

THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association



Volume 23, Number 10, October 2006

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President's Message

(Vice) President's Message

Well, as some of you may know, our president, Jan Palumbo, has been off for the last two months or so caring for her sick mother down in Portland. I am glad to report that mom came home this past Saturday, but the road back to recovery is still going to be long. All our hopes, prayers and good wishes should continue to go out to Jan and her family in this extremely trying time. With the help of the board, I have stepped in as the club vice-president to make sure that certain things are accomplished while giving Jan one less thing to worry about.

It is getting down towards the end of the year already, so it is time to start thinking about our end of the year activities. The board recently approved the Nominating Committee to go forth and come up with a list of potential officers and directors for next year. The Nominating Committee is comprised of chairperson Mary Jane Sarbough, committee members Lucy Issacson-Logan and Marlys Swanson, and alternate members Laura Steward and Edith Bryan. If you are contacted by anyone on the Nominating Committee, PLEASE consider giving your time to help keep our club the great organization that it is. I know that you are all leading busy lives, mine is no different, but the satisfaction that you receive is worth any extra time or effort that it takes. If you want to serve and are not contacted, you are allowed to put your name on the ballot for consideration at the next club meeting, which will be our annual Christmas Party. This year the Christmas Party will be held on December 9 up at the Everett Skills Center, which is the same place that it has been held the last couple of years. (More information on the party will be elsewhere in this newsletter.) That will also be the last time that names can be added to the ballot for next year's election.

We held our fourth annual PSLRA Agility Trial a couple of weeks ago, on the weekend of October 7 and 8. Although it was a little scaled back in terms of club participation compared to other years, it was still a success in my opinion. We had Labradors and their handlers from as far away as Yakima and Spokane. I think that once again we had more Labradors run in our trial than we had Border Collies and Shelties. Both of the judges commented numerous times over the weekend that they had never seen so many Labradors running in any one trial. I have a long list of folks to thank for their effort in making sure that the trial ran as it did, but I will save that for another place in this newsletter.

A huge congrats to all of the qualifiers from the Pacific Northwest at this year's Master National Retriever Hunt Test!

The final thing that I want to talk about is the 2007 Awards Banquet, which will be held on January 13, 2007. I would like to thank Perrin Christensen for stepping forward to be the Banquet Chair for this event. We are getting off to a late start this year, so let's all please pitch in and give her a hand. We already have some folks who have volunteered to help, but more would be even better. Thanks. Dave Lawniczak

IMPORTANT DATES

November 15 board meeting

December 9 Holiday Party, Le Bistro,

Everett, Coulombes at

huntson@hotmail.com

or Savidges at

lyte_my_fyrelabs@hotmail.com

January 13 Awards

Banquet, Perrin

Christensen,

perrinsk9s@comcast.net

Newsletter Information:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

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Submissions must be received by the editor by the 22nd of each month.

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

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

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

Requests for information, applications and/or payment of dues should be addressed to:
Chantel Nahoopii, Membership Chair
 3413 Woodcrest Lane
 Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
koalabs@msn.com

club business

Time For The PSLRA Holiday Party

Saturday, December 9 at 3 p.m.

Location: "Le Bistro" at Sno-Isle Skills Center, 9001 Airport Road. Everett (driving directions below)

Gift Exchange: Each person who would like to participate should bring a wrapped gift with a value limit of \$15 per gift.

Pot Luck: The club will supply tableware, ham, coffee and punch.

Unfortunately, alcohol and smoking are not allowed as this is a school facility.

Please bring a food dish to share as indicated by your last name:

A - D main dish E - H appetizer I - M dessert N - Z salad

The holiday party is always fun and we look forward to seeing you all!

Hosts will be Terry and Karen Coulombe - huntson@hotmail.com cell 425-330-7125

Heide and Brittany Savidge - lyte_my_fyrelabs@hotmail.com cell 425-231-0122

Contact us if you need more info or get lost driving.

Directions:

From the South:

I-5 north to Exit #186 (128th St SW) LEFT onto 128th St SW (becomes Airport Road). Go approximately 2.5 miles on 128th St SW to the light at Kasch Park Road. Go right onto Kasch Park Road, then make an immediate RIGHT into the first parking lot. Look for the signs directing you to Le Bistro@ and the Office.

