

NWFCRC Newsletter

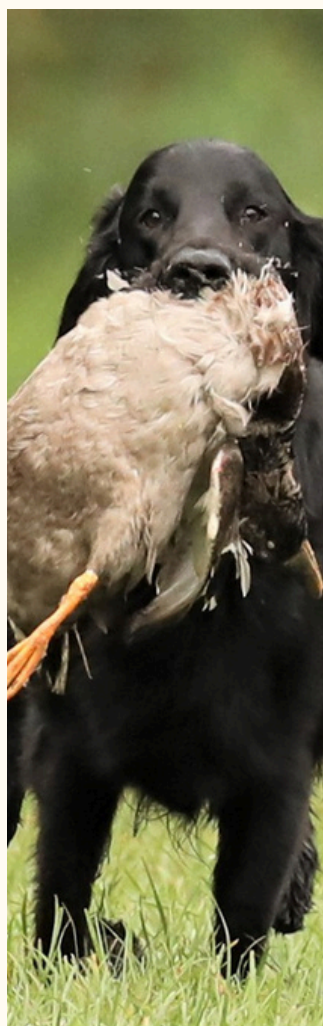
Summer 2024

Please be aware that toxic blue-green algae is present in many NW waters. It is a killer. Check before you let your dogs swim in or drink from it



Northwest Flat-Coated Retriever Club

In this issue



Lura Dunn's Bueller

Have you ever seen a dog's name in print surrounded by a series of letters and numbers that might as well be algebra to you? With so many activities in which to participate and compete with our Flatcoats, there are titles that go before or after the dog's registered name and each one signals an accomplishment by that dog. Starting with this issue, we will be bringing you explanations of the titles available in various sports like conformation, obedience, rally, agility and field.

Also beginning in this issue, the club's Board of Directors will introduce themselves, so that behind the scenes work of the club will be more accessible and user friendly.

You will see the usual proud proclamations of successes, activity announcements and some sad news as well.

As editor, I welcome feedback and letters from club members.

NW Flatcoats Lose a Friend

by *Kate Szilard*



Kathy Kondrat, Blacklace Flat Coated Retrievers, was a hugely influential breeder for our Northwest Flat Coat community and beyond. Her mentorship and support for the breed was boundless. She sadly succumbed to breast cancer on July 27, 2024.

Pete and I were one of the lucky families to get a dog from her first breeding of Lacey and Woody. We got Porter (Blacklace Oakwood 'n Mistletoe) and our introduction to all the things you can do with a talented, biddable dog. And when you got a dog from Kathy, you got a dog family, too. Ours include Ken and Cathy Johnson and Susan and Kathy Kravit-Smith. It is no exaggeration to say that the dogs from that litter completely changed our lives. We have Kathy to thank for all of it.

She LOVED puppies and cried buckets every time a pup went home. And then promptly laughed at herself for being so 'Irish' and emotional. One of her mentors, Moria Jewell (kennel name Parkburn), would roll her eyes and say something in her lovely Scottish burr. And then they'd laugh together. I imagine she's now kissing endless puppies and laughing again with Moira.

*Picture is of Kathy with Lizzie Ramhorst's dog Icarus .
(pulled from Facebook)*



Dock Diving & Pot Luck!!!

Dock Diving Primer

Gary Simpson

Back after a covid induced hiatus, come join us for a beginning dock diving opportunity at the **PAWS Aquatic facility** in **Hillsboro Oregon**. Flat Coats love water (as we all know) and this is an exciting chance for the dogs to learn how to jump from the low dock and how to get back out of the pool. The Northwest Flat Coated Retriever Club has reserved the facility for 2 hours on September 14th and will pick up the facility fee. Cost will be \$20 per dog which will be collected day of (please bring cash or a check). NWFCRC members only.

After the dock diving come join us for a potluck BBQ at Gary Simpson's house. The club will provide hamburgers (and salmon burgers) and buns and condiments. Please bring a side or desert to share.

RSVP Gary@GLSimpson.com if you're coming to dock diving, potluck or both. Times and locations will be provided to those that RSVP

NOTE: Dogs **MUST** be strong swimmers. This is not a place to try to teach your dog to swim.

Bring dry clothes, you'll need them.



