



THE GOLDEN GAIT

Vol. 41, No.6

June 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting	June 11
General Meeting	June 18
Agility Fun Day	June 1
Conformation Specialty	June 17 – 19
Agility Trial	July 17 – 19
GRCA National Specialty	Sep 26 – Oct 4

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The June Membership Meeting/Dinner will be held at the GPGRC Specialty on June 18, 2015 at the Lawrence County Fair Grounds. Weather permitting, we will meet for dinner/meeting at the Pittman's Motor Home. A short meeting will follow. Chicken will be provided as a main course. Members/Guests whose last name begins with A through L should bring a side dish. Members/Guests whose last names begin with M through Z should bring a dessert. Hope to see everyone there!

Mark these dates on your calendar:

2015 Board Mtg. Dates

June 11
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12

2015 General Mtg Dates

June 18 – at specialty
August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19

President's Message

June 2015

As all of you know by this time, the Club had to cancel its Spring Hunt Test due to a lack of entries. This was a sad day for all of us. There were probably a number of factors that could have contributed to the cancellation of this event. These include other nearby hunt tests, the time of the year or just a general lack of interest in the sport. I am sure that all of these played a contributing factor that resulted in the cancellation. However, I believe that a major concern that we as a sporting dog club need to address is that of a lack of interest. As a sporting dog organization, we need to recruit new members/Golden owners and help them become aware of the proud tradition of the breed. We also need to get our field training days back on track. On a brighter side, we still have the Club's Specialty and Agility Trials right around the corner. Make sure that you contact Sally Dines and Marcy Kronz to volunteer and help make these events a huge success.

Over the past 3.5 years we have been talking about the Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Life Time Study. The study is now well underway and has recruited 3000 Goldens to participate in this longitudinal study. I am proud to announce that The Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club and Western Pennsylvania is well represented in this landmark research project. Here are the Local Golden Heroes with their owner's name in parentheses: **Sundance** (John Osheka), **Stoli** (Candance Verduce), **Ticket, Hustle and Partee** (Marcy Kronz), **Jasper** (Melissa Jarvis), **Lexie** (Kimberly Yeskey Strashensky), **Sky** (Sally Dines), **Sophie** (Cheryl Lauer), **Ocey** (Matthew Daniello), **Murphy** (Denise Smail McGill), **Kia** (Robin Temple), **Hoover**(D. Scott Jones), and **Boo** (Shei McCormick). Hopefully, together we will find a cause and cure for cancer. Thanks to all of the participants. Also thanks to Linda Wilson Fuoco for featuring the Club and the study in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

At the May Membership Meeting Club Officers were elected for a one year term. The current officers/board members are: John Osheka President, Kathy Fertal Vice President, Rosanna Frankowski Secretary, Vicki Osheka Treasurer, Kris Tosadori Board Member, Marcy Kronz Board Member and Sally Dines Board Member. Together we hope to continue to move the Club forward. I also want to thank Melissa Jarvis for her service to the board over the past three years. In addition, I want to make members aware that Sandy Wall has stepped down as the Accomplishment Recorder. Thanks Sandy for your many years of service in that role. Cheryl Lauer has stepped up to fill that position, so any new awards or achievements should be sent to Cheryl.

Have a safe and fun summer. Hope to see all of you at the Specialty and the Agility Trials. Don't forget that the June membership/dinner meeting will be held at the Specialty on June 18th starting at 5:00 P.M.

John R. Osheka, President



Come and join us for the picnic Wednesday, June 17th at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds following the Rally and Sweepstakes judging. \$8.50 for dinner and dessert! We have a new food vendor this year and it's a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends or meet new folks. See you there!!!

What I Have Learned

Here are 10 important lessons I've learned in 45 years as a dog breeder.

