

VOL. 15 ISSUE 2 • SEPTEMBER 2025

GOLDEN TALES

The Official Newsletter of The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club



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From the President's Desk

September 2025

We made it to September, and that means we can look forward to slightly cooler temps and beautiful autumn sunsets here in central Florida. MFGRC had a very productive summer, with the Specialty in July and then our Rally/Obedience Trial and CCA to round out the month of August. Special thanks to Susan Sherman (who took on the role of Trial Chair for the first time this year) and Amanda Fell (for stepping up to run the CCA). Thanks to their planning and organization, as well as our wonderful volunteers, everything ran smoothly and a good time was had by all.

In September we'll continue with our monthly field training days in Paisley, FL. We've had several new faces coming out the last few months, so it's great to see some newer members catching the field bug.

Stay tuned at our next club meeting for the dates of all our upcoming events for the fall and winter, including an in-person meeting in November at the Ocala shows. And check out our website for volunteer opportunities leading up to the Eastern Regional that our club will be hosting in 2026! Most importantly, remember to get outside and spend some time doing what you love with your dog as the weather cools down in the coming months.

*Best,
Robin Burket*





Mark your Calendars

- Field Training Day — *Persimmon Hollow Farm Monthly*
- General Meeting — *Zoom October 14, 2025*
- General Meeting — *Greater Ocala Dog Club Show November 15 after the Golden are finished*
- AKC Hunt Test — *Persimmon Hollow Farm December 5-7, 2025*
- Independent Speciality — *Orlando Florida December 12 & 14, 2025*
- General Meeting — *Holiday Party December 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

- Betsy and Doug Miller
- Susan Ivey
- Derek Glassman
- Bailey Davis and Jon Albo
- Katelyn Dunsdon
- Cathy Saunderlin
- Lisa Donia
- Lori Coleman
- Jeff Tozzie
- Carolyn Midkiff
- Pamela Oxenberg



Amy Comer Grooming and Handling Seminar

June 2025

Thank You, Amy Comer!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Amy Comer for hosting such an outstanding Grooming & Handling Seminar on June 28–29, 2025 at the Upper Suncoast Dog Training Club in Clearwater, FL.

Over the two days, attendees had the unique opportunity to sharpen their grooming techniques, gain valuable handling skills, and learn directly from Amy's expertise. From Day 1's in-depth grooming instruction to Day 2's recap and handling focus, the seminar provided hands-on education and meaningful takeaways for everyone involved.

The seminar drew in great members, filling both working spots and audit spots, and we are grateful to everyone who participated and supported this event. Amy's dedication to the art of grooming and handling shines through in her teaching, and this seminar was an inspiring and educational experience for all. We are truly appreciative of her time, passion, and knowledge shared with our community.

Thank you, Amy, for helping us grow and for investing in the future of our sport!





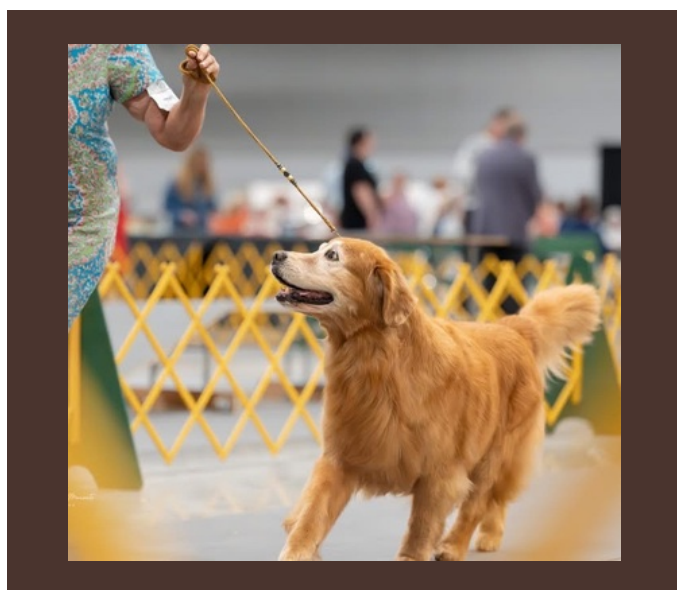
Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club Specialty July 2025

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club recently held our Specialty at the beautiful World Equestrian Center, and what a fantastic event it was! Exhibitors, handlers, and Golden enthusiasts came together to showcase the beauty, quality, and spirit of our breed.

