

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 5

Issue Number 2

Date: February 2008

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, February 14th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: The Museum of the Dog



Celebrate the day by bringing your favorite 4-legged companion to our meeting!

We love having well-behaved, healthy Golden Retrievers (up-to-date on shots, please) attend our meetings. However, please keep them leashed and at your side while we conduct the business portion of our meeting. Dogs are welcome to romp and socialize both before and after the meeting.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10th :

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Vice-President Tim Miget. Chris R. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the December meeting. Beth J. seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were no corrections to the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Tim informed the members that President Pat Moran had surgery for a ruptured disc and will be out of commission for awhile. However, Pat is back at home now and happy to be surrounded by her dogs.

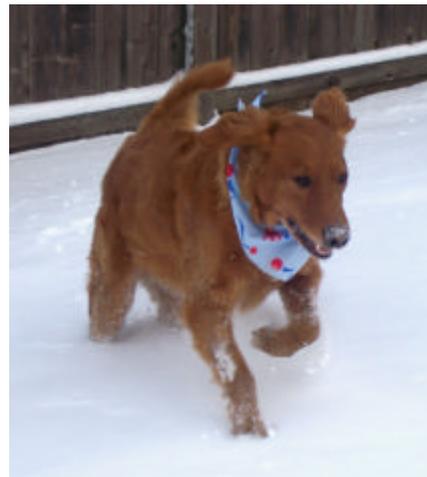
TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beth J. reported that our account balance at the beginning of December was **\$7,687.96**. Income was **\$1,350.00**. Expenses were **\$1,425.59**, leaving an ending balance of **\$7612.37**. The balance in the Flash Fund at the end of 2007 was **\$6,547.03**.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Kristen C. reported we had 3 membership inquiries in December, but no new members. There were two visitors attending the meeting: Michelle Huelsman and Cheryl Klousia, who recently adopted a dog from GGRR. Welcome to both of them!

Kristen reminded members that dues for 2008 need to be paid this month. Please update your membership form and give your payment of \$10.00 to Kristen, **not** to Beth.



Stone Carbone enjoys a winter's romp through the snow. That sure looks like a smile on his face!

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Two dogs were surrendered to GGRR during the past month:

- 07-040: Sasha**, a male believed to be approximately 12 months old found abandoned in December's ice storm in Washington, MO.
- 07-041: Sunny**, a male also 12 months of age who is believed to be a littermate of Sasha's. The two dogs were huddled together in a ditch along the side of the road. The good Samaritan who rescued them reported they were covered with ice. Both dogs were being fostered by Pat M. until her recent surgery. They are currently being kenneled at Under One Woof.

GGRR took in 41 dogs during 2007. Seven of those dogs are still in our possession being evaluated, trained, or recuperating from health problems.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The following dog was placed in his forever home during the month of December:

07-038 Tucker

GGRR prefers to place dogs in their forever homes when families have time to help their dog become acclimated to its new environment. December tends to be a rather hectic month for many families. We also don't want our dogs being given as Christmas presents. However, it will be business as usual come January, as we currently have a waiting list of families who have been approved as adoptive homes.



Megan T. romps in the Wisconsin snow with her buddy Jack, where her family traveled to visit relatives during the holidays. It was a great way to pass the time while waiting for St. Louis to get its share of the snow!

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. reported that she completed and mailed GGRR's application to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Applicants will be notified as soon as the parade committee makes its decision. If you want a green St. Pat's GGRR sweatshirt to wear in the parade, talk with Chris R. to order one. The parade will be held downtown on Saturday, March 15th at noon.

The spring Golden Specialty dog show will be held the first weekend in April at the Kennedy Recreation Center in South County. GGRR will provide lunch for the participants on both Saturday and Sunday. Chris is interested in finding someone to lighten her load and learn how to coordinate this event. If you would be willing to shop for the necessary food items and paper goods, coordinate volunteers who will be

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT: (cont.)

bringing side dishes, and take charge of setting up the buffet, please talk with Chris. She has taken responsibility for these luncheons for a number of years now. Spring is a very busy time for the Events Coordinator, so some fresh faces would be greatly appreciated! GGRR will also set up a booth at this event and sell dog-related merchandise.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. was unable to attend the meeting, but he supplied the following website numbers for the newsletter:

October:

Hits: 58,703
Visits: 7,519
Unique Visitors: 1,295
Page Views: 13,665

9.75% of the page views came from Missouri and Illinois. Overall, the number of page views is higher than the number of visitors, which means that on average, visitors visited 1.8 pages with an average visit length of 40.87 seconds.