Meet the Board of Directors!

Susan Kravit-Smith, director at large

My journey to life with flat coats started with dogs who were not flat coats. They were not even black or liver! The first was my childhood dog, an Irish setter. Sweet, beautiful, smart, easy to train and very very birdy, which was not necessarily an advantage in New York City. But he did manage to keep all pigeons from landing on the ground in a 40 foot diameter of us on our walks through Central Park.

My first dog as an adult was a deep golden colored retriever mix puppy who I picked out of a box in 1986 at the Olympia Farmers Market. Emily was smart, kind, intuitive, and loved to retrieve. We decided to add a second dog when Emily was 10 and quickly realized that she spoke “retriever”, not “herder”, and that at her age she was not likely to learn another language.

We attended the Puyallup Dog show in 1996 to meet the various retriever breeds and met Dinah Baggenstos and Kathy Kondrat. The flat coat personality was very compatible with Emily. I adored their very touchable coats, the fact that they didn't react fearfully to the sounds of guns or fireworks, and they made great therapy dogs for my office. I started this practice with Emily and have continued it since with my flat coats. I am still unsure if some clients come to see me or my dogs.

I love that I can depend on flat coats to be good with other dogs and people and children. We got our first flat coat from Kathy Kondrat and Emily lived another 6 years, to 16! I am sure having a flat coat friend played a big part in her longevity. We showed Rosie for a short while and began showing more regularly with our second, and had our first litter from Luna in 2007. I began competing in agility and dock diving with Juno, our fourth. And plan to compete agility and try field with our current girl, Kira.

continued

I began breeding Swiftwater flatcoats because I wanted to help continue a breed I think is so precious. Breeding is incredibly time consuming, challenging work: finding the right match of parents, producing a healthy litter, raising puppies with all the important early training and exposure that makes for a solid temperament.

But it is also very rewarding to produce puppies who are cherished, who accomplish all sorts of feats from Search and Rescue, to earning Titles in Field, Conformation, Obedience, Scentwork, to supporting their owners emotionally as companions. Some of them also go on to reproduce for the future. May there always be flat coats.

Susan Kravit Smith
Swiftwater



The latest Swiftwater News

Back in January Kira (Blacfriar Dark Crystal at Swiftwater) finished her GCh going Select Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex in Puyallup and then two Selects and one Best of Opposite in the Portland Shows. Since then she took a Select and Best of Opposite at Sequim with a huge entry of flat coats for our supported entry weekend. Kira also earned her Trick Dog Novice title and her Canine Good Citizen title at the Sequim show. We have been primarily working on training to compete in agility and doing some field training.

We are planning to breed Kira on her next season, which should be in September! This will be the first litter I have raised in 6 years, so we are very excited to have puppies again.

In other Swiftwater news, Pai (SHR UCD Ch Swiftwater Redwing Blackbird JH CD BCAT) and owner Liz Knight earned their Started Hunting Retriever title through the HRC and the Junior Hunter title through AKC this year! I am very proud of those two.

Bowen (Swiftwater Fool in The Rain) has begun working as a therapy dog with own Judd Gallagher at nursing homes in Portland. He is apparently quite the hit there.



Bowen performing his magic

Meet the Board of Directors!

Who: Zachary Erz (Zack)

NWFCR Club Board Vice-President

Where: (Currently) Vancouver, Washington (childhood home) Prosser, Washington

What: NWFCR Club Member Since: 2019 (Puppy Membership); Full Member in 2020; Currently serving as NWFCR Club Board Vice-President

FCR Currently: Salem (Black Male), Royal (Black Male)

FCR lifetime: see above

Other Pets: Wren (Cat)

Organized Activities: Conformation; Field Trials

Why did I choose a Flat-coated Retriever? I wasn't aware of the Flat Coated Retriever until I stumbled upon them around 10 years ago. I knew I wanted a Sporting Breed for their sweet dispositions and to eventually pursue upland game (bonus who doesn't love a game of fetch) but I also wanted to stand out from the crowd of Golden Retrievers and Labs.

After meeting them in person, I was absolutely enamored.

Unfortunately, my life situation just didn't have room for the dog of my dreams until a few years later. After dragging my partner Chelsie to a few shows, she woke up one Saturday morning and greenlit finding an FCR puppy.

