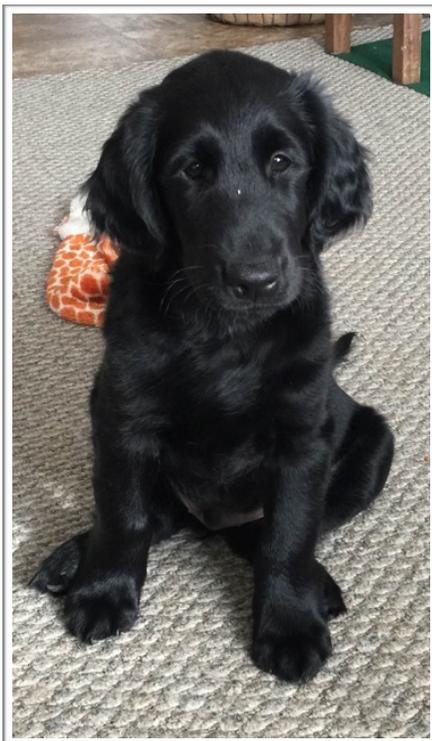


FLAT-COAT FILES

Newsletter of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club

Winter 2016

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Joe Juza's "Granite"

President's Message

The most recent news from Vermont is that **Pat DeBree**, one of our Founding Members, had a major right hemisphere stroke and died on January 29, 2016. In this newsletter is a tribute to her work, her breeding program and her influence on so many of us. Thank you all for the included stories, pictures and remembrances. She was looking forward to having all of you come to Vermont this fall to celebrate our 40th Anniversary as the first regional Flat-Coated Retriever Club. Save the September 10-11, 2016 dates, and join us in the Northeast Kingdom.

Christine McCluer, who has expertly co-chaired the Field Committee, has decided to step down and train her dogs, including a most adorable puppy. Three years of devoted organization in field activities will be hard to replace. The club is still looking for someone to join **Joe Juza** and the rest of the committee. Several field opportunities are already on the calendar but we need a co-leader.

Susan Klein and **Patty Temple** have been ably wrestling with updating our By-laws. We will be having an idea driven discussion at the Annual Meeting to continue to aid the board in their endeavors. We are also approaching long, established members of the club to review the update and give input.

Good luck to all going to Westminster in NYC next weekend. The rest of us can check out the video feed online!

Our Fortieth Year as a club! Let the Fun begin!

Sally S. Young, President

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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

Annual Meeting - Mar. 12, 2016 - Tails-U-Win, Manchester, CT

Field Training Sessions

New! Three session novice seminar! - May 22, Jun 12 & 18 -
Buck Shope's, Templeton, MA

Advanced training - Apr. 30th - West Thompson, CT
- May 14 & 15 - Cabot, VT

Pat Burns Field Seminar - Aug. 5 - 7 - Harrisville, RI

40th Anniversary Celebration - Sept. 10 & 11 - Cabot, VT

NEFCRC WC/WCX - Oct. 8 - West Thompson, CT

Website

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
Susan Klein at sklein1@capecod.net.

Newsletter Deadline

Spring Deadline — March 25, 2016

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 or 860-510-3030 (cell)

Cancer Studies Support Team

There When You Need Us

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Or contact any Team member directly:

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In Memory of Pat Debree

May 15, 1926 - January 29, 2016

I'm sure most of you have heard about the passing of Pat DeBree and also know she was a founding member of our club. This is our fortieth anniversary year. Pat was with us for all of those years. We have so many memories to share. The first few pages of this newsletter will be devoted to those memories.

Henry Stoczek has been contributing amusing flat-coat stories for several issues of this newsletter and he already had one ready for this issue. That all changed on January 29th.

Ten Boxes

By

Henry F. Stoczek Jr.

There they set on top of the empire chest way downstairs. Nobody touches them except when dusting and tidying up. It is then that old names come trotting out, names that once brought pleasure when calling or saying softly to its possessor pressed closely to you in the way of loving dogs. Malinka, Fritzzy, Mohawk and the rest, all here, now.

First among the boxes is that holding the ashes of Lady whose mother, as I have written about in this space, was the part Flat Coat who got us started. Each of the other nine containers holds the ashes of registered FCR's, relics precious to us that inevitably remind us of someone—Pat DeBree, the friend on whom we relied for assistance ranging from advice to arrangements when it came to these dogs. When we raised a first litter, she stayed the night to help with birthing and remained involved in some way with events all the way up to placing pups. Her contacts were many, and her merit respected.

She loved the breed. She loved other dogs and horses, too and followed the sport keeping track of raising, showing and racing incidentals in surprising detail. Her home in Connecticut contained paintings and prints of noble animals that pleased her to gaze upon and provided company during brief solitary intervals. The news of her passing on Friday, the 29th of January, permanently rends the scroll of life recording nearly ninety years on earth. Such an event leads to the question: What are we, those who cared, to do with old people, or even old dogs, who still matter after they pass?

In 1938, the Bohemian playwright, Karel Capek, says in the preface to his last play, The Mother: “... *the author is anxious that the dead who group themselves around the mother (onstage)...should not be regarded as ghosts, but as living people, capable of friendliness... They are just the same as when alive, for they continue to live in (her)...thoughts. They are dead only inasmuch as she can no longer embrace them and they make slightly less noise than we who are alive.*”

I hear no noises from the urns down cellar, and superstition (as belief in ghosts or spirits) has never been part of my makeup. But forgetting is something I've never done when it comes to those I once cared for—animals as well as people, though not necessarily on equal footing. They do live on in my thoughts,

Ten Boxes (cont.)

often in animated and happy remembrances always pleasurable during quiet times to picture. I think about them, write about them, regretting only that I did not do more to enjoy them or say more good things to the people during the living times.

