

GGRR NEWSLETTER

Volume Number 4

Issue Number 6

Date: June 2007

* * * Meeting Notice * * *

Date: Thursday, June 14th
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Place: The Museum of the Dog

We love having Golden retrievers 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 May 10th:

President Pat Moran called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Kathy D. moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the April meeting. Tim M. seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Pat had no report this month.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our account balance at the beginning of the month was \$5,677.36. Income was \$1,901.99. Expenses were \$1093.13, leaving an ending balance of \$6,486.22. The current balance in the Flash Fund is \$5,387.51. Our income from the Reunion Picnic was approximately \$1150, while expenses were under \$400. The items raffled at the picnic brought in \$624.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

There were 5 membership inquiries during the past month, but there were no new members who joined GGRR. We welcomed 2 visitors at our meeting: Tracie Bayer and Laura Beck.

INTAKE COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

No new dogs were surrendered to GGRR this month.

ADOPTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The following dogs were placed in their forever homes during the past month:

06-031: Wyatt

07-010: Portner

06-013R: Jack

07-008: Colby



Shane S. and Kathy D. peddle our wares at the 2007 GGRR garage sale. There was a great turnout, and the rain held off until after everything was cleaned up.

EVENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Chris R. reported details of some of our upcoming events.

Meet the Golden will take place Sunday, May 20th from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Dog Museum. The Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis will participate with GGRR, so not every one who volunteered to work will be needed. Some of the advance publicity for this event stated that our own Chris R. would be the featured speaker. Chris said this information was incorrect. The event is intended to be an informal opportunity for the public to meet some Golden Retrievers and to get answers to any questions individuals may have about the breed. Chris will **not** be giving a presentation, even though we know she would have done a wonderful job!

GGRR is scheduled to hold adoption events at the Lucky Dog in Webster Groves monthly throughout the summer. The dates and people scheduled to work are:

May 19th: Barb B.

June 16th: Jim D.

July 21st: Kathy D.

August 2nd: Heather H.

The hours are generally from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., although the store is very flexible if workers need to alter these times.

The GGRR Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 2nd from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Kathy Dierkes' house. Please make arrangements with Kathy to drop off any items you plan to donate. Members should make sure that items are priced before being taken to Kathy.

The Samoyed Club has asked if we would like to organize the Rescue Parade at the Canine Olympics again this year. The Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis is not planning to participate. This event generally takes place in October at Purina Farms. We will stipulate that we need to get reimbursed for our expenses.

The Dog Days of Summer will be held at Frontier Park in St. Charles on Saturday, June 16th. GGRR will have a booth there so we can increase our exposure with the public.

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Paul S. reported our website numbers for the past month. There were:

95,128	hits
16,824	page views
9,922	visitors
3,181	unique visitors

Approximately 30% of the traffic was from Missouri.

OLD BUSINESS:

None



A curious canine seems baffled by a strange-looking duck at the 2007 Reunion Picnic.

NEW BUSINESS:

We still need to fill the positions of Intake Coordinator and Events Coordinator. Mike S. and Chris R. have held these positions for a number of years and would like someone new to assume these responsibilities. It is even possible to share the responsibilities of these positions with a second person. Please consider volunteering for one of these coordinator positions. Plenty of help and on-the-job training will be provided!

Paul S. has donated approximately 300 hours of his time to update our website. He discussed many of the new features that will allow members to access needed information. The messages button has been replaced with a Member Management box. The user name is no longer case sensitive. Your password remains case sensitive. There are two links after a member logs on. The Messages option takes you to the message board just as it did before. The other link is My Account. When you click on My Account, there are several options. If you select Edit Registration, you are able to change your user name, password, phone number, address, and post additional data. Make sure to click on Update Registration whenever you add or change any information. The membership roster will automatically be updated with the changes you make. The Membership Coordinator can use the Add New Member button to enter the name, address, and phone number as people join our organization. A random password will automatically be generated, and the new member will receive an email with their password. The new member should then access the account and update his/her registration with



Pat M., Mike N., Barney C., Linda S., Kay C., and Carrie T. gather for some serious dog talk at this year's reunion picnic.

the information requested. Once this is done, the new member is automatically added to the membership roster. The Events Coordinator will be able to add/modify/and remove events from the calendar. The Adoption Coordinator can access online applications that have been submitted. Two people, Rich T. and Shane S., are handling online applications from people who wish to adopt dogs. These applications are automatically sorted and forwarded so that Shane receives one and then Rich receives the following one.

It was asked why individuals sometimes have difficulty logging on to view the message board. Paul said that many people set their browser so it will not accept cookies, which usually is the cause of the problem. You must make some changes to your computer settings so cookies can be received. He explained that cookies allow one page to recognize what has occurred on another page. These cookies will vanish when you close your web browser. Because these cookies vanish, the computer cannot remember your user name and password. You will need to log in each time you want to access the members only section of our website.

NEW BUSINESS: (cont.)

Chris R. asked if she will be able to send emails to specific individuals with details of events for which they have volunteered instead of a mass email which everyone receives. Paul said he would need to write a program which will allow that to happen.

