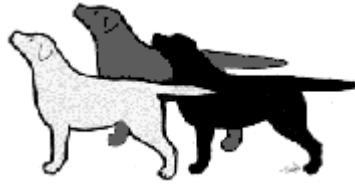


Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston

OTTER



TALES

Fall 2007

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Published Quarterly

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Publication Information

Otter Tails is published quarterly. Contributions of brags, articles, or event information are very welcome.

Email submissions to:
grampianlabs@comcast.net

Publications deadlines are:

| | |
|--------|-------------|
| Spring | February 15 |
| Summer | May 15 |
| Fall | August 15 |
| Winter | November 15 |

Submissions may also be made on CD.
(no floppies please)

Mail them to:
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From the Acting President

Karen Kennedy

Another summer has passed and most of our Club events are over. **AND AGAIN**..... I want to THANK everyone who helped make them successful. With one more event for the year The Fall Hunt Test... We are still looking for help. You can contact Audie Gould or Scott Shaw with your offer to help..... I know Cathy Shea and Margaret Stubbs are emailing people looking for help.

The Working Certificate on July 22nd in Hopkinton, NH was a HUGE success.....Over 50 dogs were entered..... And many earned Working Certificates in all levels. Thanks to **Pattie Duddy..... and me**..... for organizing this event.

The Tuesday night Delaney Group has had a GREAT summer..... Thanks Jim and Karen for all your expertise in helping everyone..... Jim with the Beginners and Karen for the more advanced handlers..... There have been many new Junior Hunters and 4 Master Hunter titles earned from that group..... Sorry if I

missed any Senior titles..... Congrats to all.....

I'm starting to think ahead for next year..... I'm looking for people to step forward and organize the following events.....

Winter Match in February

Working Certificate in July

We're also looking for people to be Officers and Board Members.....If you have any ???'s regarding what the responsibilities might be... give me a call or send me an email.....

Congrats to all members who had a successful summer.

Karen

CLUB NEWS



Triple Crown Placements
 Robin & DaisyMae 3rd Place; Robin & Mango 1st Place; Gerrie & Dazzle 2nd Place;
 Karen & Morgan, 4th Place

Triple Crown Standings After Passing the WC/WCI/WCX test

| Placement | Handler | Dogs' Name | |
|-----------|----------------|------------|--|
| 1st place | Robin Anderson | Mango | Snowden Hill Mango Crazy, JH, RA, WC, CGC, CC |
| 2nd Pkace | Gerrie Owren | Dazzle | Grampian Bedizened Viking, JH, RN, CGC, WC, CC |
| 3rd Palce | Robin Anderson | DaisyMae | Snowden Hill Miss DaisyMae, RN, WCI, CGC, CC |
| 4th Place | Karen Kennedy | Morgan | Wilmark's Jus 1 Mor at Pleasant Pine, JH, WCX |

Hunt test volunteers needed!

The LRCGB Fall Hunt Test will be held on September 21-23 at beautiful Peakebrook Farm in CT. We need volunteers for all levels: Master, Senior and Junior. If you are thinking of taking your dog to the next level of training, volunteering at a hunt test is a great way to see the action up close. If you're already an active participant in hunt tests, this is your opportunity to give back to the sport you love. Don't worry, you can run your dog in the test and work too!

Contact Co-Chief Marshals Margaret Stubbs (Mstubbs222@aol.com) or Cathy Shea (bansheecdx@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer.

All Breed Obedience and Rally Trials

LRCGB will be hosting it's 2nd All Breed Obedience and Rally Trials on March 1 and 2, 2008 at the MasterPeace Dog Training Center in Franklin, MA. All the paper work has been approved. Judging for obedience on Saturday will be Mr. Robert Squires and Ms Susan King. The Rally judge on Sunday is Michael Lappin DVM.

The Trial Chair is Gerrie Owren and Trial Secretary is Pam Kimel. Beth Chapman (Westwindlabs@aol.com) is the Trophy Chair. Beth will be sending a flyer out for class sponsors. The cost to sponsor a class is \$20. LRCGB will sponsor 2-4th place prizes. Fran Master is the Chief Steward again this year. If you would like to steward please send Fran an email (MasterPeaceDog@aol.com) or give her a call.

Last year's event made a profit of over \$2500 for the club. With everyone's help we can do it again! Anyone interested in helping/working please contact: Gerrie Owren at Gerrieo@verizon.net or 401 295 7209.

FIELD

On July 22, 2007 LRCGB held its annual Working Certificate. We would like to thank every one who attended this event and worked hard all day to help make it a success. Here is a list of Qualifiers. We hope to see you again next year.

