



THE FLAT-COAT FILES



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club

Spring 2014

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Bailey Flanagan at Pat Burns Seminar

President's Message

Lake Champlain froze over this winter from shore to shore, something that hasn't happened in nearly 10 years. I always marvel when I look over the ice and contemplate swimming in that same body of water a mere 6 months later. Hannah, Carrie and I did yesterday! It must be summer.

It was announced at our March 8, 2014 Annual Meeting that, through the competent and thoughtful deliberation of the Nominating Committee headed by **Shirleen Roeder**, we have added three talented members to your Board of Directors: **Kristen Sobanski**, **Jill Kuchinos** and **Gary McManus**. Kristen will also continue as the co-chair of the Conformation Committee as well as being our Webmaster. For those who are on Facebook, she's added a NEFCRC Facebook page. Jill's positive enthusiasm and experience in Breed, Obedience and now Field adds a "can do" sense of innovation and adventure. Gary, a longtime member of the Club is adding a wonderfully calm, mature voice to our discussions. Our most recent board meeting was held by conference call through a free service found by Secretary, **Pat Temple**.

April 26th opened the nine field training sessions with none other than your Field Co-Chairs **Joe Juza** and **Christine McCluer**. Several Newbies attended for free. Since then **Becky Whitmeyer** hosted a live flyer day on May 26th. Pat Burns did a field workshop on June 14 and 15 at Buck Shope's property. Look for the pictures taken by **Jill Kuchinos** on the NEFCRC Facebook page. Come enter or watch the **WC/WCX** at West Thompson, CT on October 4, 2014.

Kristen Sobanski lined up **Gwyne McClellan**, a Canadian FCR breeder to be our Sweepstakes Judge for the Supported Entry on November 22, 2014 at West Springfield, MA and **Nancy Cavallo** to be the Sweepstakes Judge for a second Supported Entry at the Sporting Dog Show on March 15, 2015.

Sally Bridges scouted out the Gardner Fish and Gun Club (www.gardnerfishandgunclub.com) and we have reserved it for a September 14, 2014 Summer Fun Day. The program will include a chance to earn an AKC Canine Good Citizen title. This is AKC title that all of our dogs should attain with our help. See the AKC website for a complete description of the program at

< www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm >

We are in the planning stages to offer opportunities and demonstrations of field, conformation and rally as well. First and foremost we hope it will be a fun day for families, friends and furry friends. Stay tuned.

Sally Young

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Newsletter Advertising Rates:

Quarter-page or litter announcement \$5.00
Half-page (no photo) \$10.00
Full-page with photo \$25.00

Calendar of Events

NEFCRC WC/WCX Oct. 4, 2014 West Thompson Dam

Sumner Fun Day Sept. 14, 2014 Gardner Fish and Gun Club

Supported Entry Nov. 22, 2014 West Springfield, MA

Web Site

Check out our website (NEFCRC.org) for results, events, and photos. Webmaster Kristen Sobanski can be contacted at percussion98@juno.com

Address Changes

Please direct all address, e-mail, and phone changes to **Don Bierer** at bierer@comcast.net or (508) 653-0028.

Deadline for submissions for Sumner issue is Aug. 31.

Please send newsletter submissions to:

E-mail address: rusumner@mac.com

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Cancer Studies Support Team:
There When You Need Us

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Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club Launches New Website and Facebook Page!

Those of you that attended the NEFCRC winter meeting in early March, were able to view a “sneak peek” of the newly designed club website, created by our new webmaster, Kris Sobanski. The new site went live in mid-March, with an all new look. Our website can be viewed at:

<http://www.nefcrc.org/index.htm>

If you would like to see your dog’s recent accomplishments on our News page, please e-mail Kris (see email address below) any titles or awards that you and your dog achieved during 2013. For non-AKC titles, please also include the type of venue the title or award was received in (ie. USDAA, Flyball, Dock Diving, etc.)

Please visit the Calendar of Events page to view events for the year – many events have links to either PDF files or relevant links. There currently is information posted about the upcoming National Specialty in Oregon, the NEFCRC field training events, the Pat Burns field seminar, and the November Supported Entry in Springfield, MA. We will be posting information about the WC/WCX test in October when we receive the specific details and premium list.

Our Links page is home to many resources for our members – there are links to the other regional Flat-Coated Retriever Clubs, as well as the FCRSA page, health links, and e-mail group lists.

Visit our Contact Us page to find contact information for the Board of Directors and committee chairs, as well as functioning links to download a Membership Application, Dues Renewal form, Friend In Deed application, and Versatility Award application.

