

FLAT-COAT FILES

Newsletter of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club

Spring 2015

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Sue Stillwell's "Joe"

President's Message

In spite of one of the snowiest and coldest winters on record, I enjoyed two Pot Luck Lunches and Walkabouts in Burlington, VT and at Ann Jenson's in Avon, NY. The others were cancelled due to weather.

Join us for the Field Training Classes as an old-timer or as a newbie for a free class or two. These sessions have been ably organized by Chris McCluer, Joe Juza and Don Bierer. Come, enter or just watch the FCR Field Trial in Morrisville, VT on July 23rd organized by our own Sally Bridges and Priscilla Johnson.

The Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 22 at MasterPeace Dog Training in Franklin, MA was a good meeting in spite of low attendance. Please tell us where, when and what type of program you'd like to see at our next Annual Meeting. Two seasoned and former board members, Sally Nettleton Smilas and Sue Stillwell were voted in with two new additional directors, Susan Klein and Sherry Walker. Now there are eleven board members, thanks to Shirleen Roeder who just stepped off the Board. I will miss Patty Temple who resigned as well. We wish them well on their return to a peaceful retirement.

Your Board is working on two possibilities for workshops for the fall: Pat Perry may offer an Upland Field two day workshop organized by Jennifer Tower; Susan Klein is exploring a possible Agility workshop. Tell us which of those two options are of interest to you. Give us other suggestions of activities that you'd like your Board to explore or plan.

Make sure that you mark your calendars for the jointly Supported Entry at Morris Essex Dog Show on October 1st, thanks to the efforts of Tina Mohr (NEFCRC) and Donna Sickles (MAFCRC); the WC/WCX at West Thompson on October 10th with Judges Bunny Millikin and Charles Lanagan; and the Supported Entry at the Thanksgiving Cluster in West Springfield, MA on November 21st organized by Kris Sobanski.

Contact any of us about the direction and activities of your Club.

Sally Young, President

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Sally Young (802) 862-2773
ssyoung@uvm.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Kate Horgan-Burke (978) 272-1036
kate@katenine.com

SECRETARY

Sue Stillwell (860) 298-8874
cabochon@comcast.net

TREASURER

Don Bierer (508) 653-0028
donbierer@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Don Bierer (508) 653-0028
donbierer@comcast.net

DIRECTORS

Beth Brock (860) 343-3195
borderflats@juno.com

Gary McManus (860) 859-3970
nq1g@arrl.net

Susan Klein (508) 385-8618
sklein1@capecod.net

Sally Nettleton-Smilas (860) 345-2995
almosteden@att.net

Kristen Sobanski (860) 319-7046
percussion98@juno.com

Ruth Sumner (860) 669-6959
rsumner@mac.com

Sherry Walker (781) 444-5330
sherryebw@aol.com

NEFCRC Representative to FCRSA Board:
Kurt Anderson (203) 234-0833

NEFCRC Breed Rescue Coordinator:
Jenn Tower (413) 547-2522
slipstreamfcr@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Ruth Sumner (860) 669-6959
rsumner@mac.com

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

FCRSA Field Trial July 23, 2015 Stowe, VT
Morris & Essex Dog Show Oct. 1, 2015 Franklin Township, NJ
NEFCRC WC/X test Oct.. 10, 2015 W. Thompson Dam, CT

Web Site

Check out our website (NEFCRC.org) for results, forms, 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 donbierer@comcast.net or (508) 653-0028.

Newsletter Deadline

Summer Deadline — Aug. 15, 2015
Please send newsletter submissions to:

E-mail address: rsumner@mac.com

Mailing address: Ruth Sumner
146 Cow Hill Rd.
Clinton, CT 06413

Telephone: (860) 669-6959

Cancer Studies Support Team:

There When You Need Us

FCR-Cancer-Support@yahoogroups.com

Or contact any Team member directly:

Gen Dever gendever@aol.com 612-251-5872

Linda Conrad. FlashbackFCR@gmail.com 612-385-5334

Lynn Langbecker. richlynn@sbcglobal.net

972-442-3106 Maggie Minkiewicz

maggiemink03@yahoo.com

770-530-0671

Penny Woodward darkwaterfcr@gmail.com. 540-414-4305

Thank you, Keegan, for chasing winter away!



Shirleen Roeder's Keegan having a ball!

Reaching Out

Winter Walk-Abouts were designed to get NEFCRC members together in small groups to chat about their Flat-coats and have a great potluck lunch. A good idea was thwarted by our winter weather. Two of the four scheduled had to be cancelled due to storms, but two came to fruition.

Sally and Bill Young hosted one at their home in Burlington, Vermont. The potluck was delicious and the walk invigorating in the crisp Vermont air.