From the North:

I-5 South to 526 WEST (Exit 189) toward Mukilteo/Whidbey Island Ferry. Take the Airport Road exit, turn LEFT toward Paine Field. The turn LEFT at the second light, which is Kasch Park Road. Make an immediate right into the first parking lot. Look for the signs directing you to Le Bistro@ and the Office.



Darlene Pado's buddies Reilly and Murphy donned their hippie duds for Halloween.

PSLRA Agility Trial Report

We held our fourth annual PSLRA (AKC) Agility Trial on October 7 and 8 at Argus Ranch for Dogs in Auburn, Washington. For those of you who have never been to Argus Ranch it is one of the nicest locations that I have ever seen for dog events. Even if you don't run your dog in agility, you should plan on coming down sometime just to see how nice this place is. Even though they have the locations to run a complete agility trial indoors out of the weather, we have always opted to run our trials outdoors in this gorgeous grass field. We had a few sprinkles on Saturday morning this year, but not enough to dampen anyone's spirits and once the rain went away the rest of the weekend was beautiful.

The list of folks that I need to send thanks to is long, and I will invariably leave someone off, so if I do, it certainly is not intentional - everyone's help was GREATLY appreciated throughout the weekend.

First to my lovely wife Franna - she picked up the slack of things that I let get a little lax, she did an outstanding job coordinating the barbeque this year, taking the awesome group photos and running around helping just about everyone do everything. Maybe next year, we will <ahem> have our own dogs ready to run at our trial...

—Donna Dykstra and Ed Parsons - you guys are always real troopers - first ones there, last ones to leave - thanks for all that you do.

—Kristi Clark - you did an AWESOME job running hospitality, especially for never having done something on that scale before. I never heard anything other than complements about how things ran there all weekend. You also did a great

job of double duty by running the awards table in Jan's absence.

—Dan Selthofer - thanks for getting the courses built quickly all weekend. You knocked them out with your usual air of competence.

—Cheri and Mark Levine - thanks for stepping up all weekend and doing whatever needed to be done, with never anything other than a positive attitude.

—Lee Foote - as always you were there if things needed to be done.

—Jennifer Baerlocher - thanks for giving up your Saturday off to come down and help Kristi.



—Nancy Harney - thanks for helping Kristi all weekend with hospitality and awards.

—Julie Germano - thanks for supplying the Judge's gifts!

—Darlene Pado - I know that you are extremely busy, thanks for driving all the way down just to write the checks and keep everyone happy.

There were also a couple of people who don't even own Labradors who came down to assist. Linda Nemeč came both days and ran the Excellent ring gate both days. On Saturday, Gail Gegg came down and did the same thing for the Novice and Open classes. Having two highly qualified Gate Stewards made my job a lot easier as I didn't need to worry about how the gate ran.

We had several great things happen this year. It was reported that we had a total of

39 Labs entered in this trial. Our Judges, Monica Land and Paula Ratoza both commented throughout the weekend that they had never seen so many Labradors running in any one trial.

It was very nice to see all of the hardware being given out. Our club was the first, and still is one of only a handful of clubs to give out these great looking Double Q ribbons. Our 2Q ribbons were designed by Sharon Edwards for our first trial. There were quite a number of them hanging in the various pop-ups as you wandered around the show grounds. We also gave out a MACH (Master Agility Champion) ribbon to Kathy Sheeran, DVM and her Parson Russell Terrier, Gidget. The Labradors were well represented in the hardware department. Ed Parsons and his lab, Ellie added at least one more Double Q towards that MACH2. Kari

Manning drove all the way over from Spokane and went home with seven qualifying ribbons on two dogs. It was nice to see Dan Selthofer out there still running Sadie who is 12+, and Kate Schottman with Rachael Elena, who is also over 12. Beth Selthofer ran Keith's yellow lab, Casey, while Keith is out of the country defending the freedoms that allow us to hold such events. It was nice to see Lee Foote out running Tripper and Tessa again now that their maternity vacations are finally over. Julie Germano started running her dogs for the weekend, but an unfortunate injury ended her runs early. Hope you feel better Julie! Mark Levine and Strider debuted at this trial last year. On Sunday they finished their Excellent A JWW title. They have come a long way in a year - congrats! It was also very nice to see Mark's wife, Cheri running her chocolate girl, Ginger, all

Agility, continued on page 11.

Amateur Field Training The e-collar

by Terrie Sato

The electronic collar is a corrective tool often used in the field. If you take your dog to a professional trainer, your dog will be collar conditioned and the e-collar will be used. If you decide to train your own dog, you have a choice as to your training tools. Your choice may or may not include the e-collar.

