

# THE RETRIEVER BELIEVER

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association



Volume 25, Number 6/7, June/July 2008

## PSLRA Officers

President: Stephanie Harris  
509-925-1259

Vice President: Terrie Sato  
425-788-6628

Treasurer: Jill Mahoney  
253-630-4810

Secretary: Ron Perry  
206-523-1615

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253-939-7984

Jan Palumbo  
206-362-2098

Jennifer Hajny  
509-962-8579

Susie Sharp  
425-488-0772

Kristi Clark  
253-946-5890

Becky Jack  
425-483-8993

Nina Mann  
360-629-7619

Gail Gegg  
253-862-0877

Lucy Isaacson-Logen  
206-362-8004

## Field Chair

Bryant and Cindy Meyer  
Rockingmlabs@qwest.net

## Western Time Zone Coordinator-LRC

Nina Mann

## Membership

Chantel Nahoopii 360-724-5227

## Public Information

Ron Perry

## Litter Listings

Jessica Meadows 360-657-1990  
LabraDays@aol.com

## Public Puppy Inquiries

Merlyn Foote 425-402-1362

## Rescue

Edith Bryan 360-678-1556

## Newsletter

Sarah Fischer 206-265-1007  
labradors@tynderlabs.com

## Web site

www.pslra.org

## 2008 Spring Agility Trial

*This year the PSLRA agility trial was held June 20 – 23, 2008, at Lake Tye Park in Monroe. The agility competition consisted of many different types of dogs, from small dogs like Papillions to large dogs such as Bernise Mountain dogs. Of course, Labradors were very well represented at the trial, too!*

*The weather was nice and warm and the event was held on the soccer fields. PSLRA chose to go "green" this year. Instead of purchasing plastic water bottles for the participants, we had two 10-gallon water jugs—which allowed everyone to fill small paper cups or bring their own water bottles to fill up. It sure saved both money and trash! We used Cutting Edge Catering and Mark Fillingham. Normally the clubs cater their own trial and volunteers prepare food to bring to the event—which the club reimburses. This year we asked a caterer and instead of having separate food for workers we offered all workers food coupons. The coupons encouraged people to work the event and saved PSLRA money. The participants enjoyed the food from Cutting Edge Catering, which was served fresh when ordered, from fresh salads to Mark's hot off the grill burgers.*

*Our photographer was Mary Burlingame from Petscape Photography. Many of you have seen her photographs from local hunt tests. She did a great job and you can see the trial photos in the Galleries section on her website: [www.petscapesphoto.com](http://www.petscapesphoto.com)*

*There were four dogs who achieved their MACH (Master Agility Champion). It is such fun to have the whole audience applaud while the winners run a victory lap carrying the HUGE PLSRA ribbon. A fun tradition is they get to keep the last agility bar they jumped over. This year we added PSLRA stickers to the jump bars. One of the MACH winners had her whole family of 15 come out to watch this special event.*

*PLSRA has a well-deserved reputation for running a top-notch agility trial and we have people who look forward to our trials every year.*

*Thank you to all of you who came out and worked the event. Our breakdown went quickly, and because we went green, we had no trash to remove at the end of the weekend. My thank you goes to the agility committee who worked very hard from 9 a.m. on Friday through 5 p.m. on Sunday without a break: Keith and Beth Selthofer, Dan and Lisa Selthofer and Mark Levine. Gail Gegg, a board member, brought the PSLRA trailer out to the park and helped with the loading, Lee Foote helped wherever needed and Ed Parsons built courses all weekend with Dan Selthofer. Thank you to Ron Perry, Nina Mann, Maryls Swanson, Jan Palumbo, Anne Swindeman, Julie Germano, Kari Manning, and Sarah Fischer who took the pictures you see in the newsletter. I know there are many of you who helped and I can't stress how much the committee appreciated your help. —Cheri Levine, Chairperson, 2008 PSLRA June Agility Trial*



Fawnhaven's Amazing Grace CD NA JH worked the weave poles in the Open Standard class at the PSLRA Agility Trial —more photos inside.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**August 1 & 2, PSLRA Annual Specialty, Marymoor Park, Redmond**

**Last chance to sponsor an award at the 2008 Specialty! Contact Nina Mann, Sponsorship Chair, harbortop@netzero.net Sept. 6-7, Fall Hunt Test**

Newsletter Information:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

Sarah Fischer

2716 Morris Ave S.

Renton, WA 98055

e-mail: labradors@tynderlabs.com

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

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

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

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

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

**Chantel Nahoopii, Membership Chair**

**3413 Woodcrest Lane**

**Sedro Woolley, WA 98284**

koalabs@msn.com

club business

## May board meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m., May 28, 2008, by President Stephanie Harris at the Issaquah Highlands Fire Station. In attendance: Stephanie Harris, Terrie Sato, Ron Perry, Jill Mahoney, Jennifer Hajny, Nina Mann, Lucy Isaacson-Logen, Dave Lawniczak, Gail Gegg, Susie Sharp, Kristi Clark, Becky Jack and guest, Linda Maffett.