How I arrived at this juncture. The same day Chelsie approved a puppy, I began my search by emailing breeders nearest to us on the NWFCR Club breeder's list. We wanted a nearby breeder because I wanted to see the puppies as much as possible and more easily stay in contact after. A short time later I had heard Swiftwater might be having puppies soon. We immediately reached out.



Zack and Chelsie with
Salem & Tula

A few weeks after meeting Susan (Kravit-Smith) we took her up on an invitation to Olympia for a tour of where the litter would be whelped and to interact with her two girls, Gracie and Juno. Toward the end of our time she let us know that we're the 13th party interested and there likely would not be a puppy for us that far down the list. Luckily, I had read that if you mention you will show in conformation the breeder might bump you to the top if no one else was interested. During the days leading to this trip, I had convinced myself that showing would be like taking a kid to soccer practice and there were enough local shows to make it mostly painless. So, when hit with the news about our place on the list I let Susan know we'd be willing to show the male pick of the litter if no one else was interested.

We took several trips to Olympia to hang out with the puppies and get to know Susan better. Out of 10 puppies (5 Males and 5 Females), Salem (GCHS Swiftwater Brillian Disguise) was Susan's male pick of the litter and has since become an AKC Grand Champion Silver, the proud father of 5 champions and the best bud I could have ever imagined. We love him so much and have had such a wonderful experience and he enriched our lives so much I flew to New Jersey to pick up one of Salem's offspring, Royal (CH Ebonaire King in Black) a little over 2 years ago.



Zack and Salem's son, Royal.



Salem:
GCHS Swiftwater Brillian Disguise at 7.5 weeks



Report on the Supported Entry at the Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club All Breed Show

by Jo Chinn

Twenty-seven happy flatcoats took to the ring in Sequim for the Supported Entry at the Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club All Breed Show. The entry was an outstanding exhibit of flatcoat structure, movement, and temperament. The crowd cheered enthusiastically, especially for the beautiful veteran bitches who moved effortlessly around the ring, belying their age.

On Saturday evening, owners, handlers, and friends gathered at the Chinn house for a BBQ potluck. Highlighting the evening were the antics of three puppies, and several puppy-wannabes.

RESULTS

Saturday, July 27th, 2024
Judge Tempest Deptuch

Winners Dog:

KVICKSANS CHAMPAGNE LIFE. SS37634701. 2021-03-10. By Simon Says Honey I'M Home - Flatcharm Miss Bubbles. Bred by: Minna Alatalo/Leo Alatalo/Sanna Alatalo. Owners: Wendy S. Tisdall.

Winners Bitch:

WILEY CREEK DESTINY'S DREAM OF GLEE. SS42887302. 2023-04-01. By GCH CH Quillquest Etched In Stone RN JH OA AXJ - Inglis Chanda's Magical Light. Bred by: Judith Perkins. Owners: Marjorie Taylor/Charles Jackson.

Best Veteran:

GCHB CH FLYWAY FARMS DOWN IN THE VALLEY CD BN RE JH FDC TKI. SR98427013. 2017-01-01. By CH Quills Flight Status - CH Windfall's Ripple In Still Water MH. Bred by: Alexandra Latta. Owners: Jo Chinn/Steve Chinn.

Best Veteran:

GCHB CH FLYWAY FARMS DOWN IN THE VALLEY CD BN RE JH FDC TKI. SR98427013. 2017-01-01. By CH Quills Flight Status - CH Windfall's Ripple In Still Water MH. Bred by: Alexandra Latta. Owners: Jo Chinn/Steve Chinn.

Best of Breed and a Group 2:

GCHP CH ARTIC SUN WHISPERING WORDS AT MOONLIGHT BCAT DJ CGCA TKN ATT FITB. SS21498303. 2020-08-29. By GCHP CH Artic Sun's Hot Pursuit - GCH CH Artic Sun's Triple Letter Bonus. Bred by: Lori Mihm-kunz. Owners: R Briganti/S Johannesson/R Neumann/L Mihm-kunz.

