



HVGRC NEWS

A newsletter for members of the Hudson Valley Golden Retriever Club

October – December 2017

President's Letter

The change in seasons began with the very sad losses of Paula Strazza and Lisa Weinberg. Both of these women were vibrant members of our club whose contributions over the years will never be forgotten. They made their mark on our club and the Golden Retriever community through their breeding programs, their knowledge, kindness and generosity. The club has made generous donations to the Golden Retriever Foundation in both their names.

I always admired Lisa for her commitment to the world of Field training and accomplishments with her husband, Art Breslau. Year after year their dogs achieved countless titles that were the result of their dedication and love. Just this year, two Windrush dogs, Remi and Luke were jointly awarded the Windrush Field Trophy - a trophy dedicated by Lisa and Art several years ago. For many years Lisa volunteered at our Health Clinic. There wasn't a dog whose eyes she couldn't "drop!"

Many years ago when I was just a fledging member, I was showing my Sailor to Paula in our Match Show. I didn't know Paula at all and was just beginning to learn how to show a dog. As she was going over Sailor, she kept making this hissing sound. "ssssss". I had no idea what it meant or what I should do. I figured it was some odd eccentricity. After she finished going over Sailor, she bent low over the dog and whispered in my ear "sssss... "S" - what's his name?!" Somehow she knew all my dog's names began with S and she wanted to know his name. That was my real introduction to Paula and her terrific sense of humor. She also gave Sailor Best in Match that day, so I knew she was a good judge!

We have news concerning our annual Health Clinic. Starting in 2018, our annual will be semi-annual as we launch two Health Clinics! The first will take place on March 4th, 2018 at the Norwalk Veterinary Hospital with Dr. Charles Duffy. This date replaces our customary late January date. The second clinic will be in October 2018 (date TBD) at the Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital in Newtown CT under the auspices of Dr. Rakesh Vali. We are finalizing the list of doctors at this time and will have an announcement shortly. We are also hoping to offer additional services such as chiropractic and PennHip. The second date gives us an opportunity to raise money for our club as well as make exams more convenient for members. The Newtown location will also have appeal to people in the northern reaches of our area.

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We are anticipating two exciting meetings to round out the calendar year. On November 11th, Alice Anderson Quinn will talk to us about service dogs vs therapy dogs vs emotional support dogs. Ann Marie Cioffi, Director of the Newtown Strong Therapy Dogs group, has organized this meeting for us. It promises to be very interesting and timely as more people are looking to do therapy work with their dogs. Details have been mailed to every member. Please plan to attend.

Plans are set for our Holiday Party on December 16th at the Dodgingtown Firehouse in Newtown CT. Finding a location that loves dogs as much as we do isn't easy, but the Firehouse has been completely remodeled and should provide a wonderful location for our Holiday Party. Details will follow, but please Save the Date! We had a lot of fun last year.

As always, the door to any member of the Board is always open and ready to hear your ideas, concerns and compliments!

Bob

HVGRC – CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

2017

Saturday November 11th **Business Meeting and Presentation of the Newtown Strong Therapy Dogs**
Dodgingtown Fire House
55 Dodgingtown Road (Route 302), Newtown, CT
Noon – 3:00 pm
This is a pot luck lunch.
RSVP to Bob Swanson overlookgoldens@gmail.com
by Wed. November 8th with what you will bring.

Saturday December 16th **Holiday Party**
Dodgingtown Firehouse
Newtown, CT (see above)
Time TBD

2018

Saturday March 4th **First All Breed Super Health Clinic**
Norwalk Veterinary Hospital and The Boarding House
726 Connecticut Ave
Norwalk, CT 06854

☆☆ **Our Stars** ☆☆



Alyson Fuge reports that Chelsea – Jacaranda's Dancing With The Stars – won her TD at the National.

☆☆ **Our Stars cont'd** ☆☆



The Hellman family has welcomed a new puppy into their home. She is: Goodtime's Sea Breeze at Sunjays, and we call her Breeze or Breezy. We are very grateful to her breeder Lisa Smith for this gorgeous puppy. We would like to offer our best wishes to Mike and Elaine Jones on their new puppy who is also from this litter.

