



# Golden Notes

FEBRUARY 2009

## President's Message— The State of the Club

The following is the message delivered at NORCAL GRC's recent General Meeting and Awards Banquet. For those who were unable to attend, you were missed. For those of you who were there, I hope that you enjoyed yourselves and the company of others. We are looking forward to our Spring General Meeting to be hosted by Suzanne and Walt Mikolajcik at their home where we can continue the camaraderie of those involved in NORCAL GRC.

"When I started as President of NORCAL going on four years ago, I had a vision of bringing new life into the club and helping it get back on a strong financial track. The whole reason I joined NORCAL was because someone encouraged me to do so. I got my first Golden Retriever from a local breeder who was a member of NORCAL GRC and started training him. I was encouraged to train him for obedience and his breeder asked to show him in conformation. I had no idea what I was getting myself into but next thing one knew—I was hooked.

From the days of showing Arsey to working now with my newest 6 month old, my life has changed. Many of us involved with this breed know exactly how I feel - for you too have had the experience of that special bond.

When my girl, Derby, passed away this summer, I turned to my partner and told her that I didn't want anymore Golden Retrievers. Three weeks later we decide to keep Halle, one of Derby's granddaughters. You just can't stop with this breed—in spite of the health turmoil and heartbreak, you just keep coming back.

And that is the way it is with NORCAL. Sometimes things go so smoothly and everything is easy while other times it seems to be such a struggle. People come. People go. Members get burned out while others are turned on and excited. But throughout it all, we keep coming back.

Over the last four years we, the Board, have worked to transform and move the club into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new by-laws allow us to use the internet more freely for communications and club business. We also have changed the way we "vote" new members into the club; streamlining it more the way the GRCA does. And we continue to look for innovative ways to encourage and support the diversity of events our club is involved with.

But just like so much other in this new state of economic concern, our club has become slightly weakened. While we currently enjoy a strong financial foundation, we are finding ourselves spread thin. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for members to be actively engaged in the leadership of the club—be it on the Board, volunteering as an event chairperson, or even serving on a committee.

Up until 12 hours before the Awards Banquet, the Board was chairing the 2009 Specialty. In spite of the large number of members who show at the specialty, no one felt that they could take on the responsibility of the chair position.

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## Editor's Bark!



We have a full edition this month - honoring our many accomplished dog/handler teams. Read on and be amazed at just how versatile our Golden Retrievers are, and how dedicated our owners are as well. My hat is off to each and every one of you who aspired to put a title on your dog.

We seem to be having a run of handler injuries - several of our ladies have 'clipped wings' or 'bum hips'!

Get healed quickly wishes go out to Nancy Corbin, Joan Marsh, June Smith, and Pamela McDonald.

Enjoy your newsletter. Feel free to contact me with suggestions or opinions at [pcgoldns@comcast.net](mailto:pcgoldns@comcast.net). If you do not have access to email, phone me at 510-787-2103.  
Janet

If you have not yet joined the Club e-list, please send your contact information to either Suzanne Bria ([farawaygold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:farawaygold@sbcglobal.net)) or Christine Hsu ([christine@tiganagoldens.com](mailto:christine@tiganagoldens.com)). The e-list is a wonderful forum to discuss club issues, announce events, and brag a little. It is a private list, open only to members of NORCAL GRC.



### **A MESSAGE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Hi everyone! It's time for everyone to work together to "GO GREEN". I have noticed that many of the members that currently have email are still opting to have Golden Notes sent to them via snail mail. A more green solution would be to have Golden Notes sent to you via email, and better yet, DON'T print out your Golden Notes unless you need something from it. Create a file for all of your Golden Notes Issues and save them in that file and view them from your computer screen. That way, Golden Notes will never end up in a landfill or clutter up your house and they are always available at your fingertips!

If you wish to make a difference in our environment, please send me an email stating that you wish to have your Golden Notes sent to you via email. You will not only be helping the environment, you will be helping our club save costs as well.