By [Kathy Lorentzen](#) | Posted: February 13, 2015 11 a.m. PST

- 1. Start slow.** Regardless of how much you think you know, you probably don't know very much when you are a fledgling breeder. The faster you go, the more mistakes you will make and the more messes you will have to clean up. Plan your first few litters with great care and a lot of help from your mentors, and take the time to watch them grow up before you breed again. Waiting and watching those first litters will fill you with knowledge that you didn't realize you were missing.
- 2. Believe in survival of the fittest.** This is one of the most difficult lessons a breeder must learn but also one of the most critical. Going to great lengths to save a puppy that nature says was not meant to survive brings nothing but heartache. I have yet to see a happy outcome at the end of a monumental attempt to save a dog at all costs.
- 3. Listen to the opinions of your peers.** An opposing opinion from a successful breeder may give you something completely different to think about. Nobody says you have to do what other people tell you, but by all means be open to what they have to say.
- 4. Don't succumb to Frequently Used Sire syndrome.** It happens all the time. Ten other people bred to a dog, so you think you should breed to him too. Stop and ask yourself why you think you should breed to that dog. Are you familiar with several generations of the dogs in his pedigree? Does he have ancestors in common with your bitch that were strong for the characteristics you are looking for from your litter? Have you had your hands on the dog and a number of his children? Does he (and do his children) have the strengths you are looking for? If he is a total outcross for you, is he even the same style as your bitch? Are you comfortable with not only his health clearances but also those of his parents, grandparents and siblings? Forcing yourself to honestly answer all of these questions may bring you to the conclusion that he is not at all the right dog for your bitch.

5. Listen to your gut, not to your heart. Difficult as it might be, do not let sentimentality enter into your breeding decisions. I don't care if your best friend has a dog that she wants you to breed to; if he isn't the right dog, say no. I don't care if you raised a singleton puppy and are incredibly attached to it; if it isn't of the quality to move you forward in your breeding program, find a pet home for it. I don't care if you have two dogs of your own that you absolutely love; if they are not the right match, then don't breed them to one another. If someone wants to buy a dog from you but your gut is telling you it's a bad idea, then I will bet you that it is a bad idea. Just say no. Learning to say no is very important. Do not get sucked into anything that your head and your gut tell you is wrong. You can be nice and say no at the same time. It is a word that will serve you well.

6. Create your own stud force. Having watched the most successful breeders in many breeds for 50 years, I firmly believe that your family of dogs will be better if you create your own stud dogs to breed to your own bitches. Make two lines of dogs that are loosely related yet far enough apart so that you can breed them back and forth to one another. Keep the characteristics that you consider critical in your breed prominent in both lines, but differ the style of the two lines somewhat. Example: You cannot keep breeding elegant to elegant to elegant without eventually losing size and substance. If your breed should be strong yet elegant, you can maintain size and substance and also keep the correct amount of elegance if you breed two lines back and forth where one is more elegant and one is more compact, bigger boned and ribbed. The blending of your two lines of dogs will result in a family that has a specific look that will be recognizable as having come from your kennel. Your dogs will breed more true and consistently higher in quality than if you just keep a few brood bitches and continually breed them to the stud dogs around the country that are the flavor of the month.

7. Know how to add new blood to your program. Obviously, you will eventually have to introduce at least a partial outcross into your family of dogs. I learned long ago from a very savvy breeder that the way to do this is to buy the right bitch to bring in to breed to your own stud dogs. Choose very carefully. Buy one that is the same style as your dogs, from a pedigree that has some common ancestors with your dogs and make certain that she (hopefully) will be useful to breed to at least two of your own stud dogs. If you are looking to introduce a characteristic that you think is somewhat lacking in your breeding program, be absolutely certain that not only does the bitch have that characteristic but that she is from a pedigree filled with dogs that had it. Then when you breed her to your dogs, select those that have the characteristic and breed those back into your lines. In this manner, your dogs will not lose their "look," and you will have introduced some new blood and a new strength to your bloodlines.