Thank you, Pattie & Karen

Working Certificate

| Registered Name | Call Name | Owner |
|---|-----------|---|
| Fuchs' Maggie | Maggie | Rainer Fuchs |
| Beaver Brooks Scarlett Nights | Scarlett | Sean Levesque |
| Snowdenhill Mango Crazy JH, RA, WC, CGC, CC | Mango | Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren & Sarah Nolan |
| Glenforrest Daughter Of The Regiment | Molly | Cynthia & William Abbott |
| Meg's Memory CDX, RN | Meg | Susan & Adam Hemingway |
| Grampian Bedizened Viking JH, RN, WC, CGC, CC | Dazzle | Gerrie Owren & Robin Anderson |
| Wood Duck's Sarah Honeybee NA, WC | Sadie | Gretchen Rich, Daniel Fenno & Jeanne Charest |
| Meg's Memory Of Gypsy Bog's Zephyr | Zephyr | Adam & Susan Hemingway |
| Glenforrest Dancing At The Rascal Fair | Bart | Cynthia & William Abbott |
| Snowden Hill Bosox Lady | Maisie | Lisa Kinsman |
| Grampian Lola Tortola Viking JH, RN, CGC, CC | Lola | Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren |
| Gretchen Of Neads | Greta | Gretchen Rich & Daniel Fenno |
| Great Island's Jimmy Page | Jimmy | Charles & Heather Salemme |
| OTCH Plymrock Jet Propelled UDX3, SH, WCX | Jet | Cathy Shea |
| Mirabelle Woodduck Carbon Copy | Carbon | Milly Secco, Dana Loud & Jeane Charest |
| Maggie Mea | Maggie | Kim Lewis |
| Gypsybog's Southern Ma | Crosby | Karen Kase & Michael C. Caisse |
| Naiad I'm No Angel, CD | Luci | Cathy Shea |
| Gunning Island's Abbey Mitchell | Abbey | Chris Mitchell |
| Gypsybog's Swanea River | Otis | Michael C. Caisse, Karen Kase & Susan Hemingway |
| Gypsybog's Pawtuxet Falls | Tucker | Karen Kase & Michael C. Caisse |
| Brownwilly Bill | Rooster | Andy Westcott |
| Mink Hills Coot | Coot | Greg Dragon |
| Rocking Rob | Helmut | Andy Westcott |
| Davikas Pete Dillon | Pete | Scott Dillon |

Working Certificate Intermediate

| Registered Name | Call Name | Owner |
|--|-----------|---|
| Wilmark's Jus 1 Mor At Pleasant Pine JH, WC, CC, CGC | Morgan | Dick & Karen Kennedy |
| RD's Lucky Luke | Luke | Richard D'Auria |
| Gunning Island's Abbey Mitchell | Abbey | Chris Mitch |
| Gypsybog's St. Lawrence Lazy Days WC | Daysi | Karen Kase & Michael Caisse |
| Snowden Hill Miss Daisy Mae JH, RN, WC, CGC, CC | Daisy Mae | Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren & Sarah Nolan |
| Gypsybog's Quinnapoxit Run CD, JH | Quinnie | Karen Kase & Michael Caisse |
| Nor'land Naiad Hot Ticket | Ticket | Susan Noble & Doris Aylward |
| Provinces Wildeland Misty Norm CD, JH | Marley | Nancie Freitas |
| Candlewood's Time Will Tell UD, JH | Teller | Cathy Shea |
| Lobuff Major Yeager At Asquam JH | Yeager | Nancy Laser-Wolston, Lisa Weiss & Julie Quigley-Smith |
| Plymrock's Black Jack UDX, SH, WCI | Jack | Margaret Stubbs |
| Mink Hills Fourth Generation | Genna | Dick Fisher |
| Gunning Island's Brook | Brook | John Boardman |

Working Certificate Excellent

| Registered Name | Call Name | Owner |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Gunning Island's Brook | Brook | John Boardman |
| Pineacre Round Trip Ticket CDX, MH, WCX | Trip | Margaret Stubbs |
| Gypsybog's Brazos Deluge CD, SH | Buster | Karen Kase & Michael Caisse |
| Pleasant Pine's Making A Mark | | |
| Am/Can CD, JH, WCX, CC, CGC | Cinder | Karen & Dick Kennedy |
| Gunning Island's Abbey Mitchell | Abbey | Chris Mitchell |

Working Certificate Excellent (continued)

| Registered Name | Call Name | Owner |
|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Pleasant Pine's A Bit of Mischief SH, Am/Can WCX, CC, CGC | Mattie | Dick & Karen Kennedy |
| Naiad Full Steam Ahead CD, SH | Steamer | Margaret Stubbs |
| Naiad Be DeviledJoker Doris Aylward | | |
| Wilmark's Jus 1 Mor At Pleasant Pine JH, CC, CGC | Morgan | Dick & Karen Kennedy |
| U-CD Viking Gansett Bay Watch UDX, SH, CGC | Ganni | Gerrie Owren |
| RFF Here's To Ya Morgan | Morgan | Dick Fisher |
| Nor'land Naiad Hot Ticket | Ticket | Susan Noble & Doris Aylward |

Old Dog – No New Tricks?

by Rainer Fuchs

Nine years ago, when I bought a cute, yellow Labrador girl from a backyard breeder, all I was looking for was a pet for my young kids, to make it easier for them to adjust to our move from North Carolina to Massachusetts. No big surprise here, but my kids' interest in the pup lasted for all but two weeks, and then Maggie became "Dad's dog". Nothing could have been farther from my mind at that time than canine performance sports but sometimes fate has something different for you in store. Fast forward nine years, and Maggie had turned into a UD MX MXJAXPAJP RE, plus a bunch of non-AKC titles. But in all those years she'd shown no particular interest in what Labs are supposed to be all about: Retrieving birds. After she started limping in agility trials, I decided to retire her this year and let her enjoy her senior days as a couch potato.