One highlight of the day was the Bred By Bitch Class, which featured a wonderful representation of the Golden Retriever color range. Three of our own club members competed proudly: Laura Topping with Monroe, Kristin Sipus with Cuvee, and Robin Burket with Ava. A special thank you to Judge Ellen Hardin for presiding over this class and the entire entry with such care.

The rings were filled with outstanding Goldens, and we extend congratulations to all the winners and participants who made the event so special. Beyond the competition, the Specialty was a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends, celebrate our Goldens, and enjoy the camaraderie of the community.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our judges, volunteers, and club members whose hard work and dedication made this Specialty a success. We are grateful for everyone who supported the event, and we look forward to seeing you again at our next Specialty!





The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club Rally and Obedience Trial

August 2025

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club recently hosted a successful Rally and Obedience Trial at the Orlando Dog Training Club. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the versatility, intelligence, and teamwork of our Golden Retrievers as they worked alongside their handlers.

The trial featured an impressive range of performances, from novice teams stepping into the ring for the first time to seasoned competitors demonstrating polished skills. Congratulations to all who participated and earned new titles — we are proud of the dedication and training that went into every performance.

A special thank you goes out to our judges, volunteers, and the Orlando Dog Training Club for providing an excellent venue and support. Events like this highlight the many talents of our Goldens and the strong community we share as a club.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at our next trial!



GRCA Certificate of Conformation

August 2025

On August 23, 2025, the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club proudly hosted the GRCA Certificate of Conformation Assessment Program (CCA) at MADTA in Ocala. It was a truly memorable day for our club and participants, with an outstanding turnout of 18 entries — and all 18 qualified!

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our evaluators, Sandy Selander, Beth Greenfield, and Camille Nasca, for sharing their expertise and providing thoughtful feedback to each exhibitor. Their dedication helped make the day both educational and rewarding for everyone involved.

Congratulations to all of the qualifiers! Your accomplishments highlight the quality and versatility of the Golden Retriever breed, and we are proud to have hosted such a successful event.





Upcoming Field Training

September 2025

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: 8:30am

Details:

1. How many dogs are you 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 mfggrcfield@gmail.com so we can plan our set-ups in advance



Upcoming AKC Hunt Test

December 2025

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club is excited to announce our upcoming AKC Hunt Test, taking place December 5–7, 2025 at Brian Parker's property, 29536 CR 42, Paisley, FL.

This three-day event will feature Junior, Senior, and Master level tests, offering handlers and their dogs the opportunity to demonstrate their training, teamwork, and natural hunting ability. The test will begin at 8:00 AM on Friday, December 5, and conclude by 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 7.

The premium list will be posted soon, so be sure to check back for details on entries and participation. Whether you're running a dog or coming to watch, this is a wonderful chance to enjoy the field, cheer on fellow club members, and celebrate the working ability of our Goldens.





Two Specialities Are Better Than One!

December 2025

Mark your calendars—December is shaping up to be an exciting month for the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club! We are thrilled to host not one, but two Independent Specialties at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

13th Annual Independent Specialty

 Friday, December 12

 Judges: Mrs. Pamela Oxenberg (Conformation) & Mr. David Stout (Junior Showmanship)