The amount of pressure needed to train a dog in the field may be directly related to both the training goal and the personality of the dog being trained. A biddable dog with great instinct and the goal of a WC or Junior Hunter may be easily trained with very little pressure. Raise the goal and pressure will become an important factor. This is because the tasks required to complete a senior or master title require greater skill and are often contrary to a dog's instinct. The dog and handler need to be a team. The dog needs to believe the handler can help him find the birds and also deal with factors such as wind, water and rough terrain. Watch a dog line up with his handler, be sent for a retrieve, cut a fine corner of a pond, reenter another body of water, stop and sit on a whistle and cast into the wind to find the bird, and you will be forever in awe of the dog/handler relationship seen at the master hunter level. The majority of these dogs are trained with the use of an e-collar because communication at a distance is a necessity.

Can a dog be trained without the e-collar? Of course it can. For many years, dogs were trained to hunt and to compete in field/hunting trials without the use of electronic collars. Keep in mind that many times the methods used were crude and harmful to the dog. Buck shot, sling shots, buggy whips and the heavy toe of a boot were all tools of the trade back in the good old days. Electricity first came into play with the cattle prod. However, the advances made in animal behavioral studies have done much to help refine the use of all kinds of training tools. Heavy handed punishment is becoming a thing of the past. The use of the e-collar has become a good example of the old adage,

“Do not throw the baby out with the bath water.”

The use of electricity is pretty common place in the modern dog world. Most people do not bat an eye at the thought of using it to keep their dog at home with an invisible fence. Basically, a hot spot is created all around the perimeter of the yard and the dog learns to stay away from the property edges or face the consequence of electrical stimulation. A dog with a barking problem is commonly seen wearing an electronic bark collar. The consequence of unwanted barking behavior is, again, electrical stimulation. The dog quickly makes this association and quits barking—at least while it is wearing the collar. Perhaps people are comfortable using this kind of electrical correction because they are not directly responsible for their dog's discomfort. Put the control of an e-collar into someone's hand and the dog is not the only one in the hot seat.

“With great power, comes great responsibility”...*Spiderman*, the movie. I love pop culture psychology. It is not only easy to remember, it is true! While wielding the power of the e-collar control, the responsibility is on the handler to use it in a fair manner. The dog's responsibility is to respond as trained. **The first rule of e-collar use is to never use it to teach.** It seems obvious that a dog must already know how to respond to a command before it can be corrected for failure to respond. However, what appears clear in print becomes less so out in the field. As pictures and factors change for the dog, confusion may blur the lessons taught in the back yard. A confused dog needs to be helped, not corrected.

In the early days of the e-collar, there was only one power available for training—full blast. Collar conditioning consisted of literally conditioning the dog to withstand pressure, be tough and still want to play the game. Many fine dogs were discarded as too soft to be players. Collars now come with multiple levels of control and stimulation. Even “burns” are limited in time to approximately eight seconds. But

just ask any rodeo cowboy and you will hear that eight seconds is a long time. A dog receiving an eight second burn would agree. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Many trainers refer to the time needed to correct a dog as a *nick* or *bump*. This gives you a better idea of the duration of time that is needed for a correction to change a behavior *if* the dog has been trained to correctly respond. Collar conditioning today involves teaching a dog the proper response to the correction, not just conditioning the dog to handle pressure.

Collar conditioning is usually worked around three commands that form the basis of go, stop and come. The dog is taught these commands and demonstrates a good understanding of them before the collar is used. It is beyond the scope of this article to go into a detailed description of collar conditioning. There are books and magazine articles that describe the steps in detail. Look for articles written by Mike Lardy in past issues of the *Retriever Journal* and Andy Attar or Vickie Lamb in the *UKC Hunter Retriever* magazine. However, there are some points about dog training that need to be made before you teach your dog about the e-collar. If you are going to be using an electric collar, it is worth your time to let your dog wear it every time you train, even before you collar condition. The goal is to develop a good attitude and not let the dog discover that the collar is the source of correction. If the dog wears the collar while learning to sit, come and fetch on command, it just becomes part of the training program with no negative association. My pups begin to wear the collar at five months. I slap it on before we go out in the field to retrieve. They associate it with good things. They seem to say, “Yahoo, get me dressed, we're dog training!” Putting a collar on and immediately using it to correct the dog is the quickest route to teaching a dog to be “collar wise.” I cringe when people train without the collar and only put it on when the dog is misbehaving. Though they believe they are being kind and giving the dog the chance to avoid correction, they are actually teaching the

dog that it has to behave only while wearing the collar.