Carol Russo's Beckett (MBVIS Picabo's You Are My Sunshine CCA CGCA THDX BN NW1 MBVISS) had a very successful outing at the Garden State Golden RC Specialty in September. He was awarded a JAM in the AM Specialty show by Judge Michael Faulkner over a large BOB entry and Best Veteran in Specialty and a JAM in the PM show by Judge Linda C. Flynn. He received some outstandingly beautiful rosettes from Garden State GRC for these wins.



Beckett has now won the lovely Garden State GRC CH. Tangeloft Odds on Pebwin CD WC VC Memorial Trophy three times and is eligible to rededicate or retire the trophy! This win marked his 14th Best Veteran in Specialty and 4th Judge's Award of Merit.

A few weeks later, it was off to the GRCA National Specialty in Maryland. What a thrill to see so many beautiful Golden retrievers from near and far. Beckett enjoyed sharing a hotel room with a lovely young Golden girl and took a fun turn with Carol in Veteran Sweeps, loving the applause.



Finally at week's end, Diana Mason presented him in the 10-12 Veteran class. Beckett was awarded 2nd placement in that very competitive group, making everyone's day! Carol would like to thank the judges who have recognized Beckett with so many honors and Diana Mason who makes him shine whenever they step out together. He continues to do Therapy visits every weekend sharing that Golden smile with everyone he meets.



From Lisa Smith

Gamble, Goodtime's High Roller, was the winner of the 9-12 puppy class at the National! He is a Casey son. He is also pointed and has multiple BISS. Always breeder/owner handled.

In Memoriam

Paula Strazza by Carol Russo

My best friend and mentor in all things Golden, Paula Strazza passed away after a long and difficult battle with lifelong health issues.

This is what I know:

I began to call Paula "The Phoenix" these past months. She laughed with a wry smile when I told her of her new moniker. Time and again she would rise from the ashes of her physical ailments with amazing strength and the determination of an unbroken will to live. She defied all medical odds. She was very brave.

Paula was a mother, a grandmother, a sister and a nurse. She was the President of Hudson Valley Golden Retriever Club. Paula was enamored of our beloved Golden Retrievers for over 40 years and her Sunflower Golden Retrievers produced champions in conformation, obedience and field as well as wonderful family pets. Paula's heart dog was Emmet (Ch Skylark Ready or Not JH WCX NA VC OS) but she loved each of her dogs for their unique personalities and talents.

As time passed Tang ("A Genius in Disguise") became her brilliant service dog, Luna her lively, cuddly companion. Our friendship began with Golden Retrievers but evolved over time to include our families and holidays. We'd share a good bottle of Italian wine with antipasto or some amazingly delicious Italian food she cooked up. She'd grab an old issue of the *GRNews* and regale me with stories of the past I'd missed. We were fellow pedigree geeks and her memory and knowledge were incredible.

Three years ago we committed to co-owning a pup together and Luna became the lasting living symbol of what a great friendship can be. Sharing her training and plotting her show career was fun and a lesson in teamwork and mutual respect. Before each show Paula would text or call to wish us "Boca lupo." Paula was not well enough to make these trips and it was a unique ritual she bestowed on her lucky friends. The best, however, was the car rides home from shows. Win or lose, the miles flew by as we talked on the phone. With Paula as my remote copilot I laughed as we celebrated or cursed the dog show gods.

This is what I believe:

I believe that Paula remained a Phoenix even as she left us. Flying so high that last time, the air so clear. It was finally easy to just breathe. No pain, only joy at the freedom of a deep breath. She just kept going. Who could blame her. I am sure that her beautiful band of Golden Retrievers waiting for her just over the Bridge was too much to resist.

The Phoenix is legendarily immortal. So too, Paula's goodness sails on forever in those whose lives she touched.

I will miss my friend's wit and kindness for the rest of my days. Peace.

Shalom.



From left to right: Paula with her wonderful Emmett, Fred Blair with Rosie and Nora Hayes with Finn, their son, all out field training on a wonderful day. Picture was probably taken in 2000.