Ten boxes hold the remains of our Flat Coats, each good to remember, each with an aspect of memory attached in some way to Pat to whom I say—whatever circumstances where you now reside, old friend, whether in simple rest, family reunions or enjoyment of a benign paradise, may there be a dog or two on hand to remind of that unconditional love that Flat Coats and others specialize in.



Cookie and Henry Stoczek with Pat and their newest FCR, Huck, from Petersfield lines.

Sue Stilwell

"Good morning, Sunshine!"

For several years now, that would be my weekly salutation to a groggy Pat DeBree . . . usually around 8 a.m. when my morning dog chores were over and I had some time to chat. She would always laugh, say "I knew it was you!", and remind me that she didn't have dogs anymore and therefore did NOT have to get up so early. Then we would begin another of our marathon phone conversations.

I met "Petersfield" Pat DeBree back in 1996, when I bought my first Flat-Coat (Abby) from Kurt Anderson and wound up in a puppy obedience class with Pat and one of her own pups. "Betsy" I think. We took an instant liking to each other and Pat took me under her wing. We were opposites in many ways. She was dignified and reserved and I was the goofy and emotional one. She tolerated my need to tell her that I loved her (complete with a hug and kiss) whenever we said goodbye...and I understood that she cared about me, even though she didn't express it the same way.

We became very close friends. In 2004, Pat began having a hard time running around the show ring and she asked me if I would begin to handle her dogs for her. The first charge she gave me was a special one: 6-month old "Amos" (who would go on to become BIS CH Petersfield Famous Amos JH HOF!) and at his very first show...at exactly 6 months of age...I was able to pilot Amos to a Best in Sweeps and WD/BW at the NEFCRC Supported Entry. Boy, was Pat proud! Soon I was given Amos' sister, "Andi" (CH Petersfield's Blue Andi), and Pat and I spent countless hours planning shows and breedings.



– Amos' first show at 6 months old.

With the pups' CH titles finished, Pat and I decided to breed Andi and to let Amos leave to be campaigned by Deb Edwards and Angie Lloyd. So many exciting days followed! So many memories! Way too many to write here, but some day, I'll put my favorites down on paper.



The last time I was on an airplane, it was with Pat to the 2005 FCRSA National Specialty in GA. She managed to get me on that plane by reminding me (over and over!) that it was probably the last National Specialty she would ever be able to attend...and despite my terror, I couldn't refuse her. The last time I visited her in rehab I sprung her from her room and I rolled her out the door and around the grounds. She and I got in trouble from the nurses when we returned, but we didn't care. She did have the dickens in her sometimes and I loved it! I'll never be able to pass a gnome again without giggling at a memory of something she said once. Memories. I'm just flooded with all of the memories.

I'm relieved that Pat's transition from this world to the next was peaceful. There is no doubt that she was met on the other side by Amos, Andi, Blue, Grizz, and all the other wonderful Petersfield Flat-Coats that have passed before her. I will always be grateful for our time together and I'm hoping that she will continue to check in on me as my guardian angel until we meet again. Tonight I'll raise a glass to my good friend, my mentor, my partner in crime. I will miss her terribly, especially on those early mornings when the dogs are x-ed, fed and quiet and I reach for the phone to roust her out of bed with a "Good morning, Sunshine!", before remembering that those days are over.

Godspeed, my friend.



Kurt Anderson

There are probably few times in anyone's life where one person influences the direction of the individual's next 30 years and more. For me, one person that played a significant role in who I am today left us this morning at 6:45. Godspeed Pat DeBree.

I met Pat in 1985 when Maureen and I purchased our first Flat-Coat puppy "Toby". Pat lived in a rambling old farm house in rural Connecticut; and when we went to visit the puppies, Pat inquired as to whether we'd be willing to show our new pup. "On no ... we're just interested in a pet as a companion for our Golden Retriever". So Pat put her show puppies aside and we were left to decide among the rest of the litter. After watching a couple of pups tinkle inside on the wide board flooring, Pat suggested we take them outside. One little boy squatted and peed as soon as his feet hit the grass. Maureen said "that's the one" and thus our adventure with Flat-Coats began.

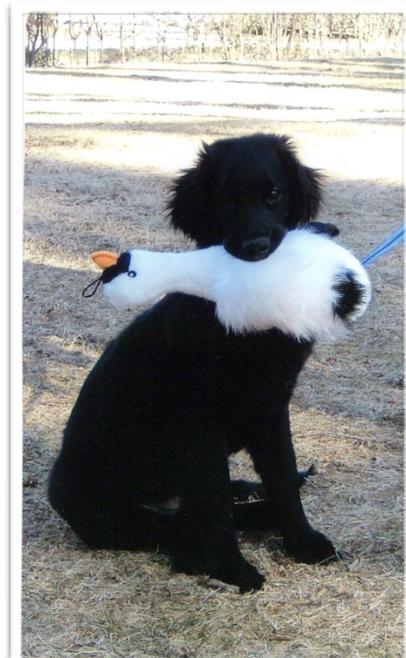
A month or two later Pat invited us to a "picnic" at her house, where she explained there would be other littermates. Oh, and she said we'd have a little puppy match "you know, like a little dog show" she explained. Toby went on to win "best puppy", and a little success being seductive, the rest is history. Toby (Am/Can CH Petersfield Tobias James CD) went on to greater success and a lifetime passion was born.