Teaching the dog to respond appropriately to a correction is the crux of collar conditioning. Having taught your dog to sit on command, you now need a tool that allows you to correct your dog for failure to sit. This is especially important if you expect your dog to sit at distances from you when you blow a whistle. It is equally as important if you expect your dog to sit next to you and watch the birds go down or hold a sit while it honors another dog's work. Keep in mind that a correction is only used after the dog has been taught the command, has demonstrated that it understands and can easily respond but is *choosing* not to respond. The first correction your dog experiences for failure to sit when commanded might be the pop of a lead. It might be a smack on the butt. Whatever correction is used needs to be followed by an appropriate response on the part of the dog. If you pop the dog with a lead and it does not think to sit, you will probably place your dog in a sit to explain the appropriate response. If you smack the dog on the butt and it responds by jumping away instead of the desired sit you might tell the dog, "No, sit" as you place the dog in a sit. You are doing your best to explain to the dog the appropriate response to the correction as well as the appropriate response to the command. The same is true when you use the collar. If you tell your dog to sit and apply collar pressure for failure to respond, or even a slow response, the dog might first think to jump away. The dog's thought is, "What is that and where did it come from?" You explain by placing the dog in a sit and not allowing it to sit away from where the command was given. The goal of collar conditioning is to teach the dog how to stop the correction...just sit. You do not want to create *hot spots*. If a dog believes a place on the ground or an area is unsafe, that place becomes a hot spot. Think about the hot spot theory as used with the invisible fence. The dog learns that there are places along the edge of the yard that are unsafe. Now look at the field situation. Where in the field do you want

your dog to feel unsafe? If you want your dog to go as sent, you will want very few unsafe places in the field. Hot spots are not a good idea if any kind of advanced training is the goal.

Once you have taught your dog to respond correctly to a collar correction to sit, to come and to go (fetch), you can take those corrections into the field with you. Keep in mind that the same correction is used for all three of those commands. Think how confusing this can be to a dog. If he gets a correction without some kind of instruction, how is he to know the proper response? **The second rule of e-collar use is never give a correction without telling the dog how to respond.** If you are correcting the dog for failure to sit, tell him so. If you are correcting the dog for failure to come, say so. Give the dog a clue as to the appropriate response. The reality of collar conditioning is that most of the force comes with the "go" command. The message, "You must go" is of primary importance. Therefore, it is no surprise that the first thing a dog may think when he feels a collar correction is "go." It is a good guess, though it may be the wrong answer. Giving the dog the answer is an important part of building credibility and teamwork in the field. Problems will crop up if you start to believe the collar correction just means "You are wrong," or even worse, "You are bad." *Wrong* is a pretty vague concept. *Bad* leads to punishment, not correction. If you have taught your dog the correction for sit, come and go with the e-collar, those are the only commands your dog understands in terms of correction. The collar does not suddenly become a catch all to correct every problem that can pop up in the field. Next time an explanation of direct and indirect pressure will help you decide when and how to appropriately use the e-collar in the field.

Bits and Pieces

From the Rose City Lab Club's newsletter:

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) has a new electronic newsletter titled *OFA E-News*. The first issue contains an interesting article "Reducing the Impact of Hip Dysplasia," and is available at: <http://www.offa.org/enevssept2006.pdf> You can register for a free email subscription of *OFA E-News* at <http://www.offa.org/enevs.html>

Washington State Obedience Training Club will hold their first Variable Surface Tracking (VST) test on Sunday, November 26, 2006, at two sites in the Seattle area. It will be a six-track test judged by Sil Sanders and Anne Hershey, M.D. Entries close on November 8. To receive a Premium List, contact Sue Cox at 206-524-2468 or johnandsuzanne@comcast.net, or visit www.wsotc.org and click on "Calendar" for a downloadable P/L.

The Monroe Valley Dog Training Club is sponsoring Celeste Meade in an obedience seminar, "Attitude is Everything." The seminar will be held February 3 and 4, 2007, at the Academy of Canine Behavior in Bothell, Wash. For more information go to www.mvdtc.org or call Sue Parker at 206-524-1454.



The Master National Experience

The Master Nationals were held in California this year. The following list includes the 2006 Master National participants and qualifiers from the Pacific Northwest. Congratulations to our club members and all the other locals who earned the right to go the Master National. Special congratulations to those who qualified in the event, particularly PSLRA members. (Sorry if anyone's name is missing.)