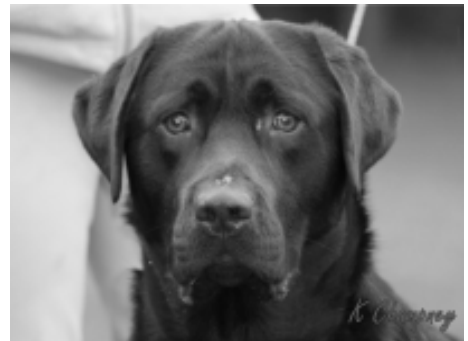
But life tends to throw you unexpected curve balls. In March I was down at Addieville Farms, picking up pheasants with my younger dog. Maggie was patiently waiting in the truck and at the end of the day I let her out to air. Suddenly she bolts and a couple of minutes later she comes back with a pheasant in her mouth! Maggie? The dog that wouldn't touch a bird if her life depended on it...? Chasing a live bird apparently unleashed her deeply buried instincts, and it didn't take long for me to realize what a great training opportunity was suddenly handed to me. It took only a few weeks (and the occasional ear pinch) to transfer Maggie's interest in live birds to dead birds and then bumpers, and I quickly found myself throwing simple marks for her. So much for retirement... All I had in mind was – perhaps, in my wildest dreams –, a Working Certificate. But kudos to the Tuesday night LRCGB training group at Delaney's. They helped me realize how much excitement Maggie received from duck calls, gun shots, and birds falling from the sky, and how hard she was willing work for her marks. So less than four months after having her first bird, she found herself entered in her first Junior hunt test up in Maine. Well, Maggie had a great time and hit the jackpot when she discovered the crate with the live birds at the flyer station, but I wasn't overly happy when I had to go out and drag her away from the birds. But she qualified in the next four tests easily, always being the most "senior" of all the Junior dogs entered. What thrills me most is not that I can now put a JH behind her name but that my old girl runs as hard as many young dogs when she chases those birds.

So who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

HARRY GOES TO LAW SCHOOL

This is what my precious HAARRRRYYYYY did for his momma last night and what I found when I came home~

I came home last night at 8:00 p.m. and discovered that Harry decided to study for the bar exam. He let himself out of his crate and took many of my old law books off the shelf and read them. Well, actually, so that he would not lose his place, as he read each page, he tore it out of the book and spread the pages around the floor of the dog room, making a nice 2 — 3 inch deep covering all over the basement. I think his favorite was the 4 inch thick book called anatomy for lawyers. he really devoured that one! After he finished that, he opened the doggie linen closet and decided to help me re-fold all the towels. He took them all out and shook them open. Then, he spread them all over the basement—trying to re-decorate, I am sure. I opened the door to the dog room, and Mr. Harry—now totally educated in many legal venues—smiled up at me and was very proud of what he had done with his day out of the crate. He was so pleased with himself—how could I possibly be mad???



He is now, Harry Rousseau, Esq.

Marianne L. Rousseau, Esquire
Cedarbay Labrador Retrievers
www.cedarbaylabradors.com

AKC Responsible Pet Ownership Day <http://www.akc.org/clubs/rdod/events/index.cfm>

Member Accomplishments



MHR Birchangreen's Sweet Willyum MH (Will) completed his North American Hunting Retriever Association Master Hunting Retriever Title this Spring.

Birchangreen QuikDraw McGraw CD SH (Tim) completed his CD title this Spring at the LRCPV Specialty. Tim placed third in all three qualifying legs.

Will and Tim are bred/owned/trained/handled by Nona King and Tara Yohan



Mayfair Verbena WC JH (Ch. Boradors By George x Ch. Mayfair Serendipity): Bena earned her JH Title 6/24/07! Bred by Karen Pandolfi - Mayfair Labradors, Bena is co-owned w/ Maritime Labradors, and trained by Julie Jaussume and Micheal Franklin

Maggie (Fuchs' Maggie UD, MX, MXJ, AXP, AJP, RE, WC) finished her Junior Hunter on August 19 at the Yankee Golden Retriever Club test in West Thompson at the not-so-junior age of 9 years (see story previous page)

Lobuff Major Yeager at Asquam earned his WCI at the LRCPV WC Test. Yeager is owned and trained by Nancy Laser-Wolston.

Junior Handler Jane Secco and her dog, Mirabelle Woodduck Carbon Copy (Carbon) earned a WC together.



Eternity's Major Believer RE (Molly) earned her RE in Rally in June at Topsfield, and earned a perfect 100 score at the Fitchburg rally trial in Advanced B while working on her 3rd RAE leg. Molly is owned and loved by Gayle Abrams, Candy Acres Labradors

Burri's Celestial Kestrel, CD, RN, CGC, CC, CL-1 completed her CD on July 29th at the Newtown Kennel Club show in West Springfield. She also earned 3rd place. Bred by Gregory McCarthy, Judith Clark, Sue Willumsen (*CH Guidelines Master Card x Willcare's Miss Directed JH*), Kestrel is owned, handled and loved by Barb Burri.

