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Presidents Message



Winter has afforded us a chance to watch our dogs enjoy the cooler weather...racing around and letting the "badger" loose. It is great to watch them, I can only imagine them rolling around in the snow making snow angels and other winter play that only the dogs up north can enjoy.

That picture doesn't last long as my dogs break for the pond and swim to their hearts content...something that the Northern dogs can only dream of this time of year. I ALMOST caught myself complaining of the cold this past week...slapping myself for such a thought...as I remember the summer months are not too far off when I'll be complaining of the heat.

I hope everyone is planning on coming out and supporting the WC/WCX weekend...our training day on Saturday March 7th with the WC/WCX on Sunday March 8th. Kathi has put together a workshop with Mitch White in April. Anyone interested in training their Flat Coat in the field should plan to attend. Mitch has been successfully training Flat Coats for quite some time and can provide us with some insight in training our dogs. Looking forward to seeing all of you out and about with your dogs! Pam Hind, SSFCRC President

SSF CRC 2009 WC/WCX/WCQ March 8th!

Get ready... Get set... Get your premium located on Entry Express TODAY! Remember, because we offer our event to all breeds of retrievers and standard poodles, we also will offer the WCQ to anyone who wants to run it. The "Q" adds a land blind and a water blind

to the WCX series. Even though the title is for Curly Coated retrievers qualifying, this is a good test to run for anyone training toward Senior or Master who already have their WCX.

NOTE: If you are running a dog in the WC/WCX/WCQ, this Training Day is a wonderful way to get a hands-on experience for your dog the day BEFORE the test. How many hunt tests give you this opportunity? Puppies will also benefit on this day:

On Saturday, March 7th, we will hold a Mock WC/WCX training day. There will be judges (Wayne Gey and Todd Tharpe!) and chukkers like the day of the test. On that day, we will also have PeeWee hunter stakes for dogs under the ages of 18 months - complete with ribbons. The Scurry will follow. The cost for the training day is \$10 per dog (that is also the fee for the PeeWee hunter stakes) and will be collected before you run. Please let Kathi or Jeff know if you're planning on attending.

The Scurry is a fun competition for the "fastest dog!" It will be held Saturday after the Mock WC/WCX and PeeWee stakes. The cost is \$3 for one run and \$5 for 3 runs and you may run as many times as you would like to get the fastest time. The winners of each division (there will be two divisions: one for adults of any age and one for puppies - under 18 mos.) will receive a portion of the pot.

(Entry Express link: <https://www.entryexpress.net/LoggedIn/events.aspx?eventName=wc>) If you would like to send your entry in by snail mail, please mail entries and make checks payable to: Entry Express Inc, P.O. Box 743, 420 East Main St (UPS & FedEx), Charleston AR 72933.

Questions? Please call Kathi Leonhardt at 301-221-3137 or Jeff Speicher at 774-392-3874, or email us at magicdeion@aol.com (Kathi) or jspeicher195@yahoo.com (Jeff.) Kathi Leonhardt and Jeff Speicher - WC/WCX Co-Test Secretary

Congratulations!

THREE of our Club members have dogs ranked in the **Top 20 (Canine Chronicle)!**



- ☆ Alison Schultz's "**Hunter**" CH Wingmaster's History Repeats CD RE JH ranked #7 in All-Breed & #7 in Breed standings.
- ☆ Katy Postrozny's "**Payton**" CH Starworkers King of the Castle JH is ranked #12 in All-Breed.
- ☆ Kevin & Stella Cooper's "**Summer**" CH SHR Beachcliff Castles in the Sand RA CD JH WC ranked #15 in Breed standings

Besides the fact that these dogs are gorgeous, it takes a lot of time and dedication to achieve these rankings and we are so proud they are members of our SSFCR Club!

Membership Reminder

I hope everyone has had a great start to 2009 and that your dogs are enjoying the (somewhat) cooler weather. Because it is the beginning of the New Year, it is time for Southern Skies Flat-Coated Retriever Club renewals!

To those members who have been meaning to get that check in the mail and just haven't quite gotten around to it - I totally understand :-). How about writing that check today?

