

# The Retriever Believer



Monthly Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association

Volume 40, Number 1/2, January-February 2024

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Hello Members!

Thank you everyone who stepped up to make sure the club has a booth at the Sportsmen's Show this year!

The premium for the PSLRA supported entry Peninsula Dog Fanciers/Bremerton shows is up on Baray, so don't forget to get entries in for it. There will be an all-member planning meeting at the Yacht Club Broiler restaurant after judging is over on that Saturday.

Lastly, if you haven't already paid your membership dues for 2024, put it on your "To-Due" list immediately!

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# A DOG FOR ALL REASONS

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In 2004, the AKC Gazette published a short article written by Nina Mann, about the genesis and purpose of the Dog For All Reasons Award offered by the Labrador Retriever Club. That award was the brain-child of PSLRA members and shepherded for many years by Nina. She is gone now, but, 20 years after it was published, I think the first paragraph of her article is a still fitting way to begin 2024:

**Twenty years ago the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association was formed to recognize the versatility of the Labrador Retriever. This club gives awards only to Labradors whose owners have allowed them to demonstrate their talents in more than one venue. These all-around Labradors have titles in the show ring, in the field, and in either obedience, agility, or therapy work. It is our belief that a show dog that will not retrieve is not a true Labrador, that there is no reason why a hunting dog should not conform to the breed standard, and that either one should be a well-mannered family member...**

~ N.M.

# ANNUAL MEMBER BANQUET RECAP

## About Membership:

Membership in PSLRA is open to anyone interested in Labrador Retrievers. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families. Junior memberships are \$10. Please note that new members require the signature of two sponsors on the application form.

## About the Newsletter:

The Retriever Believer is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association.

Contributions in the form of articles, letters or photos are always welcome.

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.

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month by email. Please put "newsletter" in the subject line and send to newsletter@pslra.org

Brenda Hawkins Hubbard said,

*"Thank you to Mary Jane, Jennifer, and Turena for putting on such a fun PSLRA Awards Banquet tonight at Charlie's Restaurant in Puyallup. The food was delicious, the waiters were very attentive, and everyone had a lot of fun with the game that Jennifer hosted."*



Jennifer Hajny



Jill Mahoney



Marlys Swanson with her All Around Dog Award.

Sharon Edwards said,

*"The banquet was exceptional. It was very reminiscent of the 'old days'. Marcy said the best words as President, and so many of us felt the same thoughts of how she has brought back the original intent & purpose for which PSLRA was created! Marcy got emotional as did many of us. It was good for the soul."*

*THEN we went back to the fun old days! Mary Jane did the paperwork and Jennifer brought the fun! The game was a lot of fun because Jen figured it so all attendees won. Maybe because of the roll of the dice they might not have gotten exactly what they wanted but all were winners! Of course Beckie Petersen (Jensen)'s Paws game is still exciting too."*

*It was a good night with good memories made. Thank you to all who made it happen."*



Gary Hubbard





# ANNUAL BANQUET: AWARDS!



In addition to a membership meeting, food, and fun, the presentation of awards happened at the annual club banquet on January 13th, 2024.

## 2023 All-Around Dog Awards:

CH Artesian's Poster Boy RN WC  
Bred and owned by Marlys Swanson

Int'l CH Windycanyon's Cosmic Crisp JH BN RA  
Bred and owned by Anne Swindeman

Am/Can CH Songline's You've Got a Friend In Mee RN CGC WC  
Owned by Jenn Hajny, Colleen Doll, and Mary Jane Sarbaugh  
Bred by Colleen Doll and Mary Jane Sarbaugh

## 2023 Versatility Dog Awards:

Am GCHB Can GCH Int'l CH Koa's In A New York Minute CD BN RI Am/Can JH BCAT  
CGC TKN WC  
Owned by Chantel Nahoopii and Albert Nahoopii

Int'l CH Winroc Clan Everrnch Jenna BN RA ACT<sub>i</sub> ACTJ SWN SBA TKI  
Owned by Dave Lawniczak and Franna Pitt

## Ron Perry Award for Member of the Year

Marcy Johnson

## President's Award

Robert Parkins





## Marking Chart by Danny Farmer & Judy Aycock

### I. Beginning Marking

#### A. Puppy Marks

1. Something he can easily see and carry
2. Start with a very short distance and 2 or 3 throws ONLY
3. Once pup returns from 20-30 yards introduce a gunner (Keep throws Low)
4. Start with angle in throws so returning to handler is shorter
5. When 4 is successful change angle of throw working up to a right angle and an angle-back throw. All done on bare ground or very short cover. Adjust throws and distance to meet needs of your pup.
6. Always use praise and above all build his confidence.

