



# The Potomac Valley News

## January – February 2015

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### **A Message from the President**

This is the last newsletter for which I will be writing a column. It has been an interesting couple of years. I now hope to concentrate my attention on training my dogs. I took over as the previous president had to resign. I have worked with many members that I did not know well before. Working as an officer is a good way to acquaint yourself with other members.

This year Janet Kaplan revamped the club's website, adding a members-only section containing the club membership directory and a number of other club documents. In addition, much of the content of the website was reviewed and updated.

Attendance for the club's meetings has remained steady this year. Veterans Day is a big draw every year. The event drawing the biggest attendance the last two years has been dock diving. If you haven't tried it, please plan to join us in 2015.

The club voted to submit a bid to host the 2017 GRCA National. This will be a huge undertaking. The enormity of the event was just reinforced for the many club members attending the 2014 National in Asheville, NC. PVGRC had one of the largest groups of club members in attendance.

I am looking forward to our January club meeting, where we will meet and greet many of our newest members who have joined in the last two years. Moving into 2015 we need to welcome new members and hopefully recruit some new volunteers for our many club functions and activities. Everyone is so busy that I think it takes twice as many volunteers as you'd think to help put together a function. One person alone is not able to devote as much time as is needed to chair an event.

The club supported GRREAT this year thru the silent auction and supported a run. A donation was made to the Golden Retriever Foundation also.

Happy New Year!

## **2017 GRCA National Specialty!**

It's true! Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club will be sponsoring the 2017 National Specialty. After a thorough search for a suitable location, the criteria for which was laid out in the proposal submitted to the GRCA and shared with all members of PVGRC, the final decision was made to hold the Specialty in Salisbury, MD, on the beautiful Eastern Shore.

Conformation, Obedience, Rally, meetings, and educational seminars will be held in the Civic Center. Agility will be held in the Crown Center, only minutes away. And all the Field events – Field trial, Hunt tests, WC and WCX tests – will be held at fields within an hour of the Civic Center, as will Tracking tests.

The Field events will begin on Friday, September 22 and the Best of Breed will conclude on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Hotel rooms have been blocked but are not yet open for reservations; we will notify you the minute that happens, so you can start making your plans.

Those of you who have already volunteered for some aspect of the 2017 National will be contacted as soon as the timeline and budget are complete. Anyone who has not yet expressed interest in helping, please contact one of the Steering Committee members, who will be happy to talk with you about the myriad of jobs, large and small, that need done. If you've got a skill, we've got a job for you. And if you think you haven't, this is a perfect way to gain some experience and have a good time learning.

We will be communicating regularly in a variety of ways: a website and Facebook page will be going up as soon as possible and new information added regularly. But the primary way we will communicate with you, our membership, is through the Yahoo listservs. There are two – one primarily for Club announcements and one which facilitates two-way communication. Both these venues will be utilized to keep you up to date and answer any questions you may have. So if you haven't joined either, please do so now. Go to Yahoo groups and sign up (search for PVGRC) or contact Laurie Collins (the Listserv coordinator) for directions.

And now for the very first Official Communication: We need a Theme. Previous themes have been Shades of Gold, On Golden Pond, The Past is Prologue, for example. Think about the Eastern Shore – home to tons of myriad ducks and stellar retrievers, small john boats and big sail boats, beaches and ponies, marshes and meadows, old Colonial villages and boardwalks, hunting preserves and waterfowl habitat, crabs and oysters. Think about it and give us your ideas. First prize will get one of the first 2017 pins minted.

We're busy with the planning stages now, so let us know where you'd like to help – 2017 is closer than you think! Join in the fun – help make this the Best National Specialty ever (or at least as good as the last PVGRC-sponsored one)! We're looking forward to hearing from you.

