

A.G.R.C. Rug Rag

September, 2007

Special Interest Articles:

- Lots of Brags!
- Responsible Dog Owners Day .
- The Night of the Almond....



Debra Keen's First Dog Family

Check Out Her Member Spotlight on Page 4!

MEETING
9/26/07

Brick Oven
10710 Research
Boulevard

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

See you there!

Meeting Date Change:

This month's meeting will be held on
September 26th

Board Discusses Upcoming Events

The board of directors met recently at La Madeline on 183 to discuss upcoming events of the club as well as room for improvements for the benefit of our club and community. Board members in attendance were Judi Hollenbeck, Debby Gower, Melissa Jones, Linda James, Jane Fish, Linda Reitzel, and Diane Senterfitt.

Among the topics discussed was the need for committees during upcoming events. Some suggested were hospitality committee, judge's liaison, and volunteer coordinator. The board welcomes suggestions from members regarding other committees or facets of planning that may make upcoming events run more smoothly.

The board also discussed the recent agility trial and its high level of cost and low profits. Some ways were discussed to improved exhibitor turnout at these agility trials as well as cut down on our "in-house" costs. One recommendation was to

find another suitable venue in which to hold the trials. Helen was kind enough to bring to the board's attention a few options that look promising in the coming year. It was also decided that we would have a raffle at the December agility trial to help with profits. There are still many basket items available, but an assembly team will be needed when it comes time to prepare for the raffle.

The board has decided to discontinue the original puppy referral telephone line as it was no longer being used. As of the inception of our website potential puppy buyers receive the home phone number of the puppy referral club member directly from the site.

The board discussed the needs of the WC/WCX committee, and complimented Theresa Yeager on her brilliant job of coordinating it along with her team! The club will be preparing a gift for

the judges, as they are only charging AGRC for expenses. Jane assisted the board in choosing the judges gift to be purchased by AGRC.

Finally, the board discussed changing the date of the September meeting due to the number of members that travel to the national during the third week of the month. September 26th was agreed upon as an alternate date.

The meeting was adjourned.

Notable & Quotable

"You can say any fool thing to a dog, and the dog will give you this look that says, `My God, you're RIGHT! I NEVER would've thought of that!'"

Dave Barry,
Author/Comedian

Responsible Dog Owner's Day



Sometimes, pet owners need a reminder of everything that is required of them in return for the wonderful privilege of having a dog. Dogs bring us love, affection, comfort, security and unrivaled devotion, despite our flaws or past mistakes. So what do we owe them in return?

The American Kennel Club is celebrating it's annual AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day to help educate first-time dog owners about the commitment required and to help current owners enhance their relationships with their pet. Each September, all across the country, hundreds of free events are held to commemorate this day and educate people about responsible dog ownership.

Part of this initiative includes the AKC Responsible Dog Owner Pet Promise which brings the tenets of responsible dog ownership to life. It's an oath that reminds both novice and veteran dog owners

that raising a healthy dog is about more than just playtime and pampering. Training, grooming, nutrition, exercise and veterinary care are equally important in nurturing their best friend. (Courtesy of www.akc.org)

There is only one event being held in the Austin area, by the Austin Bulldog Club, and with the size of Austin this really is a shame. Perhaps AGRC could look into sponsoring a community event on RDO in the future. We do after all have quite possibly the best canine ambassador as our breed of choice!

Braggs and Wags

- "Cuervo" – Mariner Doubleshot (King) – finished his championship!
- "Junior" – Goldruls This Buds For U (King/Sarkin) – picked up a 4 point major!
- "Sedona" – Brio Cool Moon Over Sedona (Cool) – finished her International Championship owner handled by member Kathie Cool!
- "Pete" – Alliebeck's For Pete's Sake (Senterfitt/Weisbart) – finished is championship!
- "Bailey" – Mystic Corvette Post My Bail (Slevin) – completed the following agility titles: AX, AXJ, OA, OAJ, NF!
- "Tango" – Gower's Scent Of A Woman (Gower) – earned her NA and NAJ at AGRC's agility trial!
- "Dallas" – DeLaVega's Don't Mess With Texas (Hollenbeck) – picked up the major and BOS on a specialty weekend at the Reliant Shows!