Thank you,  
Gina King - Membership Secretary  
[membership@norcalgrc.org](mailto:membership@norcalgrc.org)

### **CONDOLENCES**

NORCAL extends condolences to  
Lucy and Bill Bradford for the loss of

**"Chad"**

**SR Osprey's Dimpled Chad RN SH WCX**  
2001 - 2009

### **CONDOLENCES**

NORCAL extends condolences to  
Christine Hsu and Don McKee for the loss of

**"Cooper"**

**Intl-CH Chardon's Tapestry of Talent NAP**  
**AJP CGC**

4/17/1997 - 1/20/2009

\* !! \*\*KUDOS\*\* !! \*

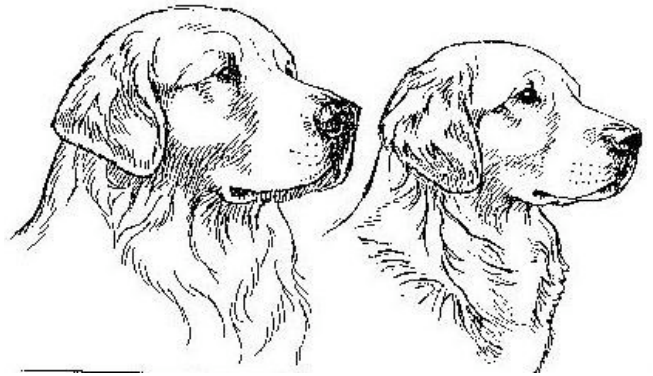
## On the Track:

### AKC National Judging Assignment!

#### Ron Simmons

"Ron" has been invited to be one of the 4 judges for the 2009 AKC National Tracking Invitational. The event will take place on September 19 and 20 at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Clermont, Kentucky just south of Louisville. <http://www.bernheim.org/>. Says wife Patty: "Ron is very honored and we are both excited and thrilled"

**BIG** congratulations to Ron and Patty!



### President's Message—

(continued from page 1)

The Board had agreed to "chair" the event because we wanted the specialty to happen. Toni Maita, who was serving as Breed VP contacted the Board just today to let us know that she would assume the chair for the specialty since she will no longer be on the Board. Toni had done the foundation work anyway so we were thrilled to have her step forward.

As of right now, we don't have a chair for the 2010 Specialty and are at a crossroads of having to cancel for the first time a specialty show. I hope that someone will be able to move into the position now, work with Toni on the 2009 Specialty and be ready to move into the 2010 Specialty. Okay—so here is my plug—let's not lose 2010! Volunteer!!!!

But it is not just the specialty—it has become harder for people to commit to many of our major events and we, as the Board, understand completely. And yet, we also are desperate to keep NORCAL diverse and active.

I am hoping that within the next couple of weeks we will have members contacting the Board Vice Presidents and letting them know what you are willing to do. We have a full out appeal for 2010 so please do not be shy. Let us know what you can do for your club! I feel sort of like John F Kennedy in his, "ask not what your country can do for you..." speech.

In spite of a weakness in volunteerism, I do believe that NORCAL is still a strong club. And I am proud of the work we have done publicly, the variety of events we have to offer, and are continued desire to stay true to the breed we so love—our Golden Retrievers! Here is to a new year!"

### NORCAL TO HOST BRIDGET CARLSEN: "JUST THE FACTS" OBEDIENCE SEMINAR

NORCAL is hosting a  
**2-day Obedience Seminar**

with Bridget Carlsen on

**March 7-8, 2009**

at the

**Jumpin' Java Dog  
Training Facility in Redwood City**

Bridget excels as a multi-venue trainer whose dogs work with joy and accuracy at the highest levels in both obedience and field.

Having literally trained dogs all her life - she earned her first trophy in dog sports at age 6 - she has a rare understanding of how dogs think and what motivates them.

They in turn recognize her genuine love and respect for them and respond with enthusiasm. Join us for a fun and insightful working seminar and learn what makes your dog tick.

For details see the [seminar flier](#) and [entry form](#) posted on the [NORCAL website](#).

For more information contact:

**Terry Southard** at [terry@coppertop.net](mailto:terry@coppertop.net)

or

**Dimity Mueller** at [dimitydm@yahoo.com](mailto:dimitydm@yahoo.com), or call Dimity at 408-353-2934 between the hours of 9 AM and 8 PM.