The Steering Committee:

Suzanne Miller, Co-chair ([placidia@comcast.net](mailto:placidia@comcast.net))

Tricia Dunseith, Co-chair ([saltairegold@verizon.net](mailto:saltairegold@verizon.net))

Megan Baker ([megan@weebegoldens.com](mailto:megan@weebegoldens.com))

John Cotter ([ashlandgr@aol.com](mailto:ashlandgr@aol.com))

Beth Sokohl ([bethsokohl@comcast.net](mailto:bethsokohl@comcast.net))

Cathy Story ([cathy@sunkota.com](mailto:cathy@sunkota.com))

Ann Strathern ([happydaugh@juno.com](mailto:happydaugh@juno.com))



Have You Forgotten To Mark Your Calendar?????

It's the ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET!!!

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

That's Amore

15201 Shady Grove Road

Rockville, MD

1:30 to 5:00

Lunch, Door Prizes, Awards, Rosettes, and a Great Slide Show

What More Can You Ask For????

**Tickets are \$20 per person!**

**Mail your requests for reservations with your check payable to PVGRC to:**

**Beth Sokohl**

**3500 State Route 97**

**Glenwood, MD 21738**

**Questions: Contact Beth Sokohl at 301-641-8606 or [bethsokohl@comcast.net](mailto:bethsokohl@comcast.net)**

**[Please RSVP by March 14, 2015](#)**

Attention Shutterbugs!!!

Fellow club member Sheri McAlevey is looking forward to putting another fun Slide Show together for the Annual Awards Banquet.

Please help her by sharing your photos. Send your pics of Golden in events, having fun, being funny ....Golden grown ups, Golden Oldies, and Golden puppies. We love to see them all!

Photos can be sent to Sheri McAlevey, 2935 New Rover Road, West Friendship, MD. 21794 or emailed to her at [Goldentracker@verizon.net](mailto:Goldentracker@verizon.net) by February 20, 2015. For digital images, please send in JPEG format . Sheri has a scanner, so "real" photos are fine, too. Pictures on a CD or DVD will also work. If you mail photos, be sure you have your name on the back of each.

Thanks so much for your help.

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**2015 SPECIALTY CATALOG MEMORIAL PAGE**

Each year our Spring Specialty catalog memorializes our members' dogs who have sadly passed away during the year (since the last Specialty catalog). If you had a dog that you would like us to remember in the catalog, please let Addie Stocks know by Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. We would like the dog's registered name, call name, date of birth and death, and owner's name(s). Please email Addie at [addiestocks@yahoo.com](mailto:addiestocks@yahoo.com) or call her at 410-489-2343.

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**CONFORMATION STEWARDS FOR 2015 SPECIALTY**

Addie Stocks, Chief Conformation Steward at our Spring Specialty on Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11, needs volunteers to serve as conformation stewards. Since it is a 2-day event, you may sign up for either day or both. You may sign up for sweeps or for regular classes or a portion thereof. You may not serve as a conformation steward if you or someone else is showing your Golden to the conformation judge. Please email Addie at [addiestocks@yahoo.com](mailto:addiestocks@yahoo.com) or call her at 410-489-2343. Thanks for volunteering. Your help will be much appreciated.



**Membership meeting, September 21, 2014**

Home of Sandy Selander, Great Falls, Virginia

Sharon Ackerson brought the meeting to order. Sharon and the members in attendance thanked Sandy Selander for chairing and hosting the day's breed/obedience match. Members voted to forego the reading of the last meeting's minutes, as well as the Treasurer's Report.

***President's report:***

Sharon reported that the membership has voted for the club to pursue and submit a bid to the GRCA to host the 2017 National Specialty. The committee charged with this task has been provided the corresponding date calendar. Regarding selection of the location, members in attendance suggested that geographical ease, surrounding infrastructure, and facility costs versus potential revenue generation be important considerations in the decision-making process.

Sharon reported the club's own specialty will move indoors to the "agility" facility in Westminster, Maryland next year; it will be held on the second Friday and Saturday of April, 2015. Sandy Selander will chair this event.

***Membership report:***

New members voted In: Krista Speltz, Alexandria, Virginia; Dorothy and George Elford, Potomac, Maryland

Read: Beth Russell and Bob Blunt, Alexandria, Virginia

***Old Business:***

Sharon reported that the club's dock diving event in August was a huge success.