Pat was more than a breeder to me. She was a friend, a mentor, someone we would spend hours talking dogs and pedigrees. She had a very sharp mind and extraordinary memory. She loved her dogs and she loved dog people. Pat stayed sharp right up until a recent stroke precipitated her rapid decline. Pat leaves a tremendous legacy and I will miss her greatly.

Pat DeBree was, and always will be in my mind "Petersfield Flat-Coated Retrievers"

Wendy Kerop

I am so very sad to hear this news. Pat was a special friend of ours. Our first Flatcoat, Gris, was the last of a litter at Petersfield back in 2002. He was a very special dog; we lost him at 10 years old. Sophie was part of the litter that produced Amos, Andi, and several other well known pooches. She was 1/2 sister to our Gris, just about 18 mos. younger. She will be 12 this Mar. 5th. Pat was wonderful in a myriad of ways. We are so grateful to have been graced with 2 of the Petersfield line. I'm sure Pat is beaming down as she is greeted by all of her Petersfield pups who were waiting for her.



Gris

Nancy Triou

My Paladin was an amazing dog. He was sired by Pat DeBree's Lefty. Pat was an incredible influence on the Flat-Coat community. She will be missed by SO many.

Virginia Shreve

Godspeed, Pat DeBree. Good-hearted, down-to-earth, kind, one of the Great Ladies of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever world. "She's going to be a pistol," she said about Lefty's only girl-pup in 1993, and our Dulcinea the Devil Dog proved her right. Pat, you shall be so missed.



Our Dulcie and Nancy Triou's Paladin in 1993...out of Pat DeBree's Lefty.

Sally Nettleton-Smilas

I have tears of sadness with the gentle passing of a great, wise and wonderful woman.

My husband, George and I first met Pat in the mid 1980s when we began our search for a flat-coat to replace George's first flat-coat, Homer. We lived not far from Pat and arranged a visit to her home where we came upon several flat-coat greeters as we drove into her driveway. We met these and several others during our time spent with Pat being "interviewed" as perspective owners.

Wow - what an education! At that time, Pat was not anticipating a litter in the near future and we never did get a puppy from her but George and I shared this memory with Pat during the following years as we began our adventures with our flat-coats and saw Pat at events sponsored by the Northeast Flat-coated Retriever Club.

Our community will mourn her passing but she will be remembered through our flat-coats and the wonderful times spent with her.

Ruth Sumner

I met Pat DeBree in 1999 when our first FCR Jake joined our family. Pat Carlson introduced us knowing that we lived in Clinton, just one town away from Pat D's hometown of Killingworth. We became friends as I attempted to soak up some of her flat-coat knowledge. Soon Jake and I became interested in field training and Pat generously offered her pond for Jake's water training and swim-by lessons. It was a perfect swim-by pond. Hallelujah! Any field person looking for a swim-by pond knows what a gift this was. Jake and I visited the pond frequently and, of course, visited with Pat. She really enjoyed watching our exploits and improvement from her kitchen window.

Sometimes, however, she would join us outside. On one of these occasions she popped the question, "I would like to breed my bitch to Jake. Would that be agreeable?"

Wow! This was a whole new idea! Apparently she had been looking at more than his swimming skills. I did know where puppies came from and I knew "a tie" had to take place. I knew nothing about the *mechanics*! Pat just said, "It will be easy, we'll do it in the backyard" "What will the neighbors think?" "Oh, they've seen it all before." Of course, it was easy but quite an education for me. There was always so much to learn from Pat DeBree.



Ch. Beacon's Sergeant Pepper CD SH

There were other Jake breedings in that backyard producing beautiful, sweet, healthy puppies. The one that stands out is the one between 'Jake' (Beacon's Sergeant Pepper) and 'Blue' (Petersfield Waterhouse Blue) which produced BIS Ch. Petersfield Famous Amos JH HOF and Ch. Petersfield Blue Andi (2011 Specialty Brood Bitch and AOM winner). It's so good to see Jake's name live on in his progeny, most recently in pedigrees at the great, great grandfather level all thanks to Pat.

Thank you, Pat, for trying to explain it all to this beginner.

BIS Ch. Petersfield Famous Amos JH HOF

Margaret Uminsky

I did not know Pat DeBree very well. I met her after I got my first flat-coated retriever, Bailey from Kurt.....probably at a NE club meeting. Since then, I always tried to make it a point to re-introduce myself to her (it didn't always work, I'm afraid!). She always made the time to chat with you whether or not she knew you.

Beth Brock

The flat coat world lost a great lady today. Pat Debree was a mentor, friend, historian, and an all around great person to many of us. My girl Feather goes back to some of her lines. Rest well Pat. You will be greatly missed. I'm sure you will be greeted by a pack of happy tail wagging pups!