## 2008 AGILITY ACHIEVEMENTS:

### Master Agility Champion

MACH2 Emberain Coppertop Toast CDX TD MH MXF WCX VCD2...Edwina & Ed Ryska

### GRCA Agility Top 25 for 2007

MACH3 Emberain Coppertop Biscuit UD TD JH MXF WC VCD2...Edwina & Ed Ryska

### Agility Titles Earned

NAP, NJP: OTCH LoneHill Wildmountain Holly UDX3 RN TD JH MX MXJ NAP NJP WC VCD2...Ann and Ken Brown

MXP2, MJP3: Shyan's Place Your Bets DC MXP2 MJP3...Laura Finco

AXJ: CH Shyan's Argus' Tribute CD AX AXJ...Laura Finco

NA, NAJ: Argus' Rise of the Phoenix CD NA NAJ...Laura Finco

OAP, OJP: CT Lone Hill It's All In The Journey UD VST JH OAP OJP RAE WC CCA CCX VCD1...Bea Moore

MX, MXJ: Shyan's SunSuite Gaelic Dance UD SH MX MXJ NF WCX...Deborah Tandoc

OAJ, AXJ, NF: Emberain Gemstone Dare To Dream RAE AXJ NF...Scott & Sharon Woodland

NFP: Timberline Calif Amber Flame CD RAE JH OA OAJ AXP AJP NFP WC...Scott & Sharon Woodland

NAP, NJP: Ch Sherwood's Tullamore Dew CDX JH NAP NJP WC VCX...Jennifer Workman

## 2008 CONFORMATION ACHIEVEMENTS:

### Show Dog Hall Of Fame

CH Gingers Firebrand Kiaran CD RN SDHF...Ken & Trudy Blanchard

### New Champions

CH Reflections As Time Goes By...Patricia Bass-Walker

CH Regency Turn Back Time...Vic & Laura Franchi/ Tim & Lisa Ballard

CH Aubridge Backstreet Boy...Pamela McDonald

### Conformation Certificate of Assessment

C-Vu's Caravelle SH WC CCA...Nancy Corbin & June Smith

C-Vu's Square Rigger SH WCX CCA...Nancy Corbin & Nancy Kelly

Timberline Highland Brew CD RN CCA...Linda Lang & Mary Dent

Centime Xpress To Shalimar CCA...Tom & Jocelyn Lewis

Resawood's Rainbow Connection SH WCX CCA...Nancy Murillo

WYNSOK Freya of Resawood CCA...Nancy Murillo

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## 2008 FIELD ACHIEVEMENTS:

### 1ST In Field Stake & Qualified All Age

Topbrass Jump Start Firemark\*\*...Melanie Foster

Emberain Devil in Disguise MH WCX\*\*\*...Ellie Green

Ruby Redfish Mo's Mountain Gem\*\*\*...Carol Millette-Snodgrass

### Master National Qualifier

Magicgold's Galloping Gabby MH WCX\*\*...Cheryl Baca

Emberain Devil in Disguise MH WCX\*\*\*...Ellie Green

Real Gold Roxie Music To My Ears MH CCA WCX \*\*...Janet Wood

### Hunt Test Titles Earned

**MH**: Magicgold's Galloping Gabby MH WCX\*\*...Cheryl Baca

**JH**: Trumpet's Ultimate Caddis RN JH WC...Charlotte Gaynor

**JH**: Princess Zen Ruby Roja UDX JH WC...Suzanne & Walter Mikolajcik

**SH**: Maverick's West Coast Offense SH WCX\*\*...Carol Millette-Snodgrass

**JH**: NIMI Resawood's Sentimental Journey JH WC...Nancy Murillo

**JH**: Delta Gold SunSuite Accelerondo JH...Deborah Tandoc

### Working Certificates Earned

**WC**: Trumpet's Ultimate Caddis RN JH WC...Charlotte Gaynor

**WC**: Princess Zen Ruby Roja UDX JH WC...Suzanne & Walter Mikolajcik

**WC**: NIMI Resawood's Sentimental Journey JH WC...Nancy Murillo

### Canadian Field Titles Earned

**1st in Qual - QFTR - #6 Top Ten Qual List**: Can CMH Coppertop Wind in the Taiga MH WCX\*\*, Can CD WCX QFTR\*\*\*...Judy Myers

**Canadian Derby Pointed**: Heads Up Track in the Taiga WC\*\*, Can WCI\*\*...Judy Myers

### Conformation Certificate of Assessment (Continued)

Wild Mtn Kelly Ann Has It All RN CCA...Wendy Silveira

Real Gold Roxie Music To My Ears MH WCX CCA \*\*...Janet Wood

# 2008 OBEDIENCE ACHIEVEMENTS:

## AKC Obedience Invitational Qualifier

NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX7 RE TDX VCD1 JH WCX OBHF...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

OTCH MACH Baymist Storm of Approval UDX5 VCD2 OBHF ADHF...Susan & Mike Bates

OTCH Coppertop Celebration UDX6 TDX JH WC CCA VCX OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

