

A.G.R.C. Rug Rag

May, 2006

Specialty Highlights (Photos by Luke Allen Photography)

Special Interest Articles:

- Lots of Great Brags!
- Dealing with Separation Anxiety



Best Puppy
Goldstorm Most Likely To....



Winners Dog/Best of Winners
Goldstorm Reloaded By Gavel



BOS Veteran
CH. Malagold Stars-N-Stripes



Winners Bitch
Glengowan's American Princess

A.G.R.C. Specialty Winner

CH SUMMIT'S SOME
KIND A WONDERFUL

MEETING
05/17/06

Brick Oven
10710 Research
Boulevard

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

See you there!

The Spring Fun Field Day Was A Huge Success!

Thanks also to all the folks that helped make the event run smoothly!

Special thanks to Kaye and Roger Fuller for being such gracious hosts!!

Look for Fun Day Photos in the next edition of the Rug Rag!

What is a Title?

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores, a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in the record and in the memory, for about as long as anything in the world can remain. And though the dog herself doesn't know or care that her achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans where such things count.

A title says your dog was intelligent, adaptable, and good natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that pleased you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed. In addition, a title says that you loved your dog. That you loved to spend time with her because she was a good dog and that you believed in her enough to give her yet another chance when she failed and in the end your faith was justified.

A title proves that your dog inspired you to that special relationship enjoyed by so few, that in a world of disposable creatures, this dog with a title was greatly loved, and loved greatly in return. And when that dear short life is over, the title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend. Volumes of praise in one small set of initials after the name. An obedience, agility, flyball, herding, etc. title is nothing less than true love and respect, given and received and recorded permanently.

--Author unknown.

Thanks to club supporter, Shari Degan for sharing this!



High In Trial
Sunfire's Gift Of Freedom



Best of Opposite Sex
CH Tempo's Easy Rider



First In Open A
CH GlenGowan JusCoz All Spiced Up

Braggs and Wags.....

- "Mack" - Gower's Love At First Bite (Gower) got his fourth Master Hunter leg, only one more to go!
- "Journey" – Gower's Scentimental Journey (Nieman/Gower), got Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex at the Kansas shows!
- New member Christina Murphey's dogs Irie and Reggae both received a WC at the at the GHGRC trial in Anderson, TX
- Helen Dorrance's bitch Arielle (Ducat Brytlea Areielle) finished her championship at the Houston GRC show with two back to back 5 point majors. After doing so she went on to get BOS at the Ft. Worth Specialty, Two Best of Breed wins, and a Group Three! And, she's not even two years old yet!
- Helen's other bitch "Pauli" (Brytlea Ducat's St. Pauli Girl) took home a 3 point major and a BOW from the 9-12 month class at the San Antonio shows in March!

Congratulations members, on all of your wonderful accomplishments!



Member Spotlight: Shannon Casto

New Member Shannon Casto has been kind enough to sit in the spotlight this month! Although she and Adam are new to the club, they have a tremendous amount of experience with the breed, and will undoubtedly be an asset to our club!

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

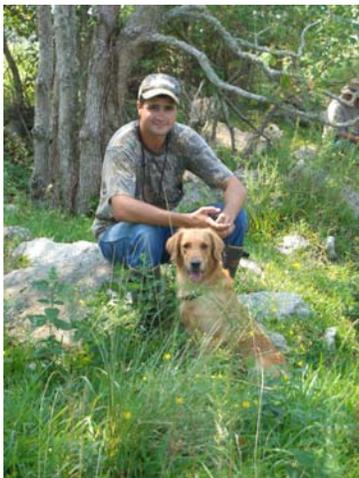
SC: 35 years. I cannot remember a time when Golden's were not a part of my life.

RR: What got you started in Golden's?

SC: My mom, of course! She owned Dual-CH AFC Tigathoe's Funky Farquar, he was born the same year I was. My mom had a house full of Golden's when I was a toddler learning to walk. Quar was the only dog that wouldn't run away and knock me over when I grabbed him. He would slowly and patiently walk while I clung to his mane, teaching me to walk with every step.

RR: Who was your mentor/driving force?

SC: My mother, Dorothy Mikeska. Almost 12 years ago she encouraged me to begin teaching dog obedience classes to pet owners. Reluctantly I conceded, although I was nervous about the whole endeavor and doubted that



Adam and Missy

I would be successful. As it turns out, I had a lot more information to share than I ever imagined and I really enjoy teaching. I guess mom's really do know what's best!