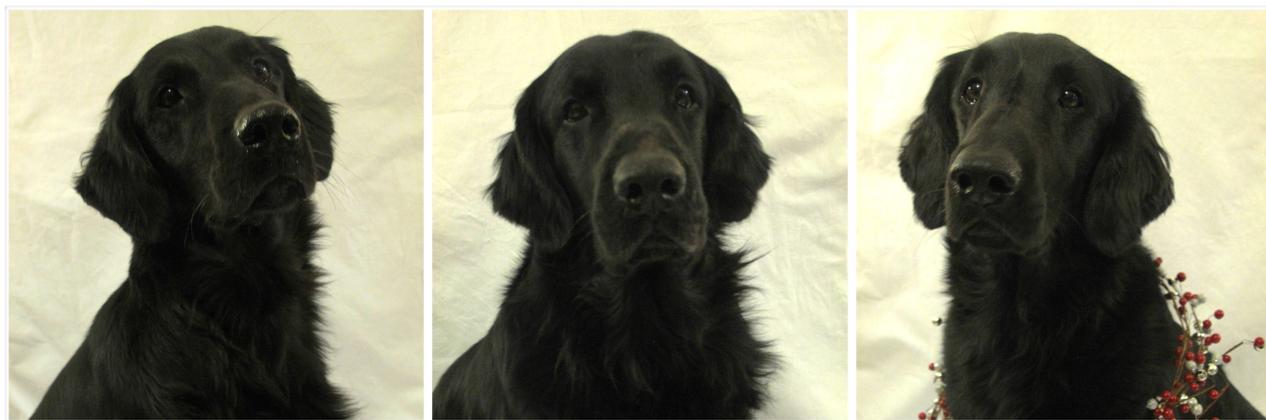
We had spoken way back when Terry and I were looking for our 2nd FC. We had almost gotten one from her litter at the time, but Terry had lost his job so we had to step away. She even offered us a payment plan! But we had to regretfully decline, since we didn't know how long Terry's unemployment would last.

Bailey, Logan and Dazzle all descend from Petersfield lines.

A true kind soul who shared her knowledge and love of the breed with everyone she met. A mentor to many, a friend to all. She will be missed!

Kristen Sobanski

She was so loved. I will miss "talking shop" with her. I know how proud she was to watch us in the ring with the progeny of her dogs. I am sad that she won't get to meet the next generation of her lines...but I know she will be smiling down on them. I loved you, Pat. Please hug all of our pups in Heaven for us...until we meet again, my friend.

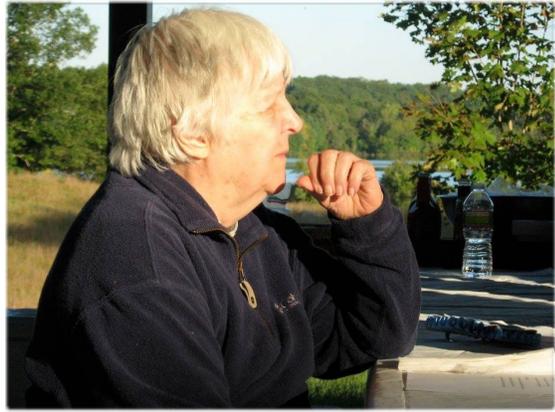


Lyric, Fagin and Encore – all from Petersfield lines

Candy Ferner

I have tearfully read the posts about Pat DeBree all weekend, in between training times at Prado. Pat set the whole Flat-Coat/dog show/field training thing in motion for Ed and me back in 1994 when she took a chance on first time FCR owners and sent us a puppy we named David. I wanted a show dog and was unaware of hunt tests at that time. As so many have shared, Pat really knew her breed and I was an eager student. I'm sure I was quite annoying, but I loved talking with her. David didn't quite turn out the way that we had hoped, and that is when Pat's character really showed itself, and the real mentoring began. She encouraged me to place David and she sent me another dog, a gorgeous six month old pup who had been a stud fee pup from Lefty. I look back on the risk she took sending us such a pup and marvel. But I took Jericho to my very first National Specialty and he went Best in Puppy Sweeps. She told me years later she had a good feeling about me. Based on the posts I've been reading, she had a good feeling about everyone and was an encouragement to FCR fanciers for decades. Even though I didn't get to spend a lot of time with Pat face to face, those phone calls continued for many years. I have pictures, old catalogs and a directory that she gave me and I treasure all those things. And Scott Creamer and I still have a lovely Petersfield dog, a gift to us from Pat, our lovely Hannah. Rest in peace, Pat.





Pat was an “interested” person . . . curious and involved. So it’s natural that she didn’t limit herself to the show ring. She often came to field events to watch her Petersfield line perform. Sue Stilwell and Sally Young were more than happy to be chauffeurs. She came to fun field days and WC/WCXs and had a great time watching, chatting and cheering.

In more recent years she would get tired, of course, but she was always glad she came and she always contributed to the conversation.

She will be missed in so many ways. It’s hard to say goodbye.



Kris Sobanski, Ruth Sumner, Pat, Sue and Dan Stilwell and dogs from Petersfield lines.

[Link to Patricia DeBree's Obituary](#)

Petersfield

Northeast Flat-coated Retriever Club 2015 Donor List

The Club thanks those who donated in 2015 to the:

Trophy Fund=1,
Jim Greene Memorial Fund=2
Education Fund=3

Thank you for your generosity!



