

Golden Tales

DECEMBER 2023

SAVOR THE WARMTH
OF THE HOLIDAY!



MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

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MFGRC Show Dog of the Year: "Rip" – Owned by Paula Black
MBISS GCH GoldRox Take 'em to the Train Station BISS



Happy Holidays!

COVER: Cynthia and Roy Rothman's Golden girl "Holly" (Amberlake Magik Holiday Solstice)

HAPPINESS

ISN'T ABOUT GETTING WHAT
YOU WANT ALL THE TIME, IT'S
ABOUT LOVING WHAT YOU
HAVE AND BEING GRATEFUL
FOR IT.



From the President's Desk . . .



Robin, Jon, Anni, Eve and Sascha at WG City Hall

December 2023

This month with the end of the year right around the corner, many of us like to reflect on what we've learned and how we've grown as individuals. It's also a great time to look back on what we've accomplished with our dogs and as a club. The MFGRC has instituted several exciting new programs for our members this year that we can all be proud of. My goal for the club moving forward is that we continue to grow our membership and encourage more involvement by providing opportunities for everyone to join in.

December is a busy month for us, with our Specialty and the Royal Canin shows in Orlando, the annual Christmas party and last club meeting of the year, and many awards to be given out to dogs and people who have done wonderful things all year long. As we gather with friends and family this month to celebrate the holidays and the end of the year, I'm thankful to have such a dedicated community of golden retriever enthusiasts around me. I look forward to an exciting and productive 2024.

Robin Burket

Welcome New Club Members!



Gail Roberts



James Godwin

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club welcomed new members during its general meetings held in September October and November.

November Meeting

James Godwin - Merritt Island, FL - Primary Interest Obedience and Service Work Golden named Pheasant Run Oliver. Sponsored by Victoria and Richard Warfel

Gail Roberts - New Smyrna Beach, FL - Primary interest Agility, Obedience, Conformation, and Dock Diving with her Golden named Murphy.
Sponsored by Christine McDaniel

October Meeting

Kayleigh Casey - Orange City, FL - Primary Interest Obedience, Field, dock diving, fast cat, and barn hunt with Golden name Charlie. Sponsored by Marilyn Guard

Charlene Hartson - Gainesville, FL - Primary Interest Agility, Obedience, Tracking, and Field.
Sponsored by Kristin Sipus

Lorraine and Shawn Bradley - Stuart, FL - Primary Interest Agility, Obedience, Tracking, and dock diving with Golden named Grace. Sponsored by Ann Rowe.

Susan and Jorge Herrera - St. Augustine, FL - have a Golden named Winnie. Sponsored by Ashely Lucero

September meeting

Lori Callahan - Clearwater, FL - Primary Interest Agility, Obedience, Conformation, and Rally with Golden named Honor. Sponsored by Julie Wangelin

Candi Pearce - Rockledge, FL - Primary Interest Agility and Conformation with Golden named Pearl.
Sponsored by Camille Nasca.

Michelle Hellebrand - Tampa, FL - Primary Interest Conformation with Golden named Remi.
Sponsored by DeeDee Dowis.

Steve and Denise Jaffe - Winter Garden, FL - Primary Interest Therapy with Golden named Cooper,
Sponsored by Robin Bowen.



Holiday Moments!



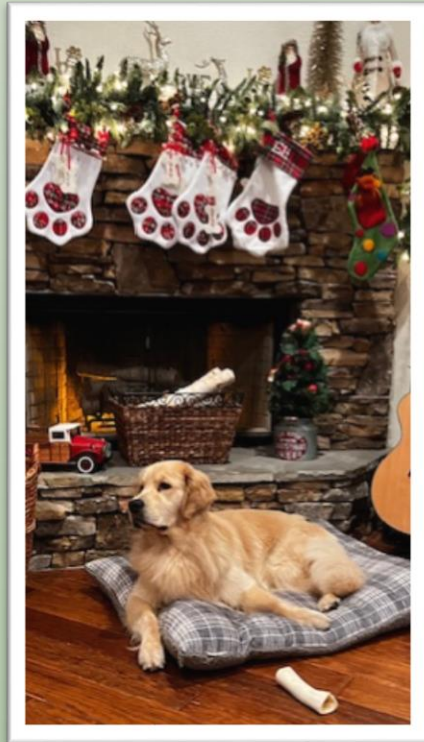
Toby & Lottie



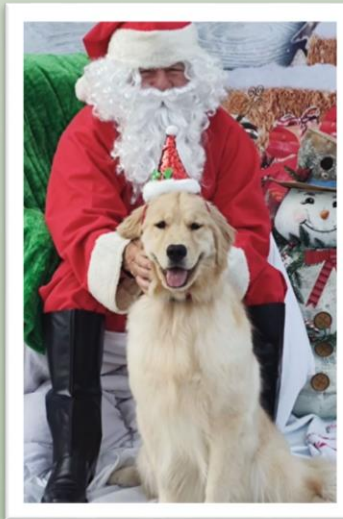
Charlie & Santa



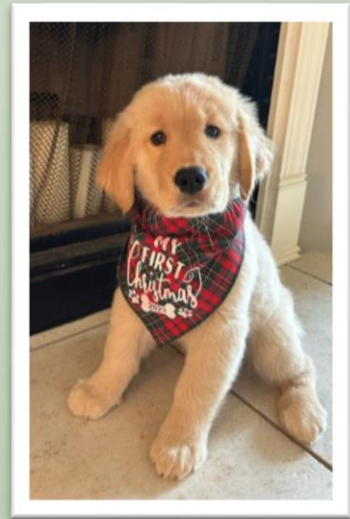
Pumpkin



Rip



Abbey & Santa



Murphy



Milo





2023 Christmas Party Delights

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club held its annual Christmas party December 16 at the home of former club president Ann Rowe in Sorrento FL. There was a great turnout with fun and treats galore! **Yum!**

After a hefty meal, the election of new officers and board members took place. Also the 2023 year end awards and member recognition awards were presented.