You can download your membership/renewal form by simply going to our website:

<http://www.southernskiesfrcr.org/join.htm> and print out the membership application/renewal form and mail it, with your check for \$25 individual or \$30 family membership, to: Jeanette Phillips, 297 Cobblestone Way, Deatsville, AL 36022.

If there is a change of address, phone number or e-mail on your form, please bring it to my attention so it can be updated. Also, please be patient while waiting for your check to clear since checks are recorded by me and then mailed to our Treasurer for deposit.

his Club is much too valuable to miss out on and 2009 promises to be a fun year for our wonderful dogs and for our fantastic Club members.

TidBits

The breed registration listing is out on the AKC website. Flat-coats came in at #96 for 2008. For reference, AKC lists rankings for '08, '07, '03, and '98 where FCR's ranked 96, 100, 103, and 96 respectively.

Are you making plans to go to the National Specialty? Well, check out <http://www.fcrsainc.org/> It's getting close... In our next FlatChat, we will be showcasing some of the Events that will be taking place. If you have the opportunity to attend this event, you will not be disappointed-it is a fantastic experience!

Recipe Exchange



Cole Slaw Crisp

2 Tbsp Butter

1-8 oz package Fresh Express Cole Slaw

3/4 cup slaw dressing (Whatever kind you like)

1-1/4 cups shredded Italian Blend Cheese

1/4 tsp salt

1/4 tsp pepper

3/4 cup bread crumbs

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Cut butter into small pieces while placing in medium bowl; set aside to soften.
2. Combine in a large bowl, coleslaw mix, dressing, 1 cup of cheese, salt, and pepper; Mix well until blended. Spoon mixture evenly into 2 quart baking dish,
3. Stir breads crumbs and remaining 1/4 cup cheese into softened butter, mix with fingertips until blended and crumbly. Spread evenly over coleslaw mixture. Bake 15-20 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly around the edges. Let stand 5 minutes; serve warm.

Credit for this recipe goes to Lisa Rowilson who is owned by Mallard Pointe Lady Roxanne. Hope to see you soon, take care – Lana Rowilson

Veteran Birthdays!



Coal – 7 years-Jan, Carol Cassidy

Aero – 7 years-Jan, Lana Rowilson

Our lives are so impacted by these Flat-Coats and the longer they are with us, the more joy we share.

Among our Club Members, we have the following Senior Citizens (7 years and older for the month of January)

We would like to recognize all of our seniors for their tremendous contributions to our lives. If you would like to have your senior recognized in FLATCHAT, (Feb-April) please submit your information to lgowett@aol.com



SSFCRC Field Training with Mitch White

The Southern Skies Flat-Coated Retriever Club is proud to announce a 2-day workshop with Mitch White (website: www.gamekprs.com) on April 11 and 12 with reserved private lessons on the April 13th.

Mitch White – Head Field Trainer/Key Note Speaker

Mitch has been training field dogs since 1988 when he got his first retriever, Hershey. He credits noted field trainers, John and Nancy Miner (High Times Goldens/Miners Kennels) as being his most important mentors as well as good friends. Over the years, Mitch has also trained with Jim and Phyllis Dobbs and has attended Mike Lardy's seminars.

In addition to Flat-Coated Retrievers, Mitch has personally owned and trained both Labs and Goldens and now trains all retrievers breeds professionally. He has conducted seminars all across the United States and in Canada. These seminars have received accolades from many other professional trainers. Mitch is currently finishing a series of books on retriever training which will be published in the near future. He has appeared on Outdoor television shows and well as at major sporting show venues.