Pictured here are Cookie Stoczek, Sally Young, Henry Stoczek, Bill Young. Pat DeBree was also in attendance but not for this walk-about picture.



Ann Cady writes that at the second potluck, seven Flat-Coat owners and breeders, including club president Sally Young, gathered for an informal potluck lunch and canine walkabout on March 7 in Avon, NY, at Ann Cady Jenson's home. This gathering was part of a club effort to reach out to Flat-Coat people who haven't easily been able to participate in NEFCRC activities, due frequently to distance, and to bring them together. In the accompanying photo, clock-wise from the left are Elaine Fino, Corfu, NY; Donna and John Wagner, Corning, NY; Ann Cady Jenson; Ingrid Sarelius, Honeoye Falls, NY; Sandra Hitt, Medina, NY. Photographer Sally can just be glimpsed in the mirror and of course there is a Flat-Coat,



We hope to try this again next year with the aid of a more cooperative winter.



Flat Coats Ain't For Sissies

By Henry F. Stoczek Jr.

Free Puppies read the little sign on the telephone pole by the Baptist Parsonage. Just the other day, hadn't we been saying: The two boys needed a dog? Chores during summer vacation, something to love and to keep their interest, turn off the TV.

With my being a school teacher, research was in order. The book advised that to choose the best puppy, sit back and observe the litter in action. Look for one that is active and curious. Take note of any that come up and nose you. Most importantly, if children are present, ask which one is their favorite. My wife declared that that would be treacherous. Do not do it! When we arrived for puppy inspection, indeed, there were children.

Packing boxes were stacked on the front porch. "They're kicking us out," offered the boy who greeted us. "The dam is a full-blooded Flat Coated Retriever," his mother interrupted changing the subject. A regal appearing black dog lay nearby looking concerned. "The sire, well, we're not sure."

"A traveling man," I quipped.

"Nope," said the boy. "He weren't headed nowhere—I seen him. Part Border Collie, maybe."

"The pups are special," mother assured. "But, we can't keep another dog where we are going." The children scooped up one squirming puppy after another oblivious to the fact that their playpen enclosure badly needed picking up. The moment had arrived.

"Which one do you kids like the best?" I chirped with a grin. My wife's expression could have killed. This was not my best moment, but there it was. "This one," said the littlest girl picking up the wriggliest, blackest one of the bunch. "Yes, that's her," agreed the others.

Lady came home with us and stayed for nine wonderful years before the cancer ended her time. At the vet's, I needed something to say to cut the awful sadness. "I just wish we could get another dog as great as she was," I blurted. "As a matter of fact, you can," said the doctor. I thought he was joking. "No, really, you can. She was half Flat Coat Retriever. Her personality certainly was. I believe we have a phone number for their rescue league."

Events quickly conspired in our favor. A man in Michigan, it turned out, had to find a good home for Tupper—his five year old male Flat Coat. The man's fiancé loved him passionately, but, alas, not his dog. But before he could be ours, we had to be screened. That's how we met Pat Debree; and Alfie, and Griz, and Betsy, and Fritzzy.

Pat's Killingworth home was one of those charming Connecticut hip-roofed antiques set back from a quiet, curvy back road. Spring vines twined round the front door in a British Isles style setting. A pond, recently released of its ice, glinted through the hedge. Piercing bright blue eyes of a woman insistent on respect for her independence met us at the back door. In her quiet polite way, she spoke with the eloquence of one who carefully chooses words. Spilling mine wantonly, I was attempting to nail that first impression with my best imitation of "charming." What I didn't know about Flat Coated Retrievers, or any other kind, I'm sure Pat could see as I blathered on. We had dressed casually as she had stressed over the phone. Curiosity as to why she had, was satisfied when Alfie, in a running hello, launched herself hitting me squarely in the chest. Muddy paws belied a swim prior to our arrival.

Griz, a big friendly handsome boy, also soaked, was sure that we would enjoy a good rubbing as he dried himself on our trousers. Betsy and Fritzzy, frenetic in sisterly competition, squeezed wet bodies through the doorway simultaneously. Taking turns was obviously for suckers.

“Look, Bozos! Either you’re here to play or you can slither your way back to your car,” sneered one or the other of the sisters. But it was Alfie who lived to play ball. One ball was quite insufficient. Somehow, in her narrow mouth, she could cram two, and wouldn’t come out of the water until you threw the second one. Then, heaving coughing and sputtering, she would emerge and drop them at your feet.

“She wants you to do it again,” said Pat.

“Really? I thought maybe she needed to get her wind back.” But no. Upon the throw, off she shot like a Gray Hound disappearing behind the cat-tails, splashing, snorffling and treading water awaiting her second tennis ball. Diminutive Fritzzy, also game serious, was fine with one ball. Betsy, the domineering girl, was strictly a wader. Griz, the princely dilettante, paddled here and there poking his nose into things before absently wandering on. All four were under the distinct impression that it thrilled us when they shook off within a foot or two from where we stood.