2023 Year-end Member Recognition Awards

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club presented its 2023 Member Awards at the annual Christmas party held December 16 at the home of former club president Ann Rowe in Sorrento FL.

Outstanding Services Award in Memory of Susan Fulenwider

Kristin Sipus

Mover and Shaker Award

Cindy Patz

Above and Beyond Award

Christine McDaniel

New Kid on the Block Award

Ann-Marie Poertner

Lloyd Kiernan Service Award

Brian Parker

Nancy McCune Member of the Year

Susan Sherman

Certificates of Appreciation

Pat Rubrecht

Jordyn Vanscoy

Pat Carlile

Susan Howard

Sally Sherman



Brian Parker



Christine McDaniel



Susan Sherman



*Ann Rowe
Kristin Sipus
Camille Nasca*

MFGRC Presents 2023 Year-End Awards

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club presented its 2023 year-end awards at the club's annual Christmas party on December 16 at the home of club members Ann and Bob Rowe in Sorrento FL.



Nina DePetris & Pippa



Pam Ginn & Rhett



D'Nette Musser & Tank

Dog of the Year Awards

Dog of the Year award winners received custom car magnets from the club that were created by club member Anney Doucette of K9-Design.

Agility Dog of the Year: Pippa - Nina DePetris (fourth consecutive win for Nina; first for Pippa)

Knox's Pip Pip Hooray MX MXJ MXF NFP

Versatility Award: Cody - Karyn Angel (third consecutive)
RACH2 Topbrass Code Of Honor UDX5 PUTD OM3 BN GO VER RM5 RAE5 SH
MXP2 MXPB MJP3 MJPB MFP DS CGC TKP WCX

Show Dog of the Year: Rip - Paula Black (second consecutive for Paula; first for Rip)

MBISS GCH GoldRox Take 'em to the Train Station BISS
Also received perpetual Show Dog of the Year trophy donated by Diane and Vern Gank, Wonderland's Golden Retrievers

Hunt Dog of the Year: Rhett - Pam Ginn

GCH CH Lakewood's Rhett Butler @ Kestrel Farm South RN SH WCX CCA

Obedience Dog of the Year: Winston - Susan Howard

OTCH11 RATCH HRCH Electralon Snows No Boundaries UDX14 OGM PUTD
VER MH CAA TKA FDC CGC TT NW3Elite VCX CCA WCX OBHF

Rally Dog of the Year: Mia - Michele Throm

Cachet's Dare to Dream CD BN RM RAE NAP NJP BCAT CGC TKN CCA

Field Dog of the Year - Not presented

Tracking Dog of the Year - Not presented

Upland Hunting Dog of the Year - Not presented

(Perpetual trophy donated by Elizabeth Scherer)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Fallchase Owner-Handler Award: D'Nette Musser

Tank (CH 24k Retrievers Tango Yankee BISS BOSS DN RN RATI)

Received perpetual trophy donated by Fallchase Kennel

Gold Standard Challenge - Not presented

(Perpetual trophy donated by Kristin Sipus In memory of Jagger, Sophie & Fisher, three MFGRC Champion Master Hunters)



Karyn Angel - Versatility Award



Michele Throm - Rally Award

MFGRC Special Recognition Award

AKC Therapy Dog Supreme



Ralph Orlando and Smokey were honored by the MFGRC with a special award in recognition of a very significant accomplishment.

Ralph and Smokey earned the **AKC's Therapy Dog Supreme** title earlier this year when Smokey completed his 600th therapy dog visit.

Ralph was presented with a car magnet recognizing Smokey and the AKC title.

Smokey is Liebchen's Smokey Bones Mountain Mischief VCD2 UDX PUTD RM TDU MXP AJP OFP SIN SHDN THD DJ CGCA CGCU TKA.

Sadly – shortly after this photo was taken, Smokey passed away. Our condolences to the Orlando's on this unfortunate sudden loss.

Smokey

It is Christmas Eve morning and Smokey crossed the Rainbow Bridge 3 days ago on December 21, 2023. The pain runs very deep for Maria and I right now but I know time will heal the pain and we will focus on all of the good times and great joy that he brought to our lives.

Thirteen and a half years ago he entered our lives being the first litter of his mother, Liebchen's Summer's Song of Grace and sire Gemini's Furst Draft (Ruff). They were born with the intent of becoming service dogs. The litter of seven remained with us for 8 weeks at that time returned to New Horizon's for their training. That very day I got word that one would be sold and, in a flash, I was back at the kennel for my pick of the litter. Our choice who we considered best for obedience training was Smokey. Attention, focus and willingness to learn and to please at such a young age would prove to be his strong points in his life of competition in all dog sports.

