

VOL. 14 ISSUE 1 • JUNE 2025

GOLDEN TALES

The Official Newsletter of The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club



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From the President's Desk

June is here, and with it comes the Florida summer! As we transition to indoor shows, early morning training sessions while the heat is still manageable, and daily afternoon thunderstorms, I hope you all still have the opportunity to get out there and be involved in events with your dogs. And don't forget to keep yourselves and your dogs cool and well-hydrated during any outdoor activities!

In May, we launched our new website, which was a project we'd been working on for a couple years, so we're very proud of the finished product and all the ways we can utilize the membership portal. We also have a new editor for the newsletter, so we thank Christine Jeffrey for her years of service and the wonderful work she did, and we're excited to welcome Emily Kalil and thank her for stepping into the role.

MFGRC has some exciting events planned in the next few months. At the end of June we'll be hosting a grooming and handling seminar, so sign up now to reserve your spot! In July our summer specialty will be held at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala. Our monthly field training days will continue, and we're working on some special programs specifically for beginner dogs and handlers, so stay tuned for details! Then in August we have our Obedience and Rally Trial to look forward to in Orlando.

We continue to get great feedback about our annual health clinic in May, so we look forward to being able to provide this service to our community for years to come. This year we expanded the services to include all ortho screenings as well as heart and eyes. Health clearances are important for pets as well as show/breeding dogs, so it's great that so many took advantage of the opportunity to attend.

There are lots of opportunities for club members to volunteer at our upcoming events, so please contact our volunteer coordinator to sign up.

*Best,
Robin Burket*





Mark your Calendars

- Amy Comer Grooming and Handling Seminar – Clearwater June 28-29, 2025
- July Specialties – *Ocala July 5, 2025*
- Rally & Obedience Trial – *Orlando August 8-10, 2025*
- CCA Certificate of Conformation Assessment – August 23, 2025
- AKC Hunt Test – December 5-7, 2025
- Independent Speciality – December 12, 2025

Welcome New Club Members!

We're thrilled to have you join our club! Whether you're here for companionship, competition, or simply to connect with others who share your passion for these wonderful dogs, you've found the right place. Our club is dedicated to promoting the health, happiness, and versatility of Golden Retrievers through education, events, and responsible ownership. We offer a variety of activities—from obedience and field training to social events and breed education—so there's something for everyone. We encourage you to get involved, ask questions, and most importantly, have fun. Our members are always happy to help, and we can't wait to get to know you and your Golden better.

New Members

- Carolee Boyles & Richard Marshall
- Lisa Torres
- Lindsay Yarborough
- KK Vines
- Jeannie Harrison
- Tierney Collins
- Bekki Tyler
- Barbara Sheedy
- Judy Leitzsch
- Andrew & Denise Sendry
- Betsy & Doug Miller
- Susan Ivey





New Committees

Recently, our club has added new committees, The Finance Committee, which will provide oversight by reviewing club financial records monthly and meet once a year and The Donations Committee, which will take suggestions from club members for charitable donations and review organizations to present to the board.

To all the wonderful members who have stepped up to serve on our club's committees—thank you! Your willingness to share your time, talents, and energy is what keeps the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club running strong. It's because of dedicated volunteers like you that we're able to create a welcoming, active, and successful club. We truly couldn't do it without you. We're grateful for your commitment and excited about all we'll accomplish together. Thank you for being an essential part of our team!

2025 Finance Committee Members

- Christine McDaniel
- Robin Bowen
- Jenny Ford
- Samantha Hajas
- Donna Hogan
- Perry McIntyre

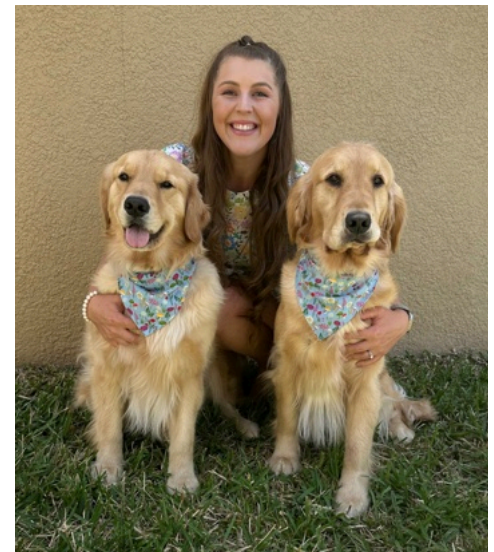
2025 Donations Committee Members

- Lori Callahan
- Patty Magalnick
- Maria Randell
- Michele Throm

Meet the New Newsletter Editor

I am excited to introduce myself as the new editor for the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club newsletter. My name is Emily Kalil, and I've been a member of the club for just under a year. I have two amazing Goldens, Osprey and Winn, who keep me on my toes and are involved in a wide variety of sports, so you will see us around! I am really looking forward to hearing from you and highlighting all the wonderful things our members and Goldens are doing, so if you have any brags, photos, stories, or events you'd like to share, please don't hesitate to reach out—I'd love to include them in future issues!