Volunteers are needed for the club's Fall agility trials in Frederick, Maryland, on October 24-25-26, 2014.

The club's December holiday party will be held on December 13, 2014, at the Holiday Inn in College Park, Maryland.

The meeting was adjourned.

***Meeting attendees:***

Leslie Peszczyński, Jeff and Sharon Ackerson, Cathy Story, Carol Nansel, Nancy Kulig, Penny Geddes, Joan Donohue, Sandy Selander, Holly Kelley, Nancy St. John, Patty Miller, Lynn Pacenta, Karen Schumaker



Minutes, Board Meeting, October 22, 2014

Attendees: Sharon Ackerson, Jeff Ackerson, Clayton Kilrain, Tricia Dunseith, Beth Sokohl, Karen Shumaker, Penny Geddes, Suzanne Miller

Guests: Rodger Armstrong, Sue Armstrong, Nick DeCesare, Joan Donahue

A motion was made to change the order of business to allow the guests to address their issues first.

**Nick DeCesare:**

The bad news is that the rates are going up in Frederick for the use of the Agility site we have previously used. Entries are down and the rent is increased, in particular, for Friday evening, if we want to leave the equipment up for Saturday. The Board had previously approved a two-day trial. The Board reiterated its approval for a two-day trial and delegated authority to Nick as Agility Chair to do what he saw fit.

**Joan Donohue:** Joan addressed the issue of unhappiness on the part of some members as to the condition of the trophies they had donated to the club. After considerable discussion and inspection of a trophy and a mockup of the proposed trophy plaque, a four-part plan was developed:

1. The Club will stay with the current condition of the trophies.
2. The history of each trophy will be developed, containing all the winners of the trophies over the years and, at Tricia's suggestions, the stories of how and why the trophies were originally donated.
3. This history, along with photos of the trophies and winners, will be hosted on the new website.
4. The notebooks which were created to contain the history of each trophy, will be supplemented with a DVD of all the material that will be kept permanently on the website.

This above plan was made as a motion by Tricia Dunseith, seconded by Jeff Ackerson, and passed unanimously.

Additionally, it was determined that Jody Culver's original base and all name plaques be returned to her and she be given the option of doing what she deems appropriate to restore her trophy to its original state. The Board will reimburse her for that expense.

The Board acknowledged the unhappiness and anxiety it's actions caused, while unintended, and will seek out stakeholder input in any future action that would have such consequences.

A motion was made by Tricia and seconded by Jeff to thank Rodger Armstrong for all his work in creating and renovating the trophies.

A motion was also made thanking Beth Sokohl for all her hard work as Trophy curator and in the development of the history notebooks and renovation of the trophies.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Sue Armstrong made a suggestion that hospitality consider buying a Keurig machine and pods as a more efficient way to provide hot drinks at events.

**President's Report:**

Joanne Blackmun is now the merchandise chair.

**Secretary's minutes/correspondence:**

Minutes from the previous Board meeting were approved as circulated.

1. The secretary reported receiving and passing on the AKC's notice via a vis hunt tests, which engendered discussion among members, but no action items.
2. The Job descriptions for all positions are going to be put on the new website. Committee liaisons are urged to contact their respective chairs and get updated versions for the website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

TREASURER' S REPORT

October 1 - October 31, 2013

Income

	\$29,178.0
October Agility Trial	0
	\$29,178.0
Total Income for October	0

Expense

Tracking Test-Judges Gifts	\$150.00
Hunt Test	\$658.10
GR News- Page in Field Issue	\$275.00
Treasurer's Expenses	\$108.55
Februry 2014 Agility Trial-Ribbons	\$328.17
	\$18,787.1
October 2013 Agility Trial	2
	\$20,306.9
Total Expenses for October	4

Net for October \$8,871.06

Year To Date Income 91,578.81

Year To Date Expense 76,744.79

Year to Date Net \$224.19

CASH ON HAND AS OF October 31, 2013

	\$22,118.6
Checking Account	1
Certificate of Deposit (10/14)	\$7,708.47
	\$21,771.9
Certificate of Deposit (12/13)	4
	\$39,660.0
Certificate of Deposit (1/15)	0
TOTAL	\$91,259.0
	2

