

FLAT-COAT FILES

Newsletter of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club

Winter 2017

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President's Message

Spring, eh? Northeast preparing for an Ides of March Blizzard! Nevertheless, now it's time to plan the spring and summer activities with our beautiful flatties.

The Annual Meeting will be on April 30th at Tails-U-Win in Manchester, CT from 9 am till 3 pm. I anticipate a lively discussion of the new bylaws. The Board is mailing you a packet during the first week in April with the old bylaws, new bylaws, a summary letter of the significant changes and alternative wordings for those sections and a sample ballot. The Nominating Committee will have a slate of directors for your consideration. This is an important meeting, please don't miss it.

Kris Sobanski and Sally Nettleton-Smilas are organizing an Adele Yunck Obedience Workshop, "A Balancing Act" www.northfielddogtraining.com on July 15th and 16th at Tails-U-Win. Registration forms and details will be forthcoming.

West Thompson has been procured for a day's field training on Saturday April 29th. An e-blast sent on March 11th outlined a Novice Class being offered by Sally Bridges and Priscilla Johnson. There will be sessions all spring and summer for all level field training which include five Tuesdays in Templeton, MA; possible events in NH and VT; perhaps a Buck Shope Workshop on July 8th & 9th. An updated field training schedule will be forthcoming.

NEFCRC will host a potluck, social event with FCRs. An open format of field and agility activities will be offered at the Thompson Rod and Gun Club the second weekend in September.

Sally 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

Field Training Day - April 29, 2017 - West Thompson Dam

Annual Meeting - April 30, 2017 - Tails-U-Win, Manchester, CT

Field Training Sessions

Novice Handler/Dog series of field sessions - TBA
Training Days at Buck Shope's all levels

Spring B/OB SUPER-Match Extravaganza - May 27, 2017 -
South Windsor Kennel Club - www.southwindsorkennelclub.org
(go to events)

Obedience Workshop July 15 & 16, Adele Yunck Tails UWin,
Manchester, CT

WC/WCX w/ Yankee Golden - October 7, 2017 WestThompson
Dam, CT

Web

Check out our website (NEFCRC.org) for results, forms, events,
and photos.

Webmaster **Kristen Sobanski** can be contacted at
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Address Changes

Please direct all address, e-mail, and phone changes to
Susan Klein at sklein1@capecod.net.

Newsletter Deadline

Spring Deadline — May 1, 2017

Please send newsletter submissions to the editor:

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Sally Young - Put it on your calendar!

Your Board of Directors met in November at Kate Horgan-Burke's house. Many items were discussed but most importantly a new set of bylaws is nearly ready for the general membership's consideration at the *Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 30th at Tails-U-Win in Manchester, CT*. The significant areas of updating include increased and more inclusive categories of membership, time staggered terms for board members to insure institutional continuity and history, clarity of language regarding disciplinary measures that the club may take and codifying the fact that much of the club's official business is now conducted via electronic means. I believe that you will agree with your board that Susan Klein, with some help from Patty Temple, has brought our bylaws into this new century.

We will be sending the new bylaws out for your review well before April 30th. This is an election year and the Nominating Committee of Kate Horgan Burke, Nancy Triou, Dana Crevling, Tina Mohr

We, of course, will be having our traditional potluck luncheon. The variety and bounty of this feast is legendary and it all happens with the contributions of each of us. As usual, paper plates, cups, utensils, and beverages will be provided.

Thanks to Gary McManus we will have another entertaining raffle to participate in. Please bring item/s to contribute to the success and the fun.

Other activities are still in the planning stages but this is a great time to socialize with flat-coat people and their dogs, sharing stories and laughs about our creative pals. Stay tuned for more information.

New By-laws for the NEFCRC

In the seven years since the NEFCRC by-laws were last revised, both the Club and the environment in which it operates have evolved. As a result, there has been a growing divergence between how we need to manage ourselves and what has been set forth in our by-laws. Your Board has been wrestling with updating our by-laws for the past five years or better. This situation is not unique to our Club. To assist its member clubs in being more responsive to operating in today's environment, the AKC has developed and disseminated a set of pro forma by-laws, encouraging the clubs to adapt them to local requirements.

The Club's effort was gallantly initiated by Deb Westcot and Don Bierer some years ago. More recently, Susan Klein, with able involvement of Patty Temple, reviewed the AKC template, as well as the FCRSA by-laws and those of a multitude other dog clubs. Over 100 hours have gone into this effort to ensure that the by-laws better reflect how this club is actually doing its business in the new century. Your Board met face-to-face in November and unanimously agreed to the new

New By-laws for the NEFCRC (cont.)

version to be presented to the General Membership for ratification, with only a few areas requiring additional discussion. I consulted with several long time members and leaders of the club to discuss the major areas of substantive changes. There was consensus among them as to the need for recognizing updated methods of communication, the advantage of staggering the terms of Board members, as well as the clear delineation of which disciplinary measures should be within the purview of the Club. Membership categories and the process of the election of the officers remain areas that currently do not enjoy the same level of unanimous agreement.

In the proposed 2017 by-laws, some updates are simply a matter of fine-tuning, while others represent fundamental changes in the way in which we will conduct ourselves as an organization. There are three areas of substantive change.