You can contact me anytime at emily@thepilotsupply.com





Check-out our *NEW* Website!

We're excited to announce the launch of the new and improved Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club website!

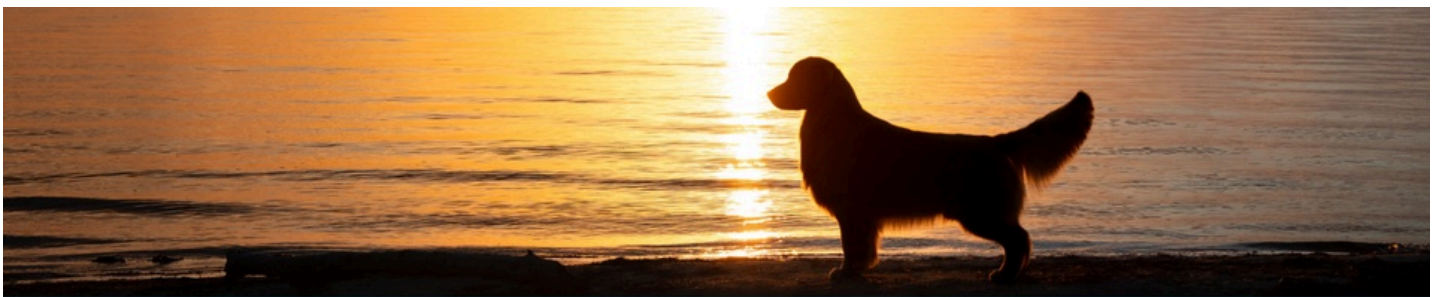
Whether you're a long-time member or just joined, the new site is your go-to hub for everything MFGRC. You'll find:

-  Upcoming events and trial dates
-  Photo galleries from past activities
-  Membership info and resources
-  Brags, news, and club updates
-  And much more!

The website is designed to be user-friendly, mobile-friendly, and a great way to stay connected with everything happening in our Golden community.

Take a look and bookmark it today: <https://mfgrc.org>

We'd love your feedback—and if you spot anything that needs updating or have suggestions for content, feel free to reach out!



Welcome All Golden Retriever Lovers!



Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club Fun Match — Conformation, Obedience, & Rally

On March 15, 2025, the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club gathered for a Fun Match at the beautiful home of our past president, Ann Rowe—and what a fantastic day it was!

Dogs (and their humans!) came together to compete and enjoy conformation, obedience, and rally in a relaxed, supportive environment. Whether you were brushing up on skills or trying something new, the Fun Match offered a great opportunity to learn, bond, and celebrate our amazing dogs.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and cheered each other on—it's events like these that strengthen our community and remind us why we love being part of the MFGRC.

We're looking forward to more opportunities to train and have fun together—stay tuned for the next one!





Health Clinic

May 3, 2025

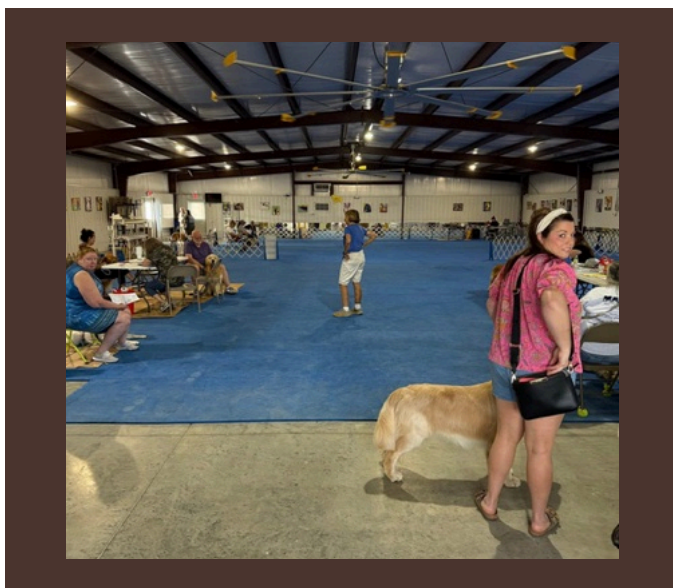
The MFGRC wants to thank everyone who contributed to the club's annual health clinic, it was a resounding success. We are so grateful that Dr. Brooks (eyes) and Dr. Lamy (hearts) were able to join us again this year. We also welcomed for the first time, Dr. Craddock and Julie of Blue Ridge Imaging.

