

A.G.R.C. Rug Rag

March, 2006

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

Dr. Charla Jones, Veterinary Cardiologist, will be our guest speaker at this month's meeting. Please make plans to attend!

Board Meeting Held On 2/21/06

Attendees: Debby Gower, Judi Hollenbeck, Helen Dorrance, Linda James, Jane Fish, Marsha Spreuwers, Melissa Jones.

The final meeting for the 2005 board was held on Tuesday February 21st at Reales Restaurant. President Debby Gower brought to light several subjects discussed by the board. Firstly she announced that Doctor Charla Jones would be speaking at our next club meeting on 3/15/06.

The issue of creating a club events calendar was brought up and it was decided that it would be best if there was a "calendar editor" to take on the task because per Helen, "it can be very tedious and time consuming". It was agreed upon that the most important club events were to be listed in the upcoming Rug Rag, and the complete calendar (and the editor to create it) would be dealt with in the coming weeks.

The Fuller's have graciously offered to have our club's Spring Fun Day at their home on April 29th. It should be a great opportunity for member fellowship, and a chance for our dogs to get to try out field activities that they might not always be exposed to, and enjoy the company of other goldens!

It was also brought to our attention that our president (as well as some other area Golden clubs) has filed official responses to the American Heart Associations announcement that they would be

auctioning off a Golden Retriever Puppy in the Dallas area as part of a fundraiser. As of now, the AHA is no longer auctioning off a puppy.

The board would also like to announce the candidates for the 2006 Board Members, who will be voted on at an upcoming club meeting.

Officer Candidates

Debby Gower, President
Diane Senterfitt, VP
Linda James, Treasurer
Marsha Spreuwers, Secretary

Board Member Candidates

Donna Tarbox
Judi Hollenbeck
Jane Fish
Mia Nieman
Melissa Jones

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/29 - Spring Fun Day at Roger and Kaye Fuller's Home
1955 CR 106, Paige, TX 78659

8/26-8/27 - A.G.R.C. Agility Trial

12/00 - A.G.R.C. Agility Trial

10/27 - Specialty, held in conjunction with the T.C.K.C. Show

Meeting Dates are as follows (and subject to change): Mar. 15th, May 17th, July 19th, Sept. 20th & Nov. 15th

More information will be available as events draw near!

MEETING
3/15/06

Brick Oven
10710 Research
Boulevard

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

See you there!

The Dreaded Hot Spot: Handy Home Remedies By Melissa Jones

Most of us have dealt with them at one point or another, for one reason or another, and those of you who haven't, should consider yourselves VERY lucky! I have "lucked out" for most of my time in goldens, never having to deal with them myself, until I was recently forced to go to war with two, the size of softballs! My bitch has decided that when she goes into heat the best thing to do is rip out her pants (the long hair on the rear of the dog to each side of the tail) and lick the naked skin raw. Graphic, you betcha! And now I had to deal with it head on!

There are lots of over the counter items that may or may not work, and from my experience "may not" seems to be the most likely outcome. Of course vet's will charge you an arm and a leg to check the dog out the area.

out, and give you a topical treatment that again, may or may not work. So with this battle I called on my dog friends to help me out, and I received three treatments that I feel are worth sharing.

One was to spray the affected area with "Cool Spot" (a topical spray that you can find most places pet products are sold) several times a day, followed by "Gold Bond Powder". It is important to keep the area clean between each application and make sure that the powder doesn't cake.

Another remedy is to clean the area thoroughly with "Domeboro" before applying the Gold Bond powder. Domeboro can be found at HEB or the drugstore. It's an astringent so it helps to dry

My final home remedy and the one that worked best for my dog was, are you ready for this, Listerine! I applied the Listerine with a cotton ball to the hotspot only ONCE, and the next morning the spot was clean, dry and visibly less irritated than it was the night before. As of three days later, the spot was still dry and the hair had begun to grow back.

It would be wise to remember that most of these items should not be ingested by the dog, and it would probably be a good idea to pull out the trusty Elizabethan collar while using any remedy. Every dog will heal at it's own rate, and not all remedies work the same for any particular dog, however these ideas have come from some very savvy dog people, and I believe that anything is worth trying once, especially if it helps win the war against the dreaded "Hot Spot"!

Braggs and Wags.....

- Karen Couch reports that "Shaq" (CH Salyran Take It to the Limit UD, RN, MX, AXP, MXJ, AJP, OS, SDHF (Cavness/Fish/Strohl) was certified for tracking on 1-15-06. This means he is eligible to enter AKC tracking tests for the next 12 months.
- "Tralee" (Ch. Ducat Tender Is The Night NAC-S) earned her first NADAC agility title in mid January by earning a first place and Q in Novice Regular Standard. Tralee is owned by club supporter Shari Degan.

Congratulations members, on all of your wonderful accomplishments!



Shaq is pictured earning his tracking certification with Karen Couch at the DFW Tracking Club fun match in Irving, TX, on 1-15-06.



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

RR: Where do you see your 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.

RR: What is the most outrageous things one of your goldens has ever done?

HD: 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

SPRING FUN DAY: Be there or be square

This is an event that you definitely should not miss!

Roger and Kaye Fuller have offered to host our Spring Fun Day at their home this year. It is an opportunity for those who want to dabble in field work to come to do so with the assistance of some very savvy field trainers and club members. It allows dogs that would not normally get a chance to play with birds and try out some field exercises to do so. If that's not your cup of tea, you can come and fellowship with other club members and let your dog play with other goldens of all ages.

Here's what you need to know:

WHEN: Saturday April 29th

Begins at 10am, Lunch at 2pm, and Ends at 5:30. Come and go as you wish!

WHERE: 1955 County Road 106, Paige, TX, 78659

DEADLINE: Please email Roger Fuller at rogerful@earthlink.net no later than **Saturday April, 22nd** if you plan to attend. Include the number of dogs you wish to bring, and how many of them will be needing birds. The birds will be supplied by the Fullers, can be purchased for \$4 each, and will be fresh, dead.

MEAL: The club will be providing the meat, and asks that everyone bring a potluck of their choice. Please email Linda James at RJames512@aol.com. She will be coordinating the potluck dinner to ensure that we have equal amounts of side dishes, desserts, etc. Please bring your own beverages.

If you do not have email capabilities, but wish to sign up or contact these club members, please feel free to call Melissa Jones at 512-358-8901 for assistance in doing so.

Thanks in advance to the Fullers for their hospitality!
We hope everyone can make it; it will be a wonderful time for all!

SPECIAL THANKS

To Mary Ann Duke and Family for inviting
us all into their home and hosting

Club Information

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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
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