

# A.G.R.C. Rug Rag

March, 2006

## Special Interest Articles:

- Dealing with Separation Anxiety
- Member Spotlight: Helen Dorrance
- Dues are DUE!



Pam Rabon's "Max" looking very regal after a swim in Lake Austin!

## Photos with Santa Highlights



## From Sports Injury through Rehabilitation:

### Our Journey By Christina Murphey

Our field bitch "Irie" competed in her very first hunt tests in the spring of 2005. Months of training and a myriad of retriever games yielded two AKC titles; Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and JH (Junior Hunter) and one UKC/HRC title, SHR (Started Hunter Retriever) all before she turned a year old. As spring turned to summer we looked forward to a month of R&R before returning her to the trainer/handler for advanced training and fall competition.

We picked up Irie from the trainer, loaded her up with our dog "Reggae" and headed to the river for a Fourth of July celebration weekend with friends. My husband and I thought that this weekend would provide an opportunity for the dogs to "just be dogs"-no training! But just as our namesake implies Murphy's Law kicked into full swing-"Anything that can go wrong will go wrong"!

Continued on Page 3 (Rehabilitation)

MEETING  
01/18/06

Brick Oven  
10710 Research  
Boulevard

Meetings start  
at 7pm, please  
arrive at 6:30 if  
you wish to  
order dinner!

See you there!

## Meeting Notes – November 16<sup>th</sup> 2005

### All Members Present:

Linda James  
Helen Dorrance  
Debby Gower  
Fred & Marsha Spreeuwiers  
Diane Senterfitt  
Geoff Weisbart  
Judi Hollenbeck  
Donna Tarbox  
Ming Chase  
Jane Fish  
Terri Post  
Stacey Robinson  
Adam and Shannon Casto  
Roger and Kaye Fuller  
Kathie Cool  
Joellyn and Mark Brelsford  
Sherri Carlson  
Lindsey Carlson  
Terri Post  
Mia Nieman

### Guests:

Jerry & Linda Reitzel

The meeting was called to order by Debby Gower, President. Debby made a motion that the club vote to approve new members Linda and Jerry Reitzel and the motion was passed. Welcome, Linda and Jerry!

Debby noted that the Specialty show went well, but we needed more members to help. A special thanks to all of those who helped make the show a success!

Veterinarian Kaye Fuller braved the chilly weather and darkness to do

blood draws from several member's dogs during the meeting. These DNA samples will be used to create a research database for future health studies of Golden Retrievers. Many thanks, Kaye!

Geoff Weisbart gave us an update on his trip to this years' Nationals and the various activities and seminars he able to attend. He reports that even for the novice spectator, the events were very enjoyable. Of special interest to Geoff were Dr. Breen's seminar on Golden Retriever cancer research and all the good work being done in that field.

Roger Fuller explained the GRCA health survey that he and some others have worked very hard to put together and encouraged every one who can to participate by answering detailed health questions for up to 5 dogs. The goal is to provide the GRCA with direction for where its' research money can be best spent. The survey is planned to go through the end of January 2006. The current count of participants is approximately 375, but the goal is 2000+. Roger states participants should plan to spend approximately 20 minutes to 1 hour per dog, depending on individual health history and the speed of the user's Internet connection. For more information, contact Roger Fuller or

see the GRCA newsletter or website.

Several members had questions regarding hunt tests and field trials. Roger Fuller and Adam Casto gave us an overview as well as some detailed information regarding both. Roger suggested that in the spring the club might like to have a "Fun Day" at the Fuller ranch for both dogs and people to play a little with field work and see if perhaps any of the dogs exhibit some interest/instinct in that area.

Diane Senterfitt brought copies of Dr. Catherine Nairn's vaccination protocol. Dr Narin spoke at our July club meeting. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy can contact Marsha Spreeuwiers.

It was mentioned again that there are continuing problems with our club's website, AusitnGoldens.com, and that we seem to have trouble getting a response from the technician responsible for maintaining our website. Linda James volunteered to check into the possibility of getting Clay Chase to handle our website.