Petersfield was Pat DeBree’s breeding line. Agreeable personalities, sturdy bone, fine coat, proper lines, classic profiles—some of her dogs had it all. The best ones could grace the Flat Coat Calendar. Those with memories wistfully recall Pat DeBree’s best.

After the visit on that gray late March day, we could hardly wait for the car’s heater to kick in. Would we get Tupper, wouldn’t we get Tupper? Yes, we did. Thank you so much Pat DeBree.



Flat-Coat Sighting

Do my eyes deceive me or is that a Flatcoat featured in the Rachel Ray Nutrients dog food commercial? Judy Cerney

Answer:

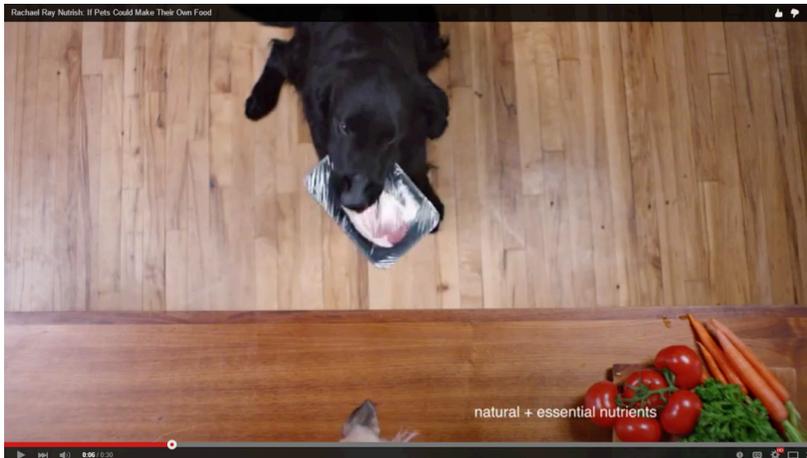
You have great eyes! It is indeed a Flat-Coated Retriever :)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3TUd5U-CPQ

Bred by Sue and Sami Stilwell, his name is Ch. Breezy Hill's Broadway Spellbound CD RA CGCA ("Fagin") and is owned and trained by me. :) Fagin, and his more well-known "brother" Bastian (the white Border Collie in the commercial) have been in several movies and TV shows, as have my other Flat-Coats. He has also been featured in several FCR calendars. Fagin, his daughter Lyric, and Bastian were also recently on Good Morning America with my boss' Bulldog, Romeo, as "guest judges" for their Paw-lympics week.

I have the great honor of working with Bill Berloni of Broadway fame as his assistant dog trainer. Bill is also my dogs' agents, which is how we got the Rachael Ray commercial. We had 14 days to train 5 dogs and a cat to do all of the behaviors you saw in the commercial, plus several that ended up on the cutting room floor. The dogs each were assigned a specific behavior or two (or three, in Bastian's case), and each of them performed their behavior perfectly on the first or second try in front of several cameras, camera men, and sound operators. They were rock stars!

I hope you liked the commercial. It was so much fun to work on!!! I'm hoping for a sequel ;)



Kris Sobanski
Broadway FCRs



The 2015 Specialty



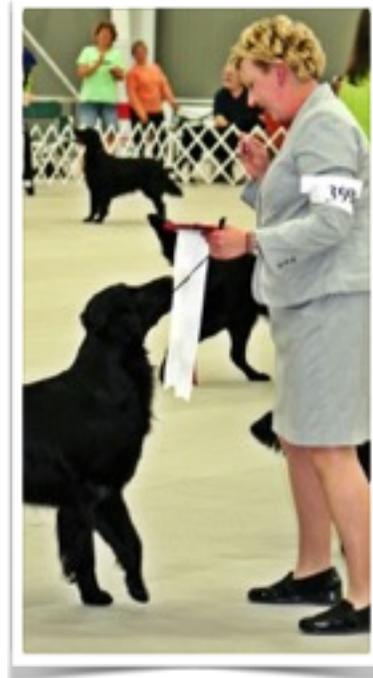
Several NEFCRC members attended the FCRSA Specialty in St. Louis this year.



Sally Nettleton-Smilas - On the right is Ripple (UH SH CATCH II Grousemoor Almosteden Ripple CD SH AX AXJ OF WCX). She qualified in Rally Novice & received a Judge's Award of Merit in the Steady Singles field event. On left is Splash (Grousemoor Almosteden 1st Splash of Spring RN BN WC). He qualified in Rally Advance, Beginner's Novice & Working Certificate and received the BUD Award for qualifying in three or more events.