The agreement with the kennel was to train him in service dog tasks and return often to the kennel with him as a demo dog to help out with training of the new teams. The other agreement was to make him a Therapy Dog and he did that at the age of 15 months.

Smokey has these 23 titles, VCD2 UDX PUTD RM TDU MXP AJP OFP SIN SHDN THD SUPREME DJ CGCA CGCU TKA. The sport he loved most was Tracking where he had 2. On the day before he passed, I laid a track for him. He nailed it as usual like the pro he has been.

Later that day we notice him having trouble standing and getting around more than normal. The next day he was even worse and threw up a mass of food. I immediately called his Vet and in minutes was on my way to the office in Deland. The initial finding was that he was bleeding through his spleen and removal was the answer. However, after exploring inside him, it was obvious that many other organs were also in jeopardy. As a pet owner and with veterinary advice, the dreaded decision to put him down for his sake was made.



24kPhoto

Liebchen's Smokey Bones Mountain Mischief

*Rest in peace big boy. We will see you on the other side.
Ralph & Maria*

MFGRC Announces 2024 Officers and Board Members

The following were confirmed to be the members of the 2023 Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club officers and board as the result of an election held December 16 at the club's annual meeting.

President – Robin Burket

Vice President – Christine McDaniel

Secretary – Cindy Patz

Treasurer – Robin Bowen

Communications Director – Chris Jeffrey

Board Members:

Pam Ginn

Camille Nasca

Brian Parker

Courtney Roxby

Kristin Sipus

Jordyn Vanscoy

Julie Wangelin



MFGRC

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, Inc. (MFGRC) was founded in 1984 by a group of Golden Retriever enthusiasts who came together in order to pursue ways of promoting and enjoying their Goldens. We are currently a member club of both the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) and the American Kennel Club (AKC).

MFGRC is licensed by the AKC to hold conformation shows, obedience and rally trials, agility trials, and retriever hunting tests. We also hold Working Certificate / Working Certificate Excellent tests in accordance with the rules of the GRCA, and also offer a breed/obedience match every year.

In addition, MFGRC offers an ongoing slate of seminars, clinics and "fun days" to encompass all aspects of the Golden Retriever. We promote the versatile competition golden, the gentleman's hunting retriever, and the consummate family pet.

Dues are due . . .

Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club members – time to renew your membership

Membership fees for 2024 are \$35 for individual, family, or associate memberships and can be paid through the mail or online. Online renewal can be done at this link: <https://square.link/u/GcShSCNm>

Membership renewals are due and payable on or *before* January 1, 2024. The deadline for renewing is January 31, 2024. If you have not renewed by then, you will have to re-apply for membership. Direct any correspondence regarding membership renewal to Christine McDaniel, Membership Chair at crmcdaniel@comcast.net

People who become club members in October, November, and December do not have to renew for 2024; their membership will carry over.

If renewing by mail, please indicate your category, make your check payable to MFGRC and mail to:

Christine McDaniel
MFGRC Membership Chair
4 Valencia Street
Palm Coast, FL 32137



Big Thanks!

Hello Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club Members,

Caroline Kendrick, Specialty Chair (extraordinaire) and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for once again stepping up to support our December Specialty. In a time when everything is so much more expensive than we are accustomed to, your generous donations to our Trophy Fund have enabled us to award incredibly beautiful trophies at our Specialties throughout the years.

Our Mid-Florida December Specialty has a stellar reputation and consistently has the highest entries for an Independent Specialty. This year was no different. Our entry of 197 participants is the second highest entry we have enjoyed in the 10+ years we have hosted this event. Our highest entry was 199. Much of this success is due to our incredible members who support this club when needed.

With heartfelt appreciation we thank you for your support and hope you enjoyed the show!


Thank you!

Sincerely,
Caroline Kendrick, Show Chair
Camille Nasca, Trophy Chair

Liebchen's Summer's Song of Grace

UD PUTD RE AX MXJ MJB MJP THD CGCU

November 27, 2007 – October 9, 2023



Summer had an amazing life. She was born into New Horizons Service Dogs and was entrusted to us by Janet Severt. Summer excelled in Obedience and Agility earning many upper level titles. However her greatest gift was bringing love and kindness to everyone she met. She was truly a great dog that brought people together in good times and bad.

Summer loved going to work as Resident Therapy Dog for Phoenix East Aviation. She touched every student that came through the school and brought smiles and comfort to many students around the world. The world was a better place because of our Golden Angel and we were blessed to have her for almost 16 years.

RIP sweet girl. You made our lives whole. Till we meet again.

Ralph & Maria Orlando

A Dog is 'Mayor' in This Town

*'I didn't take it as a joke,' says owner.
Only non-humans could be on the ballot in Idyllwild, an
unincorporated community in Riverside County, CA.*



There's been nepotism and vote buying in the town of Idyllwild, CA. The "mayor" sometimes chews up his neckties.

Only pets were allowed on the ballot — which is why the elected leader in this unincorporated community near Palm Springs is a 1-year-old golden retriever named Mayor Max III.

His predecessors were the late Mayor Max II and Mayor Max I, both of whom were golden retrievers from the same blood line.