Member Spotlight: Debra Keen

RR: How long have you been in dogs?

DK: RG and I got our first Golden in 1985. I had never even had a dog until I was 30, and our first was a yellow Lab named Tory (aka Terrible Tory the Tornado Dog and Laboratory.) We loved her dearly for all her 14 years, but it was a miracle we ever got another dog after the first few months with her. I had read about a dozen books and knew I should take her to a puppy kindergarten class, so I called around and found that a Golden breeder named Helen Dorrance ;~) was holding puppy classes in her front yard...I used to run Tory up and down the street to wear her out before class, and even then she was so wild she'd terrify all the Golden puppies and make them roll over on their backs...fortunately Helen didn't kick us out! Later we started going to obedience classes, and the folks there convinced us that RG needed a dog of his own to work with, so we started looking for a Golden. We got Travis as a 5-month old conformation "wash out" and never looked back; Golden were IT for me from that point on.

We joined AGRC in 1985 and except for the last few years when I've been mostly MIA as far as the club is concerned, I was either an officer or on the board for almost 20 years. Because I've always had an interest in education, I was the public education/puppy referral

person for quite a few years. RG was also an officer or board member several times and did the Rug Rag at one point. I started out being interested in obedience, then we did a little field work and got a few JH and WC titles, then at some point the conformation bug bit and I was hooked.



A more recent take on Debra's golden family – "Three Goofy Generations"

RR: Who was your mentor/driving force?

DK: That's a little hard to answer....not because I haven't had a lot of help along the way, but because I never had the classic case of anyone taking me "under their wing" and walking me through the dog world, and I was fortunate to learn different things from a lot of different people. My friends can testify that I'm kind of an obsessive researcher when I get interested in something or am starting a new hobby, and the dog world was no different...I pretty much just started driving people crazy with questions and going to different events and reading everything I could get my

hands on. At some point, I remember I called up Ginger Gotcher and said "I need a conformation mentor, what do you need done in exchange for answering a bunch of questions and putting up with me tagging along to some shows?" Her back was out that summer, so she took me up on it; I bathed a LOT of dogs that summer and then we'd sit down and I'd get out my note pad. She became a close friend and did serve as a mentor in some areas. Other club "old timers" who were always there to answer my MANY questions and who gave me a lot of assistance in the early years in different areas were Kaye Fuller and Helen Dorrance.

At the other end of things, I have found one of my greatest pleasures in the dog world to be mentoring newcomers to this sport; sometimes in small ways, sometimes in a big way. Since I like grooming, that's always been something I enjoyed showing people how to do. I have a huge interest in pedigree and health research, so I've enjoyed guiding new breeders a little bit in those areas. *Continued on Page 4*



"First Field Titles"

Member Spotlight: Debra Keen (continued)

RR: Name one favorite dog not owned or bred by you?

DK: Oh, wow...I don't know how anyone answers this question! There have been many dogs over the years that I've admired, and some that have taken my breath away....but I always seem to love this part on one, and that part on another, and my "style" preferences have changed some over the years. When I first started in Goldens, there was a bitch named CH Beaumaris Timberee Tessa Ann (she also had obedience, field, and tracking titles and actually all the dogs I will mention here have other titles after their names) and I really admired her. From the beginning I loved the look of somewhat English-type Goldens...but then I loved the sidegait on Ready (Ch Sassafrass Batteries Not Incl); the movement, neck fit and temperament on Shaq (Ch Salyran Take It To The Limit); the head piece and joie de vivre of his dad Scotty (Ch Zia Ginge Mr. Moonlight.) Though I didn't appreciate this dog at first, I have come to greatly admire the spirit and overall sound athleticism of Kirby (Ch Rush-hills Haagen Dazs) and the physical and mental soundness, willing attitude and presence of many of his offspring. If I could combine Ready's sidegait, Shaq's neck and shoulder fit and his and Scotty's temperament and sweetness, Kirby's athleticism, drive, and presence with the general type that was frequently thrown by a dog from the past called Killer (Ch Beaumaris Pekay's Kilowatt) I'd be

pretty happy to own or breed that dog!

RR: What is your most sought after feature in goldens (i.e. what do you think needs fixing in the breed)?