We had a wonderful time at the Specialty especially connecting with friends from around the states that I haven't seen since the last Specialty that George and I attended in 2010 in Indiana. Enjoyable but, at times, bittersweet.

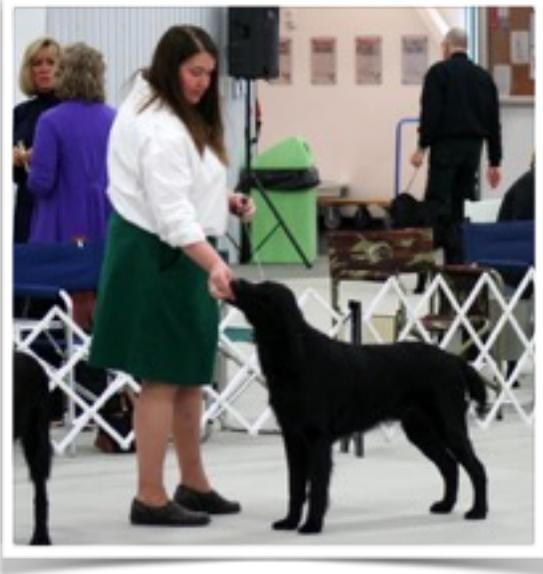
Betsy Flanagan and Merlin, **Dan Quesada** with Lucky in the 4th cut for BISS



Betsy Flanagan and Merlin with a JAM

The 2015 Specialty (cont.)

Jenn Tower waiting for Puppy Sweeps



Don Bierer and Cody in Sweeps



Sally Young
and
Tina Mohr
enjoying the show!

The 2015 Specialty (cont.)

Vicky Nickerson and her girl in Veteran Sweeps



Theresa Kuchinos and Thyme having fun in the ring

Don Bierer and Rudy share a kiss before the Ring of Honor



Marla Dohenny's Veteran girl carries home her prize

The 2015 Specialty (cont.)

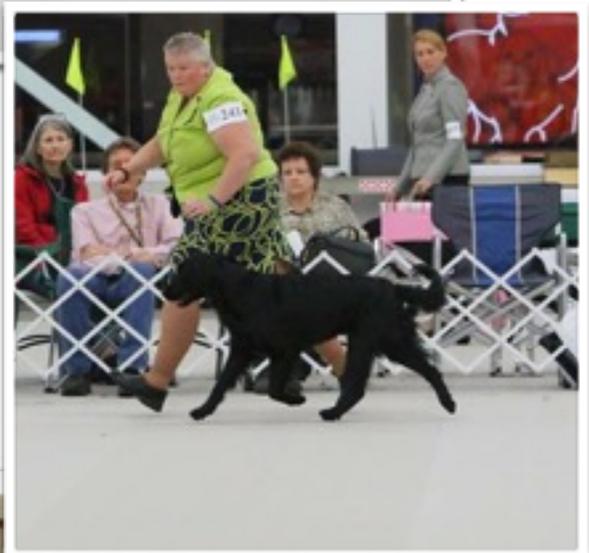


Beth Brock with Bran (Bertschire Black Bird) earning a second in Bred-By.



Beth Brock with Feather (GCH Bertschire Light As A Feather BN CGC) made the first cut in Best of Breed.

Wallace had a great time and showed well in the Working Retriever class.



Sophie Brock and Feather won their Open Intermediate Junior Showmanship class.

We All Start Somewhere



Bob Spetla

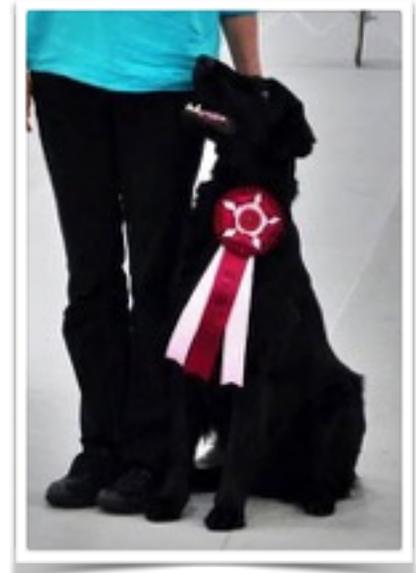
Standing ringside at the beginning of this year, a flattie friend asked me what our dog show plans were for the year. They looked at me like I was insane when I said we wanted to earn six titles for King this year. Then, they actually told me that I was crazy. I started to reconsider the idea with a mental checklist. Let's see -- we'd be competing at beginner level events which I thought were doable – check. We had an existing foundation of some basic obedience – check. We had a healthy flat coat with drive and willingness to please - check. Training, well, that would be a tough item to check off the list because competitive training classes are over an hour away so I thought we'd try to mostly train at home (supported by reading, watching training videos and having the support of more experienced dog friends) – maybe a check? Was six titles a reasonable goal? Hmm...then, I realized that the real goal for me was not so much about the titles -- it's about seeing what we could accomplish as a team and having fun along the way. The titles were just a way to work

towards trying our hand at rally, obedience, field, agility, conformation and maybe some other venues too. My friend tried to ground me in realism by pointing out that, until last year, I hadn't trained for, much less competed in, most of these venues. With rookie abandon, I figured that we all have to start somewhere and started to work towards accomplishing whatever we could.