8. Look back often, but never go backward. Advances in the use of semen from dogs long dead have given breeders options never before available. It's one thing to use frozen semen from a dog that was your own or a dog you knew well. It's quite another to use frozen from a piece of breed history that you never laid eyes on. Predicting the outcome of such a breeding is not possible, and it could be a giant step backward. I also have watched while some breeders have used semen from one of their own deceased dogs over and over and over, which results in a program that never moves forward. The outcome of someone using a particular dog over and over is a decrease in the general quality of their family of dogs. Breeding programs are meant to move forward with each generation, in my opinion, and while an occasional dose of a long-deceased dog might be a wonderful thing to have, I believe that too much can lead to ruination.

9. Deal with your mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes, but it's what you do about fixing it and trying to never make that same mistake again that defines you as a dog breeder. Keep the best interest of your breed, not just your own dogs, foremost. Follow that path and you will leave your breed healthy, sound and full of quality for the next generation of breeders. Honesty is always the best policy in dog breeding. If you create a problem, own up to it and perhaps you will save someone else from the same fate.

10. Be objective about judging. The first thing I would ask you all to do is to remove the word "dumped" from your vocabulary. Just because your dog did not win does not mean that it got dumped. I have always disliked that word and never use it in reference to judging. Train yourself to understand what individual judges are looking for. Different people have different priorities, and understanding those priorities will help you decipher their judging. If you feel that you have a legitimate question about why another dog defeated yours, there is nothing wrong with approaching the judge when on break (with your dog in tow, please) and asking. Please do not open the conversation with, "What didn't you like about my dog?" Instead, ask why the other dog placed over yours. Try to make the conversation a positive learning experience. If you find that dogs from a particular family consistently defeat yours, sit down and watch those dogs, and try to understand why. If your dogs don't win, do not immediately think politics. The great majority of the time, it simply isn't. School yourself in your breed, how to condition, trim and present it to its absolute best, and take a step back and ask yourself if your dogs are truly worthy of winning in good competition. Ask seasoned, successful breeders for advice. We want you to stay in our sport, not get frustrated and leave because your dogs don't win. We want you to learn, have good dogs and develop into the next generation of knowledgeable breeders so that we can breathe easy when we hand the reins of our breed over to you.

From the February 2015 issue of Dogs in Review magazine

NOTE:

Our new accomplishment recorder is Cheryl Lauer.

Please send your information on new awards and titles to her. You should include a copy of your award certification from AKC (or other granting group), the dog's full registered name, the dogs call name, full name of the owners and co-owners, and of course, the new title!

CHERYLLAUER@GMAIL.COM

724-728-0406

special message from Marcy Kronz, our Agility Show Chair.....

Our agility trial is fast approaching... 7/17, 7/17, & 7/19, we are in need of people to come and help out at the trial. There are many jobs that need to be done to run the trial smoothly. Most don't need any kind of agility knowledge, and can be taught the day of the trial. Please considering donating a few hours or your time.



Membership Applications for GPGRC:

Sheryle and Clark Long

Have a female puppy named Feather. Interested in detection and cancer detection. Sheryle and Clark have attended two general meetings. They live in Renfrew, PA.

GRCA National Schedule

Saturday, September 26th

- Hunt Test
- Tracking

Sunday, September 27th

- Agility (GRCA) **Unlimited Entries**
- Hunt Test
- *Field Tailgate*

Monday, September 28th

- CCA (1)
- Field Trial (1)
- WC/WCX
- Gold Fore Gold GRF Fundraiser
- Breeder Education
- *National Welcome Dinner / Parade of Titleholders*

Tuesday, September 29th

- Field Trial (2)
- Obedience (1)
- Rally
- Sweepstakes
- Breeder Education

Wednesday, September 30th

- Field Trial (3)
- Obedience (2)
- Conformation (1)
- Junior Showmanship Seminar and Ice-cream Social
- Judges Education
- Field Trial Banquet

Thursday, October 1st

- CCA (2)
- Conformation (2)
- Golden Retriever Foundation Gala

Friday, October 2nd

- Conformation (3)
- Parade of Rescue Dogs
- GRCA Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 3rd

- Conformation (4)

Sunday, October 4th

- New GRCA Board Meeting

Dates are subject to change depending on scheduling and availability.