**Committee Reports:**

***Breed committee:***

Sandy Selander resigned from being the specialty chair because as specialty chair she is not permitted to show her dogs, per written PVGRC policy. Unfortunately, this has left us behind in our timeline. We do have the four regular judges (2 conformation Rita Bell and Collette Jaynes and two obedience judges Don Levinson and Cheryl Pratt). Pat Flanagan has agreed to judge sweeps. We are looking into what was promised to the other possible sweeps judge before sending the paperwork into AKC. This is expected to happen within a week.

***Obedience committee:***

Leslie Stanley said that the judges for the Spring Trial will be Don Levinson for Upper Level and Cheryl Pratt for Rally and Novice. The Trial will be held at Westminster in the Carroll Sports Center. There has been discussion of possibly holding it in Fauquier County in 2015.

***Tracking committee:***

Marge Paulding reports that the test was to be held on 11/9/14; entries close on 10/30/14.

***Agility committee:***

See Nick's report above.

***Field committee:***

Sharon Albright reports that she needs ribbons for such categories as breed champions who get field titles, etc. The hunt test went off very smoothly, which was attested to by Tricia.

**Old business:**

The two-page ad for the Field issue was sent to the GRCA News.

An ad was submitted for the MD Sporting Dog catalogue.

Inventory: Tricia and Janet labeled and organized all the boxes at the Armstrongs.

**New Business:**

Sharon suggested we send \$250 to Andy for his deductible for the accident which occurred while he was transporting the Club's trailer. The field committee was also urged to discuss the trailer and how to not

place an undue burden on one member for its care and upkeep. The motion was made by Suzanne and seconded by Beth. Motion passed unanimously.

There had been considerable discussion on the policy regarding the Trial chair's roles and responsibilities and ability to show at the Trial. Joan Donohue submitted clarifying language which combined the 2005 and 2011 policies. A motion was made by Jeff to accept Joan's language; motion passed unanimously. It has already been posted to the Club.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee to find volunteers for the 2015 Board was named as follows: Pam Turgeon, Sherry McLlevy (*sic*), and Jeff Ackerson.

*The next meeting will be held at the home of Clayton Kilrain on December 3.*

Meeting adjourned.

## **Conformation Column**

**Joan Donohue**

**Aquest@aquestgoldens.com**

### **NEW CHAMPION**

*Sandpiper's Pink Lemonade* (Pam Simmons and Patty Pace) picked up her last major and finished at the Montgomery KC show.

### **CLASS NEWS**

*Lycinans Mug Full of Cheer* (Holly Kelley) picked up a four-point major at the South Windsor show.

*Etoadoro Banner's Sunshine Glory* (Ruth Ann Kocian and Karin Shinego) picked up another point at the Friday Rock Creek show and at the Upper Marlboro show.

Carova's Handiwork of Oberon (Sharon Kitchens and Nancy Cronce) picked up two points, from Am bred, at the Saturday Rock Creek show.

*Apollo-Firestar's Puppy Galore* (Cindy Partridge) was reserve at the Upper Marlboro show

.

### **TRACKING NEWS**

**Marge Paulding**

**email brags to [mkpgold1@verizon.net](mailto:mkpgold1@verizon.net)**

Well, Happy New Year everyone.... Winter is still a good time for training. Cooler temps, less bugs, and sometimes snow that makes it very easy for the Novice tracker to know where the track is. So, don't stay inside – venture forth and enjoy those “cool” (or maybe cold) days and the great outdoors.

Hope those of you newer members or members that have been in the club for some time, but are thinking about learning more about tracking, attend the Membership meeting on January 17 at Catoctin's training building. Sharon and Clayton Kilrain, longtime PVGRC members with many years of tracking experience, will be presenting an overview of Tracking.

Thanks also to Debbie Barrows, Leslie Peszczyński, the Kilrains and anyone else who is helping with the Winter tracking class that PVGRC is offering to members.