Membership: In our current by-laws, we only have one membership category—Regular Membership. In practice, it is unclear what this really means, particularly as it relates to dues and votes. In the recent past, the NEFCRC has honored several of its long-time active members by designating them as lifetime non-dues-paying members, but there is no provision for such a category of members in our current by-laws. Taking the lead from the AKC in its pro forma by-laws, many other clubs addressed this issue by establishing several categories of membership such as Individual, Family, Junior and Life Time/Honorary membership. A majority of your Board believes that these additional categories overcome some of the shortfalls resulting from the previous single membership category and the new by-laws reflect that.

Terms for Board members and election of Officers: Currently the Board of Directors is elected, en masse, every two years. It is believed that staggered terms with elections every year and electing 1/3 of the board annually would provide greater continuity and institutional memory.

Further, current by-laws have the Board's Officers nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the General Membership. The new by-laws would have the Officers elected from within the Board itself, the rationale being that sitting Board members are in the best position to assess the skill level and degree of involvement of their fellow Board members compared with the requirements of the various offices.

Discipline: Finally, in accordance with the AKC pro forma by-laws, a section on discipline has been added and modified to reflect our local concerns. Your Board, and many of the long time members of the club, felt that the addition of this section is a significant improvement over the old by-laws.

The Board of Directors will be mailing you a copy of the old by-laws and a copy of the 2017 proposed by-laws in the coming weeks. Please read them carefully. If anyone has questions or is not clear about some section of the proposed by-laws, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. We will be discussing and then voting on these by-laws at the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2017 at Tails-U-Win. This is not a huge document. It will be very helpful in the interest of time if those attending can read and digest them in advance of the meeting.

A Rescue Story - by Beth Brock

We love happy endings!

One rainy Saturday afternoon I was on Facebook when I saw a post by Patty Johnstone that the Chatham Hill Kennel was closing. The post went on to describe 4 Flat Coats that needed to be re-homed. I was immediately drawn to reading about the 4 and knew that one of them had to come home to my house! There were 3 liver colored girls and 1 yellow boy. I chose the youngest of the 4, one of the girls. Her name was Cookie and is 4 years old. I emailed Patty right away to be put on the list for Cookie, as I knew that there would be a ton of interest in these dogs. Within 24 hours I found out that Cookie would be coming home to my house!



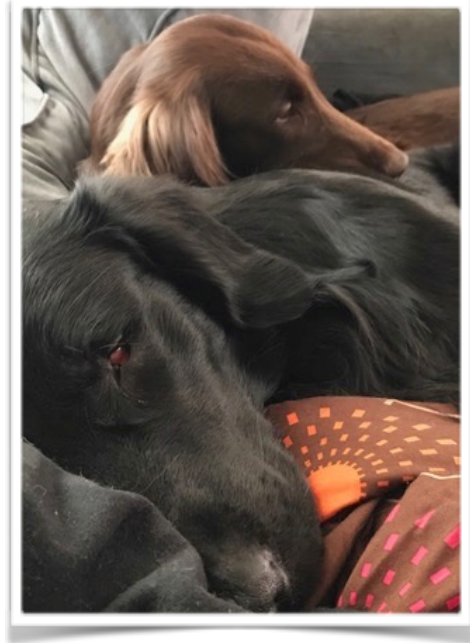
Here is a little background info for those who do not know about the Chatham Hill Kennel. This kennel was breeding Flat Coats to Cocker Spaniels to create a hybrid “breed” called “comfort retrievers.” They also were breeding Weimaraners to Flat Coats to get the “rare” long-haired blue Weimaraners. They, in my opinion, believed that they were doing the right thing. Those of us that breed were very troubled by this and many tried to reason with them to no avail. Things got nasty between them and breeders. So when it was found out that the kennel was closing, I believe there was a collective sigh of relief. The owners were getting divorced and the wife also has some serious health issues. Because Patty Johnstone carefully maintained a peaceful relationship with the wife, Patty was able to get FCRSA rescue in to take the 4 Flat Coats.



Now for what I have pieced together about Cookie's history — She is from Scotland originally, came to this country at around 16 weeks and most likely went straight into their kennel. She was an exchange puppy with one of the Chatham Hill Flat Coats. I have tried to get her registration papers, but have struck out. Her breeders in Scotland have not been any help and I know that Patty has tried to get them from the Chatham Hill people, but with all the upheaval they most likely have been lost. I am ok with that. I will just get her an ILP and then do obedience and field with her. She is super sweet, so I think I'll add Therapy work too!

A Rescue Story (cont.)

So, now for when she came to live with us — On October 22nd I met Patty in New Jersey at the Palisades Mall for the hand off. We decided to change her name to Cosette after the character in the musical Les Miserables. There were so many unknowns about her, would she travel well? How would she get along with my 2 at home? Would she walk on a leash? She was a champ in the car, did reasonably well on a leash and after a couple of corrections by the queen of our house Feather, she has settled in! Cosette and Feather are friends, love to snuggle on the couch, and compete for our attention. Cosette and Bran love to play and play and play! They became fast friends!



As Cosette settled in, the holes in her basic house training became apparent. I liken it to having a 4yr-old-8-week-old puppy. Turns out that she isn't house broken, doesn't sleep through the night, and destroys whatever toy she gets a hold of. The latter isn't her fault, she never had toys, so she has no idea what they are. So we only have things that can be chewed on in the house. This is new for us since Bran and Feather do not destroy toys. For a dog that really had no socialization, her dog manners are surprisingly good. She will relent a toy to Feather whenever Feather wants. She took Feather's corrections and never once raised a lip or snapped back. She understood that this is Feather's house and what her standing in her new pack was. She has been great with any dog she has met. She is extremely drawn to people. She seeks out people more than dogs. I think she missed a lot of human interaction as a young pup and is making up time. Health-wise, she came to us in perfect health, just really underweight. She was lyme negative, heart worm negative, and has put on 10 lbs. She is actually a little chunky now, so we have cutback on her food. She had never been properly groomed, so this has been a struggle for her and us. She is starting to get better with her nails, doesn't mind being brushed or bathed, just doesn't understand the grooming table yet. I know we have our work cut out, but she is basically a very sweet dog who just never had the opportunities that our other dogs have had.



