



Retriever Reflections

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<http://www.gglrc.org/>

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Our specialty is next month, and I cannot wait. My show bag is packed, my camera is charged, and my dog is (hopefully) trained. I hope to see you all there. If you have time, please volunteer at the show as a steward, and also consider sponsoring one of the trophies.

Natasha Gelfand, Retriever Reflections Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After receiving my copy of *Retriever Reflections* in the mail the other day (Thank you Natasha!), I re-read my message from last month and decided I owe all of you three apologies. The first is for excessive use of Entertainment Industry references in the explanation of apology number two, which is, that last month's "President's Message" was untruthful, and the third is for excessive self loathing on a scale rarely seen outside of a Woody Allen movie.

When I received my *Retriever Reflections* in the mail, I had an opportunity to re-read my President's Message, wherein I describe myself as "not a very serious fellow", I immediately looked in the mirror and said to myself, "self - that is total dog poop (usually known as B. S.)". I have a lot of training in detecting B. S. and this President's Message was off the charts on my "B. S. detector".

The "not a serious person" pitch was the Walter Mitty in me taking over and writing that obvious lie. In reality, I am so serious, people usually use the description "as a heart attack" when speaking of me. I looked in the mirror and didn't see Steve Martin's "Wild and Crazy Guy", but more someone that resembled Felix Ungar, of "The Odd Couple". More Attila the Hun than Alfred E. Newman (What me worry?).

How I thought I could get away with convincing anyone this was the case is beyond me. Who did I think I was talking to - Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz? Our members are highly intelligent, perceptive people, and I have no doubt your first reaction was "is he kidding me?" And the answer turns out to be yes!

The evidence that I am a serious person far outweighs any other conclusion. Surely my boss must have thought so, and I professed to be, very serious. My educational choices and professions all scream "serious", so my self delusion was on a grand

scale. That noise you hear in the background is me flailing myself with the nearest leash. (You probably could have gone your entire life without that image and in retrospect my only explanation why it made the final cut is that "misery loves company".)

In any case, I ask for your forgiveness for publishing such drivel. I will suppress this fantasy and try to write truthful things, like how excited I am about our upcoming Specialty Show and how much I appreciate the hard work people are already putting in to make this happen. Thank you all (and you know who you are.)

In closing, I am very serious in saying thank you to all the Board members and officers that keep showing up month after month (at great hassle and expense) at the Board meetings, that help move this club forward. There are a number of thank you's beyond that which are due (but this list is nowhere complete): Elaine Nusser for her work on the web site, Natasha for the newsletter, Terri for being Specialty Chair, Ruthie for being the voice of info@gglrc.org, and Melinda and Sharon for keeping our sporting program alive.

Join us at the Specialty and lets have some fun celebrating this wonderful breed of ours!

Allen Garfinkle, GGLRC President.



WANTED: A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS

Ring Stewards Needed

No Experience Necessary – On the Job Training – Part-Time position: One day - October 22, 2011 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, CA.

Seeking organized, friendly people capable of following instructions, giving instructions, and keeping track of a diverse group of people with Labradors and Golden Retrievers to ensure the smooth operation of the Obedience and Rally rings. Three people are needed for the Obedience ring and five people are needed for the Rally ring.

If you are thinking of trying either of these sports this is an excellent way to learn all the ins and outs of the ring without having to suffer the stress of competition. Stewards will be rewarded

with morning treats, a fabulous lunch, and profuse thanks.

If interested please contact Melinda Grosch at 707-537-7786 or via e-mail at wtrprufdogs4me@aim.com

TROPHY DONATION

There is still time to sponsor a trophy for our upcoming specialty. Our specialty show in the last specialty on the West Coast to offer trophies for all 4 class placements and, while this is expensive, it is a measure of the hospitality we offer our exhibitors. Please contact our Trophy Chair, Ruth Hertzog, hollyhill@dlsextreme.com with questions or to make your donation. We hope to hear from every member.

Publisher's statement

Retriever Reflections is a publication of the Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. (GGLRC). The articles and information provided do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or opinions of the editor, the GGLRC Officers, or Board of Directors.





Braggs!



Braggs!



Braggs!