- AKC Master/Senior/Junior Hunt Test Judge
- UKC Finished/Seasoned/Started Hunt Test Judge WC/WCI/WCX approved judge for Flat-Coats, Tollers, Goldens, and Labs (also Airedales)
- Member of the FCRSA Field Committee (Education Sub-Committee)
- Former President of the Flat-Coated Retriever Club of Illinois
- Former President of the Midwest Waterways Flat-Coated Retriever Club
- Former Director of the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America

Sign up with Kathi Leonhardt, magicdeion@aol.com or Jinny Courtney, Jinny@cfl.rr.com, to reserve your spot. There will be **12** two-day working spots, and **15** two-day auditing spots. The working spots will be \$225 for club members and \$235 for non-club members. The auditing spots will be \$75 for club members and \$80 for non-club members. Private lessons on Monday, April 13th will be \$50 per person. *We will keep a waiting list for all three slots.*

Full payment must be made by March 1st or your reservation will be passed to the next person on the waiting list.

DATES: April 11 and 12 Workshop
April 13: Private Lessons.

TIME: 8:00 to 5:00

COST: \$225 - members, \$235 - non-members for a working spot;
\$75 - members, \$80 - non-members to audit

LOCATION: Wayne Gey's Golden Oaks Ranch, Montverde, FL; enter at Katy's Landing



Don't get left out - reserve your spot now.

Kathi Leonhardt, SSFCRC Field Chair and Vice President, magicdeion@aol.com phone: 321-549-3141
or, Jinny Courtney, Co-Event Chair, Jinny@cfl.rr.com, phone: 321-724-1904

CHECK-IT-OUT

A new place to go for all SSFCRC Members – That means all you Pet owners - this is for you too! We have had a site set up for SSFCRC Field and now have a new one set up for General Membership— Invitations have been sent to the entire membership list so hopefully everyone will join. All things flat-coat are encouraged for discussion there. (As well as uploading all your gorgeous FCR pics, files, brags, etc.) -Kathi Leonhardt, Vice President, Field Chair and List(s) Moderator

http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/SSFCRC_Field/

Have you been out to the National Site? So much information, try it-you'll like it too!

<http://www.fcrcsainc.org/>

Seminar: The Art of Proofing

Adele Yunck April 18 & 19, 2009

DogSense Obedience - Lakeland, FL

Join us for a "hands and paws" on seminar to develop the skills of proofing for competition obedience. Adele's approach is to use a balance of food, toys and fun when teaching and fair corrections as needed. You will have ample time on the floor to try out the techniques.

Adele earned her first CD in 1986 on her Australian Terrier, Casey. In the intervening years, she has earned AKC's OTCh. Titles on two Flat-Coated Retrievers and two terriers, the first Australian Terrier to earn one. Her most recent title was on her Border Terrier, Java in February 2004, earning numerous High in Trials and High Combined awards and tournament placements along the way. She has attended the AKC NOI 6 times, placing in the Terrier group 3 of 4 times. Adele dabbles in other dog sports as well, including conformation, Rally, and agility. Field work with the Flat-Coats has become a summer time passion.

Adele is the co-author of the book Competition Obedience: A Balancing Act and the video Positively Fetching: Teaching the Obedience Retrieves Using Food. She wrote and self-published the new The Art of Proofing: Preparing Your Dog for Obedience Trials.

Adele owns and operates Northfield Dog Training School, a 12,000 square foot training building where she offers classes from Puppy through Utility and an extensive agility program. She is a provisional Rally and Novice obedience judge, and served on the 2007 AKC Obedience Advisory Committee. Her current dogs are:

- Java - Border Terrier (OTCh. U-CDX Riversides Magen's Starbucks UDX2 RE AX AXJ; Can CD; RL3) 1997-
- Joker - Border Terrier (Kandu's The Joker Is Wild CD RA; RL2) 2001-
- Gryffin - Flat-Coated Retriever (Ch. Grousemoor Gryffindor UD RE SH WCX; RL3) 2003-
- Ty - Flat-Coated Retriever (Grousemoor Timeless RE JH WC; RL2) 2004-

Working spots are \$200 for the weekend, and spectator spots \$100. There are a limited number of working spots available. Contact Debby Snyder at DogSenseObed@aol.com to register for the seminar or for more information.



A VERY Special Thank You to...

Jeff Speicher and Jim Bateman for their generous \$30.00 donation to the Supported Entry Trophy fund.