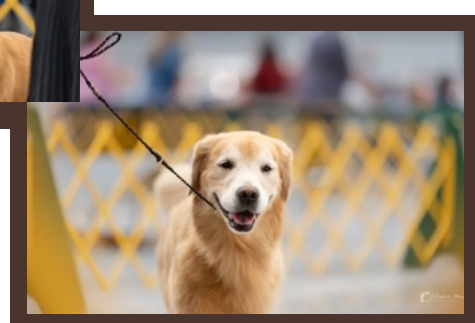
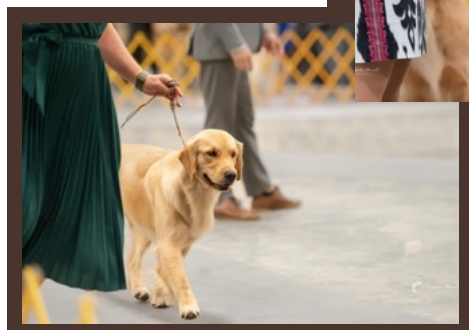
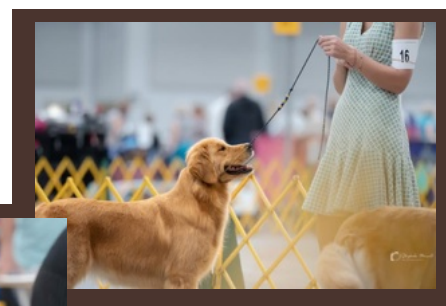
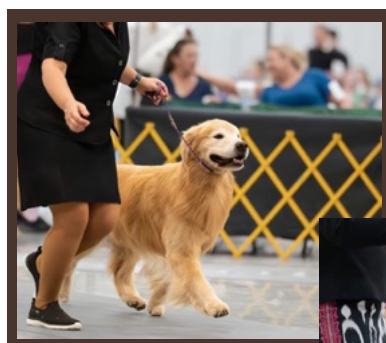
“New” Independent Specialty

 Sunday, December 14

 Judge: Mr. Mustapha El Khorchi (Conformation & Junior Showmanship)

Both specialties will be managed by Superintendent Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC. Please note the early closing date of Wednesday, November 12, at 12:00 pm Central.

We hope you'll join us for this special double opportunity to celebrate Golden Retrievers in the ring. See you in December!





Q&A with Brian Parker

Brian Parker is the founder and owner of Southern Retrievers, a premier dog training, breeding, and lifestyle brand based in DeLand, Florida. Since launching the company in January 2000, Brian has earned a respected reputation in the retriever community for his deep expertise, consistent results, and unwavering integrity.

His journey began with a single event—a retriever competition hosted by the Jacksonville Retriever Club. That day ignited a lifelong passion for training dogs that perform with excellence in the field and demonstrate discipline and composure at home.

Over the past two decades, Brian has trained and judged at the highest levels of the sport. He is licensed and experienced in multiple competitive formats, including:

- AKC Hunt Tests & Field Trials
- HRC (Hunting Retriever Club), with multiple Grand-level judging appointments
- UKC Hunting Retriever events
- Sporting Retriever Series (SRS) national-level competitions

In addition to his work in the sporting world, Brian has served his country as a Department of Defense contractor with K2 Solutions, where he trained bomb detection dogs and handlers for the United States Marine Corps. From 2012 to 2013, he deployed to Afghanistan as a Field Service Representative and Subject Matter Expert, supporting military operations with real-world expertise in canine detection and field operations. Brian's approach goes beyond technique—he trains with heart. His real-world philosophy emphasizes developing dogs that are not only elite performers but also confident, capable companions who thrive in the woods, in the blind, and at home with their families.

Brian lives by a principle he calls “Salt & Light.”

- The Salt: Our presence should leave a positive impact.
- The Light: Our words, actions, and attitudes should inspire and uplift.

Whether he's working with clients, mentoring the next generation of trainers, or judging national competitions, Brian leads with humility, integrity, and purpose. Brian Parker continues to shape the future of the retriever world, one dog, one client, and one mission at a time.



Q&A with Brian Parker

1. Getting Started – What first got you interested in field training, and do you remember the first dog you worked with in this setting?

Growing up as a kid my grandmother would take me to the family farm. As a result I grew up with a love of the outdoors. She would sometimes drop me off at the neighbors who trained upland dogs when she needed to do things. I've always enjoyed wing shooting more than just about anything. By pure happenstance, coming back from Devil's Den, I stumbled upon an event being put on by the Jacksonville Retriever Club which really made a huge impact.

2. Training Approach – When introducing a young dog to the field, what's the very first foundation skill you focus on, and why?

Desire and drive to retrieve because it is truly the foundation for success.

3. Challenges in the Field – What's one of the hardest obstacles you've faced while preparing a dog for fieldwork (like steadiness, water work, distractions), and how did you overcome it?

Each and every dog has it's own unique challenges to overcome depending on the dog's drive or lack there of. With that being said, water tends to be the more challenging concept for many dogs to overcome but with patience, motivation and consistency, it works itself out.