Best of Winners:

KVICKSANS CHAMPAGNE LIFE. SS37634701. 2021-03-10. By Simon Says Honey I'M Home - Flatcharm Miss Bubbles. Bred by: Minna Alatalo/Leo Alatalo/Sanna Alatalo. Owners: Wendy S. Tisdall.

Best of Opposite Sex:

GCHB CH FLYWAY FARMS DOWN IN THE VALLEY CD BN RE JH FDC TKI. SR98427013. 2017-01-01. By CH Quills Flight Status - CH Windfall's Ripple In Still Water MH. Bred by: Alexandra Latta. Owners: Jo Chinn/Steve Chinn.

Select Dog:

GCHG CH FLATCHARM MR MOTIVATOR RI CGCA CGCU TKA. SS13849201. 2018-05-21. By Burpham Million Love Songs - Kvicksans Cant Take My Eyes Of You. Bred by: Kelly Holland. Owners: Mrs Susan Ayling/Sarah Brown.

Select Bitch:

GCH CH RAINSHADOW WE SHALL OVERCOME CD BN JH. SS25899102. 2021-03-03. By GCHG CH Wingmaster Splendid Prince Hairy RN JH CGC - GCHB CH Flyway Farms Down In The Valley CD BN RE JH FDC TKI. Bred by: Ms. Jo Chinn/Mr. Steve Chinn. Owners: Jo Chinn/Steve Chinn.

**Best of Breed Owner Handled
and an Owner-Handled Group 4:**

KVICKSANS CHAMPAGNE LIFE. SS37634701. 2021-03-10. By Simon Says Honey I'M Home - Flatcharm Miss Bubbles. Bred by: Minna Alatalo/Leo Alatalo/Sanna Alatalo. Owners: Wendy S. Tisdall.

Rally Results:

Rally Advanced B:

**Score 95, 2nd place: WINGMASTER X GAMES RE JH OA AXJ XF.
SS23552404. 2020-11-08. By GCHB CH Grousemoor Winter Dancer - CH
Wingover Wingmaster Loon MH AX MXJ. Bred by: Mrs. Maureen
Kolasa/greg Mathis. Owners: Karen Dolphin**

**Score 89, 4th place: WINGMASTER WITCHERS WARD RE JH AX OAJ XF.
SS18535302. 2020-03-03. By GCHB CH Kistryl Tempest JH - CH
Wingmaster's Moxie MH AX AXJ. Bred by: Mrs. Maureen Kolasa. Owners:
Karen Dolphin/craig Dolphin**

Rally Excellent B:

**Score 96, 2nd place: WINGMASTER X GAMES RE JH OA AXJ XF.
SS23552404. 2020-11-08. By GCHB CH Grousemoor Winter Dancer - CH
Wingover Wingmaster Loon MH AX MXJ. Bred by: Mrs. Maureen
Kolasa/greg Mathis. Owners: Karen Dolphin**

**Score 92, 3rd place: WINGMASTER WITCHERS WARD RE JH AX OAJ XF.
SS18535302. 2020-03-03. By GCHB CH Kistryl Tempest JH - CH
Wingmaster's Moxie MH AX AXJ. Bred by: Mrs. Maureen Kolasa. Owners:
Karen Dolphin/craig Dolphin**



What a line up!!

NWFCRC members participated in a Supported Entry dog show in Sequim WA. 28 Flat Coats participated in the show!

Many of us camped at Jo and Steve Chinn's home and shared a dinners Thursday and Friday night, then shared a big potluck with club members Saturday night. Steve and Jo have a lovely home and property with room for dogs to play and romp. This is a very fun event every year, there are rivers and beaches where dogs can swim close by and a great social time for dogs and humans both. Even if you don't show dogs this is a fun event to attend. This year in particular we had the treat of getting to meet and play with three new puppies that have joined member families just recently! There's nothing like a flat coat puppy!