"They have all been excellent leaders," said Phyllis Mueller, Mayor Max III's self-proclaimed chief of staff, and the owner of all three Idyllwild mayors.

Idyllwild is technically under the jurisdiction of Riverside County District 4, but it has no formal local government — apart from a few pets. The town had its first mayoral election in 2012 and drew 14 dogs and two cat contenders. The election was run by a local rescue organization, Animal Rescue Friends of Idyllwild (ARF) to raise funds.

The election in the town — which has about 3,000 residents — yielded more than \$31,000 for the rescue organization. Each vote cost \$1, and people could vote as many times as they wanted. Mueller and her husband wrote a \$20,000 check.

"It was promoted as the election you could buy," said Mueller, who moved to Idyllwild in Riverside County with her husband and their dog Max the year prior. "We campaigned hard." "We won that election in a landslide victory," she said.

While the election was intended to be a lighthearted fundraising drive, Mueller and her husband, Glenn Warren — who run a marketing company together — decided to take their dog's time in office seriously.

"I didn't take it as a joke. I saw it as an honor and an opportunity to really do something great," said Mueller, 72. On July 21, 2012, Mayor Max I took office.

"This is an opportunity to be the real mayor of Idyllwild and do the real job, but without politics," said Mueller. "He loves everybody unconditionally. It's nonpartisan; it's nonpolitical. I'm going with it."

And she did. Mayor Max I became a local celebrity, making appearances at weddings, schools, hospitals, birthday parties and nursing homes, and partaking in various charity initiatives, including for ARF.

"The community overwhelmingly agreed that a canine mayor or a feline mayor is better than any human," said Janice Murasko, the director of operations at ARF. "We never expected it would turn into this."

Local shops started selling Mayor Max merchandise — such as T-shirts that say: "the paw is the law." Beyond coming to see the San Jacinto Mountains, which surround the town, Mayor Max became a tourist attraction.



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“Mayor Max” . . . *continued*



Mayor Max I, who held the mayoral position for nine months before his death at age 11.

“So many people come from all over the world to see the mayor,” said Mueller. Just nine months into his two-year term, Mayor Max I died of cancer at age 11. The town was devastated. Rather than running another election, Mueller — with the blessing of the town — decided to get another golden retriever, who automatically became Mayor Max II. That’s when residents agreed mayors should remain in office for life, and the mayor’s office would essentially operate like a monarchy, with family successors. At least for now.

Max II was the town mayor for nine years and two months. After he died, the next in line, Mayor Max III, was sworn in on Dec. 10, 2022. Despite his young age and lack of political experience, he immediately got to work. “People ask me if the dogs know that they’re the mayor, and they absolutely do,” Mueller said.

Mayor Max III has a small staff, consisting of two “deputy co-mayors” — both golden retrievers named Mitzi and Mikey — who act as the mayor’s entourage and security team, as well as a “vice mayor,” also a golden retriever named Meadow. Mueller and her husband own all four dogs.

During frequent town appearances, the dogs dress the part, often sporting customized harnesses and neckties — which they all have a habit of chewing. “I’m dangerously low on ties right now, because they keep eating them,” said Mueller.

Mueller got her first golden retriever in 1984 and stuck with the breed from then on because “they love love,” and “they’re so good in public service.” Mueller’s dogs have all done well in their respective leadership roles. The cast of golden-haired pet politicians travel together in what Mueller calls “Mayor Mobiles” for their daily downtown visits. They also attend various town gatherings, including annual tree-lighting events, Halloween parties and Fourth of July parades. During the pandemic, Mueller facilitated more than 1,400 private visits with the pups in an effort to keep the residents’ spirits up, she said.

“Mayor Max is a full-time job,” said Mueller, adding that the dogs seem to enjoy their work in the community and are especially energized when interacting with people. “I never say no to an event. If the mayor gets invited, we go. The mayor is very accessible to his constituents.”

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Mayor Max II, riding in his “Mayor Mobile.”



Mitzi and Mikey, the deputy co-mayors, act as Mayor Max III’s security team

“Mayor Max” . . . *continued*

“We do every kind of event you can conceive of,” she said, adding that she and her husband cover all costs associated with running the mayor’s office. “We’re constantly helping the community. It’s a lot of fun and it’s a lot of work.”

Mueller also manages the mayor’s social media profiles, including his Instagram page, which has nearly 100,000 followers. The posts are flooded with comments from constituents and strangers, expressing their admiration for Mayor Max III and his dedicated doggy staff.

“People can’t get enough of being with the dogs and getting pictures of them and petting them,” said Mueller. “It just makes them very happy, which is the payback for doing it.”

Mayor Max — whose full name is Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller III — has a website and a mention on Wikipedia. Idyllwild’s canine government has been covered locally in hometown media such as the Idyllwild Town Crier, and it has also attracted international attention from publications such as the Guardian and the Washington Post. ■

Editor’s Note: Thank you to Phyllis Mueller for giving us permission to run this feature that appeared in the Washington Post. All photos in this article were by Phyllis Mueller unless specified.



Phyllis Mueller with Mayor Max III. (Photo by Glenn Warren)

Objectives of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

To encourage and promote the purebred Golden Retriever; and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only Standard of Excellence by which Golden Retrievers shall be judged; and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, and field events.

ESTABLISHED 1984

Find us online at: WWW.MFGRC.ORG



The Training Corner . . .