A Rescue Story (cont.)

Since Cosette has come home to our house she has experienced many firsts — Halloween, the Supported Entry, and Christmas. She wasn't freaked out by costumes at Halloween. She did well traveling to the supported entry, she enjoyed meeting new people and dogs. She met Santa for the first time and had her picture taken with Feather and Bran. At first she was a little nervous, but Santa talked to her and pet her. She relaxed and we got a good picture. She is nervous during thunderstorms, doesn't seem to mind fireworks, loves snow, and loves romping in our fenced in backyard! As for the humans in her life, we are so glad we took the chance on her. She fits right in and has fallen hard for my husband! I think for the first time in her life she may feel happy and safe.



If you ever have the chance to rescue a pup, give it a go. I am so glad that we did.

FCRSA Rescue Article

The current (winter 2017) issue of our national newsletter contains an article by Linda Conrad and Janet Boss on page 12 describing our FCRSA Rescue. It is an interesting article that will teach you a lot about the rescue process. FCRSA Rescue has a very active public page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FCRSARescue/) where they post identified Flat-Coats for rescue. The ID'ing is a careful process. Linda and Janet investigate each of them and deal with whatever animal control/shelter/owners are involved. They find they receive much more cooperation if these people haven't been inundated with phone calls from the public. Please contact FCRSA Rescue first when you see a possible FCR rescue posted for adoption on a non-club site. Rescue needs to have a good rapport with those in charge in order to effectively proceed.

Their first step is to make contact with the animal control/shelter/person who has possession of the dog. They then ask questions and request pictures to obtain enough information to ID the dog as a Flat-Coat. Sometimes they enlist FCR owners and breeders in the area to ID the dog in person but when no hands-on, face-to-face is available, they have to go by their best judgment. So, if you live near a possible rescue that needs to be ID'ed, please volunteer by emailing or calling —

Linda (612-385-5334)- FlashbackFCR@gmail.com

or

Janet (410)908-3640 - janet.Boss.Rescue@gmail.com .

A Different Kind of Rescue

Story by Erin Fina,
(age eleven, sixth grade)



On a pretty, warm summer day, Thursday July 21, 2016, the Fina family set out on a kayaking adventure to Waterbury reservoir, in Waterbury, Vermont. The father Brian with Erin-11 and Ben-8, and their 1 year-old Flat-Coated Retriever, Boomer, put their kayaks on the car and headed out.

When they arrived at the reservoir, they launched their kayaks — a single orange kayak for Erin and a double green for Ben and Brian. They popped their life-vests on, including a life-vest for Boomer and paddled away. They were going to a local favorite rock, called “Elephant Rock.” As they rowed along Boomer followed in the rear. He was a very strong swimmer and had no trouble swimming the whopping 1.5 miles to the rock. As the Finas got closer, Boomer stopped at the land to do his business as Erin raced along to get to the rock. When Brian, Ben and Boomer arrived 5 minutes later, Erin had started jumping off the large rock.



A couple arrived, set up their towels and water bottles and watched the Finas jump in the water, come out, jump in and come out over and over again. Their gaze began to go to Boomer, as he swam around in the water, making the wife confident enough to hop in herself. She walked onto a ledge that looked totally safe from her view, but the Finas saw the danger. The rock ledge progressed down toward the shallow water and abruptly dropped off, but the woman did not see the danger and just kept walking. A bird distracted her at the end of the rock. She slipped on the algae and was thrown into the water. She bobbed right up and down, gasping for air and screaming for someone to help her. It was then that the Finas knew she did not know how to swim. She bobbed up and down for about two minutes. Brian tried to calm her down. As a former lifeguard, he knew what to do in these situations. However, the woman continued to scream for help and could not calm down. That's when the husband ran to the edge, also unaware of how slippery it was, he fell in. He quickly bobbed up for air and started freaking out. He started splashing and trying to shove his wife to shore but that just made him even weaker. Then Brian and another man realized that this situation could become life-threatening. They quickly jumped in, the other man with all his clothing on. Brian instantly began bobbing up and down as the 300+ pound husband pushed him down to get closer to the rock shore. Brian realized it was a good idea to get out and put his life-vest back on so he would float. Brian jumped in again. Now, at this point, Boomer sensed danger. All dogs can sense when their owner or anyone else, is in danger. Boomer went to the edge and began to put his nose to the water. The man grabbed Boomer's nose, practically pulling him into the water. Boomer took a step back, waited a second or two then flew in. Boomer began to swim around as the husband pulled at his hair and vest, and the wife grabbed onto the man's leg. Then the husband finally got hold of a strap on Boomer's life vest. Boomer began to

A Different Kind of Rescue (cont.)

go under as he held on, but began to pull the man so he made a little movement toward safety. Pulling about 500+ pounds body weight, Boomer, the man and the woman, all holding onto him began to get even closer to a part of the rock so they could reach the edge. The couple grabbed the edge and let Boomer go. The man, with little to no strength left, pulled himself out of the water and onto the warm rock. He lay there for a second and realized that his wife was still in the water. She was helped up.

