



# RETRIEVER REVIEW

Issue 5 February 2009

## February Meeting

February 27th, 2009—7:30 p.m.

(\* Board Meeting prior @ 7:00 p.m.)

Elmer's Restaurant—Delta Park

## ~ Club Officers ~

President: Barb Gilchrist

Vice President: Judy Chambers

Secretary: Deb Neal

Treasurer: Greg Huntzinger

## Board Members

Ellen Sparks

Cindy Freeman

Nikki Berthold-Illias

Dan Neal

## Committee Chairs

Susan Huntzinger—2009 Specialty

Nikki Berthold-Illias

2009 Hunt Test

## Litter Referrals

Susan & Greg Huntzinger

(503) 655-9405

## Membership

Kathy Fagundes

(503) 698-7555

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## President's Message:



## My Fellow Lab Lovers

February is here and that means Spring is right around the corner! I always look forward to seeing the first of Spring's bulbs in my Garden signifying that we lived through another dark, rainy Pacific Northwest Winter. For those of you who came to January's Pot Luck & Elections Meeting....boy did we have fun! The Portland area suffered a wind storm that night and so right on time for Dinner, the lights went out. This sent Greg and Susan Huntzinger (our Hosts) scurrying for any and all candles and Coleman Lanterns. In no time we all looked years younger by candle light and a exciting sense of camping made it all the more fun! Next year I want to have the lights turned off so we can do it again! A special Thank you must go out to the Huntzingers for allowing us to have our January meeting at their home with the added bonus of using up all their candles. Funny how perfect the timing was as the lights came back on after dinner and before we opened the gifts....perfect!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as can come to the next February meeting, one week later than usual due to scheduling conflicts with the officers, at the North end (Elmer's Restaurant) on **Saturday, February 27th, 7:30 p.m.** Board Mtg. prior to general meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Your President ~ Barb Gilchrist



## Labrador Retriever Once Again Top Dog in U.S.



The Labrador retriever's reign as the most popular purebred dog in the nation continues for the 18th year in a row, according to the [American Kennel Club](#). The AKC unveiled the top 10 most popular dogs in America on Jan. 21 during an event in New York to kick off the organization's 125th anniversary.

Other top dogs include the Yorkshire Terrier, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever and the Beagle.

The complete list for 2008:

- Labrador retriever
- Yorkshire terrier
- German shepherd
- Golden retriever
- Beagle
- Boxer
- Dachshund
- Bulldog
- Poodle
- Shih Tzu

Each year, the AKC also looks at the most popular breeds in each of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. Some highlights:

- The Bulldog continues to climb the national list. It's really marking its territory in a number of western cities -- Las Vegas, Nev., Long Beach, Calif., Los Angeles, Calif., and San Diego, Calif. -- where it ranked second.
- Detroit, Mich., and Miami, Fla., are the only cities that do not have the Labrador retriever in the top spot, both favoring the German shepherd dog.
- The boxer is muscling its way to the top in a few cities, ranking second in Baltimore, Md., Cincinnati, Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa, Louisville, Ky., Omaha, Neb., and Kansas City, Mo. It's third in Atlanta, Ga., Cleveland, Ohio, New Orleans, La., Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., Pittsburgh, Pa., St. Louis, Mo., and Philadelphia, Pa..

- Californians seem to love the Miniature Pinscher (ranked 32nd nationally). It came in sixth (up from 15 in 2007) in San Diego and ranked eighth in Sacramento.
- The Vizsla is tied for 10th with the Shih Tzu in Chicago, Ill. Ranked 44th nationally, the Vizsla has long been a favorite in the Windy City, having made the local top 10 list in 2007 and 2003.

Unusual breeds on local top 10 lists include the great Dane (10th in St. Louis, Mo.), the Mastiff (10th in Indianapolis, Ind.), the Brittany (10th in Minneapolis, Minn.), the Belgian Malinois (eighth in Kansas City, Mo.) and the Siberian Husky (ninth in Long Beach, Calif.). (Reprinted from Veterinary Practice News)

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## RCLRC Minutes, January 17, 2009

Meeting called to order by Barbara Gilchrist.

In Attendance: Bob Fagundes, Kathy Fagundes, Nikki Illias, Dave Illias, Marilyn Parker, Richard Parker, Debbie Neal, Danny Neal, Lili Lobingier, Coleen Powell, Ellen Sparks, Lisa Cruanas, Julie Galbraith, Lisa Dalkan, Judy Heim, Judy Chambers, Cindy Freeman, Mary Jane Sarbaugh, Jennifer Hajny, Greg Huntzinger, Susan Huntzinger, Cathy Hakola, Tanja Rutherford, Ania Becker, Jessica Douglass-Visitol, and Jill Mahoney.