We are looking for photo contributions for the Our Dogs page – we would love to include pictures of your dogs! Submissions can be emailed to Kris at percussion98@juno.com.



At the winter meeting, it was also agreed upon by the Board of Directors and the general membership that the club should launch a Facebook page to keep up with “modern times”. Our Facebook page can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/NEFCRC> - we will try to post Supported Entry results, upcoming events, and club photos to our page.

Please let us know if there is something you’d like to see on either the NEFCRC website or Facebook page.

We hope you enjoy the new sites!

Member Article and Brag — Nancy Triou

The Flat-Coat Nose Knows!



On Sunday, April 27th, Sierra (GCh Paladin Ace's High *TDX* BN RN) became the first Flat-Coat to have earned both the Grand Champion and Tracking Dog Excellent titles. I am so proud of my girl!

Sierra has been tracking since she was a puppy and she quickly proved to be a natural. She earned her TD (Tracking Dog) title on April 22, 2012. The TD is the first level of AKC tracking titles. To earn the title, dogs need to follow a track that is 440-500 yards long, has 3-5 turns and is between 30 minutes and 2 hours old. The track layer leaves a cloth article at the beginning of the track and the dog has to follow that scent until they find the article that is left at the end of the track (a glove or wallet).

Moving from a TD to a TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent), requires both dog and handler to learn many new skills. It can be a long process. The requirements for a TDX track include: a track that is 800-1000 yards long; is aged 3-5 hours; has 5-7 turns; has at least 2 obstacles (meaning changes of cover, stream crossings, woods, roads, etc); has cross tracks (where 2 people, other than the track layer, cross the track in 2 places) and has 2 intermediate articles that the dog must indicate, in addition to the start and end article. Training Sierra for her TDX presented many challenges for both of us. Sierra is very driven in anything that she does. As a result she really didn't think it was necessary to stop at intermediate articles on the track, but thought that a flick of her eye was more than enough indication. It turned out, that wasn't always easy for me to notice! Having her work in the woods, over stone walls, and crossing streams was another challenge. I can't tell you how entertained my tracking group was listening to me yell, "WAIT" or "DON'T HURT ME!" as we flew over fallen trees in the woods.



I entered the Yankee Golden tracking test this spring just to see how she'd do. We usually are able to track all winter, but that obviously wasn't possible this year. We were only able to track for a few weeks before the test and I wasn't sure that she was ready. She sure was! Our track was 810 yards long, had 3 stream crossings (and the stream was one we couldn't walk through but had to jump over each time) and 2 turns in the woods. She completed the track in 9 minutes. We got a huge ovation from the judges and the gallery. What a thrill it was to follow her!

A mantra in tracking is, "trust your dog". In my opinion, that is one of the best things about tracking. Yes, your dog does need to understand the game, but once they do, it is your dog who is leading you. As a handler, you learn to "read" your dog and recognize when they are on the track and when they are searching for it. You learn ways to help them, but they know where the track goes, and you don't. It creates an incredible bond as you really become partners.

The Flat-Coat community is very lucky to have some highly accomplished and generous people who are willing to share their skills and experience. If you are interested in trying tracking with your dog, Joe Hamzy has started a closed Facebook group just for Flat-Coats. He is a fantastic resource along with Pat Norris and others. I've already learned so much from Joe that I will be able to use as Sierra and I strive to earn VST (Variable Surface Tracking) and CT (Champion Tracker) titles.

Member Story – Sally Young

A # 1 Day in July, 2011

Hot humid July afternoon, Hannah's six puppies are 7 weeks old. My friend Jennifer Adsit has invited me to take the puppies and their mother to a remote pond with a sloping, sandy beach for their first swim.

Loading up the six pups, three in each of two crates in the back and Hannah in the front passenger side we headed out for Starksboro, VT. Hannah curls up in the seat for the 45 minute ride just relieved to be alone and falls asleep. Her internal GPS goes off just as we roll into the town; she sits up, looks around and realizes that we're heading towards a very familiar pond. As we climb the steep dirt road to the top of the mountain she starts quietly whining in a low but positively anticipatory voice. The puppies have never heard this vocalization from their mother and start howling in the back. A cacophonous, canine symphony spews out the windows as we wind up hill.

Hannah, "Finally fun, after weeks of 24/7 child tending: endless feeding, cleaning and maternal demands! I know where we're going! A day off!! Yippee!"

We roll to a stop at the top of the hill. I open the back and unload the puppies on the grass. Hannah launches out of the car and races past the "kids" and squeals with delights as she throws herself into the clear pond! She returns, happy, jumping and soaking wet. Meanwhile the pups, terrified at this exuberant behavior that they've never seen from their mother, scurry into the shadows under the Jeep!