Margaret Stubbs has a brag: I'm very proud of Trip and Steamer who each earned Master Hunter titles this summer: Pine Acre Round Trip Ticket CDX MH WCX (age 7) and Naiad Full Steam Ahead CD MH WCX (age 2)

Grampian-Viking Labs had a good day at the WC/WCI/WCX test. U-CD Viking Gansett Baywatch, UDX, SH, WCX, CGC (*below*) earned her WCX. Ganni also has one Master Leg to brag about.

Grampian Bedizened Viking, JH, RN, WC, CGC, CC (Dazzle) earned her second Working Certificate in a calendar year, and came in second place in the Triple Crown behind her mother's first place.

Grampian Lola Tortola Viking, JH, RN, WC, CGC, CC (Lola) earned her WC along with her littermate, Dazzle.

Snowden Hill Mango Crazy, JH, RA, WC, CGC, CC **major pointed** (Mango) came in first place in the Triple Crown after earning a WC.

Mango's half sister, Snowden Hill Miss DaisyMae, JH, RN, WCI, CGC, CC (DaisyMae) came in third in the Triple Crown after earning her WCI (see story page 7).

Snowden Hill Bosox Lady (Maisie) litter sister to DaisyMae, earned her WC.

Ganni is bred owned & trained by Gerrie Owren. Dazzle & Lola are out of Mango, bred by Robin, and owned by both Robin and Gerrie. Mango and DaisyMae are bred by Gladys Rogers, and are owned and trained by both Robin and Gerrie. Maisie is bred by Gladys Rogers, and is owned and trained by Lisa Kinsman.





Joey Meade and Tristan

Master Hunter Photos by Marsha Wilcox

THREE NEW MASTER HUNTERS



Jim Pickunka and Reed



Margaret Stubbs and Steamer and Trip

NEW CHAMPION

Wood Duck Dark'N Stormy has completed her AKC CH all from the Bred-By class.

Mariah, as she is known, was from my first litter. Her first two points and this last point came from the same judge: Bonnie Threlfall who as a handler, handled labradors and indeed handled Mariah's grandmother, Chucklebrook Mousefeather". Her majors came under Wendy McNaughton (3), Marion Lyons at the Iroquois Specialty (4) and Linda Vaughn (3).

Little did I know that winter night when I held her seconds after she was born that she would be my first home grown Champion.



Cedarwood Kennels is pleased to announce the following titles earned:

Can. CH. Cedarwood's Wuthering Heights, WC - Canadian Champion Owners: Linda Berkeley and Nancy Brandow

Can. CH. Cedarwood's Blazing Bandit - Canadian Champion

Can. CH. Hyspire Western Wishes for Cedarwood, RN, CGC, WC - Canadian Champion, Canine Good Citizen, Rally Novice, Working Certificate

Puddleduck's Cedarwood Joshua, JH, WC, CGC - Junior Hunter and Canine Good Citizen

Cedarwood's Spiced Thyme, JH, WC - Junior Hunter and Working Certificate

Am. CH. Cedarwood's Shade's of Katahdin, RN, CC, WC - Rally Novice

Cedarwood's Reflections of Ruthie, WC - Working Certificate

Cedarwood's Timberline, SH, CDX, WCX, TDI, READ - Therapy Dog and Reader Education Assistance Dog

Can. CH. Cedarwood's Narissa, JH, CD, WC, TDI, READ - Reader Education Assistance Dog

The above dogs are owned and loved by Nancy Brandow at Cedarwood Kennels

Got Brags? email them to Robin to be included in future publications. grampianlabs@comcast.net Want them on the web? Email Rainer Fuchs: rainer@fuchsameric.com



Gunning for Miss DaisyMae (and other tails from the WC test) Part I

by Robin Anderson

Photo by Matt Allison

Sunday July 22, 2007 was an early day for two people who dislike mornings. We were up before the sun to travel north to New Hampshire for the 2007 LRCGB's WC/WCI/WCX test. We entered five dogs: Ganni (WCX), DaisyMae (WCI), Dazzle, Lola and Mango (WC). All the dogs were also in contention for

the Triple Crown Award. This award showcases that Labs are more than just a pretty face...they can also perform in the field and in the obedience rings.

The Triple Crown starts at the match show in May where the dogs get to trot in the breed ring and then earn obedience points. The competition finishes at the WC event in July. For the Triple Crown this year, 10 dogs began in May and there are only four placements. All participants get a rosette, but only four get the placements.

To place in the Triple Crown, a dog has to place in breed, earn their obedience scores, and then pick up as many ducks as the test requires. For the WC, the dog has to pick up all three ducks, earning a pass and another 200 points towards the Triple Crown. For the WCI and WCX, the dogs need to pick up four and seven ducks respectively, and a pass earns the dog more points, like the WC. First place in Breed gives the dogs 200 points, 2nd place 150, and so on. The dogs have lots of chances to rack up Triple Crown points.