Scent Work...Their nose knows

. . . we just need to learn to trust our dogs

By Christopher Armanini

Full Send K9, Loxahatchee, Florida

NePoPo® Gold School Graduate

www.fullsendk9.com

chris@fullsendk9.com

IG: @fullsendk9training



Dogs enjoy various activities, but nothing is as inherently satisfying for them as using their sense of smell. Their noses serve as the primary means of interpreting their environment. Similar to how we endlessly scroll through Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on others' activities, dogs engage in a comparable exploration during their daily walks and bathroom breaks. Their noses are always active!

Today, dogs are deployed to utilize their olfactory prowess in detecting substances like drugs, explosives, cancer, changes in blood sugar levels, and even gas leaks. The scope of their capabilities appears to be vast, and we may have only scratched the surface. Drawing from my experience as a former K9 handler, I've had the privilege of training under some of the world's leading dog trainers. Many nights, my reliance on my K9 partner's nose was paramount, whether it involved tracking armed criminals, conducting area and building searches, or locating narcotics; success hinged on the effectiveness of my dog's olfactory skills.

Now, I've integrated the knowledge and experiences gained into my dog training business, where I also compete in scent work trials.

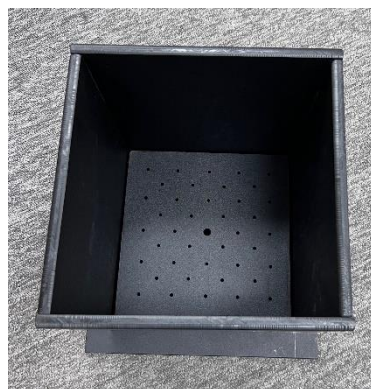
My approach to scent work training differs significantly from many traditional AKC methods, and it begins with a focus on IGNITION! The dog must have a genuine desire to work. In all my training sessions, whether with client or personal dogs, I employ an existential approach using food. I firmly believe in the principle that every calorie consumed should be earned—nothing for free. This concept is crucial as the key to a dog's mindset lies through their stomach. By hand-feeding from a pouch, I establish engagement, desire, and ignition.

Secondly, it's essential for the dog to be charged on a marker, whether it's a clicker, a verbal "yes," or both. I opt for both methods as there are instances when my hands are occupied, making it challenging to hold a clicker. A common observation at trials and training sessions is handlers marking behaviors without following through with a reward. This practice only serves to devalue the marker and fosters frustration and disappointment in the animal. My principle is clear: if you mark, you must pay—even if you happen to be mistaken, as it occasionally occurs.

Once the dog has the ignition to work and is attuned to the marker, we can delve into the more enjoyable aspects of training.

Dopamine Box:

The dopamine box serves as the quintessential tool in the imprinting of odor, shaping the final response (alert), desensitizing to external stressors, and fostering obedience to odor. This four-sided box is ideally crafted from a nonporous material. The box's size is tailored to the dimensions of the dog, allowing them to insert their entire head and reach the bottom. For effective odor imprinting, I prefer incorporating a false floor at the box's base, equipped with holes. This design ensures that the odor container, situated beneath the false floor, remains inaccessible to the dog. Alternatively, a central large hole can be employed, snugly accommodating the odor container.



Equipment Ques:

Maintaining a dedicated collar exclusively for scent work training and trials is of utmost importance. Dogs are highly intelligent creatures, consistently analyzing their environment. Introducing a specific collar solely for this activity serves as an equipment cue, signaling to the dog what is expected of them. The collar should be donned just before the scent work activity begins and removed promptly as soon as it concludes. This careful association ensures that the collar is not paired with any other activities, reinforcing its significance as a unique indicator for scent work engagement.

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Their nose knows . . . *continued*



Imprinting:

The foundation of detection work starts with “Imprinting”. This is where we train the dog to recognize a target odor(s). Personally, I prefer the approach of imprinting each odor separately rather than using the cocktail method. While dogs can indeed detect individual odors within a cocktail, I believe that separate imprinting provides the dog with a more precise and distinct scent picture.

Before commencing the first session, it is essential that the target odor is present in the dopamine box. I typically use a metal tin or mason jar containing two drops of the target odor (essential oil) on a single cotton swab. This container is then placed inside the dopamine box prior to the imprinting process.



When introducing new behaviors, I typically conduct training in a consistent area and prefer to pre-deploy the dopamine box in that space. Dogs, being naturally curious, tend to investigate the dopamine box on their own. Leveraging successive approximation, as the dog shows interest and looks into the box, I reward them by throwing a piece of kibble inside. To create a positive association with the target odor, we flood the box with kibble, dropping a piece just as the dog finishes the previous one. The goal is to encourage the dog to keep their head inside the box while enjoying a continuous stream of food. This process effectively immerses them in the target odor, associates positive feelings (dopamine) with that odor, and reinforces the behavior of keeping their head in the box.

After a few sessions where the dog has grasped the concept of putting their head in the box, I progress to shaping the final response. In traditional law enforcement applications, dogs are often trained to sit as a passive alert to indicate a find. However, there's a shift away from this as sitting requires the dog to leave the source of the odor. A more natural alternative is a focused stare, which allows the dog to stay at the source without moving away.