Sally, "Oh, shoot! This might not be such a good idea! Have I set up a situation that they'll be traumatized about water forever? What am I thinking?!? How am I going to get them out from beneath the Jeep?"

Spring 2014

Member Story (cont.)

“Hannah! Here! Heel! Sit!”

All of a sudden, all six little black bodies appeared from under the truck. It was as if a large neon sign had lit up, “Milk Bar – OPEN!” Hannah looks up at me a bit disgusted as the little rascals try to latch on.

“Hannah, Easy, Heel. We’re going to take them for a swim.” Hannah joined me as we slowly walked to the sandy beach’s edge. I’m walking with my camera round my neck to take pictures thinking that I’d capture images of curious, perhaps reluctant pups.

No such luck...all of them followed their mother into the water, swimming as though they’d been in the water all of their lives. There was no thrashing, no front paws flaying, just happy, sleek little black faces cruising past their Mum. I stood in the cool water, enjoying the sun on my face and completely enthralled by these eager little creatures, while they swam in between my legs, out and back to their mother and back to the water’s edge.



I have to say that it was a NUMBER ONE day in my life! My thanks to Jennifer Adsit, her pond and her foresight to bring her camera to catch Hannah leading those wet little fannies up the sunny trail, between the blueberry bushes heavy with fruit and back to the Jeep.

Member Brags

Beth Brock

At the New England Sporting dog show on March 16th Wallace, CH Bertschire Good Grief Gromit CD RA JH WCX CGC went Best Veteran in Sweeps and Best Of Breed Gun Dog.

On Monday March 17th Feather, GCH Bertschire Light As A Feather BN gave birth to 10 healthy puppies!! Feather and my new baby boy Bran, will be home on May 26th. We are very excited!!

Ruth Sumner



Ch Breezy Hill Christmas Punch MH became a veteran in Nov. 2013 so I decided to enter him in the New England Sporting Group show on March 15 where Samantha Stilwell, co-owner, handled him to perfection. He won the 7-9 year old class in the Veterans Sweeps then went on to win the regular Veterans class. Samantha brought him back in the ring for Best in Breed and I was delighted to see that he wasn't being dropped. In fact, Ms. Stilwell picked up Punch's Select Dog ribbon for three Grand Champion points! I was and am thrilled

Don Bierer



A FIRST time for everything. Victory's Kodiak Grin and Bear It "Cody" had just turned six months, and six days to be exact, when he took 1st Place in Puppy Sweepstakes at the MAFCRC Supported Entry in Trenton on May 4 under Judge Lori Baycar. Thank you Lori and breeder/handler Judy Gladson for introducing Cody to the show ring. Cody exhibited his exuberance by eating the sweeps check when we got home! With pride and joy, Don and Susan Bierer, and big brother Rudy RBIS BISS GCH Blazin's Joie de Vivre CDX JH WCX HOF

Kristen Sobanski

Lyric (Broadway's Singular Sensation AX OAJ CGC) earned her AX title on March 23 at the LEAP Agility trial in Tolland, CT under judge Clyde Closson with a perfect score and 1st place. Lyric is owned by Kristen A. Sobanski and Susan Stilwell.

Member Brags (cont.)

Gay Coffin reports Lula (SHR Kistryl Takes A Lickin' CD BN RN JH WC) has added a handful of titles.... She finished her Championship with the Pullians running her around the ring. Lula and I added her RA title, and with Tim Pullian handling her, she finished the Junior Hunter Upland title and is now running senior. She also got a Best in Show! Now it was just a match in Greenville, SC and I was handling, but even though it didn't count for many bragging rights, we were smiling! Lula is now retired from conformation and enjoying getting birds and bumpers, her favorite activity.

Anna (SHR Grousemoor Town & Country CDX RA JH WCX) finished her Rally Excellent title and was invited to the inaugural AKC Rally Competition in Tulsa at the Advanced level. She had her 9th birthday at the end of June. We miss all of you in the Northeast.

Ruth Sumner and Lori Nevins

We are pleased to report that Flatfield Dare Devil, known to her many admirers as Giddy, went 5 for 5 and landed her SH this spring. Giddy is owned, trained, and well-loved by Doris and Roger Ehret but her ties to the NEFCRC are strong- she is a (Lori's) **Borgie** puppy, and a (Ruth's) **Jake** grand-pup, as well as having many storied Petersfield ancestors. We congratulate Doris and our girl!