Gerrie over slept a little, so our morning started a bit later than we planned. The dogs and I got a ride to our meeting place, and we transferred the pups and my stuff to Gerrie's van. Two hours later (the drive goes fast when you're chattering about this and that) we arrived to find people calling us to the line. Mango was #3 on the WC running order, and Dazzle was shortly after her Mum. I had breathing space before Lola and DaisyMae had to run, and Gerrie had LOTS of time before Ganni had to perform in the WCX. Between running dogs in the tests, we helped work at different stations. We didn't sit still much all day. There were 60 dogs pre-entered, and walk-ins were being encouraged. I think the club had about 65 dogs for the day. There was a lot to do to keep the tests moving along.

Water was first for the WC so the other tests could move along on land. Our judge was Scott Shaw, and I don't think he expected what he saw when I came to the line followed by Gerrie in the blind. We both wore pink camo shirts and matching slacks. He laughed when I told him I was Danny and Gerrie was Arnold (TWINS...remember that film?). He called me and Mango to the line. Lucky dogs...a live flier was the first mark! Mango did a fine job, as did Dazzle. Lola was raring to go after Dazzle and did very well too. All three WC dogs passed their water marks with no issues, so we put them away to rest until it was time for their land bird. Gerrie took over as WC Marshall, and I went to look at the WCI test so I could prepare to run DaisyMae.

A WCI in our club consists of both land and water doubles, one on lead honor, no blinds, and the dog must be steady off lead.

The dog must deliver to hand. A double is when two birds are shot in succession. The dog must wait at heel off lead for the judge to release the handler to release the dog. The dog must remember the first bird down after retrieving the second bird down and delivering it. DaisyMae had just begun this double concept. After earning her JH in June, I couldn't see repeating a WC when she's ready to move along. My worry was the possibility of her breaking with the live flier and big guns on land, and forgetting her 'memory' bird on water. We hadn't had a chance to practice with big guns and live fliers, and she'd had only one time to practice a water double. In essence, this was going to be a real training situation for DaisyMae, pass or fail. She's come a long way since spring. It was time to graduate to the next step.

I watched a couple of dogs run the test and asked the Marshall what the judges' instructions were. I listened to a couple of handlers discuss body position and dog position. I reviewed in my head all our instructor's pointers every time we trained with him. I decided to take a deep breath and get DaisyMae to the line.

DaisyMae gets nervous and excited, and she shows it by panting and whining. I've learned to try and keep things light, but under control for her as we move up the line. I could tell she was happy and excited, but not too nervous, so I must be learning my job as her handler. My heart beats, but I don't want DaisyMae to hear it thumping! We got in the holding blind, and as I was getting ready to remove her leash for the heel to the line part, I accidentally squeezed her ear making her squeal! I felt bad, but what could I do but tell her it was OK and we were going to get DUCKIES!

'Dog to the Line' I heard, so we stepped out and I was pleasantly surprised to see DaisyMae do a rather nice job staying close to me without a lot of nagging. When I think about it, she hadn't practiced without her e-collar or heeling crop before this test. We got in just about the most perfect position, again without a lot of re-adjustment, and I waved that we were ready once I saw DaisyMae look both ways and lock onto the memory bird station.

There was a lot of quacking from behind and out at the station, the bird flew and was shot BANG BANG BANG BANG, and DaisyMae's ears came up and forward. I waited five seconds, heard the quacking from behind and at the second station, and turned my body slightly to help DaisyMae. She lifted her butt, turned her body and froze, staring at the duck fly and fall. I heard 'dog' whispered from behind, said "DAZE!!!" and she took off with a bark and a yelp, faster than I thought a dog could go, tripping over a little ditch on her way out. In two seconds she had the duck in her mouth and was in heel position, pointing towards the memory bird.

I took the duck from her. I said to her softly: 'ready?' I pointed my fingers towards the fall, and called "DAZE!!!" Off she flew....and again, in a matter of seconds, she was back in heel position with her nice warm duck. On her way back there were gun shots from the WC test. DaisyMae did a Texas Two Step when she heard the shots, but she never dropped the bird and came right back to me. I was so pleased with her I was going to bust my

zipper.

The judge took the second duck saying "You can't do any better than that!" and invited me to honor.

I slipped her lead on and set her up where I was instructed. I knelt beside her so I could continually whisper in her ear "No bird. Sit" And she did it. Little Daze had just passed her first WCI land series perfectly. As we came off the line DaisyMae pranced and smiled and danced a happy doggie dance. She knew she was GOOOOD!

Gunning for Miss DaisyMae Part II

After lunch was made and served, Ganni was up for her WCX land series. She had to do one land blind and a triple, all off lead, and then an honor off lead. Ganni is always so cute. She works for cookies, so Gerrie puts little treats in her pockets before heading to the line with Ganni. When she's all done and coming off the line, I can always see Ganni nibble at Gerrie's pockets for her reward.