Participants: Dixie Humble, Katie Mearns, Bente Pasko, Jim Charboneau, Kevin Bunnell, Jim Morris, Rick Arnold, Keith Hartley, Marv Kvamme, Peter Colley, Todd Manuel, Darren Proctor, Dave Illias and Randy Huenergardt.

Qualifiers: Don Aker, John Lorenzo, Katie Quarles, Phil Moore, Doug Shade, Matt Weiner, Tellus Calhoun, Don Vipperman, Elaine Brock, Dom Szechenyi, Butch Higgins, Steve Elliot, Sharon Collins, Cynthia Tallman and James and Julie Stucker.



Above; Jim Charoneau and Jill watch a mark fall in prenatal training. Right, top to bottom; Elaine Brock and Denali in prenatal training; Katie Mearns and Rain in close communication during a training session; Bryant Meyer and Dom Szechenyi on the test grounds. Page 9, top: Marv Kvamme enjoys a laugh at the banquet held prior to the competition, while Club member Dixie Humble is caught in a thoughtful moment at the same event.

Pictures contributed by Katie Mearns



Obedience Advisory Committee

The AKC Companion Events Department has announced the formation of the 2007 Obedience Advisory Committee. Every four years The AKC Companion Events Department brings together an advisory committee to review input and to try to determine the best course for the future of obedience. This process has brought about changes in the sport of obedience including a change in jump height requirements, replacement of the long stand in Utility and the rotating order of exercises in Open B and Utility B.

The Pacific Northwest will be represented by Bobbie Anderson of Oregon and Sue Cox from Washington. This year a proposal has been made by obedience judge, John Cox, to eliminate one

of the out of sight exercises from the Open requirements and replace it with a different exercise. This would not do away with the out of sight stays as one would be required, but not both. To read this proposal look for the **RETOOLING OPEN ARTICLE** at <http://tinyurl.com/w4fa3>

The AKC welcomes comments and suggestions. The email address for comments will be opened from November 1, 2006, to January 31, 2007. Ideas can be submitted to AKC via email at obedadv@akc.org. These comments should pertain to the Obedience Regulations and the sport of obedience only. If you agree with John Cox that the out of sight Open exercises are redundant (and can be unsafe) please let AKC know that you would support this change in the obedience requirements.

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Braggs

From Diann Sullivan-August:

CEDARWOOD MAGNIFICENT HALLE was Winner Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex over specials to finish her Canadian Championship at Mount Cheam Kennel Club Sept. 22. She was BOS over specials the following day, also. I would love to share show results for the Frasier Valley Dog Fanciers the weekend of Oct. 7, 8, and 9 -

CEDARWOODS MASTER FLT PLAN -

Oct. 7 was first 9-12 puppy/Reserve Winners Dog/ Best of Breed Puppy; Oct. 8 was first 9-12 puppy/RWD/BOB puppy and Sporting Group first; Oct. 9 was Winners Dog, Best of Winners two points and BOB puppy.

Can CH CEDARWOODS ALMOND ROCA DIVINE -

Oct. 8 was first OPEN bitch/ Winners Bitch/ Best of Opposite Sex over special for three points and finished CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP! She was handled beautifully by her Junior co-owner, Briana Jeffers; Oct. 9 went BEST OF BREED over four specials and SPORTING GROUP FIRST at 22 months old! 'Divine' means "Gift from God"—We are very thankful!

It was a great weekend for the Koa Labrador Gang at the Mount Cheam Canine Association up in Canada. The Goose Man, **Koa's Top Gun, WC** went Winner's Dog on Friday for his first Canadian points, RWD (to the Open dog who took BOB) on Saturday and topped the weekend off by going WD and BOW all from the BBE class; **Int CH Daybreaks Chocolate Splash At Koa, CD, JH** topped off her month of success (WB at Sammamish, finished JH at PSLRA, made her first TV commercial (yup, watch for the brown dog hunting on TV) by going Winner's Bitch on Sunday, handled by Kawai for her first WB in Canada. The Chocolate Rocket is proudly owned by us



and bred by Debbie Needham. Needless to say, we're still floating. Proud winners shown below.