2015-2016 GPGRC Slate of Officers

The following candidates were voted in by the membership at the May 21 General Meeting:

President	John Osheka
Vice-President	Kathy Fertal
Treasurer	Vicki Osheka
Secretary	Roseanna Frankowski
Board member	Sally Dines
Board Member	Marcy Kronz
Broad Member	Kris Tosadori

If you have any matters you would like the Board to consider, contact the President, John Osheka, at 412-977-3870.

Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)

All Golden lovers are encouraged to join our Parent Club, GRCA. The *GR News* is published bi-monthly by the GRCA and contains educational articles, provides a forum for issues of interest to Golden owners, highlights Golden accomplishments and contains correspondent columns from the Member Clubs across the country. Contact the Editor for more information.

GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (GPGRC)

- Member club of the Golden retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA)
Master National Retriever Club (MNRC)
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. (PFDC)
- Licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for Conformation Shows and Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials and Hunt Tests.

General Membership Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available from the Membership Chairperson. Attendance at two Club functions (one being a General Membership Meeting) and endorsement of two Club Members is required before an application can be accepted. Dues are: Regular Membership (individual) - \$25.00, a second adult – an additional \$13.00. Associate Membership (individual) - \$15.00, a second adult – an additional \$8.00. Junior Membership - \$1.00. Completed applications and dues are to be submitted to the Membership Chair.

Newsletter is posted monthly on the Club's Website at www.gpgrc.org. Club members may request printed, mailed copies of the *Golden Gait* for a fee of \$20 per year. Litter advertisements are accepted from Club Members only on a space available basis. (Fees are full page - \$10; half page - \$5; quarter page - \$2.50.) Refer to the Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics for required clearances. In summary, puppy referral is a service provided to GPGRC Members only. (1) Both sire and dam must be two years of age or older at the time of breeding; (2) copies of eye clearances within one year of breeding must be supplied; and (3) an OFA numbers for hips and elbows must be submitted. Also hearts must be evaluated by an approved veterinary cardiologist.

Acceptance and use of the information provided by GPGRC constitutes an acknowledgment that the user hereby releases and indemnifies the GPGRC and its Officers, Directors, Members and Agents from any and all liability and damages sustained by the user as a result of any information obtained from this organization.

Title/Award Record Form should be filled out and sent to the Accomplishments Recorder for all Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Field Events or Community Service Events before they can be reported in the Newsletter.

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meetings are held at the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 301 Bellevue Rd 15229. Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. Guests are Welcome!

Directions from I-279: Take exit 12 toward US 19/Perrysville Ave. At Perrysville Avenue, turn left. Go approximately .8 mile and turn left onto Bellevue Road (Sunoco Station on corner). Go approximately .5 mile and turn right to stay on Bellevue Road. End at 301 Bellevue Road. Entrance to complex is one way. Sign will direct you to building. Yellow brick building behind large red brick building is the meeting place. There is an open parking lot or 2 deck parking garage available.

OFFICERS

President

John Osheka
1908 Aspen Court
Conway, PA 15027
412-977-3870

Vice-President

Kathy Fertal
909 Ruth Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
412-341-2459

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Sally Dines
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Gibsonia, PA
724-584-3300

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Accomplishment Recorder

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412-334-7187

AKC Liaison

Barbara Martin
724-348-5702

Community Services

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Roseanna Frankowski
412-531 1424

Equipment

Dian Hurka
724-947-1228

Field Training Day

John and Candy Verduce
412-741-1021

GRCA Delegate

Barbara Martin
724-348-5702

GRCA News Rep.

Candy Verduce
412-951-7577

GPGRC Webmaster

Julie Rih

GRF Liaison

Historian

Grace West
412-341-6625

Hospitality

Anne Pittman
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Rosanna Frankowski
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Puppy Referral
Pat Depp
412-931-0590

Program

Rescue Liaison
John Osheka
412-977-3870

Specialty
Sally Dines
724-584-3300

Please email me pictures of your dogs which I can use in future issues. sallydines4120@gmail.com

GOLDEN GAIT - Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club, Inc.- Sally Dines, Editor