#### B. Marking Drill

1. If pup has trouble hunting, repeat the mark a number of times by moving the bumper just slightly to a different spot but still close to the original throw.
2. This drill tries to help a dog develop a sense of the area of the fall and to develop a habit of looking around close to where he thinks the bumper has fallen. Again we are trying to develop confidence in the pup to stay around the area.

### II. Walking Singles

#### A. One gunner throwing a series of singles as he moves across a field.

1. Go out a distance comfortable to the dog- if the gunner throws a mark to the left and the dog is successful the gunner should move to the right and throw the next mark to the left as well. Basically move in the opposite direction of the throw.
2. Have gunner vary the angle of throws-some angle backs, some flat, some angle in , and some hard back.
3. Advance the pup by making marks more difficult. Ex: increase distance, terrain obstacles( cover, roads, ditches). Always remember to simplify if your dog is having trouble. Don't let failure become a habit, have the gunner ready to help by yelling hey hey and or yelling and throwing another bumper. Attitude is the key to a good marking dog.

### III. Two Gunners in the Field *(only when pup is successful walking singles)*

1. At first have two gunners quite far away from each other.
2. Once the dog is comfortable with multiple gunners you can move the gunners closer together and different distances from the handler. Again be guided by your success rate.
3. Some of the concepts we want to introduce are:  
Hip Pockets, Converging Marks, Long Bird tight behind short gunner, sometimes throw long bird first, sometimes short bird first. Going past short fall to longer bird- both thrown in same direction. Throw the short bird first then the long bird. Similar to hip pocket but much greater distance between guns. Try to work on just one concept at a time, keeping in mind that you should repeat and/or simplify if the dog does not have a high rate of success. As the dog gets the idea of one concept , move on to the next concept. Be sure to work these tests both directions to the right one day then the left the next , or vice versa. Keep success high, keep enthusiasm high, and remember attitude and confidence are keys to a good marking dog.

# WEIGHT A MINUTE! LABS CAN PULL!



Have you ever had to push your car off the road? Do you remember how hard you had to push it to get it rolling? A typical Labrador can pull the weight of a small car when hauling the maximum weight per pound allowed in competition. There are many different organizations that offer weight pulling events, including the American Pulling Alliance, International Weight Pull Association, American Dog Breeders Association, several AKC national and regional breed clubs, and the United Kennel Club. Each one has its own set of rules, weight divisions and limits, breeds and competitors. I found my mentors in UKC weight pull in 2019 and trained my first dog to sixteen new titles including the highest available -the United Elite Weight Pull Champion title in 2023 – and you can do it too!



In United Kennel Club, the goal is to pull the maximum weight allowed a distance of sixteen feet down a chute located on a natural surface such as packed dirt, an artificial surface such as carpeted concrete flooring,

rails, or snow. For each surface, weight is added to the cart and the dogs pull until they achieve the maximum weight allowed. Dogs are allowed sixty seconds to pull the cart across the finish line. The dog that pulls the highest percentage of their body weight in the shortest period of time is awarded the Most Weight Pulled Per Body Pound for their division. In addition to these big awards which are the equivalent to a High In Trial honor, points are earned and accumulated for each weight percentage goal attained. For example, a novice dog in the A division would work to pull twenty-five times their body weight on carpet to earn a maximum of twenty points. These points accumulate and earn titles such as the United Weight Puller title and the United Weight Pull Champion. Dogs can earn titles for pulling on the different surfaces

as well, winning Versatile Puller titles for accomplishing a set number of pulls on each type of surface.



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Continued on next page.

# WEIGHT A MINUTE!



So, how much weight do they pull? It depends upon the surface. My dogs both compete in the B division as they are experienced pullers who have both earned their United Weight Pull Champion Excellent titles. Once they reach this level, they must pull B weights which allow them to pull a higher maximum. Tonks is on the smaller side and typically weighs in at fifty-seven pounds. On artificial, her maximum weight allowed is 35 times her body weight, or 1,995 pounds. On dirt, she can pull 28 times her body weight, or 1,596 pounds. On rails, she can pull a whopping 65 times her body weight, or 3,705 pounds. Yes! That's more than the weight of your car!