## Obedience Hall of Fame

Coppertop Lil'Red Waggin' UDX TDX JH CCA VCX OD OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

## Multiple Perfect Scores of 200

NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX8 RE TDX VCD1 JH WCX OBHF...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

## Perfect Score of 200

OTCH Coppertop Celebration UDX6 TDX JH WC CCA VCX OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

## Multiple High in Trial

DD's Capture The Moment UD RE TD NAJ WC...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

## Multiple High In Trails & Multiple High Combined

NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX8 RE TDX VCD1 JH WCX OBHF...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

OTCH MACH Baymist Storm of Approval UDX5 VCD2 OBHF ADHF...Susan & Mike Bates

OTCH DD's Lookout It's Scout TD JH NA NAJ VCD1 OBHF...Dimity Mueller

OTCH Coppertop Celebration UDX6 TDX JH WC CCA VCX OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

Coppertop Lil'Red Waggin' UDX TDX JH CCA VCX OD OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

## Multiple High Combined

OTCH Wild Mtn Set Me Free UDX3 AX AXJ WC VCX CCA OBHF...Ann & Ken Brown

## Obedience Titles Earned

UDX7, UDX8: NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX8 RE TDX VCD1 JH WCX OBHF...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

CD, CDX, UD: DD's Capture The Moment UD RE TD NAJ WC...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

UDX5: OTCH MACH Baymist Storm of Approval UDX5 VCD2 OBHF ADHF...Susan & Mike Bates

CD: Masters Destiny At The Wheel CE RE CCA...Sue Brant

OTCH, UDX2, UDX3: OTCH Wild Mtn Set Me Free UDX3 AX AXJ WC VCX CCA OBHF...Ann & Ken Brown

CD CDX: Trumpet's Near Nuff CDX RN SH...Charlotte Gaynor

CDX: Maverick's Roadrunner CDX RE MH WCX...Wendy Johnston

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# 2008 OBEDIENCE ACHIEVEMENTS:

## **Obedience Titles Earned** (continued)

**CD:** Timberline Highland Brew CD RN CCA...Linda Lang & Mary Dent

**CDX:** Northwood T'Britt's Brave Heart CDX RAE TDI CGC...Ferol Larsen

**UD:** Maverick's Tumblin' Tumbleweed SH UD WCX...Carol Millette-Snodgrass

**CD:** Max Illusions Of Santa Clara CD RAE...Bea Moore

**OTCH:** OTCH DD's Lookout It's Scout TD JH NA NAJ VCD1 OBHF...Dimity Mueller

**CD:** Resawood's On A Claire Day CD RN SH WCX CCA...Nancy Murillo

**UDX6:** OTCH Coppertop Celebration UDX6 TDX JH WC CCA VCX OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

**UDX:** Coppertop Lil'Red Waggin' UDX TDX JH CCA VCX OD OBHF...Terry & Steve Southard

**CD:** Ch Regency Any Excuse To Shop CD SH WCX VCX...Jamie Warren

## **Rally Titles Earned**

**RA, RE, RAE:** Reflections Worth The Wait CDX RAE CGC TDI...Patricia Bass-Walker

**RE:** Masters Destiny At The Wheel CD RE CCA...Sue Brant

**RAE:** RHyegold Midsumr Knights Dream CDX TDX JH RAE WC VCX CCA...Suzanne & Walter Bria

**RN:** Trumpet's Ultimate Caddis RN JH WC...Charlotte Gaynor

**RN:** Trumpet's Near Nuff CDX RN SH...Charlotte Gaynor

**RE:** Maverick's Roadrunner CDX RE MH WCX...Wendy Johnston

**RE:** Maverick's Nemesis CD RE MH WCX \*\*...Wendy Johnston

**RN:** Timberline Highland Brew CD RN CCA...Linda Lang & Mary Dent

**RN:** Sunstorm Party At Golden Pine RN JH WC...Nancy Kelly & Patricia Nygren

**RN,RA,RE,RAE:** Max Illusions of Santa Clara CD RAE...Bea Moore

**RN:** Wild Mtn Kelly Ann Has It All RN CCA...Wendy Silveira

**RE:** CH Regency Any Excuse To Shop CD SH RE WCX VCX...Jamie Warren

**RE:** CH Regency Rumors Flying High JH RE VC...Jamie Warren/Vic & Laura Franchi

**RAE:** Emberain Gemstone Dare To Dream RAE AXJ NF...Scott & Sharon Woodland

**RAE:** Timberline Calif Amber Flame CD RAE JH OA OAJ AXP AJP NFP WC...Scott & Sharon Woodland

## 2008 TRACKING ACHIEVEMENTS:

### AKC Tracking Invitational Qualifier:

CT Lone Hill It's All In The Journey UD VST JH OAP OJP RAE WC CCA VCX VCD1...Bea Moore