Mimi Appel-1
Linda Arble-1
Lawrence Baker-12
Valerie Bernhardt-1
Don & Susan Bierer-123
Sally Bridges-23
Beth & David Brock-12
Greg Brzoska-3
Kate Horgan Burke-123
Alexis Carlson-2
Pat Carlson-123
Annie Downes Catterson-3
Cary & Janet Ciarico-2
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Patricia Temple-1
Nancy & Ken Triou-12
Elaine Van Briggie-2
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Deborah & Robert Westcot-12
Cliff Williams-123
Bill & Sally Young-123



Member Brags

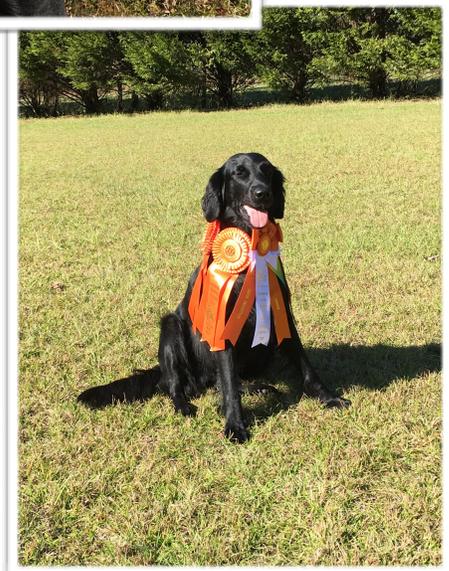
Liz Handlewich —

On Dec 6th, at the Mid- Florida Hunting Retriever Club's hunt test, Miss Kate passed her fourth senior leg and is now "Quillquest Tallahassee Temptation CGC THD WCX SH."

Her boy Apollo (Quillquest Voyages of Valor) was not quite ready for Senior, but he refused to be left out. He passed two legs in the HRC started test so he wouldn't have to sit in the car all weekend and watch Kate.



(Liz is now living in Florida but reports, "It is fun- and very warm- here in Florida, but I am a Yankee at heart.")



Annie Catterson —

Quinn went *High in Trial* with a 199 out of Novice B at the Framingham District Kennel Club January 9th at Surefire in Westborough, MA. That was his title leg!



Member Brags (cont.)

Chris McCluer

Gunner and I had a great year! We got our OTCH and our UDX. As you can see from the picture, he lives up to his name: OTCH Grousemoor *Spring Loaded*, UDX, MH. Now on to agility!

I have included a picture of his new little brother and playmate "Tiger" although I'm not sure he is the right color for a Flat-coat publication.



Susan Klein

Jett earned her HRC Seasoned title at the Central Florida Hunting Retrievers Club's fall hunt test in December.

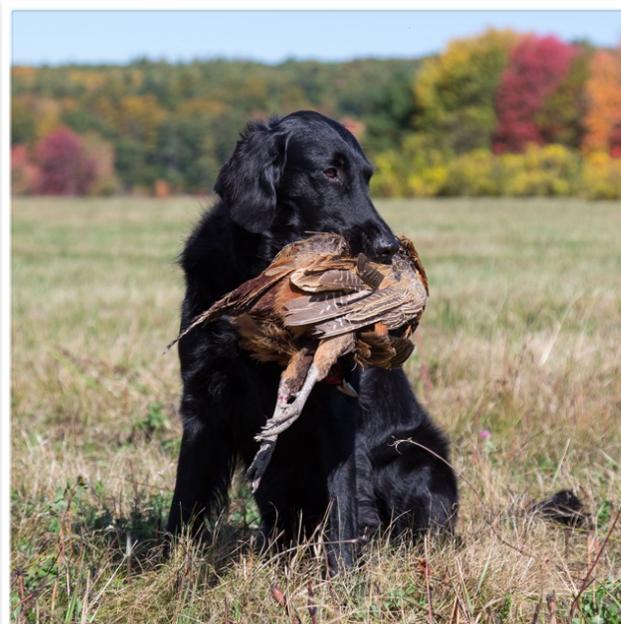


Photo by Jeremy Kezer

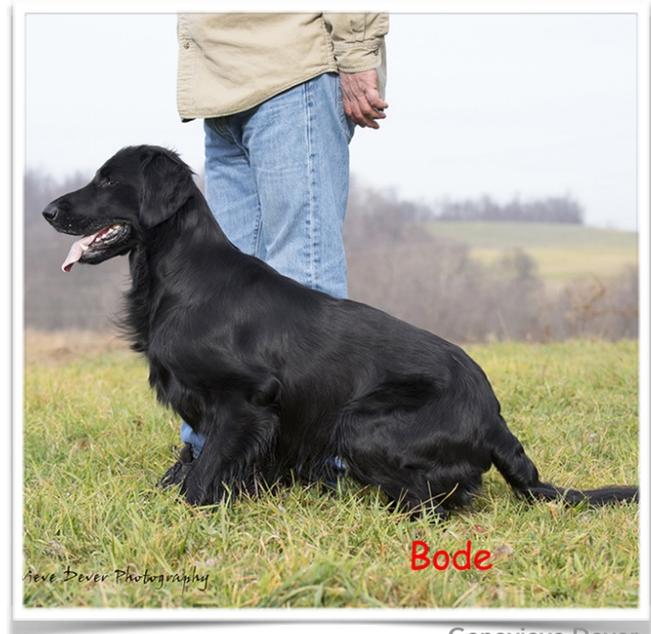
Member Brags (cont.)

Susan Klein (cont.)

Just after Christmas, hard-driving tomboy, Onyx, was bred to Bode, owned by Eloise and Ray Girt. Bode is a talented and handsome boy, who won the Gun Dog stake at this year's Specialty. He comes down from the Gamekeeper's line. A small but high octane litter is expected on or about February 27.



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



Genevieve Dever

Lori Nevins

Inspired by Sally Bridges' and Anne Cotton's extensive participation in therapy work, Lori Nevins (living in Canada) has been doing therapy dog work with Chummy.

Lori reports that last year "The Chum" got certified through St. John's Ambulance Society. Here is "The Chum" spreading comfort to nervous students as they complete finals at St Mildred's Lightbourn Academy for Superior Girls. (Due to the *superior* nature of the girls we were not allowed to photograph them.) Readers of the Flavia de Luce mystery series will be interested to know that St Mildred's is the model for Miss Bodycote's. (It's what everyone says, so it must be true!)



