

Southern Skies Flat-Coated Retriever Club

"Power without lumber and raciness without weediness"

Founded May 2002



Letter from the President

The first quarter of 2012 has been filled with excitement. We started the year with our Supported Entry, held on February 18 in Lakeland, Florida. Carol Cassidy did an outstanding job of chairing and organizing this hugely popular event. Member Gillian Impey judged the sweepstakes and Judge Karen Ashe judged the regular classes. The Sara Bay KC was amazing in catering to our every need – ribbons, accommodation for our annual meeting, ring size - everything was first class!



Spring 2012

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After the show, we held our general membership meeting with election of officers. The slate consisted of all the officers and directors from the previous term with the addition of Kelli Riggs as director, taking Jinny Courtney's slot. Donna Post presented the Annual Ribbon awards to a multitude of member's dogs who were very busy in 2011 getting titles in a vast array of venues.

We held our WC/WCX on March 11th in Montverde, Florida on the lovely Golden Oaks property – thanks to the generosity of land owner, Wayne Gey. Equally generous was Claire and Marty Koshar who allowed a training day on the 10th at their home to get dogs familiar with chukkars and ducks before the actual test. Co-Chairs Joe Hamzy and Pam Hind did a spectacular job – start to finish – getting the event together on very short notice. It was wonderful to see the amount of member support and MFGRC support that was out in force on one of the rainiest Sundays I can remember in Florida. Despite the rain, everyone had great praise for the event.

Thanks to all the fantastic members who make our events so much fun! It takes so much work from so many to get these events to fruition - and because they are so well run, it looks as if they just 'happen'! Well, they don't just happen, and year to year we need even more help to keep them running – so please volunteer to help on a committee. We have need for assistance on all committees so please call a chair and ask what you can do. It is a very rewarding feeling to be part of one of our events.

Here's looking forward to more excitement in the upcoming months!

Kathi Leonhardt

President, Southern Skies Flat-Coated Retriever Club

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Membership Update

Submitted by Membership Chair—Cheryl Mellon



There are currently 75 total club members in Southern Skies. Of those there are 24 family memberships.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our 2012 new members:

Chip & Laurie Carter live in Valrico, FL. They are looking to add a Flat-Coat to the family later this year or next year. Chip first met our breed when he took his Golden to Pam Hind's for training and he was hooked. You may have met Chip at the Supported Entry in the grooming area meeting our dogs. They are interested in agility, obedience, possibly field and fun days.

Hector & Meredith Hector live in Davie, FL. They are interested in conformation, field and hunt tests. They were at the Supported Entry, so hopefully you met them.

Bonnie Joyce, a recent transplant from Virginia, lives in Havana, FL. She has owned Flat-Coats for a number of years and currently has Hudson and Angus. She is interested in conformation, obedience, field, agility, fun days and tracking.

Cyndi Mimms lives in Apopka, FL. Her Flat-Coat is Casey. She is interested in conformation, agility, field, obedience, fun days and tracking. She handled Casey at the Supported Entry.

Please reach out to these new members in your area. If you have any questions about membership or anyone contacts you about membership, please have them email me at tpacheryl@hotmail.com.



2012 SSFCRC WC/WCX Event

First I would like to say that it was definitely "ducky weather" raining on Sunday and not very conducive to upland game hunting! The dog's and handlers didn't seem to mind very much.

I want to thank our judges Macy Swift and Pat Kopco for giving all exhibitors (dog and human) a fun, fair and safe test. Of course we could not have had a test without grounds, a huge thank-you goes to Wayne Gey for the use of Katie's Landing for our event.

It takes many dedicated people to put on such an event, it is refreshing to still see that the main core of retriever enthusiasts still include people outside of Flat Coats that are willing to come work and support our event. Many of the exhibitors came forward to volunteer to help throw even in the rain. That saying, I want to thank Tom and Joanne Hell and the Mid Florida Golden Retriever club for the use of their equipment for our test. Our Gun Captain, Mike Orloff volunteered to do anything for us, Don Neiffer also volunteered (including his Chessie, Widgeon) to come work our test...both Mike and Don were life savers pitching in. Our live gunner, Chuck Masters came with some of his shooting buddies and knocked down every flyer on our WCX, with the cost of birds these days, it was a relief not to see any fly away considering they were shooting in the driving rain...Awesome!

Tom Young, (a golden enthusiast) volunteered to be our Game Steward transporting and caring for the birds for our event, a relief for those of us that don't own a truck! Joe Riggs was our club photographer for the morning. Dea Jaffey governed over the Ways & Means items, donuts and "The Lucy" award.

Big thanks for all our poppers and throwers... Kelli Riggs, Cheryl Mellon, Elizabeth Masters, Jonathan Hind and Victoria Bushell... Alison Schultz came on board on the water to help throw. Everything ran at a good clip with Marshal Lana Rowlison in charge!