### Tracking Titles Earned

**TDX:** Masters Just Mad About You TDX CCA...Mary Ann Graziano

**TD:** Sunstorm Rendez-Vous at Golden Pine TD...Nancy Kelly, Patty Nygren, Eileen Oshiro

**TDX:** Ch Golden Pine Cabo Sunrise CD RN TDX...Ron & Patty Simmons

## 2008 OUTSTANDING DAM:

OTCH DD's Assembled With Care UDX VCD2 AX AXJ JH WC OBHF OD...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

Magicgold Ziggy Darkstar SH WCX OD...Cheryl Baca

Manor's Diamonds Are Forever OD...Brenda & John Radcliffe

## 2008 GRCA VCX Titles Earned:

Resawood's On A Claire Day CD RN SH WCX CCA VC...Nancy Murillo

Ch Regency Any Excuse To Shop CD SH RE WCX VCX...Jamie Warren



# 2008 NORCAL TOP AWARDS:

## TOP AGILITY DOG 20 INCHES:

MACH3 Emberain Coppertop Biscuit UD TD JH MXF WC ADHF...Edwina & Ed Ryska

## TOP AGILITY DOG 24 INCHES:

MACH2 Emberain Coppertop Toast CDX TD MH MXF WCX ADHF ...Edwina & Ed Ryska

## TOP SHOW FEMALE PUPPY:

Regency Full Blast...Vic & Laura Franchi, Jamie Warren

## TOP SHOW FEMALE GOLDEN:

Regency Full Blast...Vic & Laura Franchi, Jamie Warren

## TOP SHOW MALE PUPPY:

K-Jen's One In A Million...Jennifer Workman

## TOP SHOW MALE GOLDEN:

CH Gingers Firebrand Kieran CD RN SDHF...Ken & Trucy Blanchard

## TOP DERBY GOLDEN

Topbrass Jump Start Firemark\*\* ...Melanie Foster

## RESERVE OBEDIENCE GOLDEN:

OTCH Wild Mtn Set Me Free UDX3 AX AXJ WC VCX CCA OBHF...Ann & Ken Brown

## TOP OBEDIENCE GOLDEN:

NOC OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX8 RE TDX VCD1 JH WCX OBHF...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

## NORCAL VERSATILITY AWARDS:

DD's Capture The Moment UD RE TD NAJ WC...Dee Dee & Billy Anderson

# President's Awards for Outstanding Service to the Club

**Janet Wood**

**Suzanne Bria**

**Susan Bates**

**Janet Wood** has been our Golden Notes editor and “chief of communications.” Every deadline she is right on anyone who needs to contribute to Golden Notes. Her skills at coordinating people, organizing information, and getting it out in a timely manner are right up there in the “wow” factor category. It is my pleasure to honor Janet Wood with a President’s Award for Outstanding Service.

Our second member being honored also seems to stay behind the scenes but is always willing to say “yes” even before being asked. **Suzanne Bria** got into Golden Notes “accidentally” basically looking for a companion. Like so many of us, it is now an addiction. Suzanne has helped organize and support the CCA, the specialties, workshops, and anywhere else her talents might be needed. And she is always inspired to move the club positively forward.

Our final member to be honored is someone who I truly have come to admire for her diplomacy, her ability to organize, and her creativity. In all that needs to be done for a Club to function, in my tenure as President there has been one event that I have never had to even blink about because this member has it down. She has all the connections, is on top of every deadline, and just continues to make this event special for all involved. I would like to honor **Susan Bates** for her dedication to our Awards Banquet.

Laura Finco

## Agility VP Award - Dimity Mueller

**Dimity** stepped in at the last minute as co-chair for the 2008 NORCAL Agility Trial. Which meant she was there well after the Specialty was over, in the dark, to help me pack up all the hospitality equipment! She went above and beyond to make herself available to shop, pick-up and haul whatever was necessary to help make the trial a success! With great thanks I ask her to accept this VP Award for service to the Club.

Debbie Tandoc, Agility VP

## Breed VP Award - Christine Hsu

**Christine** consistently shows herself to be a committed volunteer and devotes hours of her time and talent to the maintenance of our club’s web site. She is always available to offer her expertise to others. She also provided incredible leadership as the General Chairman for the 2008 Specialty Show.