**KASHLIN'S BLUSHING PUPPY
(EMMALINE)**

(INT CH Raintree Slippery When Wet x
Waterbound Kashlin Miss Texas)

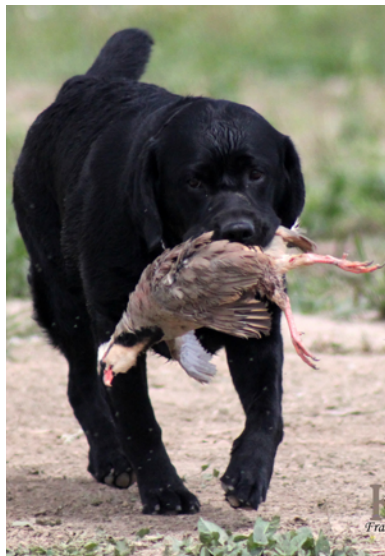
Breeder: Laura Mohr & Tim Mohr

Owner: Heather Khristina Sanchez

Trained by: Heather Khristina Sanchez

Emmaline has been awarded a certificate of working ability, having fulfilled the requirements of the CCLRC and SJVLR on May 8, 2011.

Emmaline received the highest award for having the most difficult retrieve for a bird that was under cover.



requirements of the CCLRC and SJVLR on May 8, 2011.

We had two wonderful weekends - Practice day at Drycreek Labrdors and test day at Backwater Retreat. Way to go Paris!!!



**MARSTAD'S LADY OF SONG CDX AX MXJ
OF RN (ELLA)**

(CH Hollyhill Delby's Samueladam x Metate
Marstad I Think So)

Breeder: Terri Herigstad

Owners: Marion and Michael Bashista

Two new agility titles!

Mensona KC 4/17/11

Agility Excellent AX

Santa Clara DTC 5/13/11

Master Excellent Jumpers with Weaves MXJ

CH LINDSEY'S SEASHELL PUPPY (PARIS)

(CH Gaetacreek Joyful Jasper x Drycreek's
Shotgun Shelby)

Breeders: Tara Aschwanden & Laura Fletcher

Owners: Heather K. Sanchez & Bonnie L.
Sanchez

Trained by: Heather K. Sanchez & Bonnie L.
Sanchez

Paris has been awarded a certificate of working ability, having fulfilled the

**MULTIPLE BISS CH THORNWOOD'S
DRESSED TO THRILL (DANDY)**

(CH Thornwood's Resolution x CH Thornwood's
Singular Sensation)

Breeder/Owner: Cheri and Kevin Conway

Rose City Specialty, 6/14-16/2001

New Champion with two majors and Best of
Breed wins from the classes!

More Brags!

Thank you so much to breeder-judges, June Sasaki, and Cheryl Curtis. A once-in-a-lifetime weekend, and we are STILL walking on a cloud!

Winner's Dog (4 point major)
Judge: Vonnie Russell

CAERLEONS MAD HATTER (HATTER)
(CH Gaetacreek Joyful Jasper X Caerleon Evenstar)
Breeder/Owner: Janet Peters

Woofstock GGLRC Supported Entry
WD/BOW, New Champion!

CAERLEONS THERE'S A KIND OF HUSH
(HUSH)

(CH Gaetacreek Joyful Jasper X Caerleons I'm Just a Girl)

Breeder/Owner: Janet Peters
Handled by: Laura Fletcher

Hush now has 7 points after the following wins:

WB/BOW Lost Coast KC July 1, 2 and 3

WB Del Monte KC July 17

WB/BOS Portland KC July 24

WB/BOW - Mensona KC August 27 and 28

Hush also went 3rd in Open Yellow at the SVLRC Speciality under Beth Sweigart and 2nd in the Gold County KC Support Entry under Judy Chambers

Caerleon is proud of MIDKNIGHT DOUBLE SHOT OF ESPRESSO MH and SISKIYOU'S WATER HAMMER MH, MNH₄ for Qualifying for the 2011 Master National Retriever Hunt Test

EPOCH'S ONE FOR THE ROAD (TOMMY)

(Nipntuck Big Leaguer x CH Banner's Epoch Sula of Penbuck)

Breeder: James & Sheila Church, Nancy Chargo and Cindy Skiba

Owner: Elaine Nusser

Handled by: Lauren Rice

Sierra Vista Labrador Retriever Club (SVLRC) Specialty Show, 9/2/2011



CH GINGERBRED PARTY ANIMAL
(BELUSHI)

(GCH Hyspire Shahli Hotter Than Blazes x CH Gingerbred Party Shoes)

Owner: Katy Bazurto

Reno Kennel Club, 8/20/2011

BOB and Group 1

Reno Kennel Club, 8/21/2011

BOB and Group 3

Sierra Vista LRC Specialty, 9/3-4/2011

JAM under judge Vonnie Russell

Select Dog, under judge Beth Sweigart



Even More Brags!