While visiting in Arizona, Ed Parsons and Ellie got in a little agility competition and got QQ number eight taking FIRST PLACE in Standard in a class of 38 dogs, including 16 border collies! And two fourth places, in the same huge class with all of the BCs. Now 40 percent of the way on QQs and 66 percent of the way on points. Ed and Ellie also earned double Q number nine at PSLRA. Ellie is **MACH Skyfire's Ellitia Ica** and was bred by Stephanie Harris and is owned, trained and shown by Ed Parsons and Donna Dykstra.

At Lower Mainland Dog Fanciers of B.C. (also deemed "The Largest Dog Show in Canada"), **Can CH Sunnydaze Indigo, WC** went BOB and on to a Group 2! Breed judge was Mrs. Denys Janseen from Bogata, Colombia and Group Judge was Mrs. Jacqueline Stacy. Indy is owned by Linda Maffett, Diane Sullenberger and Shelah Frey.

New International Champions on the weekend of Oct. 14 and 15: —**Int'l CH WindyCanyons Dark Ranger JH CD RA AXJ NA**. Strider took second in the first show and first in the second, third and fourth shows. We were having so much fun we stayed for the fourth show.

—**Int'l CH. Fawnhaven's Chantilly of Guns Up, Lacey**, took second in the first show, first and BOB in the second show and second in the third show. Lacey is loved and owned by Cheri and Don Wildes.

—**Int'l CH Rocking M Clovercreek Bailey Cream, Bailey**, took third in the first show, second in the second show, fourth in the third show. Bailey was shown by Samantha Meyer and loved and owned by Michal and Terrie Sleight and Cindy Meyer.

—**Int'l CH Clovercreek Shooting Star, KC**, took fourth in the first show, third in the second show, first, BOB and Group 2 in the third show. KC was shown by Laurie Jeffries, and loved by Rachel, Sean and Laurie and owned by Rachel Jeffries.

—**Int'l CH Clovercreek Lit'l Annie Oakley JH, Reba**, took first, BOB and Group 3 in the first show, fourth in the second show, third in the third show, Reba is loved and owned by Kimberly and Chris Dotson.

New International CH and All-Around: **Int'l CH Windycanyon's Cosmopolitan Lad CD RN JH, Cosmo**, strutted his stuff at the Fall Seiger International Dog Show Oct. 14 and 15. The conformation title makes Cosmo a PSLRA All-Around lab! Congratulations and job well done to breeder Anne Swindeman for this "beauty and brains" dog. What a year! Owned and preened by Sarah and Travis Fischer.

Harbortop Kiwi had a good week at the LRC National, qualifying in Rally Novice, placing in Novice Bitch, and completing her JH to earn the Dog For All Reasons Award. Kiwi is bred, owned and trained by Nina Mann.

At the LRC Nationals, Ruby, **Redwick Roughcut Ruby SH** passed every event she was entered in; i.e., one rally trial and

Secret Agent Pup



Agent Nyah reporting in. It has been an interesting month. I had a wonderful visitor here not too long ago. His name was Pepper and he was one of those chocolate colored kids, like Kainalu. Boy what fun we had. Finally I had someone that was willing to play and make as much noise as possible! From the time we got out of our crates in the

mornings, until we went to bed at night we ran and ran and RAN! Funny thing about this little “Pepper,” no one has taught him that, “No we don’t go potty inside.” I repeatedly lead him to the doggie door and hopped out and waited for him to follow. I think one day I waited for what seemed like forever for him to come out and he never did. So I poked my head back in the doggie door and he was there just looking at me. My mom was laughing! We had so much fun while he was here, and I was sad to see him go home. I hope one day there will be more little ones for me to play with.

I’ve also discovered that I can run faster than rabbits, okay, well, at least fast enough to catch them. Now you’d think that my mother would be happy that I was catching these rotten little things in the back yard, but judging by her reaction, nope, not so happy! I’m guessing that’s why we’re starting to do a lot more retrieving with the ducks and bumpers instead.

I’m not sure if I’ve ever told you about my love of retrieving. Mom puts a collar on me and a long orange leash. (That’s so when I decide that coming back seems optional, I get reminded that it isn’t!). We go out into a big field and Kawai blows on this thing, which I know is called the Duck call (it’s the signal for

fun!) and then throws a bumper. When we first started this exercise, it was all I could do to not be halfway to the bumper by the time it hit the ground, but over the summer, my mother has gently taught me patience and I now wait until the bumper hits the ground and then in her most excited voice, my mom says, “NYAH!” and off I go. I’ve gotten pretty good about coming back without too much of a reminder. I’ve also learned that the more times I bring it back without the reminders, the more times I get to play again. We’ve also started to work on the “Hold” command. Let me tell you, I’m not real impressed with that exercise, but I am learning what is expected of me. I think it would be much easier if humans could just speak dog and clearly explain to me that I need to keep whatever’s in my mouth until she says differently.