Motion made and passed to approve November Minutes.

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report: None.

Treasurer's Report: Annual Report will be emailed.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Slate of officers for the coming year is President: Barbara Gilchrist, Vice President: Judy Chambers, Secretary: Debbie Neal, Treasurer: Greg Huntzinger. New Board Members are Ellen Sparks and Cindy Freeman replacing outgoing Bob Fagundes and Celeste Smith.

Membership: Proposed new members are John and Gina Pfister, Jill Mahoney, Jennifer Hajny and Mary Jane Sarbaugh.

Specialty: Kathy Fagundes reported the park is reserved, judges finalized, AKC paperwork is complete. There is a need for Ring Stewards and someone is to coordinate breakfast. Judy Chambers reported that altered dogs cannot be shown in Hunting Retriever class. The question was raised at a previous meeting. Judy Heim motioned to offer Amateur/Owner Class and drop the Novice Class. Motion

seconded and passed.

B-Match: Julie Galbraith volunteered to be Chair for the B-Match. Judges for the 2009 B-Match and 2010 Specialties were chosen. Barbara Gilchrist brought up the obedience numbers and whether we should have 1 or 2 days of obedience. Discussion followed. Judy Chambers motioned to have two dull days of obedience/rally on Friday and Saturday for 2010 with local judges, then at the January 2010 Annual Meeting evaluate how many days to have obedience/rally. Motion seconded and passed.

New Business: Marilyn Parker asked if the Annual Awards could be updated with Fly ball. Judy Chambers motioned to add Fly Ball to Certificate of Achievement with it being retroactive for 2008. Motion seconded and passed.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by Debbie Neal

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## **Calling All Stewards.....**

Hi all,

I know it seems like July is a long ways away, but with the way time flies, our 2009 specialty will be here before we know it. Obedience and Rally will be the back to back trials on Friday and Saturday.

I am the Obedience and Rally chair this year and I would like to begin by asking for volunteers for ring stewards. If we get enough people to help out, we should be able to rotate enough so that those who want to show their dogs in other venues will have that opportunity.

If you are stewarding in obedience, you cannot show under that judge. However, if you are stewarding in Rally, you may also compete under that judge. Obedience requires 2 stewards and Rally should have a minimum of 3 but 4 is better (Table steward, Ring steward, Honor steward and Gate steward).

If you have never done this before and would like to learn more about it, the B Match in May is a great place to get your feet wet.

Please contact me at [QRLabs@yahoo.com](mailto:QRLabs@yahoo.com) if you are interested or would like more information.

Thank you,  
Cindy Freeman

## **Conformation Stewards are needed as well.....**

Kathy Fagundes needs ring stewards for the Conformation Ring for the RCLRC Specialty in July. She needs one for each day—Thursday, Friday & Saturday. If you can help, call her at 503-407-1444

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## **Proposed New RCLRC Members**

Jill Mahoney—Covington, Washington  
Mary Jane Sarbaugh—Langley Washington  
Jennifer Hajny—Ellensburg, Washington  
Jon & Gina Pfister—Vancouver, Washington

## **Brag, Litter Announcements, And other Important News!**

**From Christine Crosby....**a litter announcement ...  
Ch. Blackthorn Floats My Boat x Sunlight's Premonition, RN, CGC, Delta Society Pet Partner had 5 puppies (1 black female, 1 yellow female, 2 black males, 1 yellow male) born 01/08/09. Inquiries welcome. Christine Crosby/Sunlight Labradors, Bend, OR 541-948-9249

And a breeder brag...RCLRC member and owner, Suzanne Ventura told Christine that her girl that Christine bred (littermate to Sunlight's Premonition above) Bella Christine at Sunlight, CDX, CGC, Nat'l Forensics Detection dog, Narcotics detection dog was #2 Labrador and #8 Sporting Group for "Front & Finish" obedience standings for last year! And a belated brag, they were also back to back HIT both days of our RCLRC obedience trials in 2008. Congrats Suzanne and Bella!

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**From Betty Barkley....** a litter announcement.....  
Breton Gate Royal Troon has 8 yellow (3m and 5f) puppies sired by Ch. Oakridge's Polar Ice—whelped 12/5/2008. And Breton Gate Sun Goddess has 7 ( 3ym, 1yf, 2bf, 1bm) puppies sired by Ch. Sureshot Hypspire Impressive—whelped 12/10/2008. 2 yellows males available. Call Betty at 503-645-4187 or [barkley61@comcast.net](mailto:barkley61@comcast.net)

And Betty is bragging for Suzie Morrill, Suzie's dog Breton Gate Phoenix went WD BOW and finished his Championship recently at the Expo Shows.