Lynn Weinberg by *Lynn Halpern*

Lisa and I first met quite a while ago at one of our first WC/WCX events. I was in charge of food for the participants, and she came over and hesitantly asked if I had anything other than ham sandwiches, and preferably either a sliced meat or a cheese sandwich, but not both. She didn't make a fuss, and I didn't press her.

We continued seeing her at various field trial venues and obedience trials, and a longtime correspondence via email ensued between the two of us. She would send all manner of interesting and informative items to me, whether about politics, art, religion, dogs, philosophy, food, etc. She also was the HVGRC's source for forwarding all sorts of interesting dog-related items, including health, nutrition, breeding, training, etc. She was a down-to-earth person, who had an insatiable curiosity about the world. She loved her horses, and her dogs, and made no excuses to anyone who might look askance about the depth of her feelings for animals. She was very bright, but didn't flaunt her ability.

Lisa was an avid outdoors woman, and she actively promoted "Outdoors Woman" programs that taught skills to women that fathers usually passed on to their sons, rather than to their daughters. She was also a NYS DEC Hunter Safety and Bow instructor, and was made the NYS DEC Westchester Hunter Safety Coordinator. A State organization named her Safety Instructor of the Year – quite an accolade.

At her funeral on Sunday the rabbi who officiated told of her hunting caribou to celebrate a wedding anniversary, and her two trips elk hunting on horseback with Art. The rabbi told of Lisa's going to Europe to museums and other sites of interest with her mother-in-law, and the two were as mother and daughter. She was a horsewoman/hunter and dedicated dog trainer with a major emphasis on field training. Lisa had just gotten a significant title on Remi, earning the Master Hunter Upland Advanced title, and Remi was only the third AKC Golden to earn it which was quite an achievement, and she was looking forward to working with her youngest dog. Art tells me he has the responsibility to carry on her work.

Here is what Lisa herself sent about Remi's MHU title on September 1st:
The paperwork just came, Remi (Windrush's Remington Steele CDX RE JH MHUA CCA WC CGC) has her AKC Master Hunter Upland Advanced title.

The Advanced title requires (5) additional MHU qualifications with scores of 8.0 or higher after earning the MHU title. She earned the last two qualifications at Central Connecticut Spaniel Club's test back to back Saturday and Sunday (8/19, 8/20).

There are less than a handful of Golden's with this title.

I have earned about (30) MHU qualifications between Emma (Grandmother), Luke (son), Remi (daughter) and Solo (grandson) between last year and this year.

A special THANK YOU to Pat Perry of Hedgerow Kennel and Hunt Club in Royalston Mass for all his help bringing me and all the dogs along from a novice at the upland test game to this level in three years.

A thank you also to all the clubs for their hospitality and for accepting retrievers at their tests.

To name but a few: Patriot Spaniel Club, Maine Spaniel Field Trial Club, Central Connecticut Spaniel Club, American Spaniel Club, Susquehanna Valley ESSC, Southern Tier Field Trial Association, English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Maryland Sporting Dog Association.

Lisa Weinberg



Remi

A Special Our Stars



From **Art Breslau:**

“Solo” Windrush's Man from U.N.C.L.E earned the last two required qualifying Master Upland scores to earn his Master Hunter Upland Advanced title at this past weekend's ECSCA Hunt Test in Chester Springs PA. This means he is probably the 4th AKC Golden earning the title. His mother Remi earned the title less than two months ago.

Lisa had put so much time and effort into running these tests and earning the titles. Even though her funeral was the weekend before I owed it to her to carry on. I have never run the dogs, I only did the driving and shooting during training and watched from afar.

It was a triple double weekend. Saturday and Sunday, Solo and Remi both passed Master and earned qualifying scores towards the Advanced title.

She would have been so proud of them for how they performed. I received many compliments on how the dogs worked and remembrances of Lisa.

