time. Some dogs may take several sessions. This is a good time to practice the coordination of your hands with clicker and treat, because it gets more complicated at the weave poles.

Now, take your dog, the clicker and treats to the weave poles. Maneuver your dog between you and pole one; you face the dog and poles. Without talking, crowd the dog into the space between pole one and two. As the dog moves into the space, you move toward pole three and back, opening the space between poles two and three. Concurrently, and while your dog is still moving across the pole baseline, put your hands at dog level on your side of the poles such that the dog comes straight at your hands through the space between poles two and three, and click! Treat the dog as soon as its front feet pass through poles two and three. You might have to wait until the dog's eyes are past pole



Figure 5—Penny doing the proper entrance from straight back.

two to click! so he doesn't just pull his head back through the pole one and two space. If the dog makes a mistake and you've already clicked, treat them anyway and readjust next time. Now, your dog just completed weaving!

You can repeat again going the other way, or walk back to the beginning. Then we'll come back later for another repetition. It won't take long before your dog is weaving through three poles. When they are doing it reliably, keep walking with them and giving all the body and hand cues,

but start waiting until they are through poles one, two, three, four, five before clicking and treating, then all the way through six (or more). Keep the repetitions short, and the dog happy and interested. I seldom repeat an exercise more than three times successfully before moving to something else.

Now! It's time to add words to your weaving. Yes, until now it has just been click and treat for offered behavior. When you walk up to the set of poles, give your command *Weave!* or *Poles!* and continue as before. If dog is going through all six poles reliably, only click and treat after pole six. Gradually increase your distance from the poles.

At some time in the process, your dog will start taking the "wrong" entrance, or skipping poles. Click/reward only the proper performance. Take them back to the start and give them all the body clues needed to get them in the proper entrance so you can reward them.

Training the Entrance

Many trainers use just two poles to train the weave pole entrance. The two poles make it quick to reward, or repeat if needed. As in other exercises, make it easy at first for the dog to do it correctly, and reward immediately for a proper performance. After the dog is doing a correct entrance, start moving back, then to the right side, left side and all the way around until you can send or call your dog through from any angle. Add poles until you're up to six (for Novice) or 12 (for Open/Excellent) or more (for fun and proof training).

Performance Considerations

Ideally, one would be able to point, give the command for weaving, and the dog would immediately run to the poles, do a correct entrance and all the poles swiftly and correctly no matter what the handler is doing. In practice, however, that type of handling seldom achieves a reliable performance. Be aware of what you're doing with your hands, feet, body, and voice. All of



Figure 6 – Penny showing a finished performance bending around the poles. See part one, Clover bends around and moves the poles out of the way.

these can aid or distract from your dog's performance. Especially for older dogs, be sure to warm them up before training and performing in the ring. Weaving involves a whole set of muscles used in a different way than a dog normally uses them. Getting them to flex their neck and back (using a treat held at their last rib works well), as well as warming up their legs for jumping is a good idea.

It is difficult to describe training methods in words. If you

have questions about any of these methods, feel free to email (preferred) or call. Good luck and have fun weaving!

Franna Pitt - frannap@everranch.com with help from:

Dave Lawniczak

Dave's Pretty Penny, CDX, JH, OA, OAJ, AJP, MXP, NAC, WC, CGC
Normandy Four Leaf Clover, CD, OA, AXI, OAP, OJP, CGC, PP

Dave's Chocolate Kisses, CD, NAI, CGC

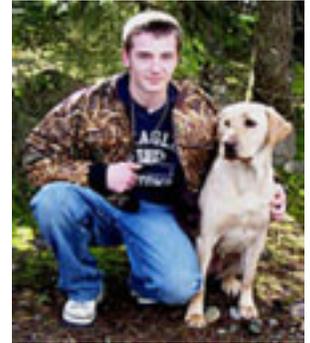
Lonie, CD, CGC

For further information I recommend *Clean Run Magazine*, www.cleanrun.com, especially Vol. 9, No. 9 (September, 2003), and Vol. 9, No. 4 (April, 2003); and www.agilityability.com/weave_poles.htm, just one of many sites on the internet.