Sequim candid



Lura Dunn in the ring



David Kerschner giving all FCR participants a toy



Sequim candid

Gary Simpson



Jo Chinn(in red) and Susan Kravit

As a member of the National Animal Interest Alliance, I recently received this letter

NAIA Member Alert:
CDC Dog Import Rule

This week the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated requirements set to go into effect on August 1 for dogs entering the U.S. from low-risk or canine-rabies free countries like Canada. Under the new entry requirements, dogs that have only been in canine-rabies free or low-risk countries in the past six months will be required to:

- Appear healthy upon arrival
- Be at least six months of age
- Be microchipped
- Fill out the CDC Import Form
-

The CDC Import Form for dogs that have not been in high-risk countries is a simple self-attestation that the dog has not been in a high-risk country for the past six months, and does not require photo identification or information on where the animal will stay while in the U.S. The form will be good for travel into the U.S. for six months from the date of issuance and can be used for multiple entries. Travelers may fill out the form on the day of travel and can show the receipt to airlines or border officials by phone or using a printed copy.

While NAIA has strong concerns about CDC removing the rabies vaccination requirement for low-risk countries, we appreciate the agency's recognition that our northern border has a lower risk profile and should be treated differently than countries that are high-risk for canine rabies. The Healthy Dog Importation Act would give the U.S. Department of Agriculture the discretion to determine different vaccination and parasitic treatment requirements on a country-by-country basis.

NAIA was the first organization to contact the Canadian Government regarding the CDC final rule, and we are committed to continue working with Embassy officials to ensure appropriate flexibilities for the US-Canada border as we work to advance the Healthy Dog Importation Act.

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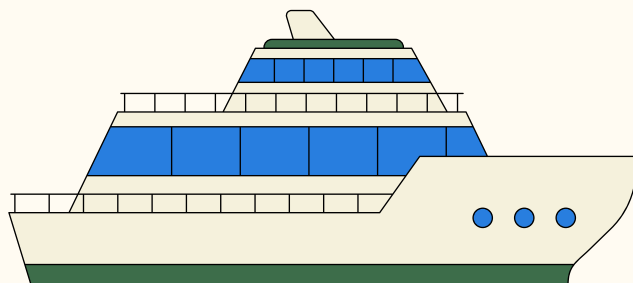
[CDC Import Form](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,

Patti Strand, NAIA President

The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), #93-1099912. Donations are deductible to the full extent of the law.



Fun with Flatcoats

*This is the first in a series of articles about various activities members enjoy with their flat coated retrievers, what they enjoy about the activity and an overview on how to get involved. We will profile one or two activities each newsletter. The following article is presented **by Susan Kravit Smith***

Agility and Flat Coated Retrievers

Agility is a dog sport done as a team (dog and human). There is a course set up with elements such as jumps, teeter totter, tires, tunnels, A frame, etc. The dog has to go through the elements in a pattern set by the judge. This pattern changes each time you go through it, and since most of our dogs can't read the numbers on the elements we handlers have to signal them about which elements to take in which order (after we memorize the new course). Some people take classes and just do agility for fun, some folks compete casually (that would be me) and others very seriously, even traveling the world to do so..

Let me be very clear: I am not an expert in agility, I just enjoy it. And flat coats enjoy it too as it works their brains and bodies. What I love about agility: it challenges me and gives me an opportunity to figure out how to communicate complex information to my dog and in the process learn more about who they are and how they see the world. It deepens our bond, increases my communication, memory, and empathy skills and gets me off my butt. Figuring out how to train things in agility has helped all of my dog training. What flat coats love about agility: they get to run and jump and spend time with you and get lots of treats in training. Some flat coats are easier to train than others, some have an easier time focusing, some are more fearless about heights or things moving under their feet, some are more willing to take direction from a handler.

But dog training is never just about working with the easy dogs, it is about figuring out how to work with whatever strengths and weaknesses your dog has and helping them reach their potential.

Just as each flat coat requires a different strategy to train, each handler approaches agility differently. At 65, having NEVER been an athlete, I "run" agility differently than a 30 year old who has competed in sports since childhood. But we can each enjoy it and compete if we choose. This is another thing I appreciate about it - people participate from teens to folks in their 80s.

continued

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How to get involved with agility: the first step is to find a good teacher. I can't emphasize how important this is. A good teacher communicates well, breaks things down in ways which lead to success for you and your dog, inspires and encourages you. In other words a good teacher for you is a roll model of what you can be for your dog. Through a class you will have access to all types of agility equipment and learn how to train your dogs to use it, but you will also learn skills to help your dog stay focused, follow directions, stay safe and become a team with you. It is also useful to have some equipment at home, but many things you can make yourself for low cost. There are several different organizations that put on agility trials : AKC, CPE (Canine Performance Events), NADAC (North American Dog Agility Council), USDAA (United States Dog Agility Association). Each has slightly different rules, with some differences in equipment. But most classes will give you the training you need to compete in any of these venues. There are excellent teachers in many areas of our region, ask around for names.