### Officer Reports

**President:** No report

**Secretary:** Event correspondence from AKC received approving fall Agility trial. Minutes from April 23 approved via e-mail. Also approved via e-mail was spending \$100 to pay (with other retriever clubs) for mowing of Cherry Valley.

**Treasurer:** Current balance in checking is \$11,536.

### Acknowledgements

—Spring Hunt Test workers, especially the chair, the chief marshal, Barb Ironside, secretary Nicole Nelson, hospitality, Kristi Clark, and club merchandise sales, Nina Mann.  
—Lucy for ordering umbrellas and handling members' purchase of them.  
—Jan Skewes for procuring the insurance certificates for our spring events.

### Committee Reports

**Spring Agility Trials:** Cheri Levine made a report via Dave Lawniczak. Volunteers are needed. Set-up will begin on Friday morning, June 20, after 8 a.m. Ribbons and toys have been purchased. Mary Jane Sarbaugh is in charge of judges' gifts.

**Fall Agility Trials:** Dave reported that the judging panel and event were approved by AKC. The trial dates are October 4 and 5, 2008, at Argus Ranch, Auburn.

**Spring Hunt Test:** Ron reported that he received many compliments from the judges about how well the test was organized and how great the volunteer helpers were. Judges and workers praised the food provided by the Cutting Edge catering.

**Match:** Event date is June 14 at Tolt MacDonald Park, Carnation. Judges

have accepted assignments. A motion to reimburse the judges for gas costs was moved, seconded, and approved. The board would like to have an informal Rally set-up after obedience judging finishes. Becky Jack, match chair, will make arrangements.

**Specialty:** Linda Maffett, specialty co-chair gave a report and reviewed a list of assignments. The board reviewed a proposed layout for the specialty, including locations for rings, parking, vendors, etc. The board discussed how to earmark the proceeds from the raffle. It was moved, seconded and approved to state as follows: "Proceeds from the raffle will benefit Labrador Retrievers, including rescue, health, and education."

### Old Business

**Cherry Valley Mowing:** The board approved via e-mail spending \$100 toward the mowing of these grounds used by many members for field training. Other clubs will participate.

**IRS Filing:** Club's filing for IRS 501C7 status is in progress.

### New Business

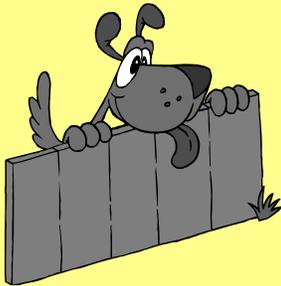
#### **Puyallup January Cluster Supported Entry:**

Gail discussed several options with the board, such as which day to hold Sweepstakes and have a supported entry. Gail will discuss further with Sammamish Kennel Club and Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers and indicate to them our preference to have a breeder judge for Labradors. The Judges Selection Committee will provide names already considered and approved by the board.

**Purchasing:** Treasurer Jill Mahoney discussed a variety of issues, such as pre-approval of large purchases, inventory control over ribbons, toys, etc. and consistency in the value of gifts given to event judges. Another issue she mentioned related to closing out an events' financial records. In some cases, requests for reimbursement come months after the event is finished, thus making it difficult to ascertain the event's bottom line and to compare actual figures to the budget. The board asked Jill to draft a policy statement for board review at a future meeting.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25 at Becky Jack's home.



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

## PSLRA LABRADOR RESCUE, RESEARCH & HEALTH RAFFLE

The PSLRA 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Specialty is fast approaching which means...  
The Labrador Rescue, Research & Health Raffle is fast approaching too!

**This year, like years previous, we are finding it difficult to secure items from retail.  
Therefore, we need to call on YOU our generous MEMBERSHIP  
to donate an item or two to the raffle.**

**If you would like to try and secure a donated raffle item from your favorite doggy store, we can provide  
you with a copy of our raffle letter which tells the retailer all about us.**

Donations are graciously accepted; let's make this one of our most successful fundraisers ever.

**If you'd like to donate an item but aren't sure what, email us we have plenty of ideas!**

Proceeds to benefit Labrador Retrievers including Rescue, Health & Education.

If you have an item, small or large, to contribute please contact  
Diane & Todd Sullenberger [harlequinlabradors@yahoo.com](mailto:harlequinlabradors@yahoo.com) or  
Hugh Maffett [tugzz@comcast.net](mailto:tugzz@comcast.net) / Linda Maffett [sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com](mailto:sunnydazelabradors@hotmail.com)  
We'll even pick it up!!!