To train this response, I position myself sitting with the box in front and both hands filled with kibble. When the dog approaches and dives into the box, I drop a piece of kibble, capturing the moment when their head is at its deepest. If the dog removes their head, seeking more food and targeting one of the hands just outside the box, I remain silent and inactive. The dog must decide to return to the desired behavior where a history of rewards exists. Once their head reenters the box, the raining food game resumes. This process teaches the dog that by staying in the box, food will be provided. To build duration, I gradually extend the delivery of kibble, ensuring it is dropped only when the head is fully within the box.



Their nose knows . . . *continued*

Indirect Reward:

Up until now all of the reward has been direct in odor and in behavior. At this point, the dog should be familiar with the dopamine box, eagerly approaching it when they see it to initiate the training session. For scent work, I prefer using a flexi-lead to avoid concerns about leash management, ensuring that the dog can freely explore without unintentionally being pulled out of odor or restricted from hunting.

The dopamine box is pre-deployed in the training area, and the dog wears the scent work collar attached to the leash. Allow the dog to enthusiastically enter the box, and as soon as their head is inside, mark the behavior with a clicker or verbal "yes." If the dog is well-charged on the marker, they will swiftly return to you for their reward. After rewarding, remain passive and refrain from providing additional cues. The objective is for the dog to willingly return to the box on their own. Adopt an ACTIVE dog/REACTIVE handler approach—avoid being overly enthusiastic or a cheerleader. The dog's behavior is now the catalyst for earning rewards, and providing rewards indirectly while out of position motivates the dog to return to the box quickly.

Continuing from this point, you can further develop and sustain the duration of the stare into the box by progressively delaying the mark for the desired behavior. Additionally, incorporating opposition reflex into this exercise enhances stability in the stare. Once you've established a strong focused stare, gently pull back on the leash. When you sense the dog resisting the back pressure, actively fighting to stay in the box, promptly mark that moment. This action communicates to the dog the importance of persisting in the desired behavior.

Introducing opposition reflex becomes not only a training tool but also a test for the dog in subsequent situations. This skill proves valuable when proofing against distractions or in scenarios where the handler is uncertain about the hide in a trial. In such situations, the dog's inclination to fight to stay on odor becomes a crucial element of their training and performance.

Naming a behavior becomes appropriate once it becomes predictable. In the context of the indirect reward session, where the dog is expected to eagerly approach the dopamine box and swiftly return upon being marked, the moment the dog turns to go back to the box is when you assign a name to the behavior. This can be a word or phrase of your choosing, such as "Seek," "Search," "Find It," or any other term according to your preference. Naming the behavior at this point helps the dog associate the specific action with the verbal cue, reinforcing the predictability of the behavior and facilitating effective communication between the handler and the dog.

Starting Sequence:

The starting sequence is just as important as the equipment. It communicates to the dog what is about to occur and gives both you and the dog a moment to prepare for the search. Personally, I prefer having the dog sit on the left side, allowing them a moment to observe the environment in front of them. This period of observation allows their nose to acclimate to the surroundings while allowing the handler to assess the search area. Once the dog makes eye contact, I issue the search command, signaling the beginning of the scent work activity.



This brief introduction provides valuable insights into the intricacies of a complex sport with numerous nuances, emphasizing the importance of foundational elements in setting the stage for success. From the careful selection of equipment to the step-by-step training process, this overview emphasizes the significance of each detail in cultivating a behavior that is not just skillful but also infused with heart and soul. ■

Newsletter Deadlines

If you wish to have anything published in the newsletter (wins, accomplishments, reports, events, etc.) please adhere to the following deadlines. Thank you!

Spring Issue – March 1

Summer Issue – June 1

Fall Issue – September 1


Holiday Issue – December 1

MID FLORIDA GOLDEN
RETRIEVER CLUB
PRESENTS

VOLUNTEER REWARD SEMINAR: CONFORMATION HANDLING & GROOMING

FEATURING MORGAN BROOKS

Saturday, January 6, 2024

 10:00 - 3:00 PM

Upper Suncoast Dog Training Club
2101 Logan St.
Clearwater, FL 33765

Schedule

10:00-1130: Handling for beginners
11:30-1:00: Lunch* & Grooming basics
1:00-3:00: Advanced handling

All members can audit
Volunteers** get a working spot!

To reserve your spot:
727.439.5695 or
julie@tampabayos.com

*Pack a lunch, not provided
**For working spot, must
have volunteered 4+ hours
in the last 12 months





MFGRC Volunteer Reward Series: Conformation Handling Seminar Registration

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name Last Name

Address

City/State Zipcode

Phone Email

SEMINAR INTEREST

Which sub-workshop are you interested in? (Also indicate working or audit spot)

<input type="checkbox"/> Handling for beginners (morning)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced conformation handling (afternoon)
<input type="checkbox"/> Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Working
<input type="checkbox"/> Audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Audit

Have you previously volunteered with MFGRC 4 or more hours in the last 12 months? (working spots only) No Yes N/A

Please list the event you volunteered at to be eligible (working spots only):

Questions? Contact Julie Wangelin at 727-439-5695 or julie@tampabayos.com
Email your registration to julie@tampabayos.com

Working registration deadline is January 1, 2024.