The best compliment was from one of the gunners who shot at tests she ran in and who's wife has judged her a number of times. That the AKC should do a video of Solo, showing how Golden's should work the field quartering and flushing birds. He sat like a statue on the flushes looking like a James Spencer painting with just his head and shoulders peaking out from the brush.

Sunday he out did himself on the “Hunt Dead” almost giving me a heart attack. I had lined him up, sent him, he went about 5 yards and suddenly made a turn veering off into the woods. He had scented a bird, hunted for it, flushed a chukar, sat, waited to be given a command, went back to the original task and retrieved the bird he was sent for.

Topping it off Sunday there were only (2) Master qualifiers in our division. Solo and Remi.

Lisa always wore that hat while working the dogs, I brought it with me and kept it on the dash so she could watch.



DEADLINES FOR NEXT ISSUE

January 1st - Deadline for News

January 15th- Mailing Date

HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS

All news must be submitted in legible, written form received by the editor before the deadline. Please submit news to Nora Hayes norahayes3@aol.com.

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For more information go to our website:
hvgrc.org

BITS AND PIECES

PUPPY REFERRALS

When listing your puppies with **Binnie Weissleder** (802) 375-9527 or dogzrus1@comcast.net please observe the following:
Call her within a week of the litter's due date to confirm that the litter actually has been whelped and to let her know how many puppies are available.

Don't forget to let her know when all the puppies have been sold. Please also let Binnie know if you have any **older dogs** available.

PLEASE NOTE! HVGRC Puppy Referral Guidelines, in effect since August 1, 1998, require that a signed release form for each litter be completed and returned to Binnie and Mike. If you need a copy of this form, call Binnie.

Breeders Please Note:

HVGRC subscribes to the same **Code of Ethics** as GRCA . Members are advised to keep informed of any changes now being considered.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENTS

Litter Listings or Items for Sale

There is **no charge** for these kinds of advertisements.

The following requirements still apply:

In conformity with HVGRC Puppy Referral Guidelines, ads for puppies must be accompanied by copies of parents' hip, elbow, eye and cardiac clearances.

NOTICE re PUPPY ADVERTISEMENTS:

The Hudson Valley Golden Retriever Club makes no warranties or guarantees as to quality, health or any other matters with respect to either the dogs listed herein or the puppies which have or may be produced as a result of the breedings listed herein. The HVGRC recommends that a fully executed, written purchase agreement setting forth all the terms of purchase be obtained before possession of a puppy is transferred to the purchaser(s).

HVGRC WEBSITE

Visit the HVGRC Website frequently for the latest information: hvgrc.org. **Please note:** Anyone wishing to post news or notice on the website, should send it to our President, Bob Swanson, who will then transmit it to our webmaster.

HVGRC E-MAIL

Use this address whenever you need to communicate with the full membership:
hvgrc@yahoogroups.com

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In order to qualify for membership in HVGRC you must first attend two club functions. For application form and further details, contact HVGRC President, **Bob Swanson**, at (H)860/354-9416. His personal e-mail is overlookgoldens@gmail.com or through the club membership@hvgrc.org.

SPECIAL TROPHIES

Attention: potential donors! Anyone who wishes to donate a Special Trophy for our Annual Specialty Show (in addition to the regular club trophies) needs to plan ahead. It is necessary to submit a descriptive letter to the Board of Directors for their approval by April of the previous year. For example, for our June 2018 Show, such a letter must reach the Board by April 2017. Prizes may be offered "in honor of", "in memory of" etc. Be sure to include a full description of the trophy itself. If something inspires you, write to the Board.

NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

Following GRCA guidelines, the HVGRC Board has adopted the following policy for articles submitted by individuals:

"Signed or featured articles express the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of HVGRC. The responsibility for factual accuracy and documentation belongs solely to the author of the article."

From the Board of Directors:

Attention all chairmen: It is a club policy that all published materials including but not limited to flyers, premium lists, and GR News columns be submitted to the Board of Directors for review prior to being released.

New members please note:

Please refer to the HVGRC web site for [Guidelines and Requirements for Annual Awards](#). This material is no longer included in the new member packet.



Why does watching a dog be a dog fill one with happiness?