SSFCRC Board Members

President - Pam Hind
 Vice President – Kathi Leonhardt
 Secretary – Carol Cassidy
 Treasurer - Leasa Gowett
 Membership Sec – Jeanette Phillips
 Board - Claire Koshar
 Board - Liz Mound
 Board – Jeff Speicher, DVM
 Board - Donna Chocianowski

SSFCRC Committee Chairs

National Club Liaison-Joan Dever
 WC/WCX-Claire Koshar and Liz Mound
 Rescue-Donna Chocianowski
 Website-Stella Cooper
 Newsletter-Leasa Gowett
 Obedience-Joyce Frazer
 Education-PJ Lacette
 Supported Entry-Liz Mound
 Ways & Means – Carol Cassidy, Marge Cassidy & Leasa Gowett
 Field Chair – Kathi Leonhardt

COME ON-GET ACTIVE!

Do you want to participate in something special?

*Do you have a talent for something special?
 —then contact us and let us know—*

You know you want to...

*Come on – we have tons of stuff going on--
 give us a call today!*

The FLATCHAT Newsletter is published on a Quarterly Basis. Special Editions may be distributed on an "as need basis" and require advance approval by the SSFCRC Board. All Special Editions will be announced on the SSFCRC Club Website located at www.southernskiesfrc.org

Articles and submissions are due 30 days in advance of publication date and need to be sent via email to Leasa Gowett at: lgowett@aol.com.

All submissions are subject to editing for content, format, and space and must be accompanied by source documentation and print authorizations for proper crediting of sources. All photos need to be in .jpg format and all documents should be submitted in MS/Word format. If you have any questions- please call me at 813-417-3255 and I will get back to you as soon as possible!

Upcoming Regional Shows

Shows in February, March and April will be an outstanding time to get out & join the fun.

Some Shows coming up include:

Bergeron Rodeo Grounds:

3/14/09 - 3/15/09 - Davie
-show entries close 2/25/09.

Manatee Civic Center:

3/28/09 - 3/29/09 - Palmetto
-show entries close 3/11/09.

St. John's County Fairgrounds:

4/4/09 - 4/5/09 - Elkton
- show entries close 3/18/09.

Pioneer Park:

4/18/09 - 4/19/09 - Zolfo Springs
- show entries close 4/1/09.

Indian River County Fairgrounds:

4/25/09 - 4/26/09 - Vero Beach
- show entries close 4/8/09.

Best Paw Forward

Run-throughs and Open House

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday March 14, 2009

Visit our new home base, on 10 beautiful fully-fenced acres and get your dogs ready for upcoming trials



Best Paw Forward Inc.
1835 Oak Haven Plantation Road,
Osteen FL 32764-8872
407-321-1006



E-mail for detailed directions and registration

bestpaw.com bestpaw@iag.net

Multiple 5-Minute Ring Runs for Good Sports

Come Out and enjoy our space For Tracking, Fun Retrieving, Swimming in Dog-Safe Ponds or Dog Play

Dogs must wear collars that meet AKC competition regulations, or may wear head collars or harnesses.

\$7 donation per handler in advance (registration by March 7) or \$10 at gate (cash or check only, please – checks payable to Home Mechanics Inc.)

All proceeds cover our ongoing road project, and go to our wonderful road crew, Merrillyn and Haruki of Home Mechanics Inc., Your Handyman Service... PJ Lacette

Give your FCR the Field



Have you wondered just how to get your dogs involved in Field? The SSFCRC now has a place to get all the info you could want.

Take some time and explore and try our some of the diagrammed drills for training your field FCR.

Go to the SSFCRC Google Group and in the Files section are the complete rules for the WC and the WCX.

It's All Fun and Games!

Bobbing for Apples –

Just like the child's game except it's the dogs that are doing the bobbing! Dog that pulls the most apples out of the bucket within a specified time limit, wins.

Hot Dog Retrieve –

Draw a line about 20 feet or so in front of the line of handlers and their dogs. Handlers toss the hot dog over the far line and send the dog to retrieve it. The dog that comes back, delivers the biggest piece of hot dog back to their owner, wins. So much fun as the handlers are screaming, "HOLD" and "COME" at their dogs as the dogs gleefully stand across the line.