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There are four different types of courses in AKC agility and then different levels of competition within these. The Standard course contains all of the various elements: jumps, weave poles, A-frame, dog walk, teeter-totter, broad jump, tunnel, table, and tire. Jumpers With Weaves (JWW) is a course that has jumps, weave poles, and tunnels only. The FAST course is an interesting one with no set pattern. Instead each element is worth a certain number of points, the handler figures out which elements they will do and the order they will lead their dog to take them in order to accumulate the number of points they need to qualify. One small part of the course is sectioned off as an area that must be run in a prescribed order and from a bit of a distance. Time to Beat is another different type of course; this one requires accumulation of points earned by being the fastest in the class.

continued

Each of these four courses has can be run at the Novice, Open, Excellent, or Master level with course changes for each level. Everyone begins at Novice level and works their way up to the more advanced levels by accomplishing three qualifying runs at each level. At the completion of each level in each course type the dog earns an AKC agility title.

Dogs are measured at the withers when they first begin competing, and their jump height is set based on this. Flat coats generally jump 16, 20 or 24 inches. For example 22 inches at the withers is the dividing line between jumping 20 or 24. If you want your dog to jump lower you have the option to run them in “preferred”, which means a dog who measures to jump a 20 inch height gets to jump at 16 instead. This may be done due to age, concerns about avoiding injury, or any other reason. I have attached a list of the most common titles, to this list you can mentally add the word preferred and get the same list for dogs jumping one level lower.

Folks who are totally dedicated to the sport go far beyond the titles I list. We are providing a link to the AKC full list. There are a TON of them. Agility keeps you motivated and rewards your hard work all along the way with ribbons and titles. I encourage you to give it a try, find a teacher, watch some videos, attend a workshop, HAVE FUN!

Standard Agility Course Titles

NA Novice Agility

OA Open Agility

AX Agility Excellent

MX Master Agility Excellent

Jumpers with Weaves Titles

NAJ Novice Agility Jumper

OAJ Open Agility Jumper

AXJ Excellent Agility Jumper

MXJ Master Agility Jumper

continued

FAST Titles
NF Agility FAST Novice
OF Agility FAST Open
XF Agility FAST Excellent
MXF Agility Master FAST Excellent

I encourage you to give it a try, find a teacher, watch some videos, attend a workshop, HAVE FUN!

For more information on Agility titles click:
[AKC Agility Titles](#)



Lura Dunn's Bueller

News from Jo and Steve Chinn

Busy summer for the Chinn dogs. Field training, obedience training, lots of lake swimming...and an occasional outing for competition. GCH Rainshadow We Shall Overcome BN CD JH WCX "Glory" earned her CD at the Hurricane Ridge Agility-Rally-Obedience trial in June. She was "Select Bitch" on Friday and Saturday of the Hurricane Ridge All Breed Show. She earned two pases in Rally at the Sequim show, but missed showing on Saturday due to conflicts with the breed ring.

GCHB Flyway Farms Down in the Valley BN CD RE JH WCX was "Best Veteran" three days and "Best of Opposite Sex" two days at the Hurricane Ridge Shows.

Both girls ran in the Whistling Wings/Cascade Hunt Retriever Clubs' August tests, with Glory passing two Started tests to complete her title. Valley passed two Seasoned tests.



News From Kathy Adams

BISA International CH, BISSA Can, CH Blacklace Syrah's True Myth - Kollins turned 7 this past April!! Thankful she is stable and doing well as we are constantly battling kidney disease.

This past June we entered the International dog show in Enumclaw - Happy to report that swept all 4 BIS Altered Shows!! She was the only dog across all breeds to achieve this!!! She had tuff competition but shined and moved beautifully!! This makes her total count of 6 BISA in 11 mths!!! Kathy Kondrat did get to moosh on her before she passed and was very proud of this achievement!!!