Paul will leave a configurator password with someone in the group so this person will be able to add or delete members. The webmaster will not be able to make these changes. Paul felt it was important that responsibilities for website maintenance be divided between two individuals in case he were to leave the area or no longer be active with GRR. Feel free to get in touch with Paul if you have any questions or problems using the new features on our website. We are certainly fortunate to have Paul's expertise, as he constantly strives to improve our website. We appreciate all of the time you have devoted to these upgrades, Paul, and also your patience with those of us who aren't very computer literate.



One of the Golden Retrievers at the reunion picnic decides to cool off while contemplating what to do about that duck in his pool.

A motion was made by Barney C. and seconded by Kathy D. to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

DONATIONS:

Donations to GRR were received from the following people:

Tom and Fran Hynes

Karen Kearney

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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

Barb Blacksher
26 Cynthiana Ct.
Florissant, MO 63031

Put your furkids in an upcoming newsletter!

You can also email items to:

[**blacksher@charter.net**](mailto:blacksher@charter.net)

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

F.Y.I.: Attendance at our GRR meetings has remained fairly consistent so far in 2007. Monthly attendance figures are:

January: 27 people

February: 29 people
(*Rob Schenberg's presentation*)

March: 25 people

April: 28 people
(*Robert Orta's presentation*)

May: 21 people

F.Y.I. (cont.)

Thanks to everyone for making the effort to attend our meetings after a hard day at work! Numbers tend to dwindle during the summer months due to vacations and participation on athletic teams by both members and their children. Nevertheless, we still manage to get our business accomplished. With many dog events taking place on weekends during the summer months, we always attract enough volunteers to staff the GGRR booth at these events.

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XYLITOL POISONING IN DOGS

Kathy D. recommended that members educate themselves about the hazards of Xylitol poisoning in dogs by going to the following website:

<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/xylitol.asp>

You can also Google Xylitol to obtain additional information on this topic.

Xylitol is an artificial sweetener used in products such as sugar-free chewing gum, candy, and baked goods. When pets ingest products containing this sweetener, it can cause serious and sometimes life-threatening problems. The Animal Poison Control Center of the ASPCA reported more than 170 cases of Xylitol poisoning in 2005. The number of poisonings has continued to increase each year as the availability of products containing this sweetener has grown. Just 3 grams of Xylitol, which is roughly equivalent to 8-10 pieces of sugar-free chewing gum, can kill a 65-pound dog. Smaller dogs may die after ingesting as few as 2 sticks of gum.

Symptoms of Xylitol poisoning can develop within 30 minutes. A pet who ingests Xylitol will suffer from a rapid, dangerous drop in its blood sugar. You may observe weakness, lethargy, loss of coordination, collapse, and seizures. Liver damage or liver failure can occur within 24 hours. Immediate veterinary treatment is needed for a dog to survive. Your pet will most likely need to be hospitalized for treatment and observation. Vomiting is usually induced and IV fluids containing glucose are used to raise the animal's blood sugar.

To keep your dog safe from the dangers of Xylitol, make sure that purses containing gum, breath mints, and candy are kept out of reach. Keep baked goods containing Xylitol off kitchen counters and tables. Chewable vitamins, another source of Xylitol, should be stored in cabinets that cannot be accessed by dogs in search of something tasty to eat.



Using the magic of Adobe Photoshop, Laura Blacksher created a composite picture of all her Golden siblings over the past 20 years. Pictured from left to right are Max, Nala, Simba, puppy Bob Barker, and Goldie. With the exception of Goldie, all of the dogs were adopted from GGRR.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

Did you know there actually is a Rainbow Bridge? Korisa and Andrew Carbone took the photos shown below while on a vacation. The Rainbow Bridge connects downtown Niagara Falls, Canada to Niagara Falls, New York. It was the longest hingeless arch bridge at the time it was built. There is large park that runs the length of the Niagara River on the Canadian side that would be perfect for all the dogs to play in as they await their humans—just as the poem says. They say the bridge was named because of the rainbow that is often present from all the mist from the falls, but we know what Rainbow Bridge really means! Thanks, Andrew and Korisa, for the information and the photos!



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

314-995-5477

Officers:

President: Pat Moran

P4021m@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Tim Miget

TimMiget@hotmail.com

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blacksher@charter.net

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Member Representative: Chris Rogers

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Coordinators:

Intake Coordinator: Mike Stemmler

kreator@aol.com

Adoption Coordinator: Carrie Tennesen

carrie2tenn@aol.com

Membership Coordinator: Barb Blacksher

blacksher@charter.net

Events Coordinator: Chris Rogers

chrissyrogers@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster: Paul Swarthout

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Mentors:

Intake Phone Lines: Mike Stemmler

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Adoption Phone Lines: Barb Blacksher

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Home Visits: Eileen Combs

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Dog Visits: Shane Stark

tenille01@earthlink.net

Foster Homes: Barb Blacksher

blacksher@charter.net