To be fair, one of the things that drew my family to flat coats was their versatility. So, these venues should be the perfect place for every flat coat. Unfortunately, our first flattie had severe genetic health issues. Even so, we tried agility, obedience, a field fun day and rally with very poor results except for some really embarrassingly, funny, flat-coat stories. So, we stuck close to the conformation ring learning what we could. Flash forward ten years, and now, with our boy King, we're back to what drew us to the breed in the first place.

So how are we doing? Well, since the beginning of this year, King has earned four titles to become GCH Fisher creek's Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh BN RN CGC. In addition, with limited showing, King is nationally ranked as a Top 20 Flat-Coated Retriever in three systems and has won multiple Owner-Handler Sporting Group First placements. More importantly than the titles and the winning, we're having a great time training and competing. The past year has been filled with first-time experiences; together, we have crossed into the competitive obedience and agility rings, and we have ventured into the field to start our training there.

It has been an amazing adventure. I have gotten to know our boy King on a new level, and I have learned a lot about myself. I have learned a lot about training and the different venues, and I realize that what we know is not even a "drop in the bucket." have learned a lot of our breed including the fact that I'm still totally addicted to



Bob Spetla

flatties! King has been an enthusiastic partner and, thankfully, very forgiving of my mistakes. This adventure has also shown us the best in other dog folks whether we are training or competing. They have shared handling tips, training techniques and encouragement. And, the same words seem to ring true from everyone, even the judges when they address the Novice A classes, reminding us that “we all start somewhere.”



Jill Kuchinos

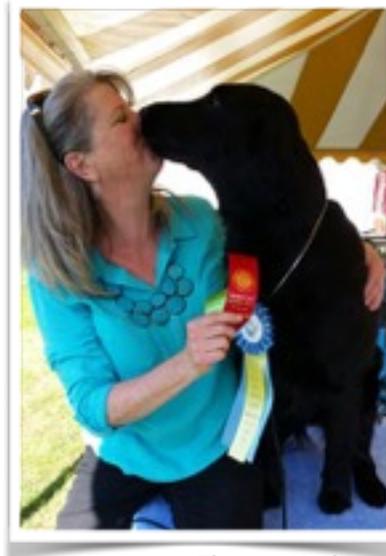


Bob Spetla

For some, you are titles ahead of us and what we’re doing is no big deal. Thankfully, our training and ringsides/starting lines have been supported by experienced people like you. For the rookies out there, it is true that we all start somewhere. The big word in this is *start* – make a goal for yourself and your flattie, and go give it a try! Go for the best: you’ll both learn and have fun, that you’ll improve your relationship with your pup, and maybe you’ll earn a title.

The worst that can happen (and believe me, I know) is that you’ll get some embarrassingly funny flat-coat stories to share.

What’s next for us? Now that weather makes training outside more fun, we’re going to keep training and seeing what we can accomplish together – we’re only serious about positive training techniques and having fun. And, if we happen to earn a title along the way, that’s okay too.



Theresa Kuchinos



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Member Article

Oklahoma Field Adventure

In this article, Susan Klein shares her experiences at Mitch White's blind seminar last August.

It was the last week of August 2014, driving down US 44 in southwestern Missouri, just short of the Oklahoma line. I glanced up at the car's thermometer. 102°. I had better get used to it. Weather forecasts called for temperatures hovering around 100° all week.

Together with Jett and Onyx, I was headed for Mitch White's blind seminar at the Retriever Academy in Miami, Oklahoma. The Retriever Academy is a private training facility owned by Derek Randle and his wife Melinda. I didn't really know what to expect but I was up for an adventure. After three days on the road, I pulled through the gate and was greeted by the sight of technical ponds, one after the other, as far as the eye could see. Beyond the pond area were woods and hundreds of acres of uplands.



Sleeping accommodations for the seminar were right there on the property. When we were told that we would be staying in “the bunkhouse,” I wondered whether I should be bringing my sleeping bag and towels. As it turned out, the lodge was amazing. It was decorated throughout with original retriever and hunting artwork. The great room had a cathedral ceiling with window walls that looked out over the grounds, a huge stone fireplace, and scads of leather couches. The communal kitchen was equipped with every modern convenience and the long wooden table in the dining area accommodated our entire group. Each of the sleeping rooms contained two sets of bunk beds, with a bathroom for every two rooms. Melinda and Derek lived right there and we were made to feel like their personal guests.