We look forward to completing her Can CH Altered title this next year. In the mean time she is teaching Gin's daughter, Tonique, how goldens should learn the flat coat ways 😊



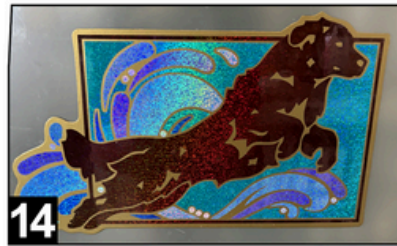
[LINK to Specialty items](#)

If you click on the Link to Specialty Items, a link will open right above it and it will take you to Joyce Brackney's PDF



FCRSA NATIONAL SPECIALTY FUNDRAISING

• Shipping within US included in pricing •



FCR SPLASH MAGNET
9" • BLACK OR LIVER • \$35



SMALL FCR STANDING MAGNET
6" • BLACK OR LIVER • \$20



SMALL FCR TROTTING MAGNET
6" • BLACK OR LIVER • \$20



SMALL FCR
HEAD WITH DUCKS MAGNET
6" • BLACK OR LIVER • \$20



SMALL FCR TRACKING MAGNET
6" • BLACK OR LIVER • \$20



WOMEN'S CAMO SHIRT
JERSEY STRIPE SLEEVE
FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER
"BITCHES WITH BUMPERS"
SIZES S, M, L, XL, XXL
\$55

ORDERING INFORMATION

Items can be purchased
on the FCRSA website
using PayPal:
[https://fcrsa.org/product-category/
fundraisers-for-future-specialties](https://fcrsa.org/product-category/fundraisers-for-future-specialties)

Or, contact:
Joyce Brackney
jbrackney@snowcrest.net
530-598-7509

News from Marianne Mason

Elle (8yo) from Tamturi Kennel, started NACSW Elite trials this spring. It's based upon a point system in which you need a minimum of 43 points to count toward your accumulative points per level 1, 2, 3, 4 ending at the Championship level. Potentially you could earn 100 points per trial. This is more the exception vs. the norm. A trial can have 3-5 searches with an unknown number of hides per search area. Well we earned our ELT-1 within two trials. We needed a minimum of 150pts at this level. Elle loves nosework and is stellar at it. I am a nervous wreck at the trials and am getting better at not taking over and following her lead. She is a rock star.



submitted by Ann Richards – owner and trainer of
Shasta Sirius Brownstone

The best way I can describe the Junior Open Agility World Championship trial is it is like the Olympic Games of agility dog sports for Juniors under 19 years of age. This past year it was held in July at Sentower Park – Oplabbeek, Belgium with 4148 Total Runs 43 Courses 1148 Top Teams 30 Countries 1039 Dogs 72 Breeds.