To all of our volunteers—from those who helped with setup and check-in to those who kept things running smoothly throughout the day—your time, energy, and dedication are truly appreciated. These clinics couldn't happen without you, and your efforts made a real difference for both our members and their beloved Goldens.

To our participants, thank you for prioritizing the health and well-being of your dogs. By attending and supporting these screenings, you're not only helping your own dogs thrive—you're also contributing to the overall health of the breed we all love so much.

We're proud to be part of a club that values both community and canine care. Thank you for being a part of it!

Stay tuned for updates on future health-focused events—we can't wait to do it again next year!





2025 Volunteer Rewards Tracking Seminar

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Tracking Seminar a fantastic success! The seminar was organized by Kristin Sipus, taught by Susie Rezy and Susan Campia, and hosted by Pam Ginn at her lovely home.

Thank you for your time, effort, and behind-the-scenes support—you made the day run smoothly and created a welcoming environment for all. To our participants, thank you for bringing your enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Watching handlers and their Goldens work together and build confidence was truly inspiring!

It's events like these that remind us of the amazing capabilities of our dogs—and the importance of continuing to learn and grow as a team. We're grateful to be part of a club that embraces all aspects of the breed's versatility.

We're already looking forward to the next training opportunity—stay tuned!





2026 GRCA Eastern Regional Golden Daze

As many of you know, our club has submitted a bid and has been approved to host the 2026 GRCA Eastern Regional Specialty. We are so excited to bring this event to our members and to the rest of the Golden Retriever community.

The fun times will kick off at the spectacular Persimmon Hollow Farm in Paisley Florida on Wednesday April 15, 2026, with the Working Certificate/Working Certificate Excellent Test. We will then take a short ride to the beautiful Ocala Dog Show Grounds in Ocala, Florida where the rest of the events will be happening. First will be the Obedience and Rally Trial and the Certificate of Conformation Assessment held on Thursday April 16, 2026. Friday, April 17 will start three days of conformation events with our first Independent Specialty; Saturday, April 18 will be the Eastern Regional and Sunday, April 19 will finish up this whirlwind with our second Independent Specialty. All 3 specialties will include Puppy, Veteran and Gun Dog Sweepstakes. It will also offer you the perfect opportunity to achieve your Golden's Triathlon Award. Best of all, this is a GOLDENS ONLY EVENT. What an amazing way to show off our smart, beautiful and talented Goldens.

Please contact Kirsten Sumal at volunteermfgrc@gmail.com if you can volunteer. The list may look a little daunting, but you will have a blast and will have every opportunity to let your creativity go. We have many experienced members who will be happy to help you in whatever you choose to do. We look forward to your participation and I know you have the skills to make this an outstanding event.





Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA)

The Certificate of Conformation Assessment is a wonderful opportunity to have your Golden Retriever evaluated in a relaxed, non-competitive setting by experienced AKC judges. Whether you're new to the breed or have years of experience, the CCA offers valuable feedback on your dog's structure, temperament, and overall adherence to the Golden Retriever standard.

 Location: Ocala, FL

 Date: August 23, 2025

 Cost: \$90

This event is open to all Golden Retrievers 18 months of age and older, whether they're seasoned show dogs, performance stars, or beloved companions. It's a great way to gain insight into your dog's conformation and connect with fellow Golden lovers.

Entry Details:

- 21 entries will be accepted, first received method
- PLEASE send one entry/check per envelope.
- Dogs must be 18+months old on the day of the event. This means your dog's DOB must be on or before February 23, 2024
- Copy of dog's AKC registration must be included.
- We do not take money orders or cashiers checks- only personal checks please

Spots are limited! We are almost full so please email RobinRBowen@gmail.com to see if there is still a spot open before you send your entry.

We hope to see you and your Golden there!

SEND ENTRY TO:
Robin Bowen, MFGRC
3001 SW College Road PMB#41
Ocala, FL 34474

Entry acknowledgement will be sent by email





Upcoming Field Training

Ready to get your Golden out in the field? Whether you're new to field work or preparing for your next test, our Field Training Day is the perfect chance to practice, learn, and have fun with your dog!