Mitch's seminar was three full days. Because of the heat, the emphasis of the workshop was on water blinds. Each day began with a drill or two which each working team got to practice,

with an explanation of how that particular drill fit into the overall blind work. The drills were followed by a series of blind set-ups, structured so that dogs at each level could both master the skills at their own level while enabling the handler to see what it would take to progress to the next level. If they wished, participants were free to train on their own early in the morning before the formal training sessions and again in the early evening.

Mitch's recurrent message throughout the seminar: ***give your dog as much information as possible***, stressing that this was best accomplished by establishing a step-by-step procedure for each stage of the blind process, and applying these procedures consistently in both training and test situations.

In the seminar, the "blind" was broken down into its component parts—preparation in the holding blind, walking to line, lining the dog, the send, handling and casting, and returning and delivering the bird to hand.

Here are some of the tips I found most helpful:

In the holding blind:

The holding blind is not just a waiting room. It is an opportunity to gain control over your dog and to jumpstart the dog's focus on you and the upcoming task.

- In the holding blinds, quietly do some obedience exercises—sit, stay, "heel" to the left/"here" to the right
- At the Master level, the judges tend to call for the marks in a rhythmic pattern. In the holding blinds, "heel"/"here" your dog in step with that rhythm

Coming out of the holding blind

- Back slowly straight out of the holding blind, calling your dog to heel and sit 4-6 feet behind the blind. Hold the "sit" until the dog is under control
- Heel to the edge of the holding blind and again "sit" the dog. This time, give the dog information on what is to come:
 - ★ Simple "sit" command to indicate an upcoming mark
 - ★ Whistle "sit" to indicate a walk-up
 - ★ "Dead bird" command following the "sit" to indicate an upcoming blind
- On a blind, when the dog is focused, proceed to heel to the line, repeating the command "dead bird" on the way

Setting the line to the blind

Setting a good line to the blind from the outset is the key to a successful blind.

- In sitting your dog at the line, first make sure your feet are facing directly at the blind
- Make sure the dog's spine is facing the blind. Start by positioning the dog by turning your body or stepping slightly with the commands "heel" to move left and "here" to move right. In tests as well as training, feel free to step behind the dog to make sure the spine is properly aligned.
- Get your dog to look out toward the blind. Choose a verbal cue such as "leave it" or "no" to indicate that they are looking in the wrong direction, and another such as "good" or "that's it" to indicate that they're looking in the right direction. If there is too much "bugging," i.e. looking back and forth without focusing, use the "sit" command to refocus the dog's attention

- Use the “Influential Lining Drill” and the “7 Bumper Lining Drill” to improve your dog’s lining ability

The send

- Always use “good” / “that’s it” prior to giving the “back” command
- Use your voice to indicate distance to the blind:
 - ★ Soft, normal pitch, with a clipped “back” to indicate a relatively close blind
 - ★ Louder volume (but not too loud), deeper pitch, with a drawn out “baaack” to indicate a more distant blind

Handling

- “Challenge the line” from the beginning. Watch your dog’s shoulders. When a shoulder dips, it usually indicates an imminent change in direction. Blow the “sit” whistle immediately and begin to handle.
- Prior to the actual cast, it can be helpful to give the dog a preview of the cast. Raise both hands (or just the casting hand) slightly to indicate that a back cast or angle back cast is about to come; lower both hands (or just the casting hand) slightly to indicate an over cast is about to come
- Envision the picture you will be presenting to your dog. When casting, try to present the biggest, most open silhouette:
 - ★ Open up your hand, palm directly facing your dog (as opposed to the palm facing the ground)
 - ★ Particularly for an “angle back” or “over” cast, open up your overall silhouette by keeping your arm perpendicular to the dog’s line of vision
 - ★ For an “over,” try to cast with your thumb down. The thumb down posture will anatomically ensure that your casting arm is parallel to the ground and will prevent you from inadvertently giving what will look like an angle back cast to your dog
 - ★ You can, with practice, fine-tune the “angle back” cast, using an 11 o’clock or 1 o’clock cast to indicate slightly off a straight back and a 10 o’clock or 2 o’clock cast to indicate further from the straight back.
- Avoid “flash” casting—shooting your arm up in the air and withdrawing just as quickly. Slow down the casts, particularly with a fast dog. (On the other hand, with a slow dog, a faster cast can produce better momentum.) After the cast, it could be helpful to leave your hand out for a moment or two in case the dog is uncertain and looks back for reassurance.
- Mitch’s approach differs from other pros in one significant way that really resonates with me. “Dogs follow movement,” as Paulette Swartzendruber always used to say. Mitch recommends that the handler steps, to some degree, **with every cast**—a small step in the direction of the cast for a simple send; a larger step or multiple steps to generate more momentum.
- Voice, or lack of voice, is very important to handling.
 - ★ Voice tends to stimulate momentum

- ★ Lots of voice drives the dog **back**, even if the cast is an “over”
- ★ A silent cast can help to change the dog’s direction. For example, if the dog continues to scallop to the left, a silent right “over” will help to change the dog’s mind.