Toni Maita, Breed VP

## Field VP Award - Nancy Corbin

**Nancy Corbin** has served NORCAL GRC for many years as the Picnic Trial Coordinator. Through “Thick and Thin” Nancy has been there for the field newbies. She has put so much of her life and efforts in to continuing to promote Field work in our Golden Notes. The Singles Series and Scurry last year would never have been the huge success it was without her. How much we appreciate all of Nancy’s hard work and efforts in keeping the Field in our Golden Notes and encouraging new people to continue this with their dogs!

Cheryl Baca, Field VP

## Obedience VP Award - Ann Brown

I would like to thank **Ann Brown** for being my special helper over the last three years. She has been ready and willing to step in and help where needed and has been an asset to all of the workshops and matches that we have done since I have been VP.

Dimity Mueller, Obedience VP

**\* !! \*\*KUDOS\*\* !! \***

**on the AGILITY Course:**

Please send your brags to Agility Editor Edwina Ryska,  
6010 Roblar Road, Petaluma CA 94952  
email: ed\_ryska@msn.com

**New OF and AXJ!**

Smithhaven's Ambermist Rose CD RE AXJ OF OA CCA

"Rosie" finished her OF title with three 4th place runs & she also finished her AXJ title with two 1st place, and a 2nd at the **Border Terrier Club Agility** on 1/17 & 1/18.

Congratulations to Rosie and Linda Lang & June Smith

**New NA and NAJ!**

Emberain Late Harvest NA NAJ

"Raisin" completed her novice standard and Jumpers titles at the January trials. She also has 2 Novice FAST legs.

Congratulations to Raisin and Ed & Edwina Ryska!

**\* !! \*\*KUDOS\*\* !! \***

**In the BREED Ring:**

Please send your brags to Conformation Editor Sue Carpenter,  
4234 Rosenbaum Ave, San Jose, CA 95136,  
email: westburygr@earthlink.net

**New Champion!**

CH Regency's Full Blast

"Layla" took another 4 point major at the Palm Springs Kennel Club on 1/4/09 to complete her championship.

Congratulations to Layla and Vic & Laura Franchi, Jamie Warren, and Alicia Wessels!

**\* !! \*\*KUDOS\*\* !! \***

**In the OBEDIENCE Ring:**

Please send your brags to Obedience Editor Sue Carpenter,  
4234 Rosenbaum Ave, San Jose, CA 95136,  
email: westburygr@earthlink.net

**New CDX!**

Trumpet's Near Nuff, CDX, RN, SH, CGC, WCX  
"Ritzi" earned her CDX title with a 195, and RA title with a 98 & 2nd Place at the **San Francisco Dog Training Club & San Mateo DTC Trials** on January 17, 2009, handled by Dorothy Mash.

**New RN!**

Trumpet's Ultimate Caddis, JH, RN, CGC, WC  
"Rainbow" earned her RN title at the **San Francisco Dog Training Club & San Mateo DTC Trials** on January 17, 2009, handled by Dorothy Mash.  
Congratulations to Ritzi, her daughter Rainbow, and Charlotte Gaynor!

**New UD!**

DD's Capture the Moment UD, RE, NAJ, WC  
"Snap" earned his UD at the **San Mateo Kennel Club** on 12/28/08. He earned his CD, CDX & UD in 2008.

**New UDX8 - High In Trial & High Combined - AKC National Invitational Placements!**

NOC, OTCH DD's Dreams Do Come True UDX8, VCD1, RE, TDX, JH, WCX, OBHF  
"Dream" won High In Trial & High Combined at the Salinas and Santa Cruz shows on 12/27 & 12/29. She also finished her UDX8 title. At the AKC National Invitational Dream placed #2 in Goldens and #2 in the sporting group.  
Congratulations to Snap, Dream, and Dee Dee & Billy Anderson!

**New CD!**

SR, Ch. Regency Rumors Flying High CD, RE, JH, WC, VC  
"Rumor" finished her CD at the Salinas Valley Kennel Club on December 27, 2008.  
Congratulations to Rumor and Jamie Warren and Vic & Laura Franchi

## Report on the Obedience/Rally Workshop 1/4/09

**NORCAL's Obedience/Rally Workshop at the Cow Palace Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> was a great success!**

Net profit was about \$2000.00.