November:

Hits: 58,540
Visits: 7,666
Unique Visitors: 2,626
Page Views: 13,993

23.1% of the page views came from Missouri and Illinois, with an average visit length of 37.6 seconds.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: (cont.)

December:

Hits: 51,888
Visits: 6,627
Unique Visitors: 1,074
Page Views: 11,972

5.1% of the page views were from Missouri and Illinois, with an average visit length of 43.0 seconds.

OLD BUSINESS:

Several of our members who foster dogs are unable to accept dogs at the present time. We are receiving a lot of calls on the surrender lines these days. Please consider opening your home and giving one of our Golden Retrievers a chance to find a loving forever home. Training and support will be provided if you have never fostered a dog before.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beth J. asked if GGRR should hold the Reunion Picnic again this year, or go to an every other year format. The membership decided we would hold the 2008 picnic, as long as there is a committee of volunteers to share the workload. If you would like to participate on the picnic committee, look for the announcements of upcoming meetings. Eileen C. will call and see what openings are available for reserving a shelter in Love Park.

Last year, there were about 12 people who volunteered for the picnic committee. Our planning meetings were generally held at

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

St. Louis Bread Co. on Manchester Road after work or on a Sunday. Most of the volunteers enjoyed this experience, and we all had fun getting to know each other better. The committee should have an even easier job this year since Barb B. has a database containing the names and addresses of the families who were invited last year. Pat M. has the names and addresses of the businesses who made donations last year. If you are looking for a way to get more actively involved with GGRR, please consider signing up for the picnic committee.

Tim M. was contacted by Sanford Brown Vet Tech. program about helping rescue groups with low cost vaccinations, spays, neuters, and other procedures that are included in the Vet Tech. training curriculum. Tim is in the process of obtaining additional information from Sanford Brown.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Heather H. It was seconded by Andrew C. A vote was taken and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Ralph, companion to Nona Bauer, loved to collapse in piles of leaves during the fall. Nona reports that Ralph's coat is now soft and wavy, and more Golden than Chow. Ralph is living proof that proper veterinary care, a healthy diet, and plenty of love and attention can transform any dog into a handsome guy or gal!

DONATIONS:

Donations to GGRR were received from the following individuals and groups:

Westinn's Everything Under One Woof--
the proceeds collected from their canine Halloween party. (11/13/2007)

Rich and Carol Taylor--
in memory of **Tyler Taylor** (12/26/2007)

Rich and Carol Taylor--
in memory of **Jackson Stemmler**
(12/26/07)

Chris Wollenberg—
in honor of my wonderful sister, **Pamela Wollenberg** (12/26/2007)

Pamela Wollenberg—
In honor of **Nikon's three 1st place titles**
In U.D. (12/30/2007)

The Shepherd Foundation and Susan Shepherd Ittner--
to continue all the good work you do and to help offset kennel fees when you are short of foster homes

WAGS AND BRAGS:

Bob Barker Blacksher has enrolled in Sharon West's GROWL class for reactive and/or aggressive dogs. Bob survived the trip to class in an unfamiliar car, being separated from his canine sibling Max, and being fitted with a halti collar. Class was scary, but Bob plans to show up next week for more of the same. One of these months, you may get to see a new, confident Bob strutting his stuff at a GGRR public event!

HEALING THOUGHTS:

Please keep **Kathy and Jay Dierkes** in your thoughts and prayers. Their faithful Golden companion, **Katie**, was recently diagnosed with terminal brain cancer at the age of 9 years. Kathy and Jay plan to shower Katie with plenty of love and attention for as long as she is with them.



RAINBOW BRIDGE:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our families who lost a beloved Golden companion recently:

Jackson, beloved companion to **Mike and Linda Stemmler**, went to the Bridge in December 2007.

Dusty, beloved companion to **Penny and Gary McNiel** and **Christopher and Justin McNiel**, went to the Bridge in February 2008,



Dusty McNiel in the spring of 2007

RAINBOW BRIDGE: (cont.)