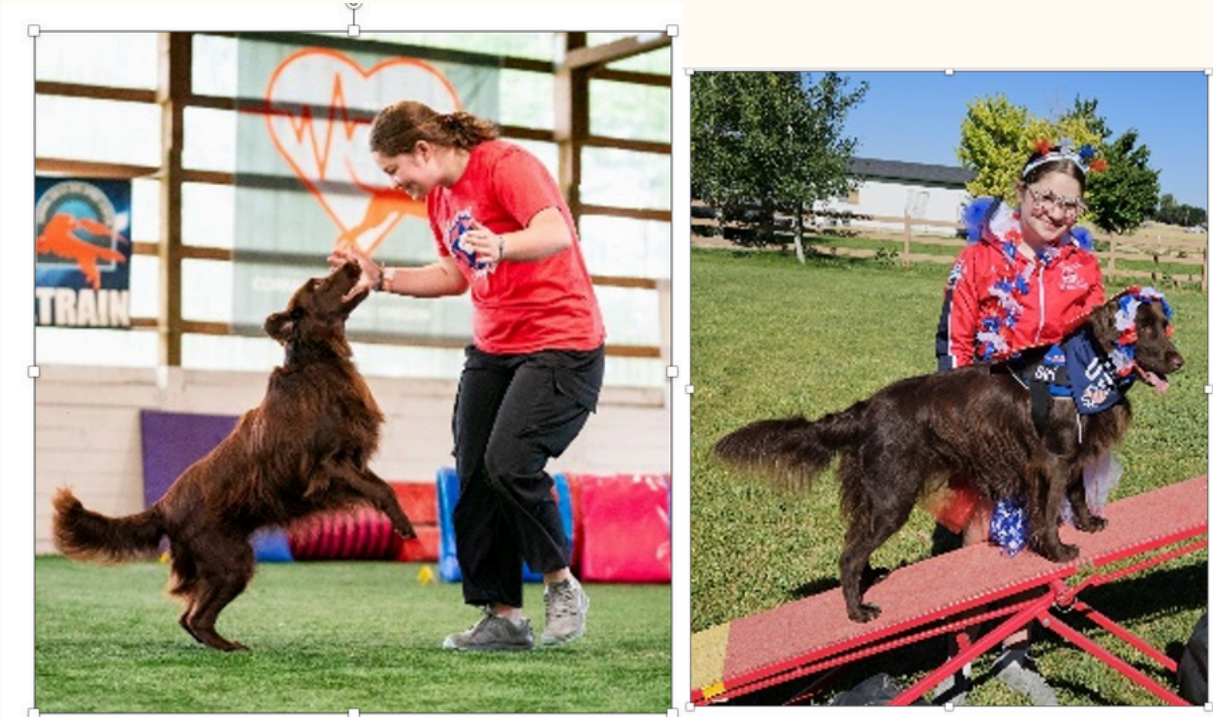
This year's team representing the USA included 26 amazing Juniors with 30 dogs from across the nation.



Among those amazing Juniors was a young lady from Boise Idaho, Ari Beaudoin and her teammate Shasta Sirius Brownstone “Siri” a 4-year-old liver Flat-Coated Retriever Female and the first Flat-Coat to make the international team. It was a dream of Ari’s to be able to compete in this event. They began preparing for the tryouts for the JOAWC team in October 2023 and learned they had made the team in February 2024.



Ari and Siri had to work hard to prepare for the tryouts by first teaching Siri to consistently jump at 24” since that would be her required height to compete in Europe. Her AKC full height is 20” and she had only been jumping at that height for a year after being moved up from 16” preferred as a young dog. There was also training for the difficulty of the international courses. Even with all the practices and competitions the international courses were challenging for everyone. Ari and Siri performed incredibly well, and we can all be very proud of the awesome job Ari did representing the USA, showing what an incredible dog Siri is and demonstrating the athletics of this amazing Flat-Coat.



Unlike the Olympics, the participants in this event are all self-funded. This adventure would not have been possible without the incredible support we received from so many individuals and organizations, we couldn't name them all, but would like to make sure to personally thank the following for making this possible:

Joyce Brackney – Siri's breeder, supporter and contributor

Lisa Anderson – Supporter and contributor

Lori Raczka – Supporter and contributor

Nancy Hanover – Supporter and contributor

Cindy Zelbst – Supporter and contributor

The Northwest Flat-Coat Club – Supporters and contributors

FCRSA's Linda Schmidt and the Northern Ohio Agility Trials –
Supporters and contributors

Temptation Arena and Robyn and Bruce Garrett – Supporters and
contributors

Our local agility clubs for all the encouragement, support and
contributions.

The incredible coaches of the USA JOAWC Team: Susan Cochran, Deb
Schulman, Debbie DuBay

This article was also published in the National FCRSA Newsletter

From Diana Rush

Diana reports that Brynn, Shasta Citrus Hill Shield Maiden Brynhilder, earned her Bronze Grand Championship in Enumclaw this summer!
(Pending AKC approval)



from Liz Knight

2024 has so far been a banner year for me and Pai. We earned our AKC BN (Beginner Novice), CD (Companion Dog) and JH (Junior Hunter) titles as well as our UKC UCD (Companion Dog) to add to last year's SHR (Started Hunting Retriever).

We've fallen in love with field work and now that we have our "high school diploma", we are training for more complex levels.

Pai is an incredible partner: biddable, forgiving, yet full of fun and mischief. I feel unspeakably lucky to have her.

In a future Newsletter I will talk about obedience titles and the difference between AKC and UKC.

Training day on Sauvie Island