# THANK YOU



## Braggs

**Winroc The Flying Cloud**, Clipper, recently finished her NAHRA started title and her Junior Hunter title in four straight tests. Lee Foote, her breeder, was there to see her run and has her own brag for Tripper. Clipper is owned and handled by Vicky MacLean.

**U-CD U-SHR Fawnhaven's Amazing Grace CD NA JH**, earned her first leg in Open A obedience at the June 7 Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers trial with a fourth place finish. Gracie is owned, trained, handled and enjoyed by Nancy Harney.

From Ron Perry: At the Rainier HRC Five Series, my two elder statesmen qualified as finalists. This is not easy, since most of the dogs entered are younger and come from field lines. For Labs from show lines to finish is quite an achievement, but at ages easily considered veteran is even more wonderful.

**ShaRay's Alexander of Whidbey, SH, CD, Pet Partner** would have taken fourth place if he had earned one more point. Alex turned 10 in April and always has been an exceptional marking hunting dog. He has qualified in the Rainier 10 Series (now 5 Series) every year but one, since he first ran it at the age of 1 and missed first place by a half point. He has since taken third place in the event twice.

**ShaRay's Tara of Whidbey, MH, CD, Pet Partner** is my less than exceptional marking dog, but she did very well yesterday. Both Tara and Alex got perfect scores on their last two marks, which made me very proud of them, as they showed the younger kids how to get the job done—straight line to the mark.

**New Junior Hunter Title!** We are very proud and happy to announce that **Mainland Catch Me A Sailor, JH WC**, Sailor, earned his fourth JH Qualification for his Junior Hunter Title on Saturday, June 14 at the AKC Umpqua Valley Retriever Club Hunt Test in Glide, Oregon. He qualified for his 5 JH Leg on June 15. Sailor earned his \*Five\* Junior Hunter Qualifications in consecutive, back-to-back Hunt Tests! All five of his JH qualifications were earned at AKC Hunt Tests in Oregon, in new locations and unfamiliar territory and fields. Sailor earned many compliments on his drive and performance in the field at his HRTs by his Judges. Sailor is the son of BISS Am/Can CH. Ghoststones Boomtown JH x Can. CH. Mainland Singular Sensation, bred by Shelah Frey. Sailor is loved and owned by Kristin and Andy Smith, Seaside Labradors.



**Fawnhaven Celtic Woman O'Reimur WC, Kelly**, was WB/BOW/BOB at the Clackamas K.C. on June 22. Kelly won her first major at Bell Vernon on Saturday June 27. On Sunday she and her brother **ReiMur Juz Fulla Myself** (Fergus) qualified for their first JH wing. Both Kelly and Fergus are bred and owned by Darlene Pado and Don and Barb Ironside.

**Cimarron's Star Talk**, Gabby, happily co owned with Laura Steward, went WB, BOW, BOB and Group 1 at Mount Cheam up in Canada for her first five points, she repeated WB and BOS Sunday for three more. She then thrilled me Sunday at Bell Vernon by WB and BOS for her first major! —Kawai and Dawson teamed up and won their Open Junior class both days at Bell Vernon, giving her the required wins to be invited to Eukanuba Nationals in Long Beach, Cal. in December. Sunday made a year to the day that she started in Junior Showmanship. Her dad and I are so proud. —And we brought Maui out of retirement to work on his Rally title and I'm happy to say he qualified both days at Bell Vernon in 80 plus degree weather with scores in the 90s!

From Anne Swindeman, WindyCanyon Labs:

**Intl CH WindyCanyon's Fulla Jazz CD RN JH CC, Jazz**, shown at right, finished her Novice Standard (NA) title at the PSLRA agility trial in Monroe. She did this in three straight trials! She also picked up a Jumpers leg that weekend. —**Intl CH WindyCanyon's Northern Spy CDX RA JH NA CC, Mata**, picked up her first Open Standard Q at the PSLRA agility trial. —Not to be left out, younger half sister/niece **Sonya, WindyCanyon Patent Nfringement RN** earned her third Junior Hunter Q at the EGRC test recently, too!



Ralph, **ShaRays Let's Party**, was Winners Dog and Best of Winners at Bell Vernon June 29, for a three point major. Ralph's sire and dam are Skyfire's Dangerous Company X Ch ShaRays Champagne on Ice WC. Bred by Ray and Sharon Edwards, co-owned by and lives happily with Paul Glasebrook.

How good was the PSLRA trial? It was so good you could feel the love, that's lab love. **WindyCanyon's Dark Ranger CD RA JH MX MXJ CGC CC**, Strider, could feel it! He earned two double Qs at one trial. Way to go buddy. That made nine double Qs. Strider and I also earned third place in the hotly contested 20-inch Standard Course on Sunday. Strider, achieved another double Q 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and placed second in Standard and fourth in Jumpers at the Afghan Agility trial in Monroe. Strider warmed up by rubbing his face on the grass, and clearly likes running at Tye

Lake Park in Monroe. This gives him 35 time points and one more double Q toward his MACH. Whoopee! Mark Levine with Strider.