Getting Started

by Jerry D. Mann, Field Director, *Sporting Breeds*. (Reprinted with permission from the AKC web site)

I recently had the pleasure of meeting a young man from Puyallup, Washington named Jeff Lusk. Prior to actually being able to shake hands with Jeff, I had communicated with him via e-mail regarding a question he had about the Retriever Hunting Test Seminar Program. Jeff had been involved in the Retriever Hunting Tests for approximately a year, and he was interested in knowing the requirements to become a judge. I explained a person has to be twenty-one years of age to judge, but I went on to encourage Jeff to attend a seminar in his area. It would be beneficial if for no other reason than to learn the official interpretation of the Regulations and how judges should view and score a dog's performance.



Jeff is a seventeen-year-old senior attending high school in his hometown of Puyallup. Amazingly, up to approximately eighteen months ago, he had not been interested in hunting and certainly not in training dogs. By chance at a Sportsman Show in Puyallup, Jeff picked up a business card of his now mentors, Cindy and Bryant Meyers and, from there, a change in his life has come about.

Jeff bought his first Labrador retriever, a yellow female named Sage, from a local newspaper advertisement, teamed up with Cindy and Bryant and started training dogs. Since that early start, Jeff has completed two legs of the Junior Hunter Title on Sage and his plans are to get ready for the Senior. When asked if he planned to continue on to the Master Hunter his reply was, "If Sage is capable of doing the work and I can train her to that level of proficiency."

Jeff has already accomplished a major part of this goal by attending a Retriever Hunting Test Seminar for Judges and Handlers conducted in Puyallup in February. From the few hours he spent in the classroom he gained some very valuable insight into the interpretation of the Regulations and Guidelines for Retriever Hunting Test. At the same time, he learned what the judges of these events should be looking for at all three, Junior, Senior and Master, levels of testing. During his time in the field, and with the assistance of very capable mentors, Jeff can now work on each aspect of training needed to reach the ultimate goal of having a Master Hunter. And, having begun his hunting career this year, going on fifteen to twenty hunts, with some good luck taking ducks, geese and pheasants, Jeff already has plans for his newly found "best friend."

So, if you happen to be at a Retriever Hunt Test in the Seattle or Portland areas and see a nice young man with a great looking yellow female Labrador, stop to say hello and wish him luck!

Jeff, good luck to both you and Sage on your future endeavors!

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 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 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) 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 – 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 born 4/18/04 (3 BM)

Sire: Am/CanCH Sharay's Jeremiah CD
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 10/19/03
Dam: CanCH Himoon Poet Laureate CGC
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 1/24/04
Litter: 3 BM, 2 BF, 1 YM
Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456
Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com
Listed 3/5/04, 5/5/04 Arlington, WA

Litter born: 5/4/04 (6YM & 2YF)

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: Yellows and Blacks expected
Contact: Cindy & Bryant Meyer
Email: rockingmlabs@qwest.net
Listed 3/21/04 Spanaway, WA

Litter born 4/16/04 (5 YM, 2 YF 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
Listed 4/25/04 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
Email:
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
Listed: 5/12/04 Anacortes, WA



OTHER DOGS THAT A BREEDER HAS DECIDED TO PLACE (see next page)

(Note) Owners of all dogs that are listed here have filled out and signed a PSLRA "Listing Form" disclosing to prospective buyers any known health and/or temperament issues and are on file with the Breeder Listing Chairperson.

These dogs are usually well socialized, frequently have some training, and are very desirable as companions. These dogs may not meet either owner's requirements for show or field performance or the code of ethics for breeding. Prospective buyers are encouraged to ask whether these older dogs have acceptable clearances on eyes, hips, and elbows and the reason why the dog is being placed. The listing of other dogs in no way constitutes an endorsement by P.S.L.R.A. Price will vary.

-----OTHER DOGS LISTINGS-----

14 Month Black Female (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.

Listed 04/05/04

LaCenter, WA

Yellow female, 2 years old (intact)

VERY sweet and calm, loves kids (raised with four of them), loves being in the house and watching TV, plays well with others. Basic obedience, crate trained, no bad habits loves car rides and going to the park.