The blind was close to the center bird station. There was a gunshot just before the dog came out of the blind, and the dog could hear the judge say "There goes one!" Ganni had no problem being handled to the blind, and no problem finding three birds shot in succession. She passed her land series without the drama of a Long Island Senior hunt test when three dogs in succession broke on her honor. She'd go on to water, where she'd never had a triple before this test. Would there be more drama?

The WCI/WCX judges finished up and went to their water set-up, so we had to wait for a little while. With only one land bird for the WC, Scott and the workers set things up fast and we started that series. Once again, Mango, Dazzle and Lola got another live flier and performed beautifully. Dazzle did her little bunny hop when she found the duck, making the judge and workers laugh out loud. This is pure doggie joy when you see Dazzle perform her 'signature' move.

Once we knew our WC dogs had passed, I headed back to water to watch and listen for the WCI instructions. There was quite a discussion between the two judges after the test dog ran about a stump sticking up on the bank. If any dogs were belly floppers, and they aimed just right, they might land on this stump causing injury. The judges decided to do two things. 1) cover the stump with heavy padding taken from a truck. And 2) ask the handlers to do a modified walk up once the dog was released, so the dog was walked closer to the water before being sent by the handlers. Many of the dogs are 'green' so we knew this wouldn't work well for our pups. But the judges did say we wouldn't be penalized in any way for sending our dogs the best way we could once released. I decided to just let DaisyMae fly, since usually she isn't a belly flopper.

The memory bird was going to land to the left in lily pads, just past a canoe on the opposite bank. There was a blind on land to the left to prevent cheating on entry. The live bird (go bird) was supposed to land in the middle of the stream in full view of the judges, dog and handler, and gallery. This bird was sent and shot by gunners hidden in bushes to the right.

I watched a few dogs before I got in line with DaisyMae. She

Photo by Donna Kelliher



was loose and happy, not nervous at all, so I had some hope we might pass the test. She had done only one water double in her life. Could she remember? I didn't know. Water changes things.

I told the judge my number, removed DaisyMae's leash and walked to the line with her. She acted SO ready for this. I had to get her in a better position because she was looking to the right and wasn't willing to move her little butt to the left very much. Eventually she moved, and I signaled we were ready. Her head turned when she heard the gun shots to the left, and then she turned her head to the right when she heard that set of shots. And they shot and shot and shot...and then I couldn't see the duck. All I saw were feathers in the air and water. Oh, dear...where did that duckie go? And then DaisyMae was sliding into

the water and I can't remember if the judge ever gave me the release word....Oh, well. Flunked on breaking, I thought, but I let her go....some dog or other would have to get the duck anyway.

DaisyMae got sucked in by the feathers, and I could hear the one judge behind me say "I can see the duck...can you?" No...I couldn't see it....and then I did see it with its head UP and it was swimming AWAY from DaisyMae...DaisyMae saw it and then LOST IT! The duck was MOVING FAST TOWARDS THE BANK AND COVER! I heard the judge call to the gunners "Did that duck dive?" "No, but it's swimming this way!" I heard one call back.

Oh, brother...I thought the judge might just have me call DaisyMae back in and have a pick-up dog handle to the duck once the gunners killed it. But no....the judges waited and waited, DaisyMae swam and swam and started back to me.... So, I called to her "DaisyMae FETCH IT UP...." And she went back to get it again. I told the judge that the last I saw of the duck, it was swimming with its head straight up. The other judge said "I guess it wasn't as dead as I thought it was." Sheesh....no kidding! I lost sight of DaisyMae, and I think at that point the judge called to the gunners asking if the dog was on the bird. "She's after it" I heard.

Then I heard the first judge say "Call her in and we'll have the gunners sluice it". I whistled and called but I still couldn't see DaisyMae in the thick bushes. I couldn't see my dog or the duck and had no clue if she was returning to me when I heard more gunshots. GUNSHOTS? I turned to the judge and said "Are they shooting with my dog right there?" I was getting more than a little nervous. The judge looked a little concerned because he never told the gunners to shoot again that I heard. The judge said "Yes....they are shooting again." His brow was wrinkling with concern. My dog was where I couldn't see her and there were gunners with live ammo shooting a duck I couldn't see. My heart was racing and I was shaking. All I hoped was that someone was keeping DaisyMae safe on the land while the guns were going off. I kept thinking "These guys own dogs...they won't let Little Daze get hurt" but I was still worried.

I heard one gunner tell DaisyMae "Go get it!". (Oh, brother...if the breaking didn't flunk us, getting help while hunting sure would....) I heard a splash...it must have been my dog that I couldn't see getting back in the water. Then I heard someone say "She has it." So I called and whistled and called and still had no idea where DaisyMae was. I was quiet so I could listen, and then I whistled hoping to keep her coming towards me. Lo and

behold, the judge said "Here she is!" and DaisyMae appeared from behind a bush, duck in her mouth, wet and smiling at me, and wagging her tail. I wanted to cry! I grabbed the duck and told her she was SO good and she did a very hard thing indeed. I knew she hadn't passed, but I was SO proud of her perseverance and obedience in a very difficult situation for both of us. Even with all the excitement, and the failure I knew we'd be given on the test, DaisyMae proved she was brave and strong.