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**From Lisa Cruanas ....** a litter announcement.....  
BISS Ch. Sureshot Hypspire Impressive X BISS Ch. Ghoststone's Woodland Gossip. This is Rona's final litter—4 females & 2 males—all black. Some still available. Lisa can be reached at 360-609-4958 [laurglenlabs@msn.com](mailto:laurglenlabs@msn.com)

## ***Brags/News continued....***

**From Kathy Fagundes...a NEW CHAMPION!!!!**  
"King" finished his Championship at the Puyallup shows a few weeks ago. He is now Ch. Black-Thorn's King of the Beech. King is owned and Loved by Bob and Kathy Fagundes and Bob and Barb Gilchrist and was bred by Bob and Barb!

***Congrats to all on the wins & puppies!!***

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## ***Oops! Did you forget??????***

We have a few club members in arrears on their 2009 RCLRC Membership dues! Remember that Club By-Laws state that anyone not paid up by February 1st, will not be included in the club directory. Even if you forgot and don't get listed—which isn't the end of the world—we need and want your support—get those dues mailed in asap!!

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## ***K-9 Congressional Medal of Honor Winner - Brutus***



Thought you'd find this interesting. Talk about animal intelligence and bonding with humans!

The K-9 below and to the left is Brutus, a military K-9 at McChord. He's huge - part Boxer and part British Bull Mastiff and tops the scales at 200 lbs. His handler took the picture. Brutus is running toward me because he knows I have some Milk Bone treats, so he's slobbering away! I had to duck around a tree just before he got to me in case he couldn't stop, but he did. Brutus won the Congressional Medal of Honor last year from his tour in Iraq. His handler and four other soldiers were taken hostage by insurgents. Brutus and his handler communicate by sign language and he gave Brutus the signal that meant 'go away but come back and find me'. The Iraqis paid no attention to Brutus. He came back later and quietly tore the throat out of one guard at one door and another guard at another door. He then jumped against one of the doors repeatedly (the guys were being held in an old warehouse) until it opened. He went in and untied his handler and they all escaped. He's the first K-9 to receive this honor. If he knows you're ok, he's a big old lug and wants to sit in your lap. Brutus enjoys the company of cats.

Submitted by Barb Gilchrist

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## **Lou Gehrig's Disease In Humans Genetically Linked To Dog Disease**

*ScienceDaily (Jan. 23, 2009)* — An incurable, paralyzing disease in humans is now genetically linked to a similar disease in dogs. Researchers from the University of Missouri and the Broad Institute have found that the genetic mutation responsible for degenerative myelopathy (DM) in dogs is the same mutation that causes amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), the human disease also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. As a result of the discovery researchers can now use dogs with DM as animal models to help identify therapeutic interventions for curing the human disease, ALS.

"We uncovered the genetic mutation of degenerative myelopathy, which has been unknown for 30 years, and linked it to ALS, a human disease that has no cure," said Joan Coates, a veterinary neurologist and associate professor of veterinary medicine and surgery in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. "Dogs with DM are likely to provide sci-

entists with a more reliable animal model for ALS. Also, this discovery will pave the way for DNA tests that will aid dog breeders in avoiding DM in the future."

Previously, ALS research has relied heavily on transgenic rodents that expressed the mutant human gene SOD1, which causes ALS. Researchers found that dogs with DM also had mutations in their SOD1 gene. Many rodent models possess very high levels of the SOD1 protein that can produce pathologic processes distinct from those occurring in ALS patients. Since the SOD1 mutation is spontaneous in dogs, the clinical spectrum in dogs may represent more accurately that of human ALS.

"Compared with the rodent models for ALS, dogs with DM are more similar to people in size, structure and complexity of their nervous systems, and duration of the disease," said Gary Johnson, associate professor of veterinary pathobiology in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. "The results from clinical trials conducted with DM-affected dogs may better predict the efficacies of therapeutic interventions for treating ALS in humans."

ALS causes progressive neurodegeneration, affecting both the central and peripheral nervous systems. The disease leads to advancing weakness and muscle atrophy, and culminates in paralysis and death. DM has been recognized for more than 35 years as a spontaneously occurring, spinal cord disorder in dogs. DM is reported most commonly in German Shepherds but also exists in other breeds, such as Cardigan and Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and Boxers. There are no treatments for ALS and DM that clearly have been shown to stop or slow progression of the diseases. Owners of dogs with DM usually elect euthanasia six months to a year after diagnosis when the dogs can no longer support their weight with their pelvic limbs, whereas people with ALS typically progress to the state of complete paralysis and succumb to respiratory failure.