SSFCRC 2010 FCR Calendar

We are collecting photos now for the 2010 SSFCRC Club Calendar to be published in September of this year.

9 Photos will win single month positions – all others will be placed in collage collections for the remaining months.

Send your FCR Calendar Pictures in .jpg format to: lgowett@aol.com and specify SSFCRC 2010 Calendar Photo in the subject line.

2008 Supported Entry

Here's a partial list of winners for Southern Skies supported entry held on Sunday, 11/9/08. Our Judges were Mr. Jon R. Cole and Group Judge, Mr. Elliot B. Weiss

Best of Breed/Group 4- CH Wingmaster History Repeats, CD JH RE

Best of Opposite-from the Veteran Bitch Class –CH Huntlane Under The Sea, JH

Winners Dog/BOW (5 pt Major) from the 9-12 puppy class- Phoenix On The Wings Of Angels

Winners Bitch (4 pt Major) from the Open Bitch class- Shiloh Galadriel, JH

A more complete list of the results can be found at: <http://www.infodog.com/RESULTS/2008567802/200856780212400.HTM>

On the Canine Health Front (Mental and Physical)

STORM PHOBIA

By P.J. Lacette

Many, if not most dogs become storm-phobic only after fully-grown. A common age group is around ages 4 or 5, so it is quite possible for an adult dog to become afraid of nasty weather.



Never count on a dog just "getting over it." You lose valuable training time if you wait. Very few dogs ever totally get over it anyway – this is usually a long-term management issue once it is full-blown.

It is not uncommon to have a gun dog that is totally comfortable with gunfire but is nervous about storms, or you might have a dog that is sound-sensitive that over time, becomes more concerned about storms.

Medications or homeopathic remedies like Distress Remedy, Tranquil Pet, Be Calm or Calming Essence can be useful but are difficult to administer on an as-needed basis since in a normal summer we get heavy rainstorms every day for many months in this sub-tropical climate. If you happen to be home as a storm is approaching, or if you are fortunate enough to have more warning of storms in your area it certainly can't hurt. Some brands are also appropriate for daily use. If you want to use something regularly, Distress Remedy and Calming Essence are good choices.

The dog appeasing pheromone (DAP) products available from pet supply stores and web sites also help some dogs.

Here are some behavioral training storm desensitizing tips, gathered here in thunderstorm/lightning prone Central Florida:

- For dogs sensitive to noisy thunder you can play sound effects recordings, softly at first during doggie meal times then gradually increase the volume (and this is helpful for dogs that compete in conformation, agility, obedience, and field, whatever!). We have noticed a definite difference in the level of the dogs' reactions when we play CD's as opposed to audiotapes. The difference in quality of sound really seems to matter to the dogs, so use the CD if possible.
- Flip your home's electrical breaker while rewarding the dog (like the power flickering on and off) because it makes appliances cycle up and electronic equipment reset as well as affecting lights.
- Get a barometer and train and reward the dog when it drops even when no storm results.
- Put the dog in a wire crate with a damp towel between the metal pan and the floor (grounding out ionization of the air), or get an air ionization unit.
- Make popcorn during the next few storms and share it with your dogs (mine say that is the best!).

- Do a canine massage session. For tips on canine massage, we recommend Angela Wills' how-to video available at www.caninemassage.com
- Play with a strobe light or the flash from your camera (fringe benefits for show pictures here!).
- And, most important, if you are nervous about storms yourself; learn how to hide it from your dogs.

The goal is to gradually expose the dog to things that are making him nervous, but begin the exposure in such a mild fashion or from so far away that he does not obviously react. For instance, when working on the sound aspect, start softly as recommended. You may also use a toy cap pistol for some of the sound desensitization work, but muffle the toy under pillows or blankets, or inside a cardboard tube.

Click training can speed up the entire process, dramatically.

Best Paw Forward Inc., 1835 Oak Haven Plantation Rd., Osteen FL32764-8872 407-321-1006

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In our Hearts forever...

Our deepest condolences go to the following members of our club who have said goodbye to their dearly loved Flat-Coated Retrievers.