Please remember to send any new Tracking Title Brags to me so your good news can be shared.

Happy tracking tails... Marge

**Agility Column**  
**Nick DeCesare**  
**kiowagold@gmail.com**

The winter solstice has come and gone again, Christmas is over, the New Year is here and the days are getting longer. By now everyone has their new calendars, date books or those funny "app" things for your iPhone or Android cell phones with the blue tooth and the 4G LTE. That being said, I will open my \$6.99 Mead Cambridge monthly planner book and mark the following dates with my new, upgraded Faber Castell Velvet #3557 No. 2.5 graphite pencil.

Our Spring 2015 agility trial will be held at the Frederick Indoor Sports Center April 18 and 19. This trial opens February 18 and closes April 1. Our judges for the April trial will be Don Wittke (Golden guy) from West Chester, Pennsylvania and Sherry Jefferson from Washington, Pennsylvania. And don't forget, the Carroll Kennel Club will be holding their trial on Friday, April 17. So take a vacation day and joins us on Friday, too!

Our Summer 2015 agility trials will be held in Frederick on June 20 and 21. Once again, this year our trials land squarely on the summer solstice which means these will be the longest days of the year with almost 15 hours of daylight according to the Old Farmer's Almanac. The judges for our June trial will be Laura English and Mary Mullin from Evanston, Indiana. The June trial opens April 22 and closes June 3.

Then we take a four month break. Our Fall 2015 agility trials will also be held in Frederick on October 24 and 25. Our judges for the Fall trial will be Lisa Dempsey from Georgia and John Defilippi from Virginia. The October trial opens August 27 and closes October 1.

Those with excellent powers of observation may have noticed that there are no three day agility events on our schedule. There is, of course, a reason for this change. The management of the trial site we use has made changes to the rental rate structure for the site which made holding trials on Friday economically unviable. While regrettable this change was inevitable. After an analysis of the projected costs versus potential revenues, it was determined that a well attended two day trial will make as much profit as a marginally attend three day trial. And that is the reason for the change to two day trials. The good news is we always have a need for volunteer workers to make the trial run efficiently. If you have never been to an agility trial you should give it a try. Please join us if you can. We always have openings for volunteer workers.

And now we have some NEW TITLES! Rhapsody Whole Lotta Love ("Lottie") led handler Jeff Ackerson through her first wild year as an agility dog, ending up having earned her Novice Standard, Novice FAST, and Open Jumpers titles. Winterset Whole Lotta Woman ("Foxy") retired from competitive agility after running Oriole in December. Foxy earned three agility titles in her last year of competition at over twelve years of age, but still loves to run courses at home.

## Field Column

**Beth Sokohl**

[bethsokohl@comcast.net](mailto:bethsokohl@comcast.net)

So...the hunt tests are over. The ponds are frozen. It is COLD outside. What do you do if you are a field junkie like I am? Well....the first thing I have done is evaluated my year. Did I meet my goals with each dog? What did I fall short with? How can I improve this next year? What are my goals for 2015, and what am I going to do to try to meet those goals. The goals don't need to be HUGE goals...they don't need to be connected with titles. They should be appropriate for you and your dog. They can be BIG year end goals (ie: qualifying for the Master National, getting a Junior Hunter Title)...they can be goals that are smaller in nature, and probably not noticed by many (finishing a master test without handling on a mark, doing a senior level blind without a whistle refusal, getting a dog to run into the water). If you set some goals, and they are realistic, it can set a plan into motion for the year. Set some goals for you and your dog this year....and then set some others:

- Call Sharon Albright and offer to help at a training day
- say hello to a stranger at a training day, or a hunt test...maybe they are a new member that would like some guidance
- offer help to someone who is just starting
- remember how hard this sport is when you don't know what you are doing....and be nice to people who are trying to learn. ☺

A field brag that was missed in the last newsletter (and my deepest apologies to Tricia since I do know how hard she works with her dogs in the field!):

Tricia Dunseith and Tristan- Weebe's Celtic Legend JH WC CGC earned his WC at PVGRC in September, and Kharma- Saltaire's It's Meant To Be CD RN BN JH MXB MXJ OF WCX earned her WCX at the GRCA National in Bristol TN.