Joellyn Brelsford asked members to think about changing some of the trophy awards to incorporate more performance titles. She states that many of the trophies are retired or unused do to lack of notification. To aid in this process, Joellyn intends to place a form in the Rug Rag to be used by members for "win" notifications. Also, some of the trophies are unused because no one can remember what they are for.

## Braggs and Wags.....

- Pat Simpson's puppy "Ty" finished his championship at 12 months of age by winning back-to-back majors at the T.C.K.C. shows from the 12-18 class owner/handled by Diane Cooper. He finished with 3 majors, 2 major RWD and a Best Puppy/Puppy Group 1 win.
- Ty's championship made his dam Felony (Ch. Scion Tell It To The Judge WC, OD) an Outstanding Dam!
- Karen Couch reports that "Shaq" earned his Rally Novice title in Belton, with a score of 99 and a first place on his third leg.
- "Journey" (Nieman/Gower) got her 2nd point, went Winner's Bitch, Best of Winners, AND Best of Opposite Sex in Enid Oklahoma her first weekend in open! Way to go Jo!
- Club supporter, Shari Degan's bitch "Tralee" (bred by Helen Dorrance) finished her championship!



## Member Spotlight: Helen Dorrance

We have the pleasure of hearing from long time member, and former Club President Helen Dorrance, for this month's Member Spotlight! There is so much to be learned from Helen, and she has always been willing to teach those who take the time to listen. Most of us "Golden People" could easily (and willingly) list her as our mentor in one way or another!

**RR:** How many years have you been in Golden's?

**HD:** 31 Years.

**RR:** What got you started in golden's?

**HD:** Our first golden was a "stray" given to my husband and me by my sister-in-law. Naturally I bred her (to a registered golden, of course) because after all, golden retrievers are the cutest, most adorable puppies and I had lots of friends who wanted her puppies. At an office Christmas party, when I told a coworker's spouse that I had just had a litter of unregistered golden's, instead of recoiling in horror she invited me to her house to meet her 6 month old puppy that was sired by the #1 breed golden of 1975. She also introduced me to the GRCA, the GRN, health clearances, dog shows and other golden retriever fanciers. I often think of how my life was changed by someone who took the effort to educate me, kindly, politely and considerately and I try to remember that every time I talk to someone who wants to give a golden puppy as a gift, wants a puppy under the tree on Christmas day, or wants to have "just one litter."

**RR:** Who was your mentor/driving force?

**HD:** My mentor/driving force was Jennifer Phillips, the person who invited me to her house to see her Charlie son. She was a dedicated dog trainer who only had one or two dogs at a time that she loved and trained. She wasn't even attached to a particular breed. The Charlie son was her only golden during the time I knew her. She was such a stickler for health, temperament and structure she was a role model whose shoes I have always tried to fill. She also introduced me to Sally Cavness, from whom I got my foundation bitch, and Ginger Gotcher who was just starting her conformation and breeding career.



"Folly"  
Salyran Ducat's Folly CDX OD

**RR:** What is your most valued accomplishment?

**HD:** Probably my most valued accomplishment was making my foundation bitch ("Folly") an outstanding dam of 6 champions. Back then it meant I co-owned and showed her kids to their championships, even though they lived with other people. I frequently had to go pick up the dogs, bathe and groom them, pay the entries, take them to the shows, show them, and take them home again. There would be the typical disappointments along the way. Two

of Folly's daughters needed a major each to finish and both got hit by a car in between shows at their owner's house. One got pyo right after she finished her championship. Although I've had 4 more outstanding dams, luckily none of the subsequent OD's were as much effort (and expense) as the first one.