Last of all a huge thanks to Claire for hosting the Judges Dinner and Joyce Frazer for helping Claire with the dinner. Joyce Frazer was in charge of the "field breakfast" (donuts & coffee). Carol Cassidy spoiled all of us brown paper baggers with a box lunch from Crispers.

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It was great working with Joe Hamzy my co-chair, Mary Hamzy, Donna Post (co-secretaries), Beth Meaney our GRCA Rep., Lana Rowilson rounded out the rest of the WC/WCX Committee.

Congratulations to everyone that passed! We hosted a versatile group of Goldens, Curly Coat, Chessie, Irish Water Spaniel, Lab and Flat Coats. The qualifiers are listed on Entry Express.

At the end of the day we had two Flat Coats still standing with a WC pass, Mallard Pointe Divine Miss M, JH WC owned by Beth Meaney & Pam Hind, handled by Beth and Mallard Pointe's Kiss Me Kate, WC owned and handled by Pam Hind.

Each year, at our WC/WCX test, the Flat Coat whose work best exemplifies Flat Coat Retriever style and ability will be designated the winner of the Lucy Award. "The Lucy" is in memory of CH Destiny Grand Illusion, MH CD WCX

After the Judges finished awarding Ribbons to the qualifiers, the Judges announced the winner, and the Club President, Kathi Leonhardt presented "The Lucy" award to Mallard Pointe's Kiss Me Kate, WC.



Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hind
WC/WCX Co-Chair
Past President

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SSFCRC Veteran Dogs

Birthday	Dog "Call" name	Registered Name	Dog Owner
04/01/03	Lacey	CH Longleaf Suncoast Legacy	Joyce Leonard
04/10/02	Bailey	Bryant's Inspector Bailey CD RAE	Kelly Bryant
04/18/05	Lyric	: CH Shiloh Galadriel, JH WCX CGC	Kathi Leonhardt
05/25/04	Sperry	CH Mallard Pointe's Freedom Spirit	Leasa Gowett
06/09/04	Worf	UH HR Mallard Pointe Gone Klingon CD RAE SH WCX MX MXJ XF	Susan Schultz
06/14/04	Dino	CH Destiny's Wrockosaurus Rex CGC FGDCh	Rob Bitler
06/23/04	Bess	CH Belsud Brown Benrines JH WC	Claire Koshar
06/24/01	Gem	CH Quillquest Ghillie's Gem MH WCX CAN WCI	Gillian Impey
06/30/02	Cassie	CH Suncoasts Cassiopeia	Peter & Hilary Zachary
06/30/02	Cruiser	CH Suncoast Starcruising Aguila	Joyce Leonard

Happy Birthday to the dogs that have brought us joy for 7 or more years. May you have many more years of Flat Coat Fun!

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THE PRAGMATIC FIELD TRAINER: Tips on Using What You Have

I have two dogs who are fine personal companions – a MH yellow Lab, & a SH Flat-Coat in training for Master – and they both live to retrieve. I've trained both dogs myself, with the indispensable help of a couple of very good mentors, one an amateur Lab field trial guy and one a flat-coat hunt test pro, and a band of merry amateurs. I live more than an hour away from the nearest training grounds and swim-by pond. And so, the day-to-day (and it's NOT every day) training has had to take place in metro parks, public fishing ponds, a retaining pond, school tennis courts, industrial park land, unused fairground parking fields, an abandoned soap box derby hill, strip-mall sidewalks (also excellent for obedience work--you can watch yourself work with your dog in the shop windows)...

My experience has been that THESE PLACES are where most amateurs do 80 percent or more of their training--not always, but at least a good part of the time ALONE--and if we just take the initiative to do it with a dog that's been bred to do it, we can succeed to a satisfying degree.

In training with both the pro and the experienced amateur, what has really struck me is that even with grounds and water and equipment and such available, the really important day-to-day work is mostly about you and your dog. It's not sexy, and it's not complicated, and to most people (including me, and I'm obsessed) it can at least sometimes be a bit of a grind and a little lonely. I can absolutely say that you don't need special equipment and multiple training partners to teach heeling and pivots. I force-fetched both my dogs sitting on the floor and watching television, with a collar duck-taped in a rather strange way to the leg of a table. Most people use a door-knob, I'm told, but I can't picture it. You can teach rudimentary casting in a back yard or on a tennis court; you can do pile work in the park; you can do pattern blinds in all sorts of places. For advanced training, a few paint buckets and a dozen bumpers will get you three quarters of the way to senior and master skills. Alone, just you and your dog. If you wait to do it until you have someone else to train with, well--it's not going to get done.