They both struggled to get back to where their towels lay and were finally able to say something. The man said, as he rested on his towel, "Bless this dog, bless, bless, bless him". Boomer finally got out of the water and went to kiss the man. The 300lb man giggled and stroked Boomer's soft fur. The woman finally said, "If this dog wasn't here, I would have been killed. What's his name?" Brian

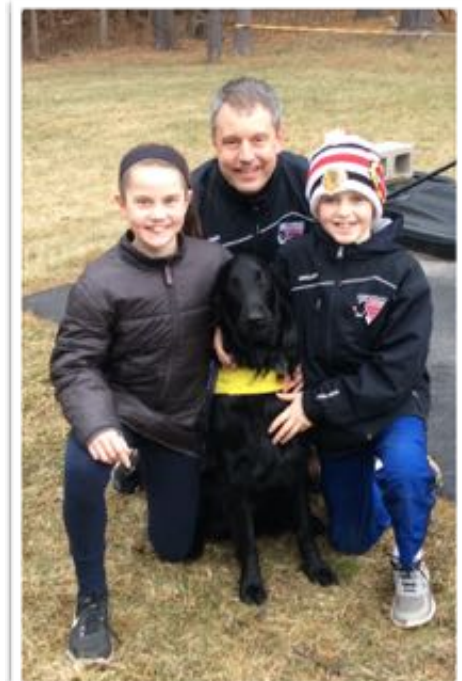
replied, "Boomer". The wife said, "Thank you Boomer. Thank you, thank you, thank you so much. Bless your heart." Boomer did a little dog smile as though he understood fully what the woman had just said and what he had done. Boomer smiles a lot.



Brian, the husband, his wife and Boomer

Boomer's registered name is *Light-Foot's Mystery of Champlain*. He was born June 29, 2015. His proud breeder is Hope Meaker.

After this adventure, Boomer had no trouble swimming the one and a half miles back to their starting point! That's a water dog!



Erin, Brian and Ben

Always in Our Hearts

Waterproof Cali Ayla

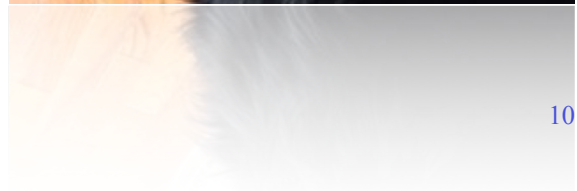
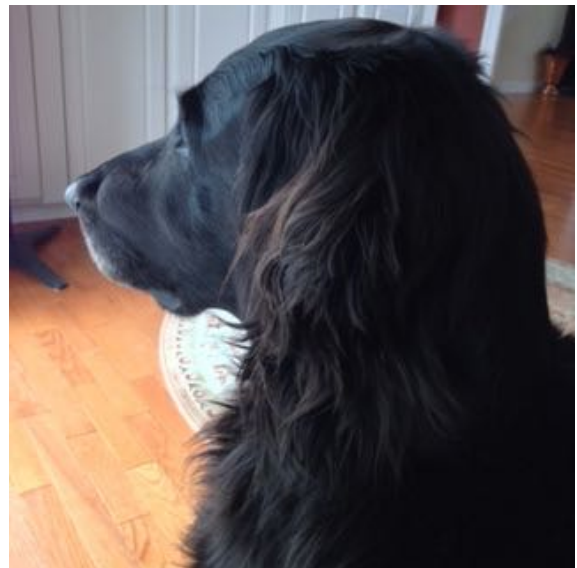
Feb 12, 2004 - Jan 7, 2017



**Catherine Falvey-Herzig
and Steven Herzig**



Just a moment!
Another moment. Please. I need. I yearn.
To look in your eyes. Another touch. Just
one, I swear. I promise. Only a moment.
Well, perhaps a bit more. I would revel in
your joy, consume your fragrance. One
more attempt to capture for all eternity,
imprison your sweet loving essence. Just
one moment more. One moment.



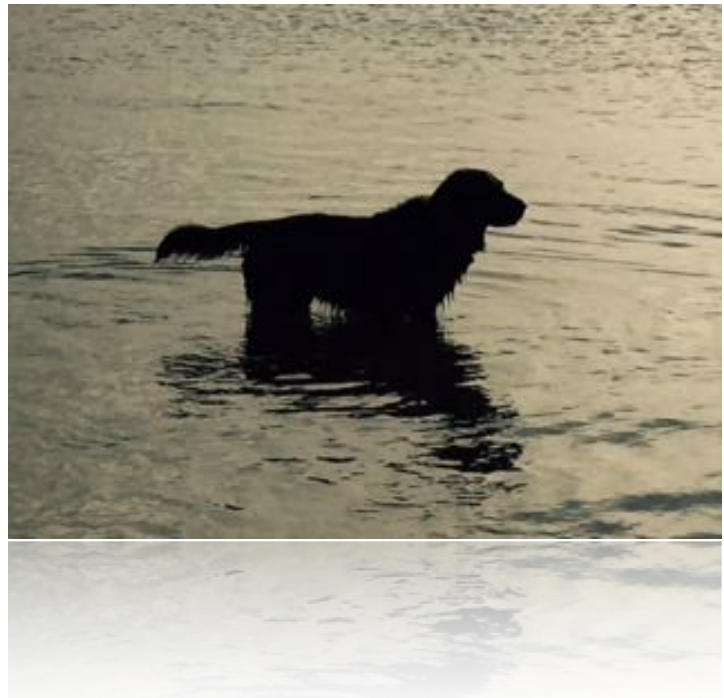
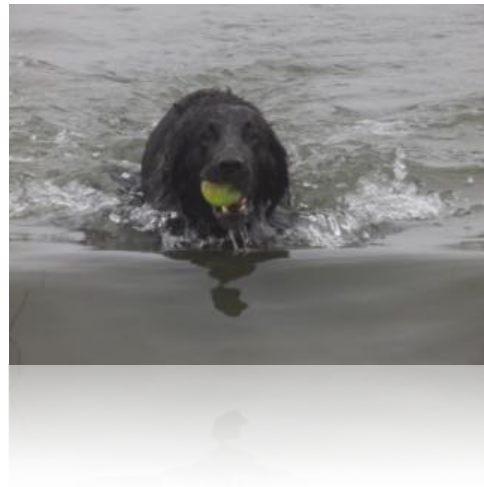
Cali Bear, oh so fair
with notes of Vilde Chaya
doles out licks with horsey lips
for Lola and for Maya