 Location: Brian Parker's Property – 29536 CR 42 Paisley, FL 32767

 Date: Once a Month

 Time: 8am

Details:

1. How many dogs are you are bringing?
2. What level are they in their training?
3. Anything specific you would like help with?
4. Are you willing to run a set up or drill?

We'll be working on retrieving skills, water marks, land marks, and more, with guidance available for all experience levels. Bring your enthusiasm, your dog, and any training gear you use—we'll provide birds and setup support.

All Golden Retrievers (and handlers!) are welcome—come out and enjoy a great day of training and camaraderie.

Contact:

If you plan to come please email mfgrcfield@gmail.com so we can plan our set-ups in advance





The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club Proudly Presents.. All-breed Obedience & Rally Trial

We're excited to announce the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club's Rally and Obedience Trial, coming this August! Whether you're competing for your first title or your next, this is a great opportunity to showcase the teamwork and dedication you've built with your dog.

 Location: Orlando Dog Training Club –6357 All American Boulevard Orlando, FL 32810

 Dates: August 8-10, 2025

 Premium list is available on our website: <https://mfgrc.org/document/2025-rallyobedience-trial-premium>

All breeds are welcome, and we'll be offering a full range of classes in both Rally and Obedience, with great judges. Come join us for a weekend of fun, sportsmanship, and celebration of our dogs' hard work and talents. We can't wait to see you in the ring!



Webinars to Watch

Newborn Puppy Care: The First Breath and Beyond

If you're a breeder, puppy raiser, or simply passionate about canine care, don't miss the "Newborn Puppy Care: The First Breath and Beyond" webinar presented by Dr. Marty Greer, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health. This insightful session delves into the critical first 24 hours of a puppy's life, covering essential topics such as:

- Stimulating a newborn puppy's first breath
- Maintaining proper warmth and hydration
- Umbilical cord care and hygiene
- Recognizing signs of distress in newborns
- Effective tube feeding techniques

Dr. Greer offers practical, step-by-step guidance ideal for both novice and experienced breeders. Her expertise is invaluable for ensuring the health and vitality of newborn puppies.

 Watch the full webinar here utilizing the link below

 <https://www.revivalanimal.com/learning-center/newborn-puppy-care-the-first-breath-and-beyond-webinar>

Whether you're preparing for your next litter or aiming to enhance your neonatal care knowledge, this webinar is an excellent resource.





Sport Special — Rally Obedience

With our Rally and Obedience Trial coming up this August, we thought it'd be the perfect time to spotlight one of our AKC dog sports—Rally Obedience, or just Rally!

So, what is Rally?

According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), Rally is a sport that emphasizes fun, teamwork, and clear communication between handler and dog. In Rally, you and your dog navigate a course together, side-by-side, completing a series of obedience exercises at numbered signs along the way.

Some signs ask for basics like sits, downs, and heeling, while others challenge you with more advanced maneuvers like 360° turns, sidesteps, or recalls. The course is timed, but accuracy and teamwork are key—you can talk to your dog throughout the entire course, making it a supportive and encouraging experience for teams of all skill levels.

Why try Rally?

- It's a great way to build a stronger bond with your dog.
- Rally offers a friendly entry point into the world of competitive dog sports.
- It's suitable for dogs of all ages and breeds, including senior dogs and beginners.
- You'll join a welcoming community of handlers who love working with their dogs.

Whether you're a seasoned handler or new to the sport, we'd love to see more of our members give Rally a try! Training is fun and accessible, and many of our club members are happy to mentor newcomers.

Our August trial is the perfect opportunity to watch a competition, ask questions, and get inspired. Who knows—you might just discover your next favorite activity with your Golden!

For more information or to get started, feel free to reach out or come watch the action ringside in August. We can't wait to cheer you on!



The Training Corner — ABCD Drills

Article by *TheRetrieverCoach.com* and published with permission from Kevin Cheff