Dustiano DaPoochie McNiel (aka Dusty) crossed Rainbow Bridge on February 8, 2008. After 15.5 years of life with our family, Gary, the boys, and I made the difficult decision to stop being selfish and let Dusty go. Dusty had been in increasing pain over the last few months, and lately he hadn't been able to enjoy the things in life that had always brought him pleasure.

We are sad because we have lost an integral part of our family. Dusty has been with us through **EVERYTHING** in the last 15 years, and we have thoroughly enjoyed having him. Christopher and Justin have never known a day without him. Dusty even went to the hospitals where the boys were born to meet them.

We are all happy because Dusty is no longer in pain. He has crossed Rainbow Bridge and can play with the friends and foster siblings who preceded him there. The boys and I picture Dusty running through a field of flowers, chasing a tennis ball that my Grandpa has just thrown, and neither one is in pain!

We thank God for all of our years with our wonderful one-of-a-kind Dustiano DaPoochie.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Please send items of interest, *photos of your pups, brags*, etc. to:

blacksher@charter.net

Please submit items by the last day of the month to include them in the newsletter for the following month.



Reggie Tennesen, obviously still young at heart, enjoys being outside during a Wisconsin snowfall!

Today We Rescued Your Dog

by Pat Colsher

Today we rescued your dog. We don't know where you got him from—maybe you saw him in a pet store window or maybe one of your neighbors bred a few litters a year just to make some vacation money or because they loved their dogs so much that of course they wanted to have puppies. We don't know much about how you cared for him, either, although our vet thought that for such a young dog, his teeth were in pretty bad shape.

The way we heard the story, you moved out of state and didn't want to take him with you. You left him at your grandparents. Maybe you thought a lively, handsome dog was just the thing for them, and under better circumstances it might have been. Maybe they had been cleaning up your messes for your entire life and an unwanted dog was just another mess to clean up.

Did you know they were going to keep him outside? At least it was a pretty mild winter. There were no heavy snows, not much heavy winter rain, and only a few

days of bitter cold. But for all of those weeks, he had no companionship, no care, no love.

For some reason, your grandparents took him to the shelter. Maybe a neighbor complained about him or maybe their own health gave out, or maybe they just got tired of him. You know the local shelter is a kill shelter, don't you? You know that their own statistics indicate that about half of the dogs that enter are killed, don't you?

Maybe your grandparents thought he would be adopted quickly. He is a purebred, after all. No one was interested in him, though, maybe since he's an adult dog and not a cute little puppy. No one contacted the purebred rescue group either. They probably would have placed him quickly, since he really is a great boy.

The shelter is a clean place and they take good care of the dogs. They get good food and they're bathed and brushed. It's still a shelter, though and is noisy and chaotic and frightening. He spent two months there in that confusion, away from everyone and everything he had known.

One day, we saw him on the shelter website. We called and asked about him. The shelter workers were so happy to hear from us and were delighted to agree to bring him to a local pet store where they do adoptions. Do you want to know why they were so accommodating? He was scheduled to be killed that afternoon. He didn't know that, but the shelter workers certainly did. It hurt them and he felt that, so he knew something was wrong.

All of a sudden, though, the shelter workers were happy and excited and so was he. They bathed him and brushed his coat. We think they probably told him this was it—his big chance, or maybe he just

Today We Rescued Your Dog (cont.)

knew it somehow. When we met him, we all fell in love.

He had to go the vet to be neutered, of course, but then he came home. He has his very own 13 year-old boy. You know, it's almost like watching one of those old Lassie movies, seeing how well they've bonded. He's got good food and his own toys. He's taken on walks three times a day, is regularly groomed and is taken to the vet for needed care. We'll be with him always, even if we have to make that last, difficult decision, because, you see, he is our dog and we are his family.

He has a good heart you know, but then he is a dog, so that's to be expected. He's probably forgiven you, and with a dog's grace, doesn't even remember you dumped him. He'd probably even be willing to greet you at the Rainbow Bridge. But you know what? He'll greet us and go with us at the Bridge, and then he'll be with us forever, because he's our dog and we're his family.



Gateway Golden Retriever Rescue offers its heartfelt thanks to all of our adoptive families who have given one of our rescued Goldens a second chance at life in a loving home. Give your dog an extra hug tonight!

TO ADOPT OR SURRENDER A DOG, CALL THE GRRR PHONE LINES:

314-995-5477

Officers:

President: Pat Moran
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Vice-President: Tim Miget
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