From ducks named Mally
to lunches at night
and foxholes in closets
from thunderstorm fright

Festooned in her feathers
and sweetness delivered
in closing her eyes
she has peace like a river

And suddenly she's there
rippled with muscle
her coat with a shine
and her step with a hustle

To give you a lick
and remind you one time
that THAT's how she'll be
in the eye of your mind



We grieve as humans, and our intellect tortures our emotions sometimes...but it's a double edge sword of sorts...you can ALWAYS visit Cali in your mind. You can give her a kiss, smell her fur, and be drunk with her wonderful memories. :)

Cali was our wonderful pup and we miss her soooo!

Catherine and Steven

Member Brags

Don and Susan Bierer

New Companion Dog – CH Victory’s Kodiak Grin and Bear It CD JH is owned by Don and Susan Bierer; trained and handled by Don. “Cody” aced his Novice B trials with a 1st place in West Friendship, MD, and two 2nd place finishes in Columbia, SC. The third leg was a heart stopper where only two dogs qualified after multiple dogs broke their stays.



Congratulations!

Beth Brock

Bran went Winners Dog at Westminster Kennel Club on 2/14/17!! This earned him one more point towards his Championship!!



Member Brags (cont.)

Jenn Tower



Here is the rundown for 2016.....

Joy - UROC URX SHR GCH Bertschire Jolly Holiday CD RE JH SHU

- earned her AKC Rally Excellent title, also earned her UKC Rally Obedience levels 2 and 3 titles, her Rally Obedience Champion title and Rally Obedience Excellent title.

Windy - Fair Winds and Following Seas at Slipstream RE

- Earned her AKC Rally Excellent title, has been doing therapy dog visits at the local VA hospital and produced a lovely litter of 10 puppies this November.

Sailor - Slipstream Sailed the Ocean Blue RE JHU

- earned his AKC Rally Novice, Advanced and Excellent titles in a straight 9 shows, finishing his RE at the supported entry in November 2016.

Quintas - Slipstream Seeds the Day CGC

- earned his AKC CGC and picked up another point toward his AKC Championship.

Liberty - Oh Say Can You Seed at Slipstream

- earned 6 points toward her AKC Championship including a maior.



Gary McManus

At our WC/WCX test held on Oct. 11, 2016, Zuzu passed her first hunt test! She now has her WC title attached to her name.

more
Congratulations!

Member Brags (cont.)

*again,
Congratulations!*

Teresa Drew and Gary McManus

Best Day Ever ! says Teresa —

As you all know we humans (unlike our furry friends) sometimes need a little nudge to step out of our comfort zone to try new activities or to take on new challenges. We worry about embarrassing ourselves or our lack of skills or failing altogether. The dogs on the other hand have no such worries (especially if treats are involved!)

We reluctantly decided to enter Zuzu in the November cluster shows. We had not shown a dog in many years and our skills are non-existent. We also have a dog that does not want to be bathed or groomed and who would be much happier retrieving bumpers, working in the field or swimming in a frog pond. What to do? Fortunately our good friend Sue O'Donnell volunteered to take on the task of grooming and showing Zuzu.



At her suggestion we entered Zuzu in the Friday show and also in the Supported Entry on Saturday. We had absolutely no expectations other than that Zuzu would get some experience in the ring. Our expectations were met in the Friday show, Sue gave Zuzu some practice in the ring and set the stage for Saturday.

On Saturday morning we piled Zuzu and all of the necessities into the car to head up to Springfield. However, we had one other important (and unexpected) commitment that morning - Gary's favorite uncle had passed away and the funeral mass was scheduled for Saturday morning. After mass was over we brought Zuzu out to meet the rest of the dog loving family. We received many good wishes and were on our way, arriving with just enough time to turn her over to Sue and to get out of sight.

Our anxiety was high -would Zuzu cooperate with Sue? Would Zuzu be too stressed? Would she wag her tail? We crossed our fingers, wished for a little Irish luck and held our breath. Just as the bitches were entering the ring our good friend Brian O'Sullivan appeared - he was on his way home to Seattle after a vacation in Ireland. Maybe he brought back a little luck. We crossed our fingers again and held our breath as they went around the ring. Wonder of wonders Sue had Zuzu under control! Her tail was wagging!! Was that our Zuzu??

As they went around the ring and stood for examination it seemed like the judge gave Zuzu a good long look. We almost fell over when she pulled her out of the lineup! You can guess the rest of the story- Zuzu went on to take winners bitch and best of winners for a 4 point major! (Apparently there is something to be said for the luck of the Irish!)