My Chocolate Lab, **Ginger Spice Girl IV**, received two qualified runs to complete her AJP title. Ginger is now moved to the preferred class which allows her to jump a lower height and add 5 seconds on to her allowed time. Ginger will now be able to compete for her PAX (like a MACH but only requires 20 Double Qs, no points required.) She also came home with a First place ribbon and a Second place ribbon! I



love that girl! She made me very proud. Cheri Levine

I'm thrilled to report that **Mainland Zoomin' Zoë**, CDX, RA, with her nervous nellie mom at the line passed her first ever hunt test! Big thanks to Fred Drennan for holding my bucking bronco in the blinds to keep me from finishing off my rotator. Zoe is owned by Mahrie Leshner and bred by Shelah Frey.

## It's Later Than You Think!

This year's deadline for turning in your paperwork for either an **All-Around Award** or a **Versatility Award** (or both) is August 25. We are not dealing with our cooperative superintendent (BaRay) this year in turning in the ad to the National Specialty catalog to brag on all our talented dogs. Sheila always gave us a couple of days' grace, but MBF is not so obliging.

So please get your paperwork in ASAP. So far, we only have three All-Arounds and two Versatility Awards applied for, and I think there are lots more out there!

- Nola Synness and Sydney - Versatility
- Barb Hazen and Storm - All-Around
- Barb Hazen and Thunder - All-Around and Versatility
- Marlys Swanson and Koda - All-Around

The application is up on our web site. Just remember that a WC counts for an All-Around but not for Versatility. New members, if you are wondering why, the All-Around Award was established when there were no hunt tests. The Versatility award came later.

Nina Mann  
[harbortop@netzero.net](mailto:harbortop@netzero.net)  
[www.harbortoplabradors.com](http://www.harbortoplabradors.com)

## Agile Labs 2008



Above left: Windy Canyon's Norther Spy CDX RA JH NA CC takes on the tire jump in the Open Standard Class; center, Julie Germano and Mr. Boo work the weave poles; top right, Nancy Harney and Grace work the dog walk in the Open Standard Agility class on Sunday; bottom, Leaping Labradors! MACH2 Skyfire's Ellietta Ica MX MXJ works her jumps on Sunday.

## Ask the Question...

This month, in preparation for our club's annual specialty, the Retriever Believer administered a special "Conformation Handling Questionnaire." Topics were sent to a sample of PSLRA breeders who are known to participate in Conformation events. Participants were chosen at random by the editor.

Amazingly, all breeders asked to participate sent back responses! Thank you to these members who were able to participate and provide their candid responses.

*If you would like to participate in a future questionnaire, or have an idea for a topic, send the editor an email:*  
labradors@tynderlabs.com

### **Sharon Edwards, Sharay Labradors, Whidbey Island, Washington**

#### **1. How Long have you participated in the Fancy?**

SE-1986. Hmm, that would be 22 years I guess.

#### **2. Have you ever handled a dog to its American or Canadian Championship entirely or partially yourself? Why did you decide to handle yourself? Do you prefer to handle your dogs entirely yourself?**

SE-Yes, both Am and Can Champions, and both entirely and partially. I handle myself because of finances and it is fun to be in the ring. Once you realize that the judge is really trying to see a dog presented well, and not judging what you do, it all gets easier. Do I prefer to handle them exclusively? Not at all. I don't care if someone who is capable presents my dog for me. I have a difficult time watching my dogs presented incorrectly. I love seeing dogs I bred presented by their owners. It is great vicarious living. I believe in my breeding program, so it is a thrill to stand ringside and watch my dogs in the ring.

#### **3. Have you attended conformation-handling classes before? If so, what were your reasons for attending the classes? Do you still attend handling classes?**

SE-Absolutely I took classes. Both presenting to all breed judges and to breeder judges. You have to learn to present your dog hands on for the all breed judges and to be aware of what the judge is looking for at all times. Using a wall mirror or a video camera is essential to presenting well. You might think you are doing what the "pros" do, but until you see it in black and white, or in a reflection you have no idea. You have to learn how it feels when the dog is standing correctly. I WISH there were classes in my neighborhood. Continuing education is good in all walks of life.