Q&A with Brian Parker

4. Handler vs. Dog – In your experience, what are the most common mistakes handlers make during field training, and how do you coach them through it?

I would say it's probably praising the dog enough and using voice inflections; trying not to be monotone when teaching young dogs new concepts. Remind them that praising and corrections always matter.

5. Advice to Newcomers – For someone just getting into field training with their retriever, what's the one piece of advice you'd give them to set them up for success?

Consistency is the key, but always remember it is supposed to be fun for you and the dog.



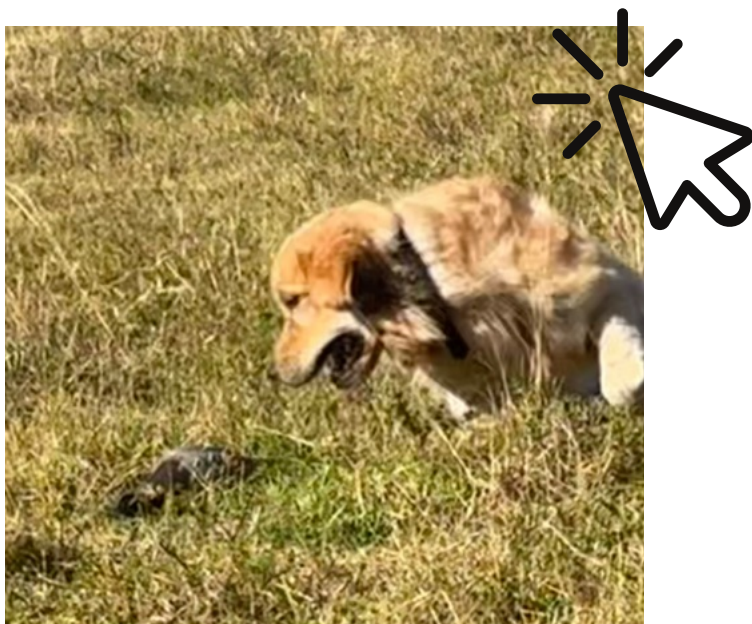
Update on Upland Hunting Titles

MFGRC member Elizabeth Scherer, along with her Golden Orion, Kody, and Nalu, would like to share some exciting news on Upland Hunting Titles

As the creator of the new Upland Hunting Dog of the Year Award for MFGRC, Elizabeth is pleased to announce that a new GRCA VC/VCX/VCM – OS/OD Point Schedule went into effect September 1, 2025. Under this revision, existing Upland Hunt Test titles will now be eligible for inclusion in the calculation for versatility and outstanding producer awards.

The official text of the resolution, including the updated 9/1/2025 AKC/GRCA Title Points schedule (Resolution 25-50: Approve Revision to VC-VCX-VCM-OS-OD Point Chart), can be found in the latest GRCA Hot Topics – Mid August email.

Elizabeth encourages everyone to take a look by clicking the image below —and of course, to keep working those talented Golden Retrievers in the field. Hunt 'em up!



ORDER NOW

GOLDEN DAZE



**2026 GRCA
EASTERN REGIONAL**

**GRAB YOUR LOGO
MERCHANDISE!**



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Webinars to Watch

Heartworm Disease in Dogs Webinar: Signs, Risks & How to Protect Your Dog

Did you catch the “Heartworm Disease in Dogs: Signs, Risks & How to Protect Your Dog” webinar hosted by Dr. Marty Greer of Revival Animal Health? If not—or if you’d like a refresher—take a moment to revisit this valuable resource!

In this educational presentation, Dr. Greer covers:

- How heartworm is transmitted via mosquitoes, and why year-round prevention is essential—even for dogs who mostly stay indoors .
- Subtle early signs of heartworm—like fatigue, mild cough, or heart murmurs—and how infections can go undetected for months .
- The importance of annual heartworm testing, even if your pet is on prevention protection—dosing errors and product resistance are real risks .
- The power of “dual defense”—using both heartworm preventives and flea/tick protection to reduce mosquito bites and safeguard your dog’s health .
- Simply put, heartworm is preventable, but only with consistent vigilance—and this webinar lays out how to make that happen effortlessly .

Whether you’re a seasoned pet parent or new to canine health care, this webinar is a great reminder of best practices for keeping your dog safe from a potentially fatal—but avoidable—disease.