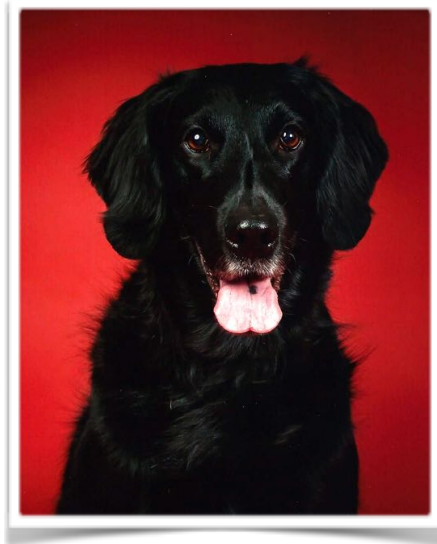
Member Brags (cont.)

Susan Klein - News from the Cape Sandflats Crew

Jett

Jett turned 11 on March 20, 2017 and this may have been one of her best years yet.

Just before Christmas, we received notification from the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America that Jett's many achievements had earned her a place in the Hall of Fame. More recently, she was invited to participate in the Ring of Honor at 2017 Specialty in Clymer, NY. We have dedicated that latter achievement to the memory of her other mother, Paulette Swartzendruber.

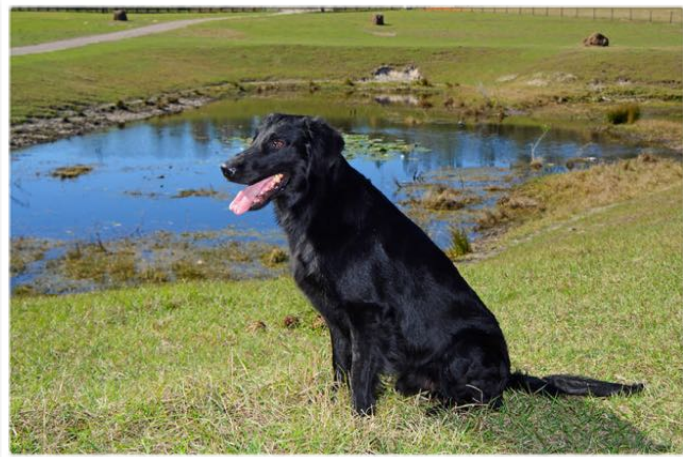


As exciting as the news of the HOF and ROH was, Jett and I were not ready to rest on our laurels. With the encouragement of one of my Florida Flat-Coat friends, I decided to give upland hunting a try with her. In February, the Central Florida Hunting Retriever Club put on a four-test upland event. Neither of us had ever done upland before but I figured that it would be a good way to find out if she liked it and to use it as a training opportunity. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks? OMG--she passed all four tests, earning her Upland Hunting title in just one day.

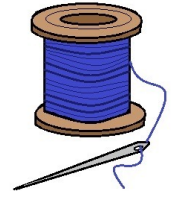
Happy 11th Birthday to my very special MACH2 HR UH Fox Creek Hob-B's Jett Sett SH MXG MJG CA CGC WC WCX HOF

Hunter

At the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club's winter hunt test on December 11, my boy Hunter (Hob-B's Thrill of the Hunt) passed his 5th Master test for his Master Hunter title. Many thanks are due to Mitch White for all his hard work getting Hunter to this momentous occasion and to Jim Pickunka for giving him the solid foundation upon which all his work in the field has been based. All winter, Hunter and I have been training together nearly every day so we can carry on as a team to keep this momentum going.



Quilting, Collecting, Pat DeBree, and Arlo



My wife enjoys quilting. No— more accurately, quilting is one of her passions. Almost nothing interferes with quilting. I am passionate about the look, sound, and smell of old Martin guitars, the aroma of fine aged bourbon, or that walk in a dewy meadow early on a summer morning. I imagine these attractions to be similarly satisfying to making quilts. Accomplishments for me in my enjoyments amount mostly to good memories. Cookie makes stuff, really nice stuff.

Now comes nexus with Flat Coats: At the time, Pat DeBree did not want her Petersfield line to “peter” out. Arlo, her sire—by that time, ours—could fix this. Pat asked Sue Stillwell if her Windy, just coming into season, could birth prospective pups. Arlo’s “polliwogs” were checked for viability—the collecting part—and, lo, the perfect plan emerged. A little traveling between Vermont and Connecticut would make Pat’s dream reality. Timing, however, was of the essence.



Of course, a fly was circling the ointment. *Shop-Hop!* Innocuous sounding enough, this event, inclusive of two weekends, is when more than a dozen quilt shops across Vermont host caravans of deeply committed quilting ladies crisscrossing and traversing the state for nine days eyeballing quilt shop wares, spending enough to ensure the continuance of their noble artisanship in the heritage of Demeter and other hearth tenders of ancient pedigree. Few events trifle with this pursuit—except maybe Circadian rhythms. For when Windy’s eggs became ready, they were ready! Arlo must get collected again, and have his “issue” sprinkled on Windy’s bed of ripe eggs. Not exactly a honeymoon in my eyes, but—as my wife says—I can be hypercritical.