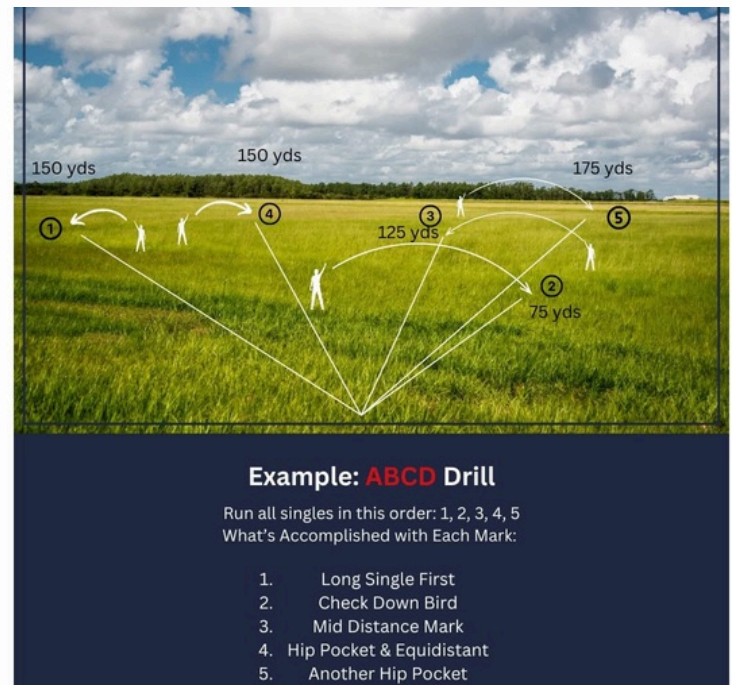
What are they: 4-5 marks designed to present several marking concepts in a drill-like environment. The lines to the marks are tight, the fall areas are close together, and distances are relatively short, with all gun stations visible.

Why we run them

- To practice marking concepts in a controlled, drill-like setting.
- To improve a dog's ability to slide tight past a gunner en route to another mark.
- To help dogs focus on keeping hunts tight in the fall area.
- To teach awareness of mark depth.
- To give dogs experience picking out gun stations in tight setups.

What each mark in this ABCD drill teaches:

- **Long Single:** Encourages your dog to focus on longer marks despite closer, more visually appealing gun stations.
- **Check-Down Bird:** This bird falls directly in line with thrower #3, which might draw your dog deep.
- **Mid-Distance Mark:** Teaches the dog to avoid stopping short in the old fall at #2 while also resisting going deep to #5.
- **Hip Pocket:** Requires the dog to slide tight past thrower #2 & **Equidistant:** avoid the risk of switching to other nearby fall areas (#1 or #5).
- **Hip Pocket:** Another chance to practice sliding tight past a gun station en-route to the mark



Training Tip:

Incorporate ABCD drills into your program several times a month. Regular exposure to these setups helps your dog understand fall areas, stay organized in their hunts, and improve their marking skills. It also builds confidence in tight marking situations, sharpens your ability to read your dog, and strengthens communication.— *The Retriever Coach*

Let's Brag About it!



AKC Fetch Novice (FTN) titles for Nalu and Kody



Kody earned his Seasoned (HR-Hunting Retriever) title



Kody was chosen as Select Dog (for a GCH Major) under Breeder Judge Michael Faulkner. Kody was also awarded Best of Breed Owner Handled. Kody. Nalu was awarded 2nd Place in Open Class for his first placement win over competition under Judge Ann Yuhasz



Pippa earned her Masters Agility Championship with a Triple Q

Let's Brag About it!



Master passes 8 & 9 for Cuvée



Flyte - went 4 for 4 in Seasoned to earn his HR (Hunting Retriever title), plus an extra pass today
Monty, went 3 for 3 in Started, so only needs 1 more pass for his SHR (Started Hunting Retriever title)



Rosie's first points



Gryphon qualified for 2025 Master Amateur National

Let's Brag About it!



Nalu went Best Male at one of the FL Toy Fox Terrier UKC to finish his UKC Championship



Kody went Best of Breed yesterday at the Palm Beach Shows. Two more points to his Grand



Kody and I were selected for an Owner Handled Group 4 and an Owner Handled Group 3



Liam earned his Beginner Novice title and Quince earned one leg on his CDX

Let's Brag About it!



Regan went Winner Bitch, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex over specials



New CD title & finished her VCX



Jovie earned her CD title



Kody went Select to finish his Grand Championship at the West Michigan Apple Kody went Select again as well as Owner Handled Best of Breed

Let's Brag About it!



Katie entered her very first UKC Scentwork and titled in all four Elements--Interior/Vehicle/Container/Exterior--As a result she will be granted a Nosework Title - NN and Luke finished up his Novice Exterior and qualified in Advanced Interior, Advanced Vehicle, and Advanced Containers



Charlie has earned his RATN (Barn Hunt Novice), RATO (Barn Hunt Open), FCAT2 (Fast CAT2), FTI (Fetch Intermediate), and CGCU (Canine Good Citizen Urban) titles.

Let's Brag About it!



Sake is now AKC pointed!
He went Winner's Dog, Best of Winners, Owner
Handled Best of Breed, Owner Handled Sporting
Group 2, and he went Reserve Winner's Dog



Osprey earned her
Intermediate Rally title