We’re also working very hard on our obedience, Mom says it’s about time we started trying to earn a CD! So we’ve started group exercises with the family. Learning to be polite is actually quite fun as there are cookies involved.

OH, and before I forget, that wonderful day has come where I get to sleep on the bed! I finally figured out that if I back up all the way to the bathroom closet and run full tilt, I can get up on the bed! Who knew how soft and comfortable mom and dad’s bed was. Heck, last night I even slept under the covers with dad on mom’s pillow! That was until she came to bed. I got to stay under the covers, but did have to give up her pillow!

I try every day to show my family how much I love them. I love to make my mom smile with a huge kiss, or crawling in her lap, or even pawing at her leg. They sure take good care of me and I’m lucky to be here.  Signing off for now, Agent Nyah K9

Brag continued from page 8

one OB trial—Novice class in both and good solid green-ribbon scores in both—plus the WC which was just to give her something to do on the weekend. I was very pleased with the rally and OB because she’d flunked both at the Richland KC shows just 10 days earlier. So we’re on our way to some more titles. Ruby is owned and trained by Julie Kirk.

Ron Perry reports that **Am/Can CH BIS ShaRay’s Nikolas of Whidbey JH RN**, Nick, won Best of Breed and the Sporting Group both days at the Kachina Kennel Club shows in Buckeye, Arizona, just west of Phoenix. On Oct. 22 he went all the way and took his *seventh Best in Show* under Judge Dr. Bernard McGivern. Co-owner Sharon Edwards and handler Tonya Struble and Ron are all delighted beyond words. Here are Nick’s stats for 2006 to date.

7 Best in Show	3 Group Third
19 Group First	1 Group Fourth
7 Group Second	45 Best of Breed

On Oct. 28 **Harbortop Shokora CD JH RN** finished her novice rally title in Vancouver, Wash. with a score of 99 and a third place. Kora is owned and trained by Fred Drennan and was bred by Nina Mann.

I am very happy to announce that **Can Ch Sharay’s That Girl, WC** earned her Canadian championship at the Lower Mainland Dog Fanciers dog show on Sunday, Oct. 29 going WB, BOW. Marlo is bred and co-owned by Sharon Edwards and is loved and spoiled by Jessica Meadows.

Correction: There was an error in the Brag section of the September *Retriever Believer*. The wording for Diann Sullivan-August’s brag should have read, “Halle placed fourth in AMERICAN BRED BITCHES at the PSLRA specialty and first in OPEN BLACK at BCLRC and then onto RWB.”

LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 10/25/06 that conform to the PSLRA Code of Ethics. Information is as submitted by owners and provided as a service to the public. Listings of litters are in no way an endorsement by PSLRA of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after three months.

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

- Elbows and hips must be certified on both the sire and dam. Dogs and bitches whelped before 5/1/87 are exempt from elbow clearance requirements and will be marked OFEL N/A. Prelims are not acceptable! The board has recently agreed to accept PennHip clearances that score in the 50th percentile or higher, passing Wind-Morgan clearances, and clearances from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in Canada. Female Labradors (bitches) with a Wind-Morgan, Penn Hip, or OVC clearance must not be bred before the age of 20 months, or 24 months with an OFA clearance. Male Labradors (dogs) with a Wind-Morgan, Penn Hip or OVC clearance must not be bred before the age of 12 months, or 24 months with an OFA clearance.
 - Eye clearances on both parents annually. After the dog's examination at age 10, annual examinations are no longer necessary.
 - Heart clearances will be included in the listing at the discretion of the breeder.
 - A PSLRA member must own either the sire or the dam and must submit the listing for a non-member.
 - **Please contact Marlys if you need a Litter Listing form, to be used for ALL litters.**
 - All Breeders must update their litters each week with Marlys Swanson via email (marlyss982@aol.com) as to the sex and color of puppies you have sold. The listing will be deleted after three months from the first litter listing date unless she hears from you.
1. Mail the completed form and a check for \$10 (operating expenses for Breeder Listing and Puppy Referral Programs) to: **Marlys Swanson, 3512 – 93rd Place NE, Marysville, WA 98270.**
 2. Your litter notice will appear in the next PSLRA newsletter **if** it conforms to the Code of Ethics.
 3. If you know that the Litter Listing and the Puppy Referral programs have helped you sell your puppies, **please send a donation to PSLRA** (c/o Marlys Swanson) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue. **LITTER LISTING FORMS** available from Marlys Swanson