INFINITY'S I AM THE WALRUS (WALLY)

(CH Forsythe's Playboy X Infinity's Twinkie)

Owner: Katy Bazarro

Gold Country KC, 9/4/2011

Winners dog, 4pt major



Owner: Vivian Poole

Lompoc Valley Kennel Club, 8/30/2011

Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best Opposite Sex

Judge: Kimberly Meredith-Cavanna



BELGAIRN LEADING EDGE

(BISS CH Nipntuck HySpire Unforgettable X CH Belgairn Shadowbrook Over the Edge)

Breeder: Ron and Jennifer Kelly

Wow that was a lot of brags! Congratulations to all the winners! And now a plea from your editor. When sending in a brag, please include the following information: *Dog's name, sire and dam, breeder, owner, and handler, show name and date, title(s), and judge(s).* This will save me time from having to look up things on the web, and will probably result in fewer mistakes on my part too! Thank you!



Litter Listings



LITTER LISTING REQUIREMENTS

Members may submit litter listings for their dogs or bitches. As stated in the GGLRC Breeders Code of Ethics, before a litter will be listed in Retriever Reflections, you must submit health clearance information for both the dog and the bitch: OFA or Wind-Morgan clearances and certification by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist that the dog has been examined and found free of hereditary eye disease within the last year. You must indicate whether or not the parents have met the Code of Ethics performance requirement (CD, one championship point, JAM, field title, WC, or GGLRC Retrieving Dog Elementary certificate).

BLACK PUPPIES AVAILABLE

Sire: Ch Hyspire Texas Hold 'Em

Dam: Caerleons Through the Looking Glass

Contact: Janet Peters, jpslabs@comcast.net,

(415)-897-3981

AGILITY ADDICTION

by Angela Sutton and Natasha Gelfand

What is agility? Dog agility is a sport where the handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race for both time and accuracy. The obstacles include jumps, tunnels, weave poles, dog walks, teeters, and A-frames, and the dogs run off



An agility course showing jumps, a tunnel chute, an A-frame, and a set of 12 weave poles.

leash with no food or toys as incentives. It may come as a surprise when you watch a dog run on an agility course that the dog has never seen that particular course before. The handler is not allowed to touch either the dog or the obstacles, so the handler's control is limited to voice, movement, and various body signals to help the dog understand which way to run and which obstacle to take next. Keep in mind that a typical run takes under a minute, and the ring contains 15-20 obstacles, and you realize that this is a fast-paced, adrenaline-charged game. Agility is an amazing way to build a fantastic relationship with your dog and create a happy, obedient, motivated dog using positive training methods.

What makes a great agility dog? It goes without saying that the rigors of the twists and turns, jumps and weaves in agility make structure an absolute must. Insufficient front or rear angulation translate to a great difficulty in jumping and high impact in landing, and poor inefficient running and jumping styles. Good hips, elbows, shoulders, patellas, and eyesight are vital. Dogs are kept very trim and fit to minimize impact on the joints (labradors are asked to jump between 16 and 24 inches).

Likewise for agility, you need a driven dog that is motivated to work with you. To gain an AKC

agility championship, both accuracy in performing the course and raw speed are important. The dog should enjoy the work, and be able to run fast and "clean" (no mistakes on the course) at the higher levels of competition.

It is true, that agility shows, especially at higher levels are dominated by border collies (in the large classes) and shelties (in the small classes). They are light, fast, and, well... a little obsessed. However, those of us who love the labrador breed have done very well with running labs in agility. While it is not very common to see labradors actively compete in both the breed ring and upper levels of agility *at the same time* (there are currently only two dual MACH CH labradors), both "show" and "field" labradors do quite well in the agility ring, when given proper training, conditioning, and motivation.

Agility Training. Training for agility, whether for competition or fun, is a great way to improve your relationship with your dog and work on attention, control, and motivation at the same time.



Contact obstacles, like the teeter, require the dog to hit the yellow "contact zone" at the bottom.

The training starts with the same obedience basics that every puppy should know. A solid sit-stay is required to be able to leave the (often amped up) dog at the start line in the presence of noise and distractions. Running next to the handler (both on the left and right side) and cueing off the handler's position, acceleration, deceleration, turning and pointing, is what directs your dog on the course, and a fast and happy recall is required to sometimes call off your dog from an off-course obstacle.

Agility-specific training can also start at any age, however dogs should be kept on lowered or simplified equipment until their growth plates have closed so as not to harm their developing joints. Introducing a new dog to the agility obstacles varies in response. Each individual dog learns at his own pace; confident dogs may charge over equipment with little help, while more timid dogs may take weeks to overcome their hesitations with much encouragement. Both scenarios present their own challenges; dogs may be overconfident and sloppy to the point where they have a serious accident, so self control must be taught. More timid dogs need extra support to boost their confidence. Great effort is taken in general to see that the dog is always safe and



It can take several years of training to achieve speed and accuracy at the weave poles.

has a good experience in training for agility so that they do not fear the obstacles, and instead perform them willingly and with enthusiasm.