#### **4. If you have ever hired a Professional Handler, what qualities do you look for when selecting a professional for Labradors? Do you enjoy watching a professional handler show your dog more than doing it yourself?**

SE-Yes, I have used a pro handler. My first priority is how they treat my dogs. "Political pull" is a major priority, too, but not if I don't trust how they will treat my dog. I have witnessed abuse

by some of the pros, and there isn't a championship in the world worth my dogs being mistreated. So I pick a pro with dog skills, who is preferably well known by the judges, and is known in the Sporting group. Whether we like it or not, some judges are known to like some handlers. Give that handler a good dog and you have a winning situation. Sure I enjoy watching a handler on my dogs. I know the odds are tipped in my favor if I have chosen to use a handler at certain shows. The handler also needs to believe in your dog. I pick handlers who will be honest about my chances, a handler who is not taking dogs just to help pay their expenses.

#### **5. Have you ever run a dog as a special after it received its Championship title? What were some of your reasons for doing so?**

SE-I have "specialized" more than one dog. The first time because she was my first show dog, and she also enjoyed it. Since then I have not campaigned any of the females I have finished, since there isn't much point to it. Usually the purpose to specialing a male is to have them be seen and potentially used as a stud dog. If you have enough money (a sponsor helps), you can special your dog so your dog is "ranked" in one of the different systems. Your dog can be #1 in the country in strictly the Labrador Breed ring or by defeating All Breeds, or at Group level. You either need to be retired and plan to travel a lot, or hire a handler to get that level. The ranked dogs attend shows constantly. They either go weekly to the All Breed shows, or fly to Lab specialties all over the country. Obviously, your Lab needs to really enjoy being in the spotlight. It is strenuous, both physically and mentally to compete at that level, so it is a big commitment for both owner and dog.

Some breeders don't bother specialing their males, but I think it is fun to compete locally. I also enjoy competing in the Group. Again, it is very political at Group level, so using a handler is not a bad decision. Although, there is nothing more fun than placing in the group ahead of those handlers.

### **Linda Maffett, Sunnyside Labradors, Bellingham, Washington**

#### **1. How long have you participated in the fancy?**

20 years.

#### **2. Have you ever handled a dog to its American or Canadian Championship entirely or partially yourself? Why did you decide to handle yourself? Do you prefer to handle your dogs entirely yourself?**

LM-Yes, I have. I much prefer to handle my dogs myself. For me, part of this great hobby is the fun of showing the dogs I've bred and raised myself. I get more satisfaction out of handling and showing my own dogs.

#### **3. Have you attended conformation-handling classes before? If so, what were your reasons for attending the classes? Do you still attend handling classes?**

LM-Yes, many years ago when I was a newbie I attended handling classes.



Jane Anderson, an AKC judge, used to have classes/seminars up here in Bellingham. I learned TONS from her. Many of her recommendation and teachings I still use today. I attended these classes because I wanted to learn how to do it myself the right way and not feel like such a dope out there with all the seasoned veterans and handlers. I do not attend handling classes for myself anymore but I do occasionally attend a drop in class if I have a puppy that I'm training.

**4. If you have ever hired a Professional Handler. What qualities do you look for when selecting a professional for Labradors? Do you enjoy watching a professional handler show your dog more than doing it yourself?**

LM-I have and still do use a handler every once in awhile. Even though I like to show my own dogs sometimes I can't get to shows that I'd like my dogs to go to or I'm working feverishly to finish one to its Championship. We all know how tough it is in this breed at times to finish a dog. You can't win unless you go. I do like to watch a handler on my dog every once in awhile. You get a better perspective sometimes when you're outside the ring looking in at your own dog. I still prefer to show them myself though.

**5. Have you ever run a dog as a special after it received its Championship title? What were some of your reasons for doing so?**

LM-I have not specialed a dog after it has received its Championship. Sometimes I'll enter one at a Specialty for fun but funds are at times limited and I guess I'd rather put my money towards finishing another dog than specializing just one.

### ***Perrin Christensen, Klassic Labradors, Tacoma, Washington***

**1. How long have you participated in the fancy?**

PC-I was raised around Labradors, I learned to walk holding onto my Dad's big black Labrador, Toby. But I began showing in Obedience in 1995 with our wonderful boy Michalob, who then obliged me by becoming a Show Dog, when he really wasn't. I purchased my first girl Emma who taught me how to run around the ring, becoming my first Champion, and the rest... well, I'm still learning and having a blast!

**2. Have you ever handled a dog to its American or Canadian Championship entirely or partially yourself? Why did you decide to handle yourself? Do you prefer to handle your dogs entirely yourself?**

PC-Yes, so far, I have three AKC Champions and one of them is also a Canadian Champion. All handled by me, unless I had a conflict and handed one over to a friend to show for me. I did use a Professional once. (see below) Personally, I believe it is important to handle your own dogs. For me, it's all about Team Work, in or out of the ring. Handling your own dog is an ongoing education. The rewards are such a fantastic high and the lows pure education. There's nothing like stepping into the ring at any event with a promising youngster or your favorite veteran by your side.