This workshop was a joint effort by many NORCAL members and participants who came and stepped in when and where needed. I would like to give special thanks to **Mark & Jackie Sellers** who helped to organize the stuff in the trailer and transported it to the Cow Palace and back. **Mark** and his able helper, **Haley Sellers**, plotted the rings and organized the set-up. It is a wild and crazy two hours and by some miracle the rings are up and going by 8:30 AM.

Thank you to **Jackie Sellers** who headed up hospitality with the help of **Laura Franchi, Pam McDonald, Karen Hanami, and Louise Bryan**. They had a spectacular spread for all of the workers and I must say nothing beats hot soup and sandwiches on a cold day! Delicious desserts as well as breakfast snacks and drinks were available from early in the morning until we packed up in the late afternoon.

**Trudy Blanchard** came in first thing in the morning with **Ken** and was ready and willing all day to help where needed. **Linda Lang, Ann Brown & Janet Peacock** were all there first thing in the morning to help with set-up. All the stewards and judges came in and went right to work getting the rings ready.

I would also like to thank **Ann Brown** for lining up the judges and coming and helping me with many chores the day before and at the workshop. **Nanette Francheschini** and **Carson Haines** have been doing the sits and downs for the workshop for many years and we greatly appreciate their help.

We cannot do without all the NORCAL members and non members who were stewards and judges. A special Thank You! is in order to our member judges: **Ken Blanchard, Ron Simmons, Bea Moore, Carson Haines & Terry Southard**. Special thanks go to **Chris Hempel** who stepped up to judge Open in the morning since we had a judge cancel at the last minute. Thank you to **Suzanne Bria** for taking care of the rally ring, getting the judge and being there all day for rally.

This workshop takes lots of stewards and I would like to give thanks to our members who stepped up: **Wendy Silveira, Arline Collins, Nancy Kelly, Jan Hatheway, Ferol Larson, Mary Ann Graziano, Laura Franchi, Pat Lynch, Haley Sellers, Janet Wood, Susan Osborn, Patty Simmons, Dana Spak, Patricia Bass-Walker, Sue Stauffer, Harry Styron, Linda Lang, Ann Brown, Suzanne Bria, Elena Tani, Debbie Tandoc**. New members-to-be **Elizabeth Park and Mary Dent** came and offered us valuable stewarding help.

This workshop is greatly appreciated by all the folks who show in obedience and rally in the bay area and we get a lot of positive feedback. Actually, I think it is because we all have those friendly personalities like our Goldens!

Thank you again, one and all, for all your help. It is a pleasure working with all of you. I hope I have not forgotten anyone – please let me know if I have.

Dimity

Dog'gone Good Fun

### DAY IN THE PARK

Obedience, Rally & Conformation Classes - AKC Canine Good Citizenship Test - Shots, Heartworm & Microchip Clinic

**Sunday April 5th, 2009**

Hagan Community Park, 2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova

**(see NORCAL website for Flyer and Entry forms)**

## WAY AND MEANS

The Ways & Means team has two excellent seminars coming up to help you maximize your potential for success in either the Obedience or Conformation ring - or both. Times are tight; improving your training &/or presentation skills can help you get the most bang from your dog show bucks.

Both seminars are being held at the Jumpin Java Dog Training Center in Redwood City.  
**[See the NORCAL web site for fliers and entry forms.](#)**

These are two great opportunities to get away and spend a fun weekend learning from the pros, either with or without your favorite Golden in tow. Hope to see you there!

Terry and Mary Ann

**March 7-8: "Just the Facts"** - a 2-day working Obedience Seminar with Bridget Carlsen (all breeds welcome). Dont miss out - only a few slots left!

- Find out how dogs think, what motivates them, & how they perceive corrections
- Learn to read your dog, recognize his strengths & weaknesses, and use the knowledge to improve your training
- Dogs & handlers of all ages and stages of training are welcome.

**June 27-28: "Strickland Sensations"** - a 2-day Grooming & Handling Seminar with top professional handler Erik Strickland. We have had people chopping at the bit for information about this one since before the fliers were even out, so dont be slow to reserve your spot. Among the topics covered will be:

- Concepts of grooming - basic & advanced
- Evaluation of structure & movement
- Tricks of the trade
- Grooming problem areas
- Professional handling techniques

### **Obedience VP Report:**

**An obedience/rally committee is forming.** I would like a core group of obedience/rally enthusiasts who would like to help plan the events for 2009 and beyond. I need help with judge selection for the specialties for rally and obedience. Also planning obedience/rally related activities for the next few years.