The most difficult obstacles to train are usually the teeter-totter (or see-saw), which many dogs find scary due to its movement and noise, and the weave poles, which ask the dog to perform a motion that is not natural and not immediately obvious to them. Contact obstacles (dog walk, teeter, and A-frame) are often a challenge since a dog has to run all the way down the obstacle without jumping off (called hitting the “contact zone” or “hitting the yellow”). Whether for competition or recreation, the most important skill for an agility team to learn is how to work together quickly, efficiently, and safely.

Agility titles. AKC agility titles are many and varied, and are responsible for quite an “alphabet soup” at the end of the dog’s name. Usually there are three classes available at each AKC agility show, and

a dog can earn titles in each one. The “Standard” class includes all agility obstacles, while the “Jumpers” class includes only jumps, tunnels, and weave poles, resulting in a fast-paced course with complicated twists and turns. The FAST class requires the dog to work away from a handler to perform a specific series of obstacles while the handler remains behind a designated line (up to fifteen feet away) to direct the dog. The dogs are required to complete each course with few (or none at the highest level) mistakes, under a specified course time. The levels where the dogs can earn titles are Novice, Open, and Excellent.

The pinnacle of achievement is the Agility Champion, or MACH, title which is awarded to dogs that demonstrate superior speed and consistency on the agility course. MACH title requires a dog to earn 20 “double Q’s” (qualifying scores in Excellent Standard and Excellent Jumpers at the same show) and 750 championship points, each point being awarded for each second the dog runs a course under the pre-determined course time. Needless to say, it takes a lot of time, training, and patience to earn a MACH.

Agility is fun. Whether you are motivated by building a relationship with your dog, exercise, titles, ribbons, adrenaline, or just plain having fun, agility is



a great sport! Try it out, whether in your back yard, in class, or at a show. Just beware, you and your dog may find it so addictive that you become one of us agility junkies!

Interested in learning more? Here are a few websites to get you started.

AKC agility regulations: <http://www.akc.org/rules/agility.cfm>

Clean Run has lots of agility gear and publishes a monthly magazine: <http://www.cleanrun.com/>

Susan Garrett Agility Training, for lots of training tricks and tips. Check out her blog too: <http://susangarrettdogagility.com/>

For training locally, check out <http://www.powerpawsagility.com/> and <http://www.jumpnjavaagility.com/>.

About the authors. Angela Sutton is a self-proclaimed agility addict and runs three labs: MACH₄ PACH Sheenaron Merry Sequoia MXF MJP₃ MXP₃ (Sierra) and her daughters MACH Sierran Charisma (Carrie) and MACH₂ Sierran Vitesse (Tessa). Natasha Gelfand is only getting started in the game and currently runs Marstad Power Play NA NAJ NF BN RE (Polly) in the Open classes.

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High Desert Labrador Retriever



11th and 12th Back to Back

Dedicated to Winnie Limbourne
founding member of HDLRC and beloved friend

Saturday, November 12

Barbara Nowak (Broyhill)
Conformation

Leslie Plank (Forestwood)
Sweepstakes

Sunday, November 13

Clare Senfield (Allegheny)
Conformation

Lisa Cruanas (Laurglen)
Sweepstakes and Junior Showmanship
Linda Hause
Obedience and Rally

Thousand Trails Soledad Canyon Resort
Acton, CA

For more information visit www.hdlrc.com

2011 Calendar

LRC National Specialty	October 10-16
GGLRC Specialty	October 21-22
Del Valle KC	October 23-24
High Desert LRC Specialty	November 12-13
Board Meeting	November 10
Holiday Party, General Meeting	December ??

Put It On Your Calendar!

"Show Your Colors" Celebrate the Labrador Retriever

The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

2011 National Specialty Event Week

October 10-16, 2011

Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, Connecticut

Host Hotel—Days Inn, Dayville, Connecticut

For reservations—(860) 779-3200, ask for LRC special rate.



- Two Agility, Obedience & Rally Trials
 - Tracking, Working Certificate & Hunting Retriever Tests
(two Juniors & two Seniors)
 - Two conformation Events—
The 2011 National Specialty followed by a Regional Specialty
"No Bells, No Whistles"
 - A Conformation Certificate evaluation
 - Judges' EDge seminar
 - Tributes to Top Agility, Obedience and Conformation Labrador Retriever competitors
 - Hospitality Events & Health Clinics
- For Judges & Event Schedules—check the LRC web site at
www.thelabradorclub.com

Retriever Reflections
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Submissions

The newsletter is published bi-monthly. The closing dates for each issue are: January 15th, March 15th, May 15th, July 15th, September 15th, and November 15th. Contributions of photos, articles, graphics, and any other interesting dog-related information is most welcome. Send submissions to:

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