When a dog is excited to pull and performs the task properly, it is an impressive sight. The ideal weight pull dog will start pulling immediately upon the release. It will put its head down and drive its shoulders into the harness, driving until the cart starts moving. They must pull the cart sixteen feet across the finish line before the shout of "Pull!" is called to declare a successful run. After each pull, weights are added incrementally and each dog pulls until they reach their maximum or foul out twice, whichever comes first. It is extremely important to the weight pull competitors that their dog end on a positive note, so if a dog failed to pull a certain weight, they are allowed to pull the dog through the chute while helpers push the cart. This way, the dog experiences a successful pull and returns to its kenneling area understanding that they can pull the cart, even when it gets heavy. A handler can

withdraw their dog from competition at any time, and when it is done, the dog is applauded by the spectators for its efforts.

The sport is laid-back, supportive and a great way to spend time with your dogs. All it takes is a well-fitted harness and some tow chains to start training. Where you go from there is up to you. If you are interested in training your dog to weight pull, there are many resources available. Reach out to me if you'd like to know more or take a gander on the internet. For a brief video overview, visit <https://youtu.be/agVZbvPzhQ0?si=LRgDoMIYXV6yYdgu>. At 1:12 you might just see a local veteran Labrador in action!

*Respectfully submitted, Kristen Reiter DVM*

# LABRA-BRAGS

## UKC TOTAL DOG INVITATIONAL

Qualified in all FIVE performance events

Weight Pull - Maximum Pull  
Rally Obedience 2: Score 99  
Nosework: 13.62 seconds

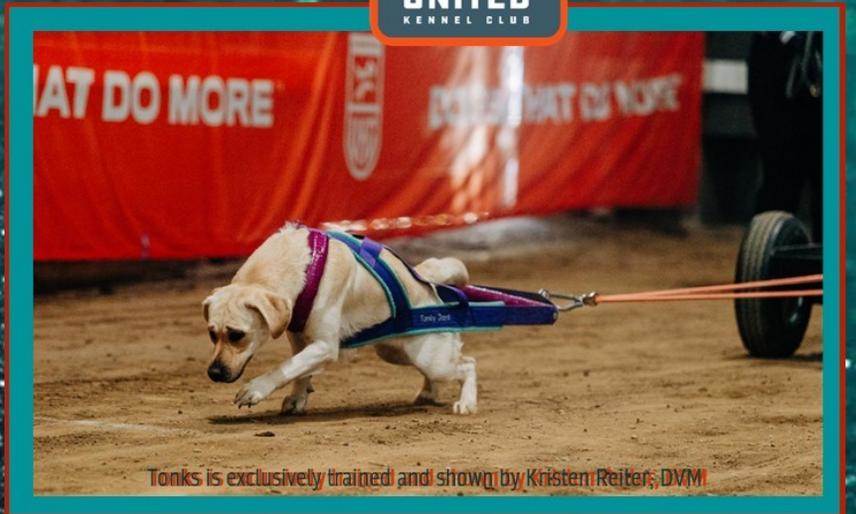
Obedience - Pre-Novice: 188  
Beginner Novice: 188.5  
Agility: Score 183



Tonks



UNITED KENNEL CLUB



Tonks is exclusively trained and shown by Kristen Reiter, DVM

UJJCH USJ UJJUEWPCH FLY UWPS VPE AP5 URO1 SPRINT CAX  
URBIS GRCH SUNDOG DON'T CALL ME NYMPHODORA  
SPOT-ON CAA DCAT RATN CGC TKI VSWB FITB FITS SD-1 LI-1 UL-1

Tonks did her absolute best, giving me a maximum haul in weight pull of 28.6 times her body weight (that's 1650#) and qualifying in classes in which she's never competed, to include Nosework and Obedience. This was only her third agility run and her first time ever competing off-leash in Rally. I underestimated this little dog's heart and try. She brought "IT" and she did so in true Tonks fashion—all or nothing. She earned more points in performance than her dam, but just couldn't keep herself together enough to earn a ribbon in group—a requirement to place in the Top Ten. I no longer harbor any doubt that she has the capability. I couldn't be more proud of this bred-by girl and hope to give it all another go in the near future!