Then I thought about the memory bird that SOME dog would have to pick up. I asked the judge if I should send DaisyMae for it. He said "Sure...send her." I lined DaisyMae up, thinking she'd NEVER remember this fall after all the rigmarole she'd just been through, but it was worth the try anyway.

Wouldn't you just drop your teeth but DaisyMae remembered the fall and took a straight line to it, found the duck in seconds, and came back to me with it? WOW! What a dog! She was smart...had a good memory....was brave in the line of fire.....and pretty to boot. We got applause for her performance, even though we knew she wouldn't pass. As I slipped DaisyMae's leash back on, the other judge took my arm and said "I want you to know you're on the bubble." I thanked him for the test, heart still beating, but clueless about what 'on the bubble' meant. I think it was something good, but being new at this level, I didn't know. I just wanted to get a drink and relax. I walked a dog I was very proud of back to the van.

I did manage to ask someone more experienced than I am about the meaning of the term, and found out that the judges decided to 'discuss' the pass/fail on my dog. Was I still in the ribbons after that? Or was I going to fail anyway? My one strand of hope was that I could hear the judges say as they stood behind me watching DaisyMae get the memory bird: "She remembered the memory bird after all that." I was hanging on that statement.....

I got to rest and call home, and change my clothes and have a drink, and watch more dogs run the test before Ganni's almost perfect performance...triple on water with one handle. She's a smart little thing! Gerrie kept saying "I don't think Ganni would remember the memory bird if she'd been through what DaisyMae just did. I'm sure she wouldn't remember it!" Gerrie kept telling me that DaisyMae was AWESOME even with the flunk. According to Gerrie, the gallery remarked on DaisyMae's wonderful performance, and wasn't it too bad about her flunk. Yes, DaisyMae is just plain awesome.

We helped the gang break down and clean up the test before feeding and walking our dogs. We still had to wait for the WCI and WCX passes to be announced, as well as the Triple Crown ribbons to be handed out. There was plenty of time to let the dogs run and run in the field. All the dogs had a good run and wrestle before we leashed them back up to head for the snacks table and ribbon ceremonies.

Gunning for Miss DaisyMae Part III The Awards Ceremony

We walked five dogs to the Awards Ceremony. The leashes twisted and turned as five dogs wanted to go in five different directions, but the five Labs were as happy as their people on the other ends of the leads. Who pulls the hardest, you might ask? LOLA! Because whatever Lola wants, Lola gets.

All day Karen Kennedy kept telling me "You have to stay to the VERY END.....don't you leave early!!!!.....you're going to be VERY

HAPPY....." I assured her I'd stay till the end....

The first awards to be given out were the WCI ribbons. Even though I knew DaisyMae was really iffy, I wanted her at the ceremony because she's part of the gang. I was really proud of her...she deserved to be out and socializing along with the winners. DaisyMae is a winner in my eyes.

The club gives out nice certificates and nice rosettes for passing, along with duck bands to hang on our lanyards. The rosettes for the WC are baby pink. The WCI rosettes are baby blue. "BOY, would I be proud of one of those!" I thought as I watched the other handlers accept theirs. I listened to dog after dog's number and name called, and clapped as best I could with three leashes in my hands for all the passing dogs. DaisyMae thought all the applause was for her. She smiled at me every time the people clapped. Did she know something I didn't know?

I held my breath. Dog # 5 passed. Dog # 6 passed, and I was waiting for Dog #7 to be skipped or called. DaisyMae's number was #7. Then I heard "Dog #7, Snowden Hill Miss DaisyMae, JH, RN, WC, CGC, CC" and I let my breath out. The bubble we were on didn't break...WE PASSED! HOORAY FOR MY GOOD GIRL! Everyone clapped for Miss DaisyMae and she wagged and leapt up and smiled at me. She knew she was GOOOD!

Ganni got a nice baby green rosette and her certificate and duck band too. Ganni is smart and she knows it, but all she really wanted was the cheese on the snack table! She's a Goon and we love her.

The Triple Crown Awards Ceremony began right after the test ribbon ceremony. Karen described the requirements to the assembled. Mango had 200 breed points, earning a first place in her class, 194.5 obedience points, and her WC points. She was the First Place Triple Crown Award Winner for 2007. Mangolian Dazzle came in second place in the Triple Crown (what a proud Grammie I am). Then the BIGGEST surprise (after DaisyMae's pass on her WCI) was that Snowden Hill Miss DaisyMae, JH, RN, WC, WCI, CGC, CC came in THIRD PLACE in the Triple Crown!!!! YAHOO~! Gerrie and I had three dogs in the placements for the club award. The fourth placing dog was Karen Kennedy's dog Morgan. We each got a gorgeous green, purple and orange rosette. I love all my dogs, but the rosette I will treasure the most is DaisyMae's.

Lots of applause and cheering ensued, followed by photos for the club newsletter. We packed up once again for the long, tiring drive home. We stayed awake by eating snacks and talking about the day and lots of other nothing that I can't remember. We had five great dogs in the van, all snoring peacefully.