**RR:** What is your Structural Pet Peeve

**HD:** Toplines are definitely a pet peeve. I like seeing a nice, level topline you can put a glass of water on and not spill anything. Things are getting better now but for a while in everyone's quest for good side gait, dogs had topline that slapped the floor on each side. Heads are pretty important also since that is what one usually sees first and the most

**RR:** What is your most sought after structural quality?

**HD:** My most sought after structural quality depends on what I am having trouble with or need to improve at the time. My foundation bitch had almost too much rear angulation and was close in the rear. Consequently I spent the first generation improving rears. Currently my dogs need more forechest so now I'll be searching for forechest. I recently went through a period where I had to reduce ear size. Sometimes it just creeps up on me and I wake up one day to a bunch of golden heads staring at me and I realize: "Yikes! My dogs all have Dumbo ears." Of course just about the time I get one structural quality down, I lose it somewhere else and it's time to start all over again. Probably in general I try to breed to dogs who have side gait. I've noticed that if they have good side gait they usually have a somewhat decent front which means I'm usually improving more than one thing at a time.



## Member Spotlight (cont'd from page 3)

RR: Who is your favorite dog, not owned or bred by me:

HD: This is probably the hardest question of all to answer. Over the years there have been so many dogs I've admired it's hard to narrow it down to just one. I guess one of my favorites, or one of the most important dogs to me was Ch Beaumaris Pekay's Kilowatt ("Killer"). He exuded and produced fabulous golden type. Even today almost every dog I'm attracted to is related in some way to Killer.

RR: What are your current ventures?

HD: Apparently I am at a very lazy point in my dog career. For the first time in 30 years I'm not training or showing 3-5 dogs at once. I have a puppy I need to start in conformation and another bitch I need to start showing in earnest. Unfortunately I find myself wanting to take a perpetual break puttering around our farmette or riding horses. And it seems invariably I'll send off show entries and that's the weekend the boarding kennel will suddenly fill up. I guess I'd be more enthusiastic if every dog activity was within an hour from my house, started at 11 a.m., was over within two hours, and didn't require schlepping "stuff" in and out of buildings. However, after years of shows and agility trials, sometimes 45 weekends of the year, I guess I'm ready to take a break.



**A Piece of Helen's History**

**From left to right: Helen & Salyran Ducat's Folly CDX OD, Sally Cavness and Ch Gold Ducat's Tassie Mae; Gloria Kerr and Ducat's Golden Cottrell (major pointed) and Dave Schoenfeld, Jr. & Ch Ducat Rimrac Harvest Gold 1984**

Breeding Program in 10 years:

I don't have any grandiose ideas for the future. Right now I'm trying to concentrate on longevity and behavioral issues. I've been having good luck with health (knock on wood) and I'm very satisfied with how my dogs look. I've given up on trying to breed goldens that don't chase goats and chickens but I would like to breed dogs that live a long life, aren't hyper and don't dig and chew. Like everyone else I guess I'm breeding for the perfect golden retriever.

Most outrageous:

Actually, one of the most outrageous golden activities took place recently. I had a year old bitch in the house because I was thinking of placing her but realized she hadn't been in the house much over the last few months and was starting to act like a kennel dog. When she came in the house she seemed to have forgotten everything and crept around like she had never stepped on tile before. She was afraid of the 8 pound American Eskimos. They apparently made her so nervous she wouldn't even eat dinner unless I stood over her encouraging her. If I opened the front door she would dart out as fast as she could to get out of the scary house. This went on for several days with her basically hardly leaving whatever spot she had picked for the day. One morning I left her alone while I was in the kennel building for 20 minutes. When I came back I noticed a bar of soap on the floor in the guest room. After 3 years of "intending to make home made goat's milk soap" I had finally made my first batch 3 weeks prior to Daphne's house visit. The soap turned out far better than I dreamed possible. It's supposed to cure for 3-4 weeks in a dark area under a fan, hence I put it on the bed in the guest room. It was so fabulous I would actually go turn it and smell it every day. The minute I saw the bar on the floor I knew something horrible had happened. Sure enough, Daphne had eaten at least half the batch and ruined half of what was left by raking her teeth through it. I couldn't believe that this timid dog that had been slinking from room to room all week, wouldn't eat in front of other dogs, etc., found the gumption to jump up on the bed (yet another forbidden activity) and demolish my soap. Surprisingly enough I wasn't nearly as mad as I should have been. At the time I didn't really realize how hard it is to make goat's milk soap since that was my first ever batch. Little did I know that my first batch would also be my best batch of all time and that several batches later I would never, ever equal the batch of soap that Daphne enjoyed with such relish!

YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE REST OF HELEN'S GANG AT:  
[WWW.DUCATGOLDENS.COM](http://WWW.DUCATGOLDENS.COM)

## Dealing With Separation Anxiety

No dog likes being separated from loved ones. But for some dogs the anxiety of being left alone becomes so severe they panic whenever someone leaves, arrives, or even moves toward the door. It's a serious problem, but it's treatable.

### Tell-tail signs

There are a number of warning signs that signal your dog may be suffering from Separation Anxiety. A short time after you leave your home, he may begin to:

- Howl, cry, or bark excessively for long periods of time
- Chew or scratch furniture, doors, or walls
- Break through window screens
- Do his "business" in the house
- Tear pillows or cushions apart
- Dump garbage cans and track garbage everywhere

When you're at home, he may:

- Become frantic when he senses that you're leaving the house
- Seem frenzied when you come back home
- Follow you through the house
- Need to be near you at night
- Not want to be alone in the backyard

### What's behind it?

It's not fully understood why some dogs have Separation Anxiety and others don't. The condition may have something to do with a dog's "pack mentality" and the need to be with others. What is sure is that dogs that are separated from their mums too early are more likely to develop extreme anxiety and fear when left home alone.

Regardless of the cause, it's critical to understand that your dog is not "punishing you" when he acts out and tears the house apart. He's simply panicked because he has no idea if, and when, you're coming back. Diagnosing Separation Anxiety can be tricky because nearly all of the behaviors linked with it can be caused by something else. So consult with your vet.

### De-stress, not distress

If your dog has a minor anxiety, try one of the following techniques to lower his stress:

- Ignore him for several minutes before you leave and again when you come home. If you don't make a big deal out of leaving and returning, eventually, neither will he.

- Leave a piece of your clothing with him, preferably one which you've recently slept in. The familiar "Eau du You" will comfort him.
- Give your dog a sign that tells him you'll be right back. It can be a word or a gesture that tells him you're just "stepping outside and you'll be back." Only use a cue when you're leaving for a period of time you know he can tolerate — or else the effectiveness will be lost.
- Give him a Kong filled with treats to keep him busy while you're gone.
- Put him in a crate; dogs find crates secure and comforting.

If his anxiety is more severe, then he'll need Desensitization Training, which involves a systematic process to get him used to being alone. Ask your vet or animal behaviorist for details. In very severe cases, your vet may prescribe medications.

The most important thing is to be patient and trust that with the proper attention and care, it is possible to help your dog feel at ease — every time you leave home.

Article from the Pedigree News



**Some people will never learn that there are just times when the dog would be better off at home!**

## ***Club Information***

### **Austin Golden Retriever Club Inc.**

Wannabe Editor  
Melissa Jones  
5601 Porsche Lane  
Austin, TX 78749

The Rug Rag is the official newsletter of the Austin Golden Retriever Club.

The Rug Rag is sent, without charge, to all paid members, to various club editors that request it, and the AKC. Non-members may subscribe for a \$10 one-year subscription fee. To receive a subscription please mail a check to for \$10 to the address listed above. Make all checks payable to AGRC.

**Submit Articles to the Editor:** Please submit all articles on a disk or via e-mail (preferred) to the Editor. Pictures may accompany any article.

**Deadline:** All articles, wins, advertising, etc. must be received by the last week of the months prior to publication (i.e. the last week of April to appear in the May issue).

**Reprinting Articles:** Articles may be used in club newsletters but proper identification of origination of article MUST be made.

**Note:** All ideas and ads are published at the Editor's and Board of Directors' discretion. Opinions expressed may not reflect the opinion of the Editor and/or Members of the Austin Golden Retriever Club.

# **DUES ARE DUE**

Single Membership: \$15, Family Membership: \$20

Please make checks payable to AGRC and mail to  
Linda James, 10810 Keystone Bend, Austin, TX 78750.

**MELISSA JONES  
EDITOR**

5601 Porsche Lane  
Austin, TX 78749