Contact: Linda Maffett (360) 961-5269 or email sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com

Listed 5/5/04

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

Listed 5/5/04

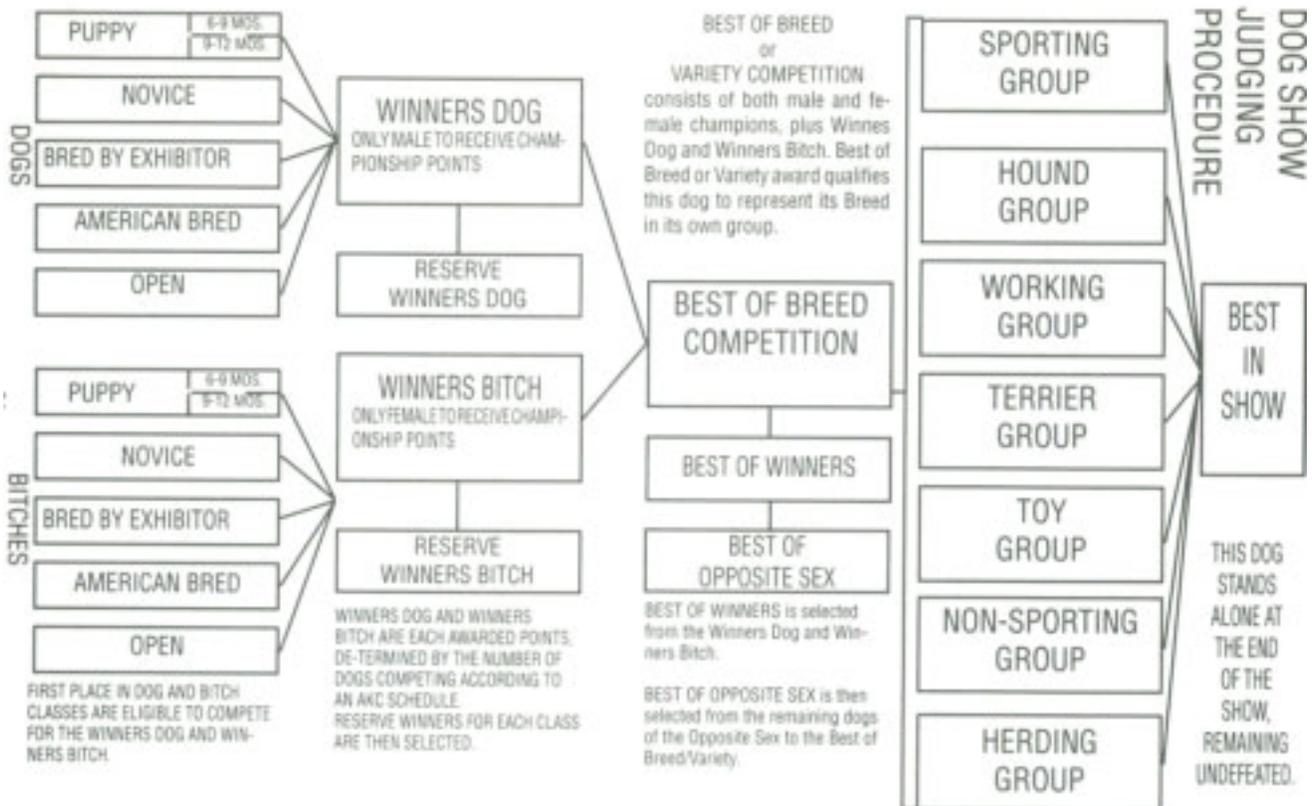
Dog Shows *continued from page 5*

Red and White - to the Best of Opposite Sex. This means the best dog of the breed that is the opposite sex of the Best of Breed winner.

Red, White and Blue - only one of these is awarded, at the end of each show. It is given to the ultimate award winner, the Best in Show.

Handling your dog is an exceptional and enjoyable experience. From the grooming table to the show ring, you and your dog will develop a bond. While training classes offer the best hands-on way to practice for the show ring, attending shows and observing Labradors is also a great way to gain understanding of what judges and other competitors do.

For breed specific handling training for you and your dog, there are drop-in handling classes at most dog training facilities. Sources: www.akc.org.





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Terrie Sato, Editor
31902 NE 139th Street
Duvall, WA 98019

PSLRA Match, June 12
Specialty Show July 30-31