I think the best dog of the day wasn't the Mango, Triple Crown winner. The best dog of the day in our van was her baby sister: Miss DaisyMae. She's not always the star, and she's not always the one people look at with amazement and admiration, but I know she's awesome and wonderful and she knows I adore her. What a dog.

The End

Photo by Carol Stevens





The Delaney Tuesday Night Regulars (LRCGB field training group) have had a wonderful hunt test season. Altogether this group has earned 12 WCs, 4 WCIs, 3 WCXs, 9 Junior Hunter titles, 2 Senior Hunter titles, 4 Master Hunter titles, 2 Master National Qualifications, 11 JH legs, and 6 MH legs.

AKC Statement on Michael Vick Guilty Plea in Dog Fighting case

[Monday, August 20, 2007]

In response to reports earlier today that Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Michael Vick has reached a deal with prosecutors and will plead guilty to crimes associated with dog fighting, the American Kennel Club® has issued the following statement from AKC's Chairman of the Board, Ron Menaker:

"While we are pleased to hear that the Vick case is being settled through the criminal justice system, we remain concerned that the punishment will be inadequate considering the heinous nature of the crimes. Furthermore, we hope that the National Football League will continue its own investigation into claims that dog fighting is commonplace among players. The League has an opportunity—and a moral obligation—to investigate and punish other NFL players who may have knowledge of, or who may be involved in, these atrocious acts of animal cruelty. The AKC constituency, NFL fans, and the dog-loving American public will be watching closely.

This story is distressing and brings up intense emotions in all of us, yet there is a potential 'silver lining.' It is creating a national dialogue about dog fighting, illegal in all 50 states and a felony in 48, yet often at the bottom of the priority list in terms of crimes that authori-

ties investigate and pursue. Hopefully the Vick case will serve as a beacon and bring more forces to bear on preventing and prosecuting this behavior.

Another issue which this case brings to light is breed-specific legislation. As municipalities around the country seek to address the issue of dangerous dogs, they often turn to this type of narrow and misguided legislation which bans the ownership of certain breeds. AKC, along with many other respected animal welfare organizations, has been beating the drum for many years about the inefficacy of this type of legislation. As demonstrated in the Vick case, those perpetuating these crimes are not your average law-abiding pet owners. They use dogs as menacing weapons, as entertainment in a blood sport, and as a prop to sustain their "bad boy" image. Breed-specific legislation spreads the dangerous misconception that the dogs are at fault. The reality is that they are the victims, manipulated by 'owners' to fulfill malicious purposes.

On behalf of all dog lovers, I urge both law enforcement authorities and law makers to recognize the many lessons that can be learned from this tragic case."

WC/WCI/ WCX photos are available from Donna Kelliher, Photographer:

<http://www.photorelect.com/pr3/thumbpage.aspx?e=3054315>



Publication Information

Otter Tails is published quarterly. Contributions of brags, articles, or event information are very welcome.

Email submissions to:
grampianlabs@comcast.net

Publications deadlines are:

| | |
|--------|-------------|
| Spring | February 15 |
| Summer | May 15 |
| Fall | August 15 |
| Winter | November 15 |

Brags and In Memoriam

Free of Charge for members. Please include name of dog, owner, breeder, pertinent dates, and a high resolution photo.

Litter Listings:

Members may list litters for \$5 per litter. Please include all information: Name of parents, clearances, and contact information.

Advertising:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Full page: | \$25 |
| Half page: | \$15 |
| Quarter page: | \$10 |
| Business Card: | \$5 |

Camera ready art is preferable, but not required. Submit your ads on CD or email to grampianlabs@comcast.net. No floppy disks please.

Payments for all ads and listings should be sent to:

Robin Anderson, 20 Fairway Drive, Seekonk, MA 02771

Checks should be made payable to LRCGB.

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National Lab Rescue
www.thelabradorclub.com/rescue/

Change of Address?
Contact Karen Kennedy
pleasantpine@comcast.net

AKC is increasing Recording and Event Service Fees for January 1, 2008.

http://www.akc.org/events/event_service_fees_faq.cfm

Send litter and puppy announcements to
Barb Burri: bburri@comcast.net

The Labrador Retriever Club of
Greater Boston's web site had a face lift.
www.lrcgb.org
Have a look!

Do you have something to contribute to this publication? Email it to Robin:

grampianlabs@comcast.net



Events Calendar

| Date | Event | Location | Opens/Closes |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
| September 12, 2007 | Membership Meeting | TBD | |
| September 21-23, 2007 | LRCGB Fall Hunt Test | Woodstock, CT | |
| Contact: Audie Gould: ARGOULD5@aol.com or Scott Shaw: scott.shaw@tufts.edu | | | |
| Oct 6– 12, 2007 | The LRC, Inc. 2007 National Specialty Washington County Fairgrounds, Hillsboro, Oregon http://www.thelabradorclub.com/national/ | | |
| March 1 and 2, 2008 | All Breed Obedience and Rally Trials | MasterPeace Dog Training Center | |
| Contact Gerrie Owren Gerrieo@verizon.net or Pam Kimel | | | |

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