This study was a collaborative project with MU researchers and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh and Claire Wade, researchers at the Broad Institute of Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The study was funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and participating breed clubs. (Reprinted from ScienceDaily)



## ***Okay, you were warned!!!! Member Spotlight***

I contacted a few members and asked them to submit a member spotlight, one declined and others never got back to me, so I will start the ball rolling.

My name is Valerie Jones and I live in Burley Idaho. Actually, I am a Canadian citizen—born in Lethbridge, Alberta—50 years ago this year!!! I am working on my US citizenship and hope to have it complete and be sworn in later this year.

I have been married to a wonderful—but relatively undoggy man— Kay C for 32 years. He supports my obsession and helps by doing what ever he can—but you folks may never get to see him—he is one big workaholic!

I have three grown sons—Matt, Jaxson & Jesse, a daughter-in-law Rachel and two of the cutest grandkids alive—Madison, age 3 1/2 and Karsen age 4 months.

I started in dogs in 4-H as a kid and my then 4-H leader is still my best friend. We talk every day. My first “show dog” was a parti-color Cocker Spaniel, next a Dobie and then I spent 25 years in German Shepherds under the name of Locust Grove. In 2002 I bought my first “Show Lab” so I am a relative newcomer to the breed. But gosh, it didn’t take me long to get hooked and hooked bad!

Presently, I have 7 labs, one of which was my first Champion BOSS Am/Can/ Ch. Ducktales And On And On aka “Echo.”



Echo and me at the Canadian National.

My most exciting win and biggest thrill came in 2007 when Marion Hopkinson (Rocheby) put Echo up for WB & BOSS at the Canadian National. That was thrilling enough but I about fainted outside the ring when she put up my other bitch "Locust Grove's Faith is Believing" for RWB! Wow—I felt like lightening had struck twice and I could die happy!

Which brings me to another little story about myself. I actually was struck by lightning once and lived. When I tell people that—they usually get this weird look on their face and mutter something like "Well, that explains a lot!" <wink>

As for my occupation, I am a registered nurse and the Health Professions Chair at a regional technical center for high school students. Prior to taking this job, I didn't think that I would enjoy working with teenagers, but I absolutely love it! And one of the really neat aspects of my job is I get to bring the dogs to work with me quite often. One class even got to help rear Echo's first litter. The vet tech students, weighed and measured them each day while they were tiny and then later helped with early neuro-stimulation and socialization.

I came over to my first RCLRC Specialty in 2004, but didn't join the club until 2005. Most of you will remember that year—that's the year one of my bitches tripped me on the first go-around and I fractured a bone in my foot—and fell on my butt! Remember me now?????? Anyway I am so glad I joined. The trip over and the specialty are the highlight of my summer.

As for what venues I enjoy, conformation is my first love, but I have also shown and titled dogs in obedience, dabbled in tracking (that goes back to the G. Sheps and Schutzhund work), and animal assisted therapy. And nothing, absolutely nothing can be a good couch potato/bed warmer—that is pure heaven for me.

Some of my other interests are studying the Civil War, reading—love the Mitford series by Jan Karon, and Bradley Trevor Grieve's silly little books and spending time with my family.

In regards to future aspirations.... I would love to have my first homebred champion (fingers crossed) in the near future. And I am going to the Potomac Specialty this year to look and learn. This will be my second time back there. And did you know The Big P is only 30 minutes from Gettysburg—so I will be spending some time there as well.

I am very happy to be a member of the RCLRC, it's a great group of people. And I have to thank a lot of you RCLRC members for your help, guidance and encouragement, I have learned a lot.

So there you have it—not to painful is it? Now my question is..... "Whose next?" Please email me your story—the March issue is wide open.

See you in July.....  
Valerie Jones—RCLRC Editor

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## Rose City Labrador Retriever Club of Portland 2009 Specialty Judges

### Brown Bag:

Heidi Herman	Sweepstakes
Marion Lyons	Conformation

### 2 Day Specialty:

Laura Steward	Sweepstakes
Laura Dederig	Conformation

### Obedience & Rally:

Friday July 10th  
Pam Weaver Obedience & Juniors

Saturday July 11th  
Theresa Temple Obedience

Show Dates are July 9—11th, 2009  
Champoeg State Park

Call for park reservations  
Beginning October 9th, 2009

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**\*\* Don't Forget to mark your calendars!**

The February meeting has been moved back-one week to **February 27th, 2009**  
At **7:30 p.m.** at Elmer's Restaurant  
Due to a scheduling conflict, There will be a Board Mtg. prior to general meeting @ 7:00p.m.