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Experienced mentors can offer immeasurable help, but it can be hard to convince experienced folks to take newcomers seriously. It took a long time and lots of lonely trips down questionable country roads and filthy fields and creepy ticks and horrid stinky birds and bruised knees and pinched fingers (watch those wingers) and sore arms and humiliation from my dog and shrugging off the grumbling condescension of a few old farts and such before anyone took me seriously. But now that I've been at this for a few years, I can understand that the experienced people meet a lot of newcomers who are gung-ho for a day, or a week, or a month or three, and then they disappear after a few disappointments and a tick or two, and a pile of rotten birds and some bruises and hurt feelings when Fido acts the fool or some old fart rolls his eyes. You just have to hang in there and earn your place with some stick-to-it-iveness, and for heaven's sake, if they say anything about your flat-coat, smile and shrug and let your work with the dog prove that you're serious, because that's what the Lab people have to do when someone says something about THEIR dog, too. (I hear plenty of "neverheardofthatbreeders" and "whenyouknowbetteryou'llgetablackdogs" and such about my Lab, even now.)

I hope this doesn't sound too preachy--but I'm a middle-aged, overweight female who trained a dog to master with a crate, a dozen bumpers, three buckets, an e-collar, a leash, and a good dog stuffed into a crate stuffed into the back of a Mazda Protege, and any dog sense I have, I got out of a book or from an occasional critic behind me saying it a gazillion times before I listened.

If YOU want to do field, and you have a dog bred to do it, YOU CAN DO IT. Seriously. Keep at it--it's not an impossible thing. And anyone in Ohio or the surrounding states can contact me, and I'll hook you up. It is SO worth it to give it a try.

--Greta Ode

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Remembering our Friends

Gauge

November 23, 2000 to April 10, 2012

CH U-CD SHR Wingmasters Genesis CDX JH WC CGC



He was going to be "just a pet" but the sweetest dog loved to work and wanted to please. Gauge was the first dog I ever put titles on. It was a great adventure for over 11 years. May we live life passionately and with joy as he did.

Alison Schultz & Guy Murtonen



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Remembering our Friends

Jordan

CH Hallbent Most Happy Fella, SH WCX CGC

August 13, 1999 - March 13, 2012

Jordan - aka: Jordie, Jo, or Jody - my best friend forever and the foundation of StormWatch. He will be so greatly missed but will live on in his many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and, always, in my heart.

Kathi Leonhardt

StormWatch FCRs



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Braggs: Our Great Dogs Accomplishing Great Things

Tripp's Senior Hunter Title—Submitted by Alison Schultz

My Flatcoated Retriever "Tripp" HR Wing-master's Triple Play SH WCX, earned his Senior Hunter Title on January 29th at the Treasure Coast Retriever Club. Tripp went 4 for 4 in Senior! We double entered that weekend in Master, and made it half way thru, not bad for a rookie team. Then on February 12 at the Mid Florida Golden Retriever Hunt Test, Tripp and I earned our very first Master pass at a challenging test. I am so proud of my boy, and what fun to spend time with friends and dogs in the field, with the dogs doing what they truly love to do!



Thank you to my breeder Maureen Kolasa for her care in always producing beautiful dogs who can work, to all my training partners for the many hours in the field, and to all the landowners who graciously allow us to use their property.

Zeva's Beginner Novice Title—Submitted by Dea Jaffey

My young Flatcoat Zeva finished her Beginner Novice Title with placements. She also received two Rally Novice B passes, too!





Tegan's Conformation Success—Submitted by Kathi Leonhardt

Tegan (Silver GCH Am/Can CH StormWatch Thunderclapp Tegan, JH WCX CGC) had a fantastic start to her 2012. She won the Supported entry at the Sara Bay KC, Feb. 18th, 2012 by going Best of Breed in a huge class of Specials. This win came a week after her winning Best of Opposite at the Westminster Kennel Club at Madison Square Garden in New York - an event that will be long remembered. Tegi is owned and adored by Kathi Leonhardt.



Mako's Junior Hunter Title— Submitted by Steve Pace

My Mako (Stormwatch Wind Legends JH, WC) won his Junior Hunter title in January. Both of us love our Field work and could not have done it without our training partners, especially Kathi Leonhardt.

Without Kathi's guidance, we would never have even attempted field work.





Monty's Beginner Novice Title—Submitted by Elizabeth Masters

Ronveorg Deal or No Deal, Monty, earned his BN Beginner Novice title in three straight goes finishing at the Strawberry Cluster in February, all his scores were in the 190's.

Rowdie's Silver GCH—Submitted by Carol Beth Davis

Silver GCH StormWatch Rocks U Like A Hurricane, JH, WC. At the Perry shows this month, Rowdie earned his Silver GCH. Rowdie is Handled by Morgan Brooks, and owned and loved by Carole Beth Davis, Annie Williams, and Kathi Leonhardt/StormWatch Flat Coats.



Kyla's New Agility Titles—Submitted by Bobbie Bradley

CH Stormwatch Inherit the Wind JH WC NA NJ, Kyla, earned her Novice Agility title on March 10th in Zanesville Ohio at the GRC of Columbus, Ohio trial. Those photos were taken there and I thought it was cute to see her charging out of the shoot, We got a blue ribbon that day as well. Then this past week-end on Sun. April 22nd. she got her Novice Jumpers title with another first place. Way to go Kyla!