# MORE LABRA-BRAGS

Maggy Susman and “Magic” earned the following titles in 2023:

**Kolfyre MALEFICENT of Blewett RN, BCAT, RATO, ACT 1, ACT1J, ACT2J**



Maggy reports, “Magic and I attended her 1st obedience and rally show in Monroe November 17, 18, 19 2023. Magic earned a perfect score of 100 each day in rally novice.

She completed her title with a second and a first place ribbon. The day that five dogs earned 100, we did not make the placements!

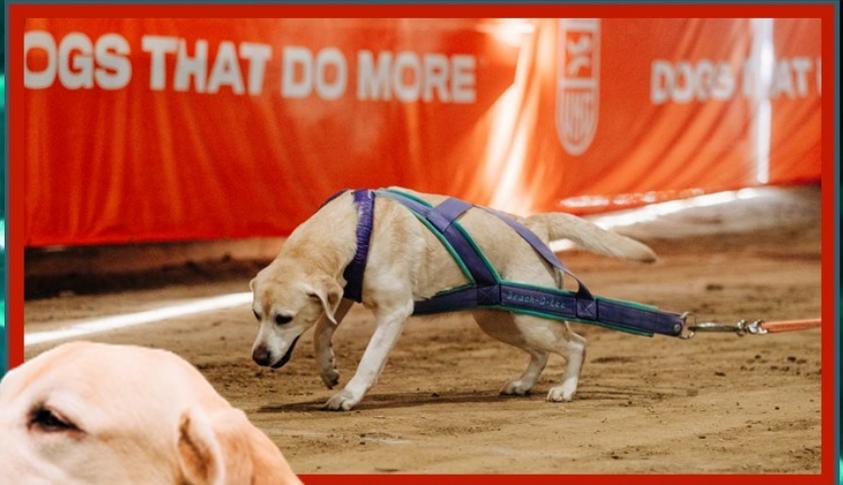
She also earned a 197.5 out of 200 possible points in beginner novice on Saturday and Sunday. Friday, Handler error resulted in not qualifying!

Magic is a joy to train and live with!”



# MORE LABRA-BRAGS

## UKC TOTAL DOG INVITATIONAL 3rd Place \$2,000 Winner!



*Bracka*

Bracka is exclusively trained by Kristen Reiter and loved by every person she meets.



UMBIS UMRBIS UBISS FLY UWPCHX UWPO AP4 CA RATN SPRINT ROM RGCH  
**SUNNYDAZE FOR PEEP'S SAKE**  
CD PC D BN RE FDC CA DCAT THDN RATN CGCA CGCU TKE SPOT-ON

My deepest gratitude to Linda Maffett for breeding this remarkable dog and letting me call her my own. A heart-felt thanks to Mary Jane Sarbaugh for taking time from her family to come and see my girls do the things that they do! It was wonderful to share the experience with a friend.

# Available Puppies and Dogs

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As of January 4th, 2024...

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Litter Born: 12/8/2023

**Expected: 1 Chocolate Males & 1 Chocolate Female**

**Sire:** Kingsland's Huckleberry Finn

AKC: SS09887705

Hips = Excellent, Elbows = Normal, Eyes = 1/04/2023, Heart ECHO/Auscultation = Normal/Clear, Prcd/PRA = Clear/Normal, EIC = Clear/Normal, CNM = Clear/Normal, Dilute = Non-Dilute

**Dam:** Kingsland's Lady Alyssa

AKC: SS05470202

Hips = Excellent, Elbows = Normal, Eyes = 1/04/2023, ECHO/Auscultation = Normal/Clear, Prcd/PRA = Normal/Clear, EIC = Normal/Clear, CNM = Normal/Clear, Dilute = Non-Dilute

**Contact: Teresa Meredith**

**Phone: 253.376.3635**

**Email: choclab90@gmail.com**

**Website: kingslandlabradors.com**

**Date Listed: 11/30/2023**

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## 4 Month Old – Chocolate Male

**Name:** Buddy

Spay/Neuter Status: Intact, must be neutered at appropriate age.

Health Information: Buddy is current on all vaccinations/deworming. Both parents have OFA Hips, Elbows, Eyes, Heart & genetic testing completed and are from Champion show lines.

General Information: Buddy is healthy, sweet and will be sold with a health warranty on a neuter contract.

Please Note: Buddy is not a rescue and is being sold to an approved home.

**Contact: Cecilie Drege**

**Email: CADREG@Gmail.com**

**Date Listed: 1/02/2024**



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