If we get a committee of members, we can share all the duties and nobody will be overwhelmed. Email me or call me if you would like to be on the committee. I promise we will all have fun!

Dimity Mueller  
Obedience VP

[dimitydm@yahoo.com](mailto:dimitydm@yahoo.com), 408 353-2934

## **THE FINE ART OF OBSERVATION - by Suzanne Clothier**

Understanding, analyzing and resolving behavior or performance problems requires a good deal of detective work. As the famous Sherlock Holmes knew, no detail, however small, is insignificant. The more acutely you are able to observe the dog, the more accurate your analysis will be. Acute observation and attention to detail is the hallmark not only of great detectives, but of great trainers.

One of my most bemusing moments as a trainer came when I was working with a dog who had bitten several people. As I worked the dog over a variety of obstacles, his owner commented several times, "I can't believe he hasn't bitten you yet!" I never could decide if she was simply amazed or just disappointed. I wasn't bitten because I watched the dog for even the smallest sign that he was beginning to feel threatened.

With this dog, subtle changes in his breathing pattern, a compression of the lips and a constriction of the pupils gave me the only clues I needed. At that point, with no further clues and without pushing until I saw more dramatic signs, it was a simple matter to shift our activity to something less threatening and allow the dog to calm down. Ignoring these clear but subtle signs would have undoubtedly caused the behavior to escalate until perhaps we had a full blown aggressive episode ending in a bite. (This dog has gone on to become a wonderful companion who easily earned his CGC certificate, and a photo of him in Santa's lap at a "Photo With Santa" fund raiser remains my favorite of him.)

Dogs live and act in a world of exquisitely subtle signals in their interactions with each other. Our observations and communications in our interactions with them must seem unbelievably coarse at times to these sophisticates of non-verbal communication. Turned around the other way, we would perceive such inattentiveness to our subtle signals as rude, uncaring or perhaps simply stupid. Fortunately for us, dogs bring to the human-dog relationship their wonderful powers of observation, allowing them to be highly aware of our posture, breathing, muscular tensions, and facial expressions, often reacting to changes of which we are not aware. Training or behavior problems often result from the dog's response to signals we unknowingly have sent. Unfortunately, the dog is often blamed rather than the handler.

Our responsibility as handlers and trainers is to attempt to be as skilled in our observations and non-verbal communications with our dogs as they are in their interactions with us. Our reliance on verbal communication is perhaps one of the biggest stumbling block in the training process. As a rule, any concept that cannot be fully explained in a non-verbal way is a concept that a dog will be unable to grasp.

Learning to become skilled as an observer requires that you practice these skills. As the artist Frederick Franck said in *The Art of Seeing*, "We often look, but we rarely see." Information gathered through careful observation is crucial. Without such information, you cannot make any informed decisions on the dog's behalf.

A sad example is the Sheltie presented to me at an Integrated Approach seminar. The handler's complaint was that no matter what technique they used, the dog was "lazy" and continued to sit crooked. For over a year, she and her instructor had used increasing amounts of compulsion to force the dog to sit straight. A quick observation showed that the dog moved with his entire body bent slightly to the right, and his tail did not hang straight but over his right hock. Naturally, when he sat, he was unable to sit straight - he couldn't even walk in a straight line. I found it shocking that not once did the handler or the instructor take the time to really look at the dog - the answer was there all along. The dog was doing his very best, but had a real, physical limitation that prevented him from achieving the goal set for him by his handler.

Take the time to observe your dog carefully and often. Like us, dogs change, have off days, injure themselves and get confused. If you are observant about your dog's capabilities and limitations, you can make informed decisions. Assumptions about a dog's understanding or capabilities, unless confirmed by careful observation of the dog himself, can lead to training problems, undermine or destroy your relationship with the dog, and in some cases, are tantamount to cruelty.

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## UPCOMING NORCAL EVENTS - IMPORTANT DATES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
March 7-8, 2009	Obedience Seminar	Redwood City	Dimity Mueller
March 27-29	Hunt Test	Fairfield	Janet Wood
June 7, 2009	WC/WCX Test	Fairfield	Suzanne Mikolajcik
June 27-28, 2009	Strickland Seminar	Redwood City	Mary Ann Graziano
July 19, 2009	CCA	Lafayette	Suzanne Bria
Oct 17, 2009	Specialty Show	Pleasanton	Toni Maita
Nov 14-15, 2009	Agility Trial	Santa Rosa	Linda Lang



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