My driving force, would have to be my husband, Adam. We met 6 years ago, when he came to me to buy a dog. We began training together 6 months later and have been ever since! Adam's skill and natural ability are very humbling to me. I was raised around dogs and dog trainers, and still don't have half the training 'chops' that Adam has. I always strive to keep up with him!



Charli and Woody

RR: What is your most valued accomplishment?

SC: I cannot single out any one thing in my life that I consider to be a great accomplishment.

Any accomplishments I have achieved would never have been possible without the advice and support of my family! I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with smart and talented dogs for a living, and only hope that through training I can improve the relationship between pets and their owners.

RR: Who is your favorite dog, not owned or bred by you, and why?

SC: I suspect that the answer to this question changes on a regular basis, but I have to say the dog that stands out in my mind most currently belonged to Kaye Fuller. Many of you knew Jackie and no doubt would all agree that she was a truly exceptional



Shannon and Charli

dog that captured the heart of all who met her. Adam and I are fortunate enough to have one of her pups "Woody" who reminds me of her in many ways!

RR: Current ventures: who's competing in what, who's the queen bee and hanging around the house, etc?

SC: Currently Charli is our queen bee although soon she should finish her Senior title and then she is off to Colorado with Adam. Woody is training for Agility and field work, and will hopefully be ready for the Qualifying in time for the national. Missy will be finishing her Master soon (God willing!) and then she will become queen bee! We still have Buddy, a 3year old rescue golden, that hangs around at home. We have had a few prospective owners for him, but nothing perfectly suitable.

RR: What is the most outrageous thing one of your Golden's has done?

SC: Recently Adam was working Charli on a blind water retrieve. Half way to thru she began diving instead of taking casts, and I mean diving! Her entire body disappeared under water for 5 to 10 seconds! It was if she was certain that there was something under there, but who knows what she was really thinking! We were laughing so hard we could barely speak! She did finally retrieve the blind and has not been diving since!

March 15th Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Melissa Jones
James Wommack, guest
Linda Reitzel
Jerry Reitzel
Pat Simpson
Terri Post
Stacey Robinson
Judi Hollenbeck
Mia Nieman
Debby Gower
Linda James
Maura Phelan
Diane Senterfitt
Geoff Weisbart
Kara Anderson
Christina Murphey

Treasurer's Report" General Account:
\$8733.08 Rescue: \$1003.28 (includes
200.00 loan from general account.

Treasurer Linda James reports that choosing a specialty judge from the list of judges used for the Travis County Kennel Club show was a very economical move on our part.

She said it was the best decision we could have made, and kept our expenses down. The total amount profited from the specialty in October was 851.45 including the raffle.

There was also discussion about holding another specialty this October, again, in conjunction with the T.C.K.C. show. There was some concern that the deadline for submitting our paperwork to A.K.C. was quickly approaching.

New member Christina Murphey was voted in. Christina and her husband Lyle live in Austin with their two wonderful goldens, Irie and Reggae. They are heavily involved in field work with both dogs, and Christina kindly shared her article on Irie's injury and rehabilitation with club members in January's newsletter. We are looking to getting to know the entire Murphey family!

Also discussed was the upcoming Spring Fun Day at the Fuller's home on April 29th. The club was reminded to contact Roger Fuller for reserving fresh birds for their dogs, and to contact Linda James to sign up to bring a side dish.

Due to a family emergency, our guest speaker, Dr. Charla Jones was unable to attend, and the meeting adjourned early.



Irie and Reggae (Murphey) looking very proud of their new Working Certificates!

There's A New Sheriff In Town

On March 3, 2006, Gower's Breakin' the Barrier, SH, WCX "Yeager" completed the land portion of his training to become Travis County's only certified law enforcement Cadaver Dog. Yeager and Mark Brelsford were certified through Signature Science, L.L.C. and will go on to train and certify for water searches and to be certified nationally in both disciplines.

Yeager and Mark both work part-time as deputies of the Travis County Sheriff's Office and will be on call for searches and other law enforcement-related activities.



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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.

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

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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 s t I l l DUE

Please make sure to pay your dues! We are still lacking 2006 dues from over half of our members!
Thank you for your cooperation!

**Single Membership: \$15, Family Membership: \$20
Rug Rag Subscription Only: \$10**

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

**MELISSA JONES
EDITOR**

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