Litter born 8/4/06

(Available 1 BF)

Sire: Blackthorn's Here For The Party

OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/19/05, Heart OFA

Dam: Alibi Rowena Ravenclaw RN

OFA 25G, OFEL 25, CERF 3/5/06, Heart OFA

Optigen Normal

Litter: 1 BM, 2 BF, 2 YB

Contact: Cynthia Freeman (760) 285-3906 (day)

(253) 313-0023 (eve)

Email: URLabs@comcast.net

Gig Harbor, WA

Listed 9/14/06, 10/18/06

Litter born 9/30/06

(Available 2 CM, 1 CF)

Sire: Kingsland's Rocky Top MH

OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 2/14/06, CNM Clear

Dam: Kingsland Crisgo Girl

OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 2/14/06, CNM Clear

Litter: 4 CM, 2 CF

Contact: Teresa Meredith (253) 845-1311

Email: Kingsland_labs@hotmail.com

Puyallup, WA

Listed 9/22/06, 10/18/06

Litter born 10/16/06

(Available - 3 BF, 2 BM, 4 CM)

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: Skyfire's Kodiak Bombshell

OFA 24G, 24 OFEL, ACVO 9/25/05, OFA Heart

Litter: 4 BF, 2 BM, 5 CM, 1 CF

Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 925-1259

Email: Stephanie@skyfirelabs.com

Website: www.skyfirelabs.com

Ellensburg, WA

Listed 10/21/06

Litter due October

(Yellows and Blacks)

Sire: Int. Ch Devonshire Mi Majestic Rain, WC

OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 9/25/06

Dam: Can Ch. Himoon Poet Laureate, CGC

OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 12/5/05, Heart OFA clear,

Optigen Normal/Clear

Litter: Yellow/black

Contact: Cecilie Drege (360) 435-0456

Email: cougarcreeklabs@peoplepc.com

Website: www.cougarcreeklabs.com

Arlington, WA

Listed 9/14/06

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 Female, 6 years

(spayed)

Svenska Flickans Blue Angel, Gabby, is a wonderful companion. She would make a great hunting companion or family pet. She is house trained and crate trained.

Contact: Ann Leonard (360) 799-2204

Email: angelwoodlabs@yahoo.com

Monroe, WA

Listed 8/10/06

Black male born March 3, 2006

(Intact)

Looking for home and family of his own. Very sweet, gets along with other dogs. Silly, doofy personality. No reason to place other than too many dogs. Possible show potential. Puppy picture available.

Both parents have all clearances.

Contact: Sharon Edwards (360) 341-1422

Email: sharay@whidbey.com

Langley, WA

Listed 8/31/06

Black Female, 17 mos (10/18/06) Intact (mut be spayed)

This is a very pretty and energetic girl. Preliminary hips and elbows were clear, but she has one bad hock. This has not slowed her down at all. She is crate trained, leash trained and has had some basic obedience, which she has taken to quickly. She is also house broken and uses a dog door. She gets along well with other dogs and cats and people. Unfortunately, space dictates that I cannot keep them all, much as I would like to. Parents have all clearances.

Contact: Cindy Freeman (253) 313-0023

Email: URLabs@comcast.net

Gig Harbor, WA

Listed 10/25/06

Agility, continued from page 3

weekend as Cheri doesn't get too many free weekends anymore with her new job.

There were some little things missing this year and I will take the responsibility for those - it gives me something we can use to make improvements on our trial for next year. Thanks everyone for a job well done,
Dave Lawniczak



Top left: Julie Germano preps Queen for her run. Bottom left: Sandy Wasson promises Tor the sit will last just a little longer. Above, top to bottom: Kari Manning demonstrates the need to stay physically fit while competing in agility as she attempt to keep up with her lab; Mark Levine uses mental telepathy to keep Strider on the pause box; Jennifer Baerlocker volunteers at the hospitality table.



The Retriever Believer
Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association
Web: www.pslra.org
Terrie Sato, Editor
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Duvall, WA 98019

Make plans now to attend the Holiday Party on
Dec. 9 and the Awards Banquet on Jan 13.

Details inside