The Chum at the founder's stone

Member Brags (cont.)

Lori Nevins (cont.)

The Chum and her friend Todd await escort in the lobby. Their motto for the day was "superior dogs for superior girls".



Sue Stilwell

I have a brag for "Zen" (*GCH* Breezy Hill's Find Your Focus) for earning his GCH title in fine form by going Select Dog at our November '15 NEFCRC Supported Entry. Zen finished his GCH title easily, with 4 majors (including back-to-back NEFCRC Supported Entry Select Dog wins!) to his credit.

We're also very proud of young "Skeeter" (Breezy Hill's Keeping Abuzz) for winning Best In Sweepstakes from the 6-9 class at our November NEFCRC Supported Entry!

Sally Nettleton-Smilas

Splash, SR Grousemoor Almosteden 1st Splash of Spring, RN BN JH WCX earned his Companion Dog title, with a bumper leg, at the Framingham District Kennel Club shows this past January. We had a little hiccup and earned this title in five out of six shows. Now on to Open classes.

Ripple better behave herself or she may be left behind in Splash's dust. She continues to entertain spectators with her antics in the open class as we strive for her elusive third leg. Gotta' love our Flat Coats! I'm sure George is laughing ;)

Joe Juza

Joe's sweet, happy Ruby will be 11 years old February 15th!

Happy Birthday and Congratulations!



In Memory of Wallace

UKC/AKC CH Bertschire Good Grief Gromit CD RA JH WCX CGC

August 28 2005 - February 9, 2016



Beth writes —

Well..... The bridge received a good one today. What a ride we had! He came to us on Halloween 2005, his breeder Andrea Holsinger flew up with him to Scranton, PA and I met her there.

We learned so much together, accomplished so much and he was greatly loved. He had a huge fan club! We are going to miss his woo woos, snuggles, and just him. I love you Wallace. Run free sweet boy and take care of Shogun!



Photo by Jeremy Kezer



NEFCRC Annual Meeting!

Tails-U-Win
175 Adams Street,
Manchester, CT

Saturday
March 12, 2016
9:30 - 3:00

9:30 - Coffee
10:00 - Meeting
Potluck, Raffle, Grooming

Join us for our general meeting followed by friendship and flat-coat conviviality.

Bring your clean, winter-shaggy beasts for an afternoon at the spa! Grooming demos on how to tidy your flat-coat's "extra" tufts will be conducted and you will get the chance to have your dog groomed by club volunteers.

Bring a dish to share at our famous potluck lunch spread.

Bring you wallets because the raffle is fabulous and always fun. Donations of items for the raffle are appreciated.

Plan on having fun with doggie games to add extra amusement for the four-legged and two-legged participants.



Please JOIN US and COME HAVE FUN!!!

9:30 am: **Set up** Bring crates or x-pens for your dog(s) when they need a break.
Coffee and Chat time

10:00 am: **General Meeting** **Versatility Awards Presentation.**

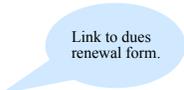
11:00 am: **Grooming your Flat-coated Retriever**
Although flat-coats don't require the hours of grooming of some breeds, they do need brushing and "tidying up." Ears tend to get bushy and take away from that beautiful head and expression. Our volunteers request **clean** dogs for demos and grooming.

Noon: **Potluck Lunch.** We've brought back the potluck lunch by popular demand. Our members come up with some really delicious food!

— Last Names **A-I:** SALAD, **J-U:** MAIN DISH and **R-Z:** DESSERT
— Drinks, plates, utensils and napkins will be provided.

Raffle: Our famous/infamous raffle will be led by ringmaster Gary McManus.
Please bring an item or items to donate to the raffle.
What would be a good donated item? Well, if you or your flat-coat would love to win it, it's perfect for the raffle! Also included will be Flat-coat memorabilia from Pat DeBree's apartment.

2:00 pm: **Flat-Coat Fun & Games.** Prizes!



Link to dues
renewal form.

NOTE: If you have not already paid [annual dues](#), our Treasurer, Susan Klein, will gladly take your check and renewal form. (Membership renewal deadline is March 12th.)

Also NOTE: There is a small grassy (or snowy!) area behind the building to exercise dogs. Please remember to clean up after them.

CANCELLATION: If Mother Nature dictates that we cancel the meeting, it will be posted on the NEFCRC website (www.nefcrc.org) by 8:00 pm on Friday March 11th. You can also call one of the following members for that information after 8:00 pm on Friday:

Sally Young: (802) 324-3292

Kate Horgan-Burke: (978) 272-1036

Novice Field Seminar

Please take me!



Sally Bridges and Priscilla Johnson, two of our most experienced field trainers, are offering a FREE, three session field seminar to novice handlers and their equally inexperienced dogs. In this case, novice means those who have not attained a JH or WC. Priscilla and Sally have worked hard to design this three session series to provide a gradual progression to gain the skills to train for higher levels of field achievement or just to enjoy working with your flat-coats doing something they love and that they were bred to do. These experienced trainers ask you to plan on attending all three sessions because one session builds on the previous one. The learning is a progression. It will be educational as well as fun . . . Sally always has some doggie/people games up her sleeve as well as “contests” to keep you on your toes ;-)

To make these sessions available to more novice dogs and handlers, Sally and Priscilla are offering them on weekend days, May 22, June 12 and June 18, 2016 (two Saturdays and one Sunday) something we had not been able to do until their generous offer. Each session will begin promptly at 8:30 am. The seminar will be held at Buck Shope’s beautiful training property in Templeton, MA.