**3. Have you attended conformation-handling classes before? If so, what were your reasons for attending the classes? Do you still attend handling classes?**

PC-I certainly attended handling classes when I first began. I did this for myself, but quickly learned that it is really done for your dog. There is so much to learn as a handler about ring etiquette, patterns and just great practice. But you also learn watching others handle their dogs. And you open yourself to new friendships as well. Currently, I go to handling classes or run-throughs on occasion. Our dogs go through phases that also require them to come off their own properties to work out a few things, before they go into the ring or back into the ring. I've never found it beneficial to practice in the ring at a show I've entered, that's not the time to discover problems or work things out.

**4. If you have ever hired a Professional Handler. What qualities do you look for when selecting a professional for Labradors? Do you enjoy watching a professional handler show your dog more than doing it yourself?**

PC-I did hire a handler. I hired a male handler simply because one of the males I was showing at the time was having issues with Male Judges. I chose a male handler who I knew had the patience to help my dog through this problem. It was understood that I wasn't after points in the ring, but rather working out issues. Any handler I hire has to listen to me but also have the ability to educate me when handling my dogs. Very open communication. I would not feel comfortable sending one of my dogs out with a handler, but that's just me. When I've used a handler, I'm at the show watching and learning and ready to take my dog home with me at the end of the day. I love to see my dogs work with a handler, you just can't get the whole picture when you are running beside them, but I also hate not handling my dog, not because I HAVE to be in the ring, but because I'm just so proud of my dogs and want to be with them, good or bad!

**5. Have you ever run a dog as a special after it received its Championship title? What were some of your reasons for doing so?**

PC-Yes, and it's a BLAST! I'm not a big time, or a long time breeder, so I know when I'm blessed. I have learned so much with one of my girls and once she earned her AKC and CKC Championship, I just didn't want to end it. If they love it, are in great shape, represent the breed and you're both still having a good time, I believe you should Special them! My other reasons, besides my own selfishness are that I have a great respect and friendship for the breeder of my current Special. I want to show this Special for her Breeder. I want her to be seen as a nice representative of her lines. If you have a nice Bitch or Dog I see it as being a true Ambassador and Educator to bring that Special back into the ring. I always get chills when my Special enters the ring, a blessing that won't last forever! I've often wondered why so few specials are shown in the All Breed Rings.

### ***Els Crisafulli, Double Dutch Labradors, Eagle River, Alaska***

**1. How long have you participated in the fancy?**

Since 1988, so 20 years.

**2. Have you ever handled a dog to its American or Canadian Championship entirely or partially yourself? Why did you decide to handle yourself? Do you prefer to handle your dogs entirely yourself?**

*Q & A, continued from page 7*

EC-All my dogs are shown by myself, if I have a conflict then friends help me out. To date I have finished about 14 American Championships including several from the bred-by class. I enjoy competing and some of my dogs don't like to show for strangers. There have been times that I wanted to see how a dog looked in the ring and then a friend would take them in.

**3. Have you attended conformation-handling classes before? If so, what were your reasons for attending the classes? Do you still attend handling classes?**

EC-When I started out I did attend handling classes and I really enjoyed the classes where the finer points were taught. I don't attend handling classes anymore, but I do go to show 'n goes especially the ones where I can ask friends to watch and tell me what looks good. For instance what speed to move a dog coming and going, or if it is better to hand stack or free bait a dog.

**4. If you have ever hired a Professional Handler, what qualities do you look for when selecting a professional for Labradors? Do you enjoy watching a professional handler show your dog more than doing it yourself?**

EC-I have never hired a Professional Handler, so I can't answer this question.

**5. Have you ever run a dog as a special after it received its Championship title? What were some of your reasons for doing so?**

EC-Yes, several. I will special a dog if I think he can do something at the group level. So far I have had three dogs that I had fun with in the Sporting Group or even in the Best In Show ring.

**Cathy Mitchell, Duckndogs Labradors, Langley, British Columbia**

**1. How long have you participated in the fancy?**

20 years

**2. Have you ever handled a dog to its American or Canadian Championship entirely or partially yourself? Why did you decide to handle yourself? Do you prefer to handle your dogs entirely yourself?**

CM-Yes, enjoy it. Yes.

**3. Have you attended conformation-handling classes before? If so, what were your reasons for attending the classes? Do you still attend handling classes?**

CM-Yes. To learn and to socialize the dogs. No.

**4. If you have ever hired a Professional Handler, what qualities do you look for when selecting a professional for Labradors? Do you enjoy watching a professional handler show your dog more than doing it yourself?**

CM-Yes. Care of the dog. No.

**5. Have you ever run a dog as a special after it received its Championship title? What were some of your reasons for doing so?**

CM-Yes. He was doing well and I enjoyed the challenge (I handled most of the time). Was #4 Labrador in Canada with 32 Group placements and an all-breed Best In Show, a Best Canadian Bred in Specialty and a AOM at a regional and the LRCC National specialty.