Know that they are only a whistle away from our heart as they frolic and play, on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.

"Joy"	♥	Jackie Fried
"Chip"	♥	Pam Hind
"Bob"	♥	Jeff Speicher
"Remi"	♥	Joyce Frazer



Flat-Coated Retrievers

By Claire Koshar
Reprinted with permission

Columnist Clair Koshar (Founder/Past President and Current Member of the Southern Skies Flat-Coated Retriever Club) is the Author of *A Guide to Dog Sports: From Beginners to Winners (Doral)*. Her English-bred Flat-Coats have held titles in conformation, field, and obedience, and she had judged Sweepstakes at national specialties in the U.S. & Canada.

Don't Postpone Joy®

In the company of our unfailingly joyous breed, it is impossible to remain in an unhappy mood. Noted Asheville, North Carolina, restaurant and caterer Laurey Materton feels so deeply about the concept of *don't postpone joy* that the phrase is the registered trademark of her successful business. Surely, our Flat-Coated Retrievers share her philosophy.

In 1935, H. Reginald Cooke, whose legendary Riverside Kennels influences the Flat-Coated Retriever to this day, wrote an article for Dog World about the history of the breed, from the combining of the "retrieving characteristics" of the Newfoundland and scenting qualities of the "Setter" to the development of a distinct breed type. He concluded his article with this passage:

"I think it would be difficult to find a dog more loyal or of a sweeter disposition than a Flatcoat. Clever, very sagacious and anxious to please, he is at all times a friend and charming companion."

As true today as when written, these two sentences define the essence of the Flat-Coated Retriever. In the field, the show ring, and as a family companion we want a sensible, gentle, and responsive dog. Kindness is the hallmark of the breed. The breed standard carefully describes temperament: *Character is a primary and outstanding asset of the Flat-Coat. He is a responsive, loving member of the family.* It continues, *In competition, the Flat-Coat demonstrates stability and a desire to please with a confident and outgoing attitude characterized by a wagging tail. Nervous, hyperactive shy or obstinate behavior is unacceptable.* The severe fault of poor temperament is stated plainly: *Unprovoked aggressive behaviour toward people or animals is*

totally unacceptable. No Flat-Coat with any indication of that behavior is deserving of any award regardless of any other virtue.

It should be stressed, however, that it is highly uncommon to find a Flat-Coat with anything but a sweet natured disposition. It is because responsible and caring Flat-Coat breeders so highly value good temperament? Is it because those breeders believe that temperament is as essential as type and soundness?

The Flat-Coat is a personal dog. He blossoms with affection from his family. He is happy to be wherever his people are. In the ring, the Flat-Coat is most often an owner-handled breed. Our dogs seem to respond best to those who love them. The breed standard calls for the Flat-Coat to be shown *moving freely on a loose lead and standing naturally.* It tells us that this natural approach is *more important than judging him posed.*

The Flat-Coat is not, as is often stated in the premium lists, "all other retrievers" or the "balance of the Sporting Group". He is the Flat-Coated Retriever, still treasured for the same intrinsic charm that H.R. Cooke noted generations ago. There is only one Flat-Coat Type as described in the standard. There is not the "English Flat-Coat" or the "California Flat-Coat" or the "Show Flat-Coat" or the "Field Flat-Coat." There is only one Flat-Coated Retriever—the one who most closely adheres to the standard in appearance *and* character. That Flat-Coat combines type and soundness with undeniable and unquenchable joy. With one look, you can see the great delight the Flat-Coat takes in life. *Long may their tails wave!* —Claire Koshar



FCR's RULE!

Conformation

Field

Obedience

Agility

Rally

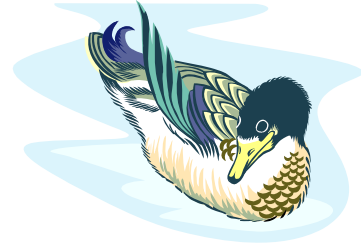
Therapy Dog

Tracking

Search & Rescue

Dock Diving

But most of all-Best Buddy



FLATCHAT Newsletter
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