**Note. One working dog per registration. If there are more working requests than spots, there will be a drawing. Only current MFGRC Members are eligible for auditing or working spots.*

WAIVER

I understand that my attendance of a dog training seminar is not without risk to myself, my dog, any attending guests, family members and my personal property, because some of the dogs to which I will be exposed, as well as my own dog, may be difficult to control and may be the cause of injury or damage even when handled with the greatest amount of care.

I hereby waive and release MFGRC, Upper Suncoast Dog Training Club (USDTC), PROPERTY OWNERS AND SEMINAR PRESENTERS, from any and all liability of any nature, for injury or damage which I or my dog may suffer, including specifically, but without limitation, any injury or damage resulting from the action of any dog, and I expressly assume the risk of such damage or injury while attending any training seminar, or any other function of MFGRC, USDTC or while on the training grounds or the surrounding area thereto.

I also agree to defend, indemnify and to hold harmless MFGRC, USDTC, PROPERTY OWNERS AND SEMINAR PRESENTERS, from any and all claims, or claims by any member of my family or any other person accompanying me to any training session or function of MFGRC, USDTC, or while on the grounds or the surrounding area thereto as a result of any action by any dog, including my own. I shall personally assume all responsibilities and liabilities for any loss or injury which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of my dog participating in a MFGRC seminar/workshop or while on the training grounds or the surrounding area thereto. "My dog" in the above statements refers to any dog in my custody upon approaching the training grounds or adjacent areas. Please indicate your acceptance of the terms and conditions by completing the name and date below:

Name printed: _____ Date _____

Signature: _____ Date _____



MFGRC New Title Rosettes

Members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club who earn new AKC or GRCA titles for their Golden Retrievers during calendar year 2023 may be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club. The new title rosette program has been part of the MFGRC for many years and is one the club leadership is happy to continue.

In order to be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club, a member must have worked at least one club event during the year or have done equivalent work for the club behind-the-scenes (subject to verification). The stipulation is in place to encourage members to help with club events and activities.

The program is for new **AKC** or **GRCA** titles won between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2023. The deadline for receiving applications is end of business on Jan. 5, 2024.

This year, there have been some modifications to the program to make the process work more smoothly for all involved. **Please read and follow directions carefully:**

There is only one way to request a new title rosette: the requests must be sent via email to MFGRC board member Susan Sherman at this address:

Ripley.GoldenBear@gmail.com

No requests sent to any other email address or via text, phone call or any other method will be accepted. All requests will get an acknowledgement via email when received. IF you do not get an acknowledgment, please email Susan and inquire.

The subject line of the email should be "New Title Rosettes." Requests should be in the body of the email (not as an attachment) using this format:

A. OWNER NAME

B. DOG'S REGISTERED NAME including all titles (and do not add in titles that are precursors for others, only the highest title for that venue – example, do not list 'Sam's Susie Q, RN, RA, RE' because the Rally Novice and Rally Advanced titles are precursors for the Rally Excellent title. Your request should just say 'Sam's Susie Q, RE' in the dog's registered name.

C. LIST ALL AKC AND/OR GRCA TITLES EARNED IN 2023: This is the place to put in precursor titles, IF they were earned in 2023. Again, please do not list them as part of the dog's registered name. This creates additional work for the rosettes committee.

D. VOLUNTEER WORK: Please list what events you worked at or what you did for the club in 2023 (all subject to verification).

E. IF UNSURE ABOUT WHICH TITLES ARE LISTED AND WHICH ARE NOT:

- Got to akc.org
- Click "products and services" tab
- On the left of that page, click 'individual dog award record and points progression'
- Click "find a dog"
- Input YOUR dog's name or registration number and then click the dog's name
- Once the dog is on the report page, click 'view points' to the right and your dog's info will populate
- Please note the order the AKC lists the titles in – titles have a specified order and MFGRC wants to be correct on new title rosettes
- Please DO NOT use K9 data as a reference to order new title rosettes as the information there is often not listed in proper AKC form

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE of what the email should look like:

- A. Pam Ginn
- B. Richwood's Every Move You Make at Kestrel Farm JH WC CC
- C. JH CCA
- D. Worked at the Feb and Nov Hunt Tests

The goal is to get the rosettes done and into the hands of eligible members as fast as possible. Distribution is planned for the February Hunt Test.

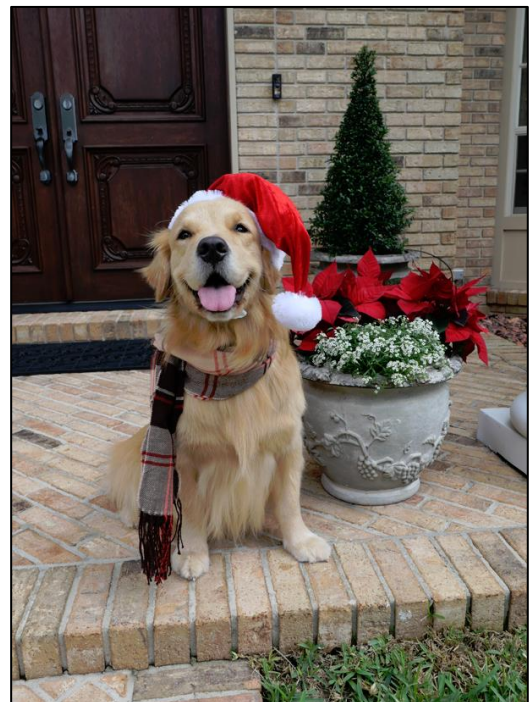
NOTE: If you will not be able to pick up your rosette(s) at the February Hunt Test, the rosettes can be mailed to you. You must mail a check for \$10, per owner, up to three rosettes, made out to MFGRC, to:

Robin Bowen
3001 SW College Rd.
PMB41
Ocala, FL 34474

The deadline for payment is Jan. 30, 2024. If you are lucky enough to have more than three, you will need to include another \$10 for the next rosettes to be mailed.