DK: Front assembly! We have far too many straight upper arms, shoulder blades that are not properly laid back and laid in; and too many times the entire front assembly is set too far forward on the dog. I think we also need to work on balance, where the front end and the rear end match and look like they belong to the same dog. Temperaments need work, too...we have far too many "wired" or "sharp" Goldens these days. Oops, that was three things.



Debra and "Mira"

RR: Where do you see your breeding program in 10 years?

DK: I will always breed primarily for health and temperament; and though my main interest and focus is conformation, I don't intend to forget that little bit of field work to ensure that they are still retrievers. I think that even for a show dog, being correct, pretty, and showy is just part of the equation; they should also be more than willing to bring back a bird and swim for a

duck. I can't imagine not still wanting the same basic temperament and personality in my dogs in 10 years; which is a willingness to play whatever game is going but then being able to turn it off and lie around with us when it's couch potato time. My small program probably won't change as much as I would like, since I only have a litter every two or three years. Having always been a "parts" hunter and a head hunter, I am now appreciating and wanting to incorporate a certain pizzazz, elegance, and presence into the "package."

RR: What is the funniest/most outrageous thing one of your Goldens has ever done?

DK: Do I have to pick just one? Well, there was the time we came home to find Connery (who is about to turn 10 later this year but at the time was about 10 months old) standing on our bed with our brand new and very expensive down comforter in shreds and with white down all over the room...it looked like an indoor blizzard! Since he was a very good boy, the only thing we could figure out is that the comforter smelled like ducks (which it did, actually) and he had recently been to a couple of fun field outings and discovered he loved birds. It wasn't quite that funny at the time, though!

Correction:

Please note that Helen Dorrance's Number is incorrectly listed in the phone directory.

It should read:
512-260-7717

Oh, The Night of the Almond...(By: Melissa Jones)

Everyone has had those nights where they have been up and down with a particular dog due to frequent trips to the bathroom, but recently we had quite the episode of such a sort. Our 2 year old bitch, Suwannee had been begging for food (shocker) as we were relaxing on the couch one night, so my mom tossed her an almond, a little bitty, nickel sized morsel which we had no idea would be the end of our good nights sleep that night.

We went to bed, and were awakened within a couple of hours with Suwannee nudging at our faces, running from room to room attempting to wake someone, anyone. We finally took her out at which point she had violent diarrhea. This continued until around 9 a.m. the next day, and I will spare you all the details, but it is safe to say that no one in the house got much sleep that night.

As it cleared relatively quickly, I had ruled out virus and likely bacteria, so I knew she *must* have eaten something foul. As it turns out we were able to conclude that aside from her dry dog food, the only other thing Suwannee had ingested that day was the almond. After a quick Google of “dogs + almond”, I found that I was not the only one who had had such a night with their dog.

I consider myself relatively knowledgeable regarding all things “dog”, but I never knew that a simple tiny nut could have such a disrupting effect on our poor dog!

It got me curious and searching for other items hazardous to a dog, and I wanted to share my findings with everyone. Most of it is common sense, but others may just save you and your dogs a night like ours....

Wild cherry
Almond
Apricot
Balsam Pear
Japanese Plum
Yeast dough
Coffee grounds
Macadamia nuts
Tomato and potato leaves and stems
Avocados
Onions and onion powder
Grapes
Raisins
Chocolate
Pear and peach kernels
Mushrooms (if also toxic to humans)
Rhubarb
Spinach
Alcohol
Acetaminophen
Antifreeze and other car fluids
Bleach and cleaning fluids
Boric acid
Deodorants
Deodorizers
Detergents
De-icing salts
Disinfectants
Drain cleaners
Furniture polish
Gasoline
Hair colorings
Weed killers
Insecticides
Kerosene
Matches
Mothballs
Nail polish and remover
Prescription and non-prescription medicine
Rat poison
Rubbing alcohol
Shoe polish
Sleeping pills
Snail or slug bait
Turpentine
Windshield-wiper fluid

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.

A recipe to get you through the final dog days of summer...

☀ 1 Large Container of Vanilla Yogurt ☀ 3-4 Ripe Bananas ☀ 1/2c Water

Mix all ingredients in a blender.

Distribute mixture into mini muffin tin or ice cube trays.

Freeze and Serve!

Provided by Jeanine Vieten via WORK GOLD

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