Come and learn the field basics for you and your dog and receive a gift to use during the seminar. Please email Sally Bridges to sign up for this amazing, free training opportunity: skywalkfcr@verizon.net We will have more information later.

Advanced Training Sessions

There will also be training sessions available for those seeking more advanced training in order to earn advanced titles at the Senior and Master Hunter levels.

- April 30th at West Thompson Dam
- May 14th and 15th in Cabot, VT - Bunny Millikin
- a couple of additional dates at Becky Whitmeyer’s in Deerfield, NH to be determined.

More dates may be added as planning continues.

Yankee Golden Retriever Club classes will again be open to NEFCRC members. See these links for info-

<http://yankeegoldenretrieverclub.com/pdf/General-Info-Field-2016.pdf>
<http://yankeegoldenretrieverclub.com/pdf/FIELD-APPFORM-2016.pdf>

Field in 2016 (cont.)

Pat Burns Seminar

NEFCRC will be offering a three day Pat Burns seminar August 5 - 7 in Harrisville, RI on beautiful private training grounds with great fields and technical water. The two day seminar Pat presented for us in 2014 was fantastic and this one will be even better . . . we're supplying an extra day!

Pat Burns is a nationally recognized professional field dog trainer. After that seminar 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 Flat-coats and very amateur owners/handlers but not so."



The most important factor in the 2014 seminar was Pat Burns himself — his personality and the quality of his message and its delivery. 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. This year there will be three days. Be sure to save those dates!



NEFCRC WC/WCX

It's become a tradition! Each year our club offers a WC (Working Certificate) and a WCX (Working Certificate Excellent) qualifying test. This year it is on October 8th at West Thompson Dam. You will receive more information and an entry premium this summer but it's not too late to mark your calendars.

It's a fun day with a barbecue, raffle and friendship. We'll even have some other breeds of retrievers such as goldens and Irish water spaniels. It's always interesting to observe the differences. Join us!

Flattie NOT Fattie?



Thinking about that New Year's Resolution? You might want to include Fido...with flatties an extra pound or two can make all the difference to their health and comfort.

Ways to check Fido's weight are:

Is it hard to feel Fido's ribs?

Looking down their back, has their waistline (right behind their ribs) disappeared?

Have Fido's hip points totally disappeared?

When you look at Fido's side gait, has it started rolling from side to side?

While still looking from the side, has Fido lost its tuck up?

Does the back of Fido's head look a little broader than usual?

Can you pinch an inch (as folks used to say)?

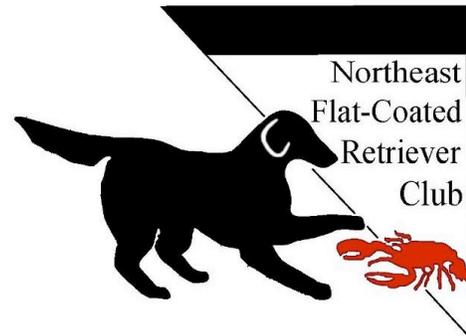
Yes to any of these might mean your sweet Fido needs more exercise, fewer calories or both. Just like us, dogs' caloric and nutritional requirements can change. Yes, check with your vet. Also consider that you might have the only flattie that your vet has ever seen (or has seen in a long time), and the word retriever at the end of our breed name somehow suggests that it is okay for our dogs be built like a show ring labrador retriever (oh no).

Dinner guests? Let's face it, our "feed me, I'm starving" flat-coats know how to work a crowd for extra goodies even when the crowd is just you.

With winter weather, exercise can be a challenge, too. The end results are the same for Fido as for us. So, if you're considering a New Year's Resolution, you might want to include your flat-coat buddy.

(Winter suggestion from Jill Kuchinos)





Did your dog earn a new title or special award in 2015? Let us brag for you!

We would love to hear your accomplishments for the 2015 calendar year. A list of newly earned titles and special awards will appear on our website for all to cheer for you. Did you earn a HIT? How about a BIS or Group placement? A new MACH, PACH, OTCH? Great! Earn a Barn Hunt title? How about a CGC, CGCA, CGCU, or Star Puppy? Perfect! New obedience, rally, agility, field, tracking, or conformation title? We want to know!

Please send all of your brags, including the registered name of your dog (including titles), their call name, the names of the owners on record for the dog, and a list of their accomplishments for 2015 to our webmaster, Kris Sobanski (percussion98@juno.com) so that we can share your success! Brags are not limited to AKC titles, but please include the venue (ie. USDAA, UKC, etc) if you have earned a title outside of the AKC.

All submissions will appear on the brags page of our website. A sample can be viewed here: <http://www.nefcrc.org/brags.htm> .

Congratulations on all of your accomplishments this year!



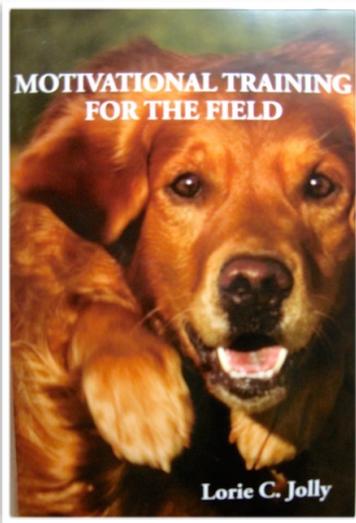
An Under-used Resource

Another reminder that the Field Lending Library is a wonderful resource provided by FCRSA. Items can be borrowed for six week intervals. The library is well-stocked with current popular videos as well as classics. The same is true of the instructional books available. The only cost is return postage by Priority mail and the only requirement is FCRSA membership. Try it . . . you'll like it!