Congratulations on your successes in 2023 and please let us know of any questions.

Susan Sherman
Robin Bowen
MFGRC New Title Rosettes Committee





New CGC Titles! From left to right: - Taylor Gordon, Banner (Celtics Majik Money Maker CGC TKN VHMA FITB), Tony (Rangers Golden Promise CGC TKN VHMA FITB HOPI), Pepper (Honey Gold Kisses CGC TKN VHMA FITB), Angel Gordon



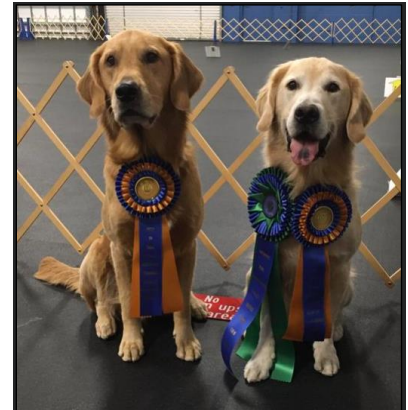
ACCOLADES



Pamela Eve's Golden girl "Kestrel" achieved her Senior Hunter title in November.



Chris Aramani's Golden boy "Rebel" (Magik's Dream Machine) earned his Scent Work Interior Advanced (SIA) and Scent Work Exterior Advanced (SEA) titles in November at the Obedience Club of Palm Beach. He also earned 3 High in Trials and multiple place ribbons.



Susan Howard's Golden boys had a very successful weekend at the Palm Beach Obedience Trials in November. On Saturday, "Winston" won Utility B and "Flyte" won Open B and was also High in Trial. Sunday, Winston won both Utility B and Open B plus High in Trial and High Combined. Yuong Flyte had another lovely Open B run placing 2nd with a 198.5.



Elizabeth Scherer's Golden boy "Kody" (Am. CH SHR U-CH. IABCA WBCH/HnrCH-G/IntCH/NatCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH CCA CGC TKN WCX VC RATI) earned both his IABCA Honors Champion in Gold and his World Beauty Championship titles at the IABCA Golden Retriever Specialty at Purina Farms/Purina Farms Summer Sieger in June.

Accolades . . .



Elizabeth Scherer's Golden boy Kody, (Am. CH SHR U-CH. IABCA WBCH/HnrCH-G/IntCH/NatCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH CCA CGC TKI WCX VC RATI) earned his Farm Dog Title (FDC) at Draxen Farms in October.



Nancy Amos Cameron's Golden girl Torch (Sandhau's Follow the Leader CDX JH) finished her CDX title at the Obedience Club of Daytona Trial in December.



Ann Rowe's Golden girl Ember achieved her Junior dock diving title in September.



Golden WCX qualifiers! (left to right) Karen Angel and Valor, Kristin Sipus and Cuvee, Pam Ginn and Kestrel, Anne Lowry and Gryphon, Michelle Throm and Arya.
(Missing from photo – Bonnie Joyce and Pi, Walter Kennedy and Flyer.

Accolades . . .



Camille Nasca and her Golden Girl Misha (Mischief's Pas De Deux) finished their CD title at the Obedience Club of Daytona Trial in December.



Scent Work kudos! Connie Adams' Golden girl Katie (right) and Golden boy Luke (left) were entered in the SWCO, Inc. Trials held at Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center in Fruitland Park FL in December. Katie was entered in INTERIOR EXCELLENT where she earned her first leg and placed 2nd out of 11 dogs entered. She then went on to earn her first leg in EXTERIOR EXCELLENT where she placed 3rd out of 8 dogs entered. Luke was entered in ADVANCED INTERIOR where he earned his 2nd leg and placed 1st out of 11 dogs entered. He then went on to earn his first leg in ADVANCED EXTERIOR.



Elizabeth Scherer's Golden boys earned their trick titles at the West Volusia KC show in Deland in September. Dad Kody (Am. CH SHR U-CH. IABCA WBCH/HnrCH-G/IntCH/NatCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH CCA CGC TKI WCX VC RATI) earned his Trick Dog Intermediate Title and son Nalu (Madileau's Marscher Gone Surfing TKN) earned his Trick Dog Novice Title.



**2023 Fallchase Owner-Handler Award
D'Nette Musser & Tank**

(CH 24k Retrievers Tango Yankee BISS BOSS DN RN RATI)

DO YOU HAVE A BRAG?

MFGRC wants to recognize all that are accomplishing events and titles/wins with their dogs.

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club's quarterly newsletter would like to recognize our members who are out doing great things with their dogs. Please send all your brags to Chris Jeffrey at subtlesmoke1@comcast.net. We would like a photo and a brief description of what your dog won, show, judges, etc.

Deadline for the next issue is March 1st.



Merry Christmas to all . . . and to all a good night!