New Member



We are pleased to welcome **Becky Ellis** to the Club, sponsored by, who else, Joe Juza. If you are on Facebook, I need say no more! Becky hails from Nevada and now lives in Lee, MA with her second FCR, "Rafter" Northern Lights A River Runs Through It. Rafter's sire is the accomplished Koby, 2012 Best of Breed at Westminster. Becky has done agility, nosework, flyball, tracking, and conformation with prior dogs, and is focused now on agility and field with Rafter. Becky is a licensed veterinary technician and advanced clinical specialist in canine emergency and critical care, including rehab, injury prevention, peak performance programs, hydrotherapy and aquatics. Sounds like there may be seminar in her future!

Don Bierer, Membership Secretary

See late-breaking news – more new members on page 14!

In Memory



Seleya's Quinn Lives a Beach
Quinn
February 10,2002- March 3,2014

How do we sum up 12 years of faithful companionship with our “son” Quinn. He meant the world to us day in and day out. Among his favorite things were swimming, rolling in the snow, swimming, long walks, swimming, peanut butter, cheese and playing with Alpha.

With his sometimes silly behavior (you all know what we mean) and superior intelligence, he was a flat-coat through and through who gave us many laughs. Forever the joker, he would always find a way to negotiate with us by stealing car keys, Chapstick from a jacket pocket or a lunch bag and keeping them just out of our reach until another treat was produced. You could always tell when he was up to something when his tail was in that telltale position.

He loved children and puppies and would lie down patiently and allow them to hug and climb on him. He had many, many human and dog friends everywhere he went including the beaches, bogs, woods, mountains, rivers and neighborhood.

With his quiet calmness and love for all he was dubbed “The Mayor” at the places we walked as he greeted and played with his two- and four-legged friends. He showed us his everlasting love even through his illness with cancer, which ultimately took him over the rainbow bridge where there is no pain and endless places to swim or romp in the snow. He will be forever missed.

Ed and Suzanne Mallon

In Memory

In Loving Memory

Ch. Beachcliff Tbar Willow of Broadway CD RA CGC

6/3/06 – 4/16/14



Gone too soon...you will forever leave paw prints on our hearts.
Godspeed, sweet Willow, until we meet again.

Loved and owned by Kristen A. Sobanski, Barbara Keck, and Deborah Edwards

Pat Burns Seminar — June 14 and 15, 2014

On June 14 and 15 our club hosted a Pat Burns seminar at Buck Shope's beautiful training property in Templeton, MA. Pat Burns is a nationally recognized professional field dog trainer. Bunny Millikin commented, "I didn't realize that Pat had given up his professional dog trainer status and become a full-time trainer of owners/handlers. He was one of the top pros in the country so I was worried that he might not be interested in working with Flatcoats and very amateur owners/handlers but not so."



The response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Don Bierer echoed what several others including Beck Whitmeyer and Chris McCluer had expressed. He wrote "I was impressed with how individualized the workshop was," adding "Pat came prepared with notes on each dog, and adjusted the drills and setups accordingly. In just a short time, he was familiar with each handler/dog team, and took the time to give everyone his due. I learned a lot over the weekend and look forward to carrying it through to regular training." Pat accomplished this by carefully observing both dog and handler, taking notes, referring to those notes before each dog came to the line and then revising his notes for the next lesson. In the end it was amazing what he knew about each handler and dog team.

Jill Kuchinos, experienced in other venues but new to field, was auditing her first field seminar. She was amazed at how much she learned and stated, "I'm hoping by the next seminar, I'll be ready to step over the auditor line and try the handling side."

Bunny Millikin and Pat had a shared compendium of knowledge about particular dogs and great trainers. It was like listening to the history of the sport. In discussing our dogs, Bunny said, "His major surprise was what good markers we have in our FCRs but he was equally astonished at the wild line manners which certainly goes a long way toward compromising success. His stressing of the "basics" and showing us



drills to improve the dog's understanding of what is being asked was very important.” Pat has very high expectations for handler/dog teams at the line. He wants no extraneous movement; good handler footwork at the line is essential to good handling; dog must stay in position until sent - all these were stressed. A more subtle but very important point was added by Becky Whitmeyer, “I hope everyone took away his basic comment that the whole essence of dog training is for the dog to learn how to work through pressure rather than to learn the specific drill.” That’s a great topic for a whole new discussion.



The most important factor in this seminar was Pat Burns himself — his personality and the quality of the delivery of his message. He was fun and engaging, clear and articulate. He brought a sound system with him that made it easy to hear everything he said to each handler at the line so all participants could benefit every step of the way. It was a delightful and very educational two days.