Meanwhile, phooey to Shop-Hop, declared Windy as the vet found her suddenly in a perfect window of fertility. FCR people deeply committed to their animals are nothing if not flexible. Cookie went from glassy-eyed Shop Hop mode to steely-eyed breeding mode after Sue called. Pat DeBree packed an overnight bag, and Arlo...well, Arlo seemed ready, but Cookie, Pat and Arlo must get down to Sue’s house in Connecticut.



In Essex Junction sat a shop on the Shop Hop route not far from Pat’s House. I drove Arlo the fifty miles from home, picked up Pat, and met Cookie and her quilting partners in the parking lot. Soon, I stood in the sunshine waving to Cookie, Pat and Arlo as they zoomed away to destiny in Connecticut. In one hand, I clenched a sheaf of “passports” needing to get stamped by shop owners on the rest of Cookie’s route, and in the other a little shopping bag of “gifts,” free stuff picked up at each stop. My charge, join the girls on the completion of the tour—the only way home.

Member Story (cont.)

They let me sit in the front seat because of my long legs. Poor Christine, the driver. She must make small talk with me while the fun stuff raucously went on behind us. They should have tied me to the roof rack. They probably wish they had. I tried not to look like I wanted to get going at the next stop. A passport must be stamped, a free gift scarfed up, and then...and then... there I stood staring at the wonders that quicken the hearts of impassioned quilters. I asked one owner if I could have a small cocktail that would lend me a bit of elegance so I would not look so dumpy and out of place. She laughed. I must accept looking dumpy and out of place until I could turn the key in the lock of my own door.



The breeding went well. Windy's eggs and Arlo's polliwogs produced a lovely litter. We have Huckleberry and Elsa from it, and look forward to a breeding later with Elsa. Huckleberry, "fixed," has also been "frozen" per request of Pat DeBree before she passed away. She would have loved to see her breeding efforts go forward.

*This is our intrepid hero of the Shop-Hop,
Henry Stoczek in disguise, of course.*



The Celebrated Dog of Edwardian England

Joe Juza recently posted an article on Facebook from a British gun dog magazine, “Shooting Times and Country Magazine.” You can find the complete article at <http://www.shootinguk.co.uk/gundogs/gundog-breeds/flat-coated-retriever-53022> The following are excerpts from that article.

“Why is the flat-coated retriever so rarely seen in the field now?”
asks David Tomlinson, the author.



After doing considerable research into finding healthy lines, Neil Gilbert purchased Kola as an eight-week-old puppy. “Training a flat coated retriever proved to be a delight,” he told the author. “However, I do believe that they need a softer approach than a typical Labrador. They are sensitive to your voice and body posture. To get the best from one it’s essential to be patient, to be gentle in your methods and to tune into their canine psychology. It’s also important to work hard to develop eye contact. Training can take a little longer than with a Labrador — flatcoat enthusiasts always say that they are slower to mature. However, if you get it right you will end up with a dog that really will turn heads in the field, or even when out walking.”

“I’m now a flatcoat convert and would encourage other people to consider the breed for several reasons. First, a well-trained flatcoat is very stylish in the field, a fact often commented upon by Guns who are interested in seeing dogs working.

The Celebrated Dog of Edwardian England (cont.)

“Second, they have an impressive work rate, with a great deal of drive and determination. I have found mine to be bold when entering thick cover and water, while they will push through brambles like spaniels.”

“Third, they are great markers, a real asset with a picking-up dog. Many Labrador handlers fail to appreciate that the flatcoat works air scent, rather than ground scent, so a nose in the air doesn’t mean that the dog isn’t working. I have found my dogs to be quiet when waiting at the peg, (line) while they are also affectionate and want to be with you. Lastly, they are wonderfully elegant jumpers.”



Dog owner Neil Gilbert describes himself as a “flatcoat convert”

The Celebrated Dog of Edwardian England (cont.)



I was given a great demonstration of flatcoat jumping skills when Sinte was sent to retrieve a pigeon that had fallen in a wood behind where we were standing. She cleared the 4ft fence with inches to spare, making a tricky jump look easy.

I enjoyed my day watching the flatcoats at work, and can certainly vouch for their hunting skills and gentle retrieving. Particularly impressive was a retrieve of a cock pheasant runner from the edge of a small lake. I hadn't marked the bird at all, but Sinte clearly had, and she performed the sort of retrieve that would make any picker-up proud.

Later, she made an equally impressive retrieve of another cock that had fallen on an island in the lake. As Neil pointed out, "She stopped to whistle nicely and responded accurately to my directional hand signals to go back". She did indeed.

The fact that they can excel in many different disciplines speaks highly of their overall ability. If you fancy a retriever with a difference, then the flatcoat is certainly a breed to consider, but do make sure that your puppy comes from healthy stock.

NEFCRC 2017 Field Training Sessions



Learn from and train with our own highly experienced trainers: Sally Bridges, Priscilla Johnson, Bunny Millikin, Becky Whitmeyer and skilled others. Our field training sessions are for **ALL** levels of handlers and dogs. With the exception of the two sessions at Becky Whitmeyer's, this year each training session that is marked TBA, means just that, "To Be Arranged." Depending on who signs up, I will ask for a leaders for that day. As noted in a previous eblast there will be a Novice Class that is being offered by Sally Bridges and Priscilla Johnson. Those dates are still being arranged.

Training sessions are for NEFCRC members only.