The return

- In the case of water blinds, another Mitch-ism is the DO-NOT-CHEAT recall whistle—three slow but sharp whistle blasts—that reminds the dog to stay in the water on the return

One of the most important take-aways from this fabulous 3-day seminar was the importance of drills. Of the drills we practiced at the seminar, two drills, unique to Mitch, stand out in my mind:

- The Influential Lining Drill

To hone the dog’s lining ability, anywhere from three to thirty piles of bumpers, depending on the skill level of the dog, are spread out around a field, each pile marked by a white bucket. The dog is sent to the bucket of the handler’s choosing, often having to pass one or more buckets to retrieve a bumper from the target pile.

- The Hunter’s Drill

This drill is named for Neil and Marilyn Hunter who first showed it to Mitch. It is a multi-factor water drill for improving not only basic lining skill and responsiveness to casts in the water, but also helps to strengthen angle entries, the dog’s ability to ignore poison birds, and more. On or near the shore of a swim-by size pond, the dog is seated in the heal position. One at a time, about five bumpers are tossed, spread out, on or near the far shore. The dog is sent for the last bumper thrown, but stopped mid-way and redirected to another of the bumpers. After the bumper has been retrieved, it is thrown back across the pond so that

there is the same number of bumpers out there until you are ready to end the drill. Alternating, the dog can be stopped mid-way and redirected, allowed to actually pick up this last bumper thrown, or directed to a completely different bumper. (Avoid stopping the dog on all sends or it will begin to “pop” in anticipation of being stopped).

Three long days in the blistering heat was exhausting, but I came away exhilarated and re-energized. And I was very proud when, at the end of the seminar, Mitch declared me the “Most Improved Handler.”



FCRSA FIELD TRIAL

Thursday, July 23, 2015



Qualifying & Derby* Stakes

Judges - Martha Russell & Katherine Simonds

In beautiful Stowe, Vermont, in conjunction with the Lake Champlain RC's Owner Handler Qual. 7/24, plus Hunt Tests – 3 day 90 dog MH, & JH & SH, 7/24-26

Three days of training with trial set-ups, Mon 7/20 - Wed., 7/22

Stowe is a scenic, family-friendly tourist destination, with attractions for every taste.

For more information contact:

Sally Bridges - skywalkerfcr@verizon.net

Priscilla Johnson - priscillabob@hotmail.com

Field website - fcrsfield.com

*Derby offered if sufficient entry

NEFCRC Annual Meeting

The 2015 NEFCRC Annual Meeting was held at Masterpeace Dog Training in Franklin, MA on March 22nd. Our president, Sally Young, chaired the meeting and submitted reports to the members present from the Treasurer, the field Committee and the Conformation Committee. The Rescue Committee was happy to report that there were no rescues this year.

Other news included important information about the upcoming Morris and Essex Dog Show on October 1st in New Jersey. Our club, along with the Mid-Atlantic FCR club will be hosting a supported entry at this special show which only occurs every five years.

During the entire meeting, Jennifer Tower and Vicky Nickerson conducted an Animal Health Trust blood drawer for the DNA Bank for our breed. Many member dogs participated in donating blood samples.

Topics for future seminars were discussed. These new ideas included tracking, barn hunts and nose work. Versatility awards were presented and the election of a new slate of officers and board of directors voted upon and passed.

Officers

President:

Sally Young

Vice President:

Kate Horgan-Burke

Secretary:

Sue Stillwell

Treasurer:

Don Bierer

Membership Secretary:

Don Bierer

Directors

Beth Brock

Sue Klein

Gary McManus

Sally Nettleton-Smilas

Kristen Sobanski

Ruth Sumner

Sherry Walker

The rest of our program included an excellent presentation about canine acupuncture given by Dr. Karen Fine, DVM. She practices in Leominster, Ma. and has a mobile practice in central Massachusetts. Dr. Fine has travelled to China to study medicine there and has many years of experience with treating conditions such as cancer, seizures, orthopedic and spinal problems and gastro intestinal issues.