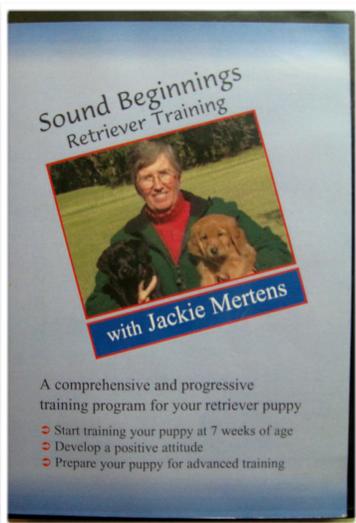
FCRSA Field Lending Library

www.FCRSAfield.com

Recent additions



#B011 - A positive training book



#V022 - A familiar DVD title but new to the library

A field training resource —

- A 33 title library of DVDs and books
- Easy to use
- Six week loan period (can be renewed)
- Return by Priority Mail

Authors available to you —

Bill Hillman
Mike Lardy
David Rorem
Dennis Voigt
Evan Graham
and more . . .

For more information —

Go to the Lending Library at fcrsafield.com

For the lending list -

<http://www.fcrsafield.com/list.html>

For the request form -

<http://www.fcrsafield.com/requestform.html>

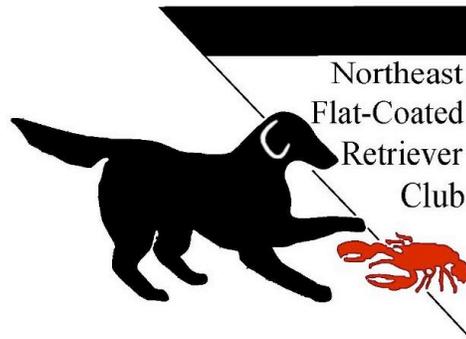
Email Lending Librarian

Ruth Sumner at rusumner@mac.com

Phone: 860-669-6959

Submit **your** dogs' photos now for the chance
to be featured in the 2017 calendar.

FUNDRAISER!



2017 NEFCRC Flat-Coated Retriever Calendar

Did you enjoy our 2016 Calendar? What? You didn't order one???
See the link below to order one....but in the mean time...

We are looking for submissions of photos of your past and present Flat-Coats to use in our next NEFCRC fundraiser.

We are now looking for candid photos of NEFCRC members' Flat-Coats! The more photos we receive, the better our calendar will be! Get creative – pictures of litters of puppies, dogs in costume, muddy dogs, hunting dogs, agility dogs...there are so many possibilities...

Photos should highlight the dog, preferably with no people in the photo where possible. As we are looking to fill our calendar, photos with all seasonal backgrounds (snow, floral, fall leaves, beach scenes, etc) are appreciated. Photos that show the versatility of our breed are also ideal (agility, tracking, field, obedience, conformation, etc).

Photos **MUST** be **no smaller** than 300 dpi, preferably in a .jpg format (non-compressed), and we **MUST have WRITTEN PERMISSION** from any professional photographer to reproduce their photos in our 2017 calendar (photo credit will be given where applicable). Photos that are too small will become grainy or blurry when resized for the calendar – please keep that in mind when you are looking for submissions.

All submissions should be e-mailed to Kris Sobanski (percussion98@juno.com) – please only send **one photo per e-mail**, but feel free to make as many submissions as you would like! Please put 2017 FCR Calendar in the subject line, and include your dog's registered name (with all titles), owner(s) name and home city/state, breeder(s) name (you may include a breeder(s) website address too, if you'd like), and any photo credit where due in the body of the e-mail.

Photos will be accepted until August 1, 2016, at which time all submissions will be considered for use in the printing of the calendar.

A copy of the 2016 calendar can be ordered here – remember, quantities are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis:

http://nefcr.org/2016_NEFCRC_FCR_Calendar_Order_Form.pdf

The Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club's

40th Anniversary

Fun-Filled Gala Weekend

September 10 & 11, 2016

SAVE THE DATE



Pet-Friendly Accommodations:

- Motels
- Cabins
- RV sites
- Campsites

Other Things to Do in the Area:

- Apple-Picking Burt's Apple Orchard
- Ben and Jerry's Factory
- Cabot Cheese Factory
- Cold Hollow Cider Mill
- Danville Mini-Golf
- Dog Chapel
- Dog Mountain
- Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium
- Great Vermont Corn Maze
- Jay Water Park
- Jay Tram Ride
- King Arthur Flour
- Montshire Children's Museum
- St. Johnsbury Golf Course

Fun for the Whole Family

- Big Saturday Barbeque, Dog Costume Parade, and Raffle
- Pet Portraits
- Fun and Games (Scurry, Retriever Scramble, Best Pet Tricks)
- Understanding Flat-Coat Conformation Standards
- Introduction to AKC Performance Events
- Demonstrations—I Didn't Know Dogs Could Do That
- Grooming How-To's for Pet Owners
- How to Teach Tricks to Your Pet
- Canine Health and First Aid
- Earn a Canine Good Citizenship Title

Hunt Test Set-Ups at the Junior, Senior and Master Level

Location:

**BlackGamin Farm
Bolton Road
Cabot, VT**

Stay tuned for more details