**Becky Jack, Nipntuck Labradors, Woodinville, Washington**

**1. How long have you participated in the fancy?**

24 years.

**2. Have you ever handled a dog to its American or Canadian Championship entirely or partially yourself? Why did you decide to handle yourself? Do you prefer to handle your dogs entirely yourself?**

BJ-I do normally handle my own dogs who live here, and enjoy handling them. I just don't go to that many all breed shows, so finishing championships isn't my first priority, being competitive at specialties is. If I own a dog who can pick up a big chunk of points at specialties, I may put more effort into finishing that dog.

However, if the dog is co-owned with someone who really wants to see them finished, using a handler makes sense. They can get to way more shows than I do and be more productive. Ultimately, it probably costs less to use a handler than to travel to all the smaller shows myself.



**3. Have you attended conformation-handling classes before? If so, what were your reasons for attending the classes? Do you still attend handling classes?**

BJ-I have attended a few handling classes, and even went to one just before Potomac this year. I haven't been to one regularly for many years. I do love to watch the good handlers closely and often ask questions. It has been my observation that the root of good handling is knowing when your dog looks good. Learning how to make him look good won't help if you don't have the first part down. Having someone else look at your dog and point out what you need to watch out for is invaluable.

**4. If you have ever hired a Professional Handler, what qualities do you look for when selecting a professional for Labradors? Do you enjoy watching a professional handler show your dog more than doing it yourself?**

BJ-I have hired a handler three times: Once with a dog who just needed minor points so I wanted a handler with "clout" to get them, once when I needed just one point and HAD to get it in one weekend in order to qualify for Westminster, and was afraid I would choke and blow it, and currently because the dog I was showing simply didn't show well for me, and I wanted a talented handler who would present the dog to his best. All of them did just what I had hoped, and I enjoyed watching them. But I would never quit showing my own dogs entirely. In part because financially I can't justify it, and along those lines this is my hobby, I like going to dog shows and showing my dogs. If they were all shown by handlers finished quickly, what would I do on weekends? ;-)

**5. Have you ever run a dog as a special after it received its Championship title? What were some of your reasons for doing so?**

BJ-I have entered a few dogs a few times after their championships were finished. Mostly it was just because I was already planning on attending that particular show, or had dogs going. Showing in the Group is fun, a real test of presentation. However, at this point in my life I simply don't have to time to do so, and since I prefer to show at specialties, have no reason to do so. We are fortunate in Labradors to have so many specialties available to attend, we can go, see lots of good Labradors, and meet and talk to their breeders. It is the best education we have. Other breeds don't have so many specialties, so they need to send their good dogs out as specials at the all breed shows in order to be seen. With Labs, specializing a dog doesn't really serve that purpose.

# PSLRA Match Highlights



Top left: The club's conformation match is a great way to get those little "just-barely old enough" puppies out for a stroll. Learning to stride on lead can be tricky their first time in the ring. Continuing clockwise: Carissa Foote takes her turn in the Juniors' ring as she is just about to give her mom a "thumbs-up" on the Go-Around; Olivia Maffet and her mom Linda work on their Go-Around in the juniors' ring at the club Conformation Match; The dog days of Summer have begun for the Nipntuck crew as they enjoy the mild, partly cloudy weather at the club's Sanctioned B Match in June; Julie Germano and Mr. Boo take a trip around the obedience ring; Kawaii and Mom Chantel bait their dogs during the morning training class.



*LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 7/3/08 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 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 Jessica if you need a Litter Listing form, to be used for ALL litters.**
  - All Breeders must update their litters each week with Jessica Meadows via email (labradays@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 **Jessica Meadows 17910 37<sup>th</sup> Dr NE, Arlington WA 98223**
  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 Jessica Meadows) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue.

**LITTER NOTICE FORM (This information will also be available from Jessica Meadows)**

**Litter Born 5/1/08 (Available: 3CF, 2CM)**

Sire: Kingsland's Rocky Top, MH  
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 12/10/07, CNM Clear  
Dam: Kingsland's Madam Sky  
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, ACVO 12/10/07, CNM Clear  
Litter: 5CM, 6CF  
Contact: Teresa Meredith (253) 845-1311  
Email: kingsland\_labs@hotmail.com Puyallup, WA  
Listed 5/12/08, 5/23/08, 6/11/08

**Litter Born 5/2/08 (Available: 1BF)**

Sire: Ch Lockbriar Journey O'Briargln, JH  
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 1/28/08, OFA Heart  
Dam: Intl. Ch Riverdance Dorothy of Aldebaran, JH RN  
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF 11/26/07, OFA Thyroid, OFA Patella  
Litter: 3 BF, 2 BM, 3 YM  
Contact: Debbie Milks (509) 529-7471  
Email: rdmilks@charter.net Walla Walla, WA  
Listed: 4/9/08, 5/12/08