► Watch it now! Click the Image below!





Featured Sport — Obedience

Have you ever watched a dog and handler move together with precision, responding to commands almost as if they could read each other's minds? That's the world of Obedience, a sport that showcases the ultimate partnership between dogs and their handlers.

What Is Obedience?

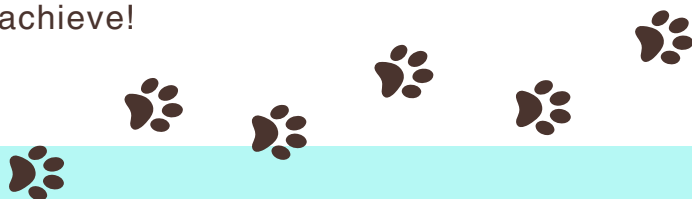
Obedience is a structured AKC sport where dogs perform a series of exercises designed to demonstrate their training, focus, and responsiveness to their handler. Competitions involve skills such as heeling on and off leash, retrieving, sitting, staying, and performing complex sequences of commands. Each exercise is scored based on accuracy, timing, and overall teamwork between dog and handler.

Unlike casual training, Obedience provides a standard framework for evaluating a dog's discipline, attentiveness, and ability to work under pressure. It's a celebration of both skill and connection, offering a clear path for dogs of all breeds to shine.

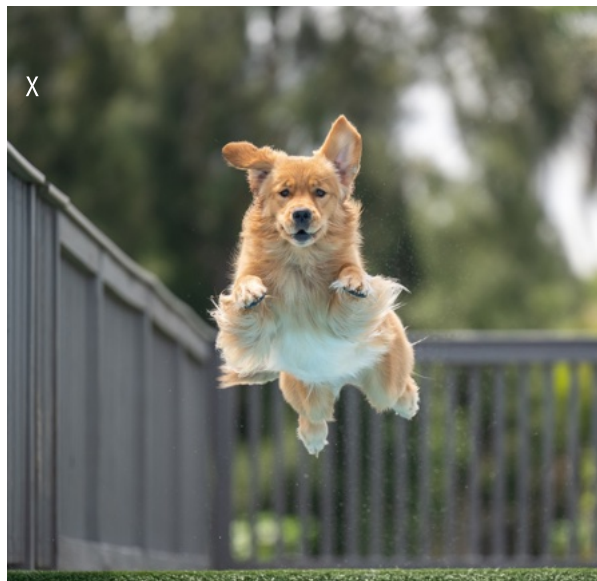
Why Try Obedience?

- **Strengthen the Bond:** Obedience training enhances communication and trust between you and your dog.
- **Mental Stimulation:** Dogs love to think, problem-solve, and earn rewards for focused effort.
- **Confidence for Both:** Handlers learn leadership skills while dogs gain self-assurance and poise.
- **Fun and Community:** Competitions are supportive, social, and full of opportunities to meet like-minded dog enthusiasts.

Whether you're looking to deepen your dog's training, enjoy a new sport together, or compete in AKC events, formal obedience offers a fulfilling and rewarding journey for you and your furry partner. Take the first step toward a stronger partnership—your dog might surprise you with what they can achieve!



Let's Brag About it!



Nina DePetris: This is my youngest golden "Heidi", Knox's Heidi Go Seek. We competed in our first dock diving event in July at Bratty Paws in Punta Gorda. She had 5 jumps all between 18-19' and earned her Dock Diving Senior title in this one event.



KK Vines: Queso recently made his official debut at the Atlanta Specialties and he did not disappoint, going Best of Winners, Best Puppy, as well as BOS in Sweeps. "Monark's Sweet Dreams Are Made Of Cheese"