Saturday night we had a barbecue and raffle with Bruce Flanagan at the grill which was loaned to us by Buck. Everyone brought salads, chips, dips and NEFCRC supplied the burgers and hotdogs. It was great fun! We went back to homes or to our motels happy, full and exhausted but energized.



So many people need to be thanked for the success of the weekend. The obvious first names on the list are Christine McCluer and Joe Juza. As Bunny says, “Joe and Chris outdid themselves in making this happen.” To list more names is venturing into dangerous territory (the danger of omission), but here goes — live flyer station shooters, Joe Juza, Bruce Flanagan, Don Bierer; dead bird stations, Susan Stewart, Kit Sumner, Susan Markle, Beth Brock; the “Quiet Man” Phil Dewey who was always there for set-up, re-birding, and collecting equipment; and so many participants like Carlee Ogeka and Elaine Van Briggles who were always ready to step up to help. Special thanks given to and forgiveness asked of anyone left off this list!



(cont.) —



The FCRSA awarded NEFCRC a \$1000 grant to enable us to offer and benefit from this quality seminar and we are grateful for their support. We also owe our sincere gratitude to Buck Shope for partnering with us on this project and allowing our club to use his land. He has always been gracious and supportive of our club's field efforts, even allowing us to use his ATV for equipment logistics both days.

A final thanks goes to Mother Nature for providing us with perfect training weather!

Litter Announcement

FISHERCREEK Liam & Roxie Litter

Planned for this Summer



We are excited to announce this planned breeding! *Roxie* is a stunning bitch who exudes breed type and is a proven producer of outstanding puppies; *Liam* has excellent conformation, has a great working attitude, is easy to live with, and is a proven stud dog. We believe that Roxie and Liam will produce puppies with lovely temperaments and excellent performance abilities. Contact Cookie Kelley at fishercreekusa@gmail.com for information!

Cookie Kelley, Theresa and Jill Kuchinos – Fishercreek USA

Liam, Am/Can CH Fishercreek Kiss My Blarney

- Only Owner Handled
- Finished American CH quickly with 5 major wins
- #3 *Flat Coated Retriever* 2011 in Canada with very limited showings
- *Multi-Group Winner*
- *OFA Clearances:* Hips Excellent, Elbows Normal, Patellas Normal, Eyes Clear

Roxie, Am GCH/Can CH BIS Fishercreek Kelore Ghost rider CGC

- Only Owner Handled
- *Select Bitch* 2013 FCRSA National Specialty
- *Best Brood Bitch* 2013 FCRSA National Specialty
- *Select Bitch* 2011 FCRSA National Specialty
- #1 *Flat-Coated Retriever Bitch* in Canada 2011 with very limited showings
- *Best In Show* Fredericton, NB July 2011
- *OFA Clearances:* Hips Good, Elbows Normal, Patellas Normal, Eyes Clear

Spring 2014

Speaking of Puppies and Mama Wannabes

CH Killyglass Cash and Carry JH WC

Sally Young's Wannabe Mom is seen here with her "babies."

Sally describes false pregnancy as follows — "She has amassed several stuffed animals in the "nest" on Bill's recliner. She has been entertaining us for about a week. She moves upwards of 8-10 stuffed toys into her crate in our bedroom, the couch in the living room, the chaise in our bedroom or Bill's recliner. It's the whinnying that is mildly annoying. I just hope that she's not this anxious when the time comes for the real mothering. I can only hope that she works out her mothering issues through play!"



New Members

Lori Nevins and Phil Dewey are pleased to sponsor new members **Betsy & Clint Montgomery**. The Montgomery's hail from Stillwater, NY with their Flat-Coats "Rook" Affinity Stolen Kisses JH WC, and "Louis" GCH Coastalight Good Louis Nanaimo CDX MH WCX. That's right, a Grand Champion and Master Hunter! How proud they must be!! Field is listed as their primary interest; Betsy will soon be an AKC Junior and Senior Hunt Test Judge. Other breed interests include conformation, obedience, field trials and breeding.

Don Bierer, Membership Secretary



“Quinn”
Seleya's Quinn Lives a Beach
February 10, 2002 March 3, 2014
Histiocytic Sarcoma

You CAN Make a Difference!

If you have a dog with cancer,
please consider participating in our cancer studies

Contact the **Cancer Studies Support Team** at:

FCR-Cancer-Support@yahoogroups.com

Or contact any Team member directly:

Gay Coffin jcoffin121@gmail.com 828-877-4499

Gen Dever @aol.com 612-251-5872

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