**Litter Born 5/15/08 (Available: 3CF)**

Sire: Merganser's Ferris Bueller MH  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF 3-26-08, CNM clear  
Dam: Kingsland's Miss Molly  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 4/18/08, CNM Clear  
Litter: 6CF, 4CM  
Contact: Teresa Meredith (253) 845-1311  
Email: kingsland\_labs@hotmail.com Puyallup, WA  
Listed 5/12/08, 5/23/08, 6/11/08

**Litter Born 5/22/08 (Available: 1CF, 3CM)**

Sire: Sunnysdaze Plain Brown Raptor  
OFA 24F, OFEL 24, ACVO 4/24/08, Optigen Normal/Clear,  
OFA Heart  
Dam: Gemstones Justice For All, RN CGC  
OFA 26E, OFEL 26, ACVO 3/2/08, Optigen Normal/Clear  
Litter: 2CF, 4CM  
Contact: Terri Viotti (509) 575-4729 Yakima, WA  
Listed: 5/12/08, 6/1/08

**Litter Born 6/2/08 (Available: 2BF, 1BM, 1YF)**

Sire: Cimarron Runnin In The Rain  
OFA 24, OFEL 24, ACVO 6/17/07  
Dam: Cimarron Teamate Zoe  
OFA 27E, OFEL 27, ACVO 5/13/08  
Contact: Ted and Marcie Passic (253) 653-5900 Day  
(253) 837-7067 Evening  
Litter: 2BF, 1YF, 1BM  
Email: tedpassic@hotmail.com Federal Way, WA  
Listed: 5/20/08, 6/10/08

**Litter Born 6/5/08 (Available: 2YF)**

Sire: Can. CH The Flying Fortress Hunts-On, Am/Can CD,  
JH, WC, CGC, TT Pet Partner  
OFA 44G, OFEL 44, ACVO 9/28/07, OFA Heart, Optigen  
Normal/Clear, Wind Morgan Hips, Elbows, Hocks,  
Shoulders  
Dam: Princess Maya IX  
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, ACVO 12/13/07  
Litter: 4YF, 2YM  
Contact: Jeff and Lisa Arroyo (360) 733-8836  
Email: Edenwoodkennels@comcast.net Bellingham, WA  
Website: www.huntsonlabs.com  
Listed: 5/25/08, 6/6/08

**Litter Born 6/17/08 (Available: 3YF, 4YM)**

Sire: CH Caer Bren Granville, JH  
OFA 25E, OFEL 25, ACVO 8/4/07, Optigen Normal/Clear,  
OFA Heart  
Dam: Country Classics Award Winner, CD MXJ AX RA  
WCCGC  
OFA 28E, OFEL 28, OFEL 11/18/07, Optigen Normal/Clear  
Litter: 3YF, 4YM  
Contact: Julie Germano (360)653-1959  
Email: CountryClassicK9@aol.com Arlington, WA  
Listed: 7/3/08

**Litter Expected in July (Expecting blacks and chocolates)**

Sire: Skyfire's Oughta Be Haulin  
 OFA 25G, OFEL 25, CERF 8/07, Optigen Normal/Clear, OFA Heart

Dam: Willoridge's Bring It On  
 OFA 33G, OFEL 33, ACVO 10/29/07

Contact: Stephanie Harris (509) 929-5227

Email: stephanie@skyfirelabs.com

Website: www.skyfirelabs.com

Listed: 6/23/08

Ellensburg, WA

**Other Dogs That A Breeder Has Decided To Place**

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

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

**Yellow female, 15 months (intact, will be spayed)**

Beautiful, smart and athletic yellow female. She has her Working Certificate and loves to work. She has been raised with kids, cats and other dogs. She is housebroken, crate trained and has been shown at dog shows. Parents have all their clearances.

Contact: Jessica Meadows (360) 657-1990

Email: labradays@aol.com

Listed: 5/25/08

Arlington, WA



Congratulations to this Papillon who finished his MACH at the PSLRA Agility Trial. Not to be outdone by the Toy Group, three other MACH's were completed at the trial, an exceptionally large number to have completed the title at our club event.



Above left: Becky Jack brings out her latest puppy for some exposure at the Match; right, Juniors Judge Mary Jane Sarbaugh takes a look at her match lineup.

The PSLRA Events Calendar  
can be found online at [http://www.pslra.org/html/  
calendar.htm](http://www.pslra.org/html/calendar.htm)

The Retriever Believer  
Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Associa-  
tion  
Web: [www.pslra.org](http://www.pslra.org)  
Sarah Fischer, Editor  
2716 Morris Ave S  
Renton, WA 98055