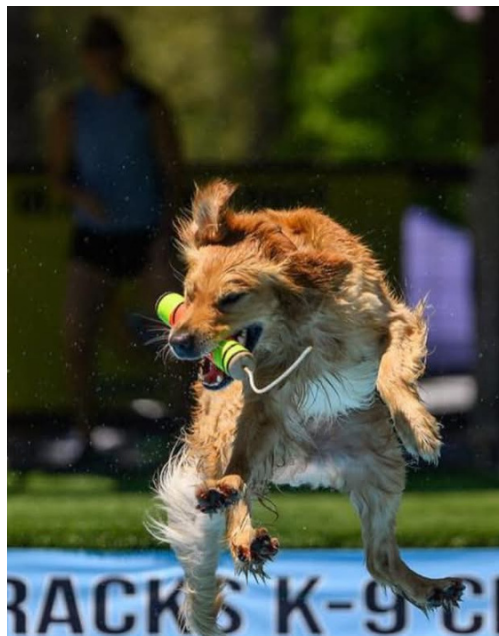


Diane Edwards Gank: CH. Wonderland' Kiss my Grits BVISS. Flo official photo MFGRC Specialty Sweeps Best Veteran in Sweeps Judge Marcello Varas Handled by the awesome Aaron Wilkerson Flo also won first place in her regular veterans class under judge Kimberly Anne Meredith.



Denise Titus: CH Roc Starz's ZZ Tops Alley Gator (Gator) and I received a Group One from a huge OH Sporting group on Saturday. We also received an Award of Merit from Kimberly Anne Meredith.

Let's Brag About it!



Linda Smith: Gryphon (2024 Master National Champion) won 1st place last weekend in his regional dock diving competition and will attend 2025 Nationals to defend his Championship in distance. Also secured his 1st invite for Air Retrieve National. Wee Dram landed at 5th place in Masters for distance at his Regional, securing his very first National invitation. We blew it for his Air Retrieve though. A good time will be had no matter the outcomes!



Liz Scherer: So thrilled that my Kody went Select under Judge Dowling on Thursday and Judge Vogels on Friday to finish his Grand Championship at the West Michigan Apple Blossom Cluster in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Kody went Select again today as well as Owner Handled Best of Breed under Judge Hyer.

Let's Brag About it!



Michele Throm: EW CHAMPION!!!. Miss Ary finished her Rally Championship RACH at the Orlando Dog Training Club Rally Trial. She also earned her Rally Master 4 title!



Diane Edwards Gank: Official Photo Baby Angus 4 months Sporting Group. Wonderlands T.N.T. BISS .GCHG .CH . Razzle The Devil Made Me Do It CGC. SDHF.OS X CH. Wonderland's Love Shack



Leslie Anderson: At the High Plains Kennel Club UKC Obedience Trial, Quince earned his UCD and Liam earned his UBN. Then on August 12th both dogs qualified at the WCX test of the Western Regional Specialty. For Quince this was WCX2. For Liam it was his title. And last week at the Western Regional Specialty and Greeley Show Quince went Select Dog two days out of five. Thank you to the Mile Hi Club and it was great to see our esteemed president, Robin Burket at the show as well.

Let's Brag About it!



Sally Sherman: Flare had a great weekend at the Orlando Dog Training club obedience trials. On Saturday, he earned his UDX13 with two 2nd places, and won Open B in Trial 2. On Sunday, he won Open B in the first trial with High in Trial, and he won Utility B in the second trial with High Combined.



Joyce Swegle: At the IPOC RALLY trials , RHYSIE completed his RACH 2. I am so proud of him. He hasn't really had "me" the last couple of weeks. But he worked hard in the second trial. Earned a 3rd place and enough Master points to earn the gorgeous rosette.

Let's Brag About it!



Liz Scherer: Kody (GCH HR U-CH IABCA WBCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH FDC CCA CGC FTN TKI WCX VC RATI) and his son Nalu (U-CH Madileau's Marscher Gone Surfing FTN TKN DJ) got to do one show a piece at the IABCA show in Brooksville this past Sunday. Kody was thrilled to be in the ring again and received his first rating towards World Beauty Champion in Bronze and a Best of Breed (Show 3) in the competition part and Best Veteran. He was also awarded a Group 3. His son Nalu received his first rating towards IntCH and a second place out of three in Open in Show 4. There was a great turnout for Golden Retrievers, and several over the weekend competed for Best in Show in the Bred By, Puppy, and in the main Best in Show competitions after receiving Group 1's in Group.



Letter from the Editor

Thank you to everyone who is sending in brags and posting about our wonderful dogs on our MFGRC Facebook page. If you have a brag that you would like featured in the next Golden Tales newsletter, please send them to **emily@thepilotsupply.com**. These features would not be the same without highlighting all of our phenomenal achievements.

Thank you again! - Emily Kalil