And what would an annual meeting be without our annual raffle!!! We missed Sophie Brock and Richard Silpe, but Gary McManus was excellent at getting everyone to empty their pockets to buy tickets. Items from camo backpacks to toys, books, bumpers, food, etc. was raffled off with great success.

We concluded our afternoon with a demonstration about how to get started with nose work and thanks to Patty Temple, demos on the different agility equipment and opportunity to try it all out!



Member Tip

Beth Brock -

At the New England Sporting Dog Show in February Beth had a “wardrobe malfunction.” Jill Kuchinos came to her aid with the universal remedy, duct tape. MacGyver would be proud.



Dues Reminder

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It may have slipped your mind. The deadline for payment of annual NEFCRC membership dues was March 22. It's not too late. You can download the [Renewal Form](#) from our website. Print, fill out the form and send it with your payment to our treasurer, Don Bierer, at the address on the form.

Remember, newsletters are now distributed electronically. If you want a hard copy mailed to you, you must check that option on the renewal form and send in the \$10.

Field Training Schedule

We have seven more training sessions scheduled this summer in MA and NH with our field goddesses Bunny Millikin, Sally Bridges, Priscilla Johnson and Becky Whitmeyer. The dates, times, locations and fee can be found on our website at [Field Training](#).

Any member new to field training can attend their first and second sessions free!



We were wolves, once.
Wild and wary.
Stealth and cunning.

Then we noticed you had couches.



Sally Young's Carrie

In Memory



This note was sent to the membership by Sally Nettleton-Smilas.

Dear Northeast members, a somewhat belated, many thanks for the Club's donation to the CT Chapter of the ALS Association. Hopefully, in time, there will be an end to this terrible disease. Our lives would have been so different if this disease had not crept in. The CT Chapter associates were very helpful, caring and determined givers throughout George's past two years. They are wonderful people!

I'm also sending many thanks to members for their acts of kindness throughout this difficult journey. Everyone is forever in my thoughts.

Sally

Northeast Flat Coastal Behavior Club members,

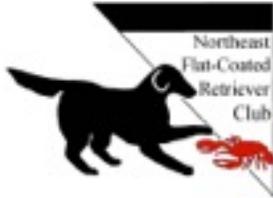
Thank you sincerely
for sharing our sorrow.

Your kindness is
deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered.

Sincerely
Sally N-S

WC/WCX

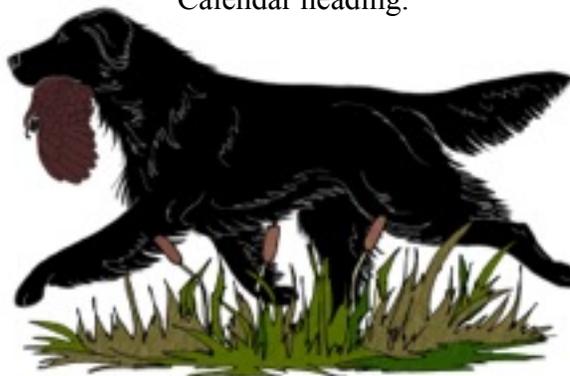
Our 2015 WC/WCX test is dedicated to George Smilas, club member, friend and supporter to all of us. We miss his kind, knowledgeable, friendly presence and wish to honor his memory through this event. He never missed it.



This year's WC/WCX will be a collaborative effort among friends; two area retriever clubs, **The Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club** and the **Yankee Golden Retriever Club**.

Date: October 10, 2015
Location: West Thompson Dam, CT.
Judges: Elizabeth Millikin
Charles Lanagan
Test chairs: Chris McCluer & Joe Juza, NEFCRC
Donna Morgan, YGRC
Test Secretary: Ruth Sumner
146 Cow Hill Rd.
Clinton, CT 06413
rusumner@mac.com

There will be more information available as plans unfold.
The new premium will be published soon on our website www.nefcrc.org under the Calendar heading.





FCRSC NATIONAL SPECIALTY 2015

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2015

Held in conjunction with the Halifax Kennel Club
3 days of all-breed conformation,
obedience, rally and field trials

Schedule of Events

Friday	Meet & Greet
Saturday	FCRSC National Specialty Show Judge: Ann Kilminster FCRSC Puppy & Veteran Sweeps Judge: Linda Brox FCRSC AGM & Banquet Silent Auction, Raffle winners announced
Sunday	FCRSC Booster Judge: TBA Lobster Dinner at the Shore Club
Monday	Obedience & Rally Judges: Susie Bell & Marie Sawford FCRSC Field Events (at Huntersbest Farm) Judges: Don Gillingham & Stephen Hutt

Check our website - specialty2015.flatcoat.ca - for up-to-date information on sponsoring a trophy, accommodations, merchandise, etc.

*Thank you to all for your great
contributions to this newsletter!*

The editor