Day	Date	Location	Trainer	Notes
Saturday	April 29	West Thompson, CT	TBD	
Saturday	May 6	Becky Whitmeyer's	Becky	Bring own field equipment
Tuesday	June 6	Buck Shope's, Templeton, MA	TBD	
Saturday	June 10	Becky Whitmeyer's	Becky	Bring own field equipment
Tuesday	June 20	Buck Shope's, Templeton, MA	TBD	
Sat pm/Sun	July 1 & 2	Andy & Wendy's, Cabot, VT	TBD	Flyer day on Sat PM
Tuesday	July 18	Buck Shope's, Templeton, MA	TBD	
Tuesday	August 1	Buck Shope's, Templeton, MA	TBD	
Tuesday	Aug 15	Buck Shope's, Templeton, MA	TBD	

All sessions run from **8:30AM to 3:00PM**.



DIRECTIONS

Directions to West Thompson Lake in N. Grosvenordale, CT:

From I-395 S, take Exit 50 to Route 200 East toward West Thompson; at West Thompson center, turn right onto Route 193 South. Just past the Firehouse, turn right on Ravenelle Road. Entrance gate is immediately on right.

From I-395 N, use left lane for Exit 49 and continue towards a left onto CT-12 South towards Grosvenordale. Follow CT-12 S and then take right turn onto West Thompson Rd. Just past the Firehouse turn right onto to Ravenelle Rd. (Bull Hill Recreation Area.) **Close gate behind you. Gate must remain closed. Follow FCR signs to the training site. Please obey posted speed limit.**

From I- 84, take Exit 69 to Route 74 East towards Willington; turn left on Route 44 East; after Putnam, turn left onto Route 12 North; turn left on Route 193 South; Just past the Firehouse, turn right on Ravenelle Rd. Entrance gate is immediately on right. Close gate behind you. **Gate must remain closed. Follow FCR signs to training site. Please obey posted speed limit.**

Directions to Buck Shope's, 205 Pail Factory Road, Templeton, MA:

From Mass Route 2, take Exit 21 to Route 2A South; about 1/2 mile, turn left on Partridgeville Road. At stop sign, continue straight on Pail Factory Road; at split bear right; just before trailer home on right, turn right on gravel drive to training grounds (*Please drive slowly on Mr. Shope's road and grounds.*)

Directions to Becky's Whitmeyer's, 16 Raymond Road, Deerfield, NH:

From 93, take Exit 7 to Route 101 East; take Exit 3 onto Route. En route you will bear left three times to stay on Route 43. You will pass the Deerfield Fairgrounds on right. Shortly after that, you will bear left joining Route 107. After that juncture go 1.7 miles. Turn right into driveway with "Piano Lessons" sign, across from Deerfield Post Office, and proceed slowly down the driveway. Follow sign directions to parking.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Bring plenty of water for you and your dog.
2. Summer sessions can get very hot. Make sure you provide shade and fresh air for your dog, moving crate or car as shade shifts, if necessary. Have a good system to keep your dogs cool and comfortable while waiting their turn to run. Dogs must be securely crated, tied-out, or in a well-ventilated vehicle while not working or in line to work.
3. Air your dogs on lead quickly and quietly away from other dogs. Please consider bringing your dogs well exercised to the training sessions, as they will be better focused.
4. Please wear or bring a white shirt. A white shirt assists the dogs as they learn to mark the falls.
5. Please bring or wear waterproof boots to training sessions.
6. Please bring a whistle and duck call. Bumpers, guns and ammo will be available.
7. **Be ready to help with throwing and shooting (blanks). Willingness is paramount; instruction will be provided as necessary!**
8. Don't forget a lunch for yourself.
9. Please remember that line manners start at the tall end of the lead.
10. Please ask if you are unsure as to what to do.
11. Always make newcomers feel welcome.
12. We hope you will have a good time and enjoy the day – and by all means enjoy your dog!

Please be sure to **drive slowly and carefully while on training grounds**. These grounds and those who share them with us are to be respected at ALL times. Please adjust your speed so that you are well under posted speed limits. If no limits are posted, then please proceed slowly and be aware that others –including pedestrians, children and dogs -- may be in the area. Failure to comply will be met with expulsion; refunds shall not be granted.

Questions should be directed to:

Sally Young: sally.young@uvm.edu



NEFCRC FIELD TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send with check (payable to NEFCRC) to Sally S Young, 28 N Williams St, Burlington, VT 05401 (Before May 1, 2017) OR PO Box 1, Cabot, VT 05647 (After May 1, 2017). Or, bring it with you if you are registering on the day of training.

Please **circle** level training for each dog by call name

Dog #1 _____	Novice	WC/JH	WCX	SH	MH
Dog #2 _____	Novice	WC/JH	WCX	SH	MH
Dog #3 _____	Novice	WC/JH	WCX	SH	MH

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please **circle** dates you are attending. Daily registration fees are **\$15** for the first dog and **\$5** for each additional dog. Please pre-register at least one week in advance of each training date. Better yet, pre-register for multiple dates in advance. You may register on day of training if you must at the same daily rate. Please pre-register at least two weeks in advance if you want to purchase birds for flier days; birds are not required to train those days. Cost is **\$18** per bird; 2-bird maximum per dog; 4-bird maximum per handler.

Apr 29	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	
May 6	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	Bring 2 dead birds, if you have them.
Jun 6	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	Bring 2 dead birds if you have them.
Jun 10	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	
Jun 20	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	
Jul 1 & 2	# Dogs _____ <u># Bird _____</u>	\$ _____ <u>\$ _____</u>	Sat PM – live flyer Sun – dead birds
Jul 18	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	
Aug 1	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	
Aug 15	# Dogs _____	\$ _____	
TOTAL		\$ _____	

Updated 3/15/2017