67 Days till Spring!!!!



### **September**

September 12	WC/WCX/Puppy Stakes	Cheltenham, MD
TBD	Conformation/Obedience Match/ Membership Mtg	TBD
September 26	Beginning of GRCA National	Ohio

### **October**

October 10	Field Training Day	Cheltenham, MD
October 17-18	PVGRC Hunt Test	Cheltenham, MD
October 24-25	Agility Trial	Frederick, MD

### **November**

November 7	Tracking Test	Cross Junction, VA
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### **December**

TBD	Holiday Party/Membership Meeting	College Park, MD
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# Potomac Valley Golden Retriever Club Officers

<p><u>President</u>                  Sharon Ackerson                  805 Woodland Way                  Owings, MD 20736                  301-855-0580</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u>                  Sharon Ackerson                  805 Woodland Way                  Owings, MD 20736                  301-855-0580</p>
<p><u>Secretary</u>                  Suzanne Miller                  3021 Oregon Knolls Drive, NW                  Washington, DC 20015                  202-686-6442</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u>                  Clayton Kilrain                  5655 Pageland Lane                  Gainesville, VA 20155                  703-451-8900</p>

## Board of Directors

Beth Sokohl, Penny Geddes, Tricia Dunseith, Karen Wahler, Jeff Ackerson

## Committee Chairpersons

<p><b><u>Membership</u></b>                  Penny Geddes                  6131 Miles Lane                  Warrenton, VA 20187                  540-347-7531</p>	<p><b><u>Tracking Info</u></b>                  Marge Paulding                  17000 Gerting Road                  Monkton, MD 21111                  410-472-2868</p>	<p><b><u>Conformation Info</u></b>                  Joan Donohue                  1588 Bandbury Court                  Crofton, MD 21114                  410-721-0329</p>	<p><b><u>Programs</u></b>                  Sharon Ackerson                  805 Woodland Way                  Owings, MD 20736                  301-855-0580</p>
<p><b><u>Puppy Referral</u></b>                  Ellan Thorson                  410-268-9249</p>	<p><b><u>Historian</u></b>                  Suzi Gatipon                  178 Dusty Road                  Camden, SC 29020                  803-713-8440</p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter Editor</u></b>                  Beth Sokohl                  3500 State Route 97                  Glenwood, MD 21738                  410-489-5066</p>	<p><b><u>Obedience Info</u></b>                  Leslie Stanley                  11320 Estates View Lane                  Manassas, VA 20112                  703-369-1597</p>
<p><b><u>Field Info</u></b>                  Sharon Albright                  916 Cloverfields Drive                  Stevensville, MD 21666                  443-603-9259</p>	<p><b><u>GRCA Delegate</u></b>                  Penny Geddes                  6103 Miles Lane                  Warrenton, VA 20187                  540-347-7531</p>	<p><b><u>Agility Info and Historian</u></b>                  Nick DeCesare                  1500 Dennings Road                  New Windsor, MD 21776                  410-848-8555</p>	<p><b><u>GRCA Correspondent</u></b>                  Nick DeCesare                  1500 Dennings Road                  New Windsor, MD 21776                  410-848-8555</p>

**Newsletter Advertising:** Limited to club members only. Full page ads are \$30, half page \$15, quarter page \$8. Listings (member-owned adults or litters from member-owned bitches) will be for Golden Retrievers only and must be accompanied by copies of the OFA clearances within the last 18 months. All other advertisements for miscellaneous items or services must be dog-related. The PVGRC does not endorse any of the dogs, services, or items advertised in this newsletter.

**The Objectives of the PVGRC:** To encourage and promote the quality breeding of purebred Golden Retrievers, and to do all possible to bring their natural qualifications to perfection; to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which Golden Retrievers shall be judged; and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows; and to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, field trials, hunting retriever tests, and obedience trials under the rules of the AKC.