



The Sacramento Valley Weimaraner Club

GHOSTWRITER

V O L U M E 7  N U M B E R 1  F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 5

LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!!

I don't know about everyone else but to me this time of year is like the lull before the storm and the dogs are getting restless. They know that this rainy season really is going to come to an end and what lays ahead are fun in the sun days. The Cow Palace Show kicks things off at the end of January for dog enthusiasts of all calibers. SVWC's spring field trial is just around the corner February 19-20 followed in May with the club Agility Trial. We also have several club members headed due east in May for the WCA National Specialty, not to mention the monthly field training days leading up to a fall Ratings Test. And speaking of field training days, I hear a rumor that we're going to start incorporating tracking, too! Then of course there are the beckoning hiking trails and beach excursions to add frosting to the cake.

Yes indeed, the lull before the storm. So take to heart a lesson we can all learn from our favorite gray friends: Take lots of naps and always stretch before rising.

Happy dog adventures, Cydney

OBEDIENCE TIP

By Mara Wildfeuer

WATCH BODY LANGUAGE:

While training, lots of positive body language is encouraged to help the dog learn. When you get into the ring however, it is important to be very careful to not use body language to cue your dog, or else the judge will dock points.

COMMON MISTAKES

1. Bobbing head when starting off heeling.
2. Left hand lifting when starting off heeling.
3. Hands in unnatural position while heeling.
Hands clenched.
4. Head dipping or whole body raising when calling for the recall.
5. Stiff body language on group exercises, same body position as a recall.



SACRAMENTO VALLEY WEIMARANER CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD 2005

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SVWC GHOSTWRITER NEWSLETTER

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NEW TITLES IN 2004



Silver Mist RDX SD, Misty

Ch. Windwalker Shadow of Thunder (Harley)

Championship—Chris Wiedemeier

Silver Mist RDX SD (Misty)

Retrieving Dog Excellent—Christy Prentice

CH Silverado Destinee's Child, NSD, CGC (Trinitee)

Championship
Novice Shooting Dog
Canine Good Citizen—Shifra Steele & Michael Ayers

Calvin IV NSD, NRD, CGC (Calvin)

Novice Shooting Dog
Novice Retrieving Dog
—Amy & Ian Carpenter

Rockvils Diamond in the Rough, CGC (Drake)

Canine Good Citizen
—Amy & Ian Carpenter

From the Top Hat Crew

CH Top Hat's Fleetwood Mac, NRD (Woody)

Championship
Novice Retrieving Dog

CH Top Hat's Coming Your Way (AJ)

Championship

CH Top Hat's Sands Of Time (Kauai)

Championship

CH Top Hat's Stevie Nicks, JH, SD (Stevie)

Championship

Junior Hunter

Shooting Dog—all owned or co-owned by Debbie Hopkins

Kymerli A Hopkins, was the WCA top Junior Conformation Handler until she aged out in October of 2004. Kym was the WCA #1 Junior Conformation Handler for 2002, 2003, 2004. She put many titles on our Top Hat babies, as well as several client dogs.—Debbie Hopkins

FCI CH Grayshar Eleanor V Reiteralm NAJ,NAP,NJP,NRD,CGC (Eleanor)

Novice Retrieving Dog
Novice Agility Preferred
Canine Good Citizen—Noa Safra

Windwalker's Wild Glenfiddich (Frasier)

Int'l. /AKC champion with 4 BOBs and BIS.
—Linda Smalldon

Ch Rockville's Truman Greystone MH, AX, AXJ, VCD1, SDX, RDX, VX (Truman)

Master Hunter
Retrieving Dog Excellent
Companion Dog—Frank Sommer

Regen's Full Speed Ahead (Zoe)

Novice Retrieving Dog
Shooting Dog
NAVHDA Prize I—Darci and Andy Sowers

Baht Me and My Shadow (Shadow)

Junior Hunter
Companion Dog
Retrieving Dog
Shooting Dog—Darci and Andy Sowers

Cameron's Pic-A-Star

Romy NSD, CD, CGC (Romy)

Novice Shooting Dog
Companion Dog
Canine Good Citizen—Julie Vreeburg

Ghostwalker's Wind Rider MH TD AX AXJ RD SDX (Harlie)

Tracking Dog
Agility Excellent
Agility Excellent Jumpers
—Cydney Hansen

Ch. Top Hat's Bad Moon Rising CD, NA, NAJ, NJP,

TDI, V (Desmo)

Companion Dog
Novice Agility
Novice Agility Jumper—Mara Wildfeuer

From the Rockville Gang

CH Rokvils Reflections N'Silver JH NAJ NA SD RD VX (Amber)

Shooting Dog
Retrieving Dog
Novice Agility—Debbie & Bruce Gross

CH Rokvils Illusion of Diamonds NRD (Tori)

Novice Retrieving Dog—Debbie & Bruce Gross

CH Rockville's Gold Run NAJ NA NRD NSD V (Roger)

Novice Agility Jumpers
Novice Agility
Novice Retrieving Dog—Debbie & Bruce Gross

Rokvils Granite Slab Blitz NRD (Blitz)

Novice Retrieving Dog—Kevin Phillips

Rockvilles Dollars & Diamonds NSD CGC (Perry)

Novice Shooting Dog
CGC—Debbie & Bruce Gross & Kristina Leslie



CH Silverado Destinee's Child, NSD, CGC Trinitee

NVDT CLASSES

The Napa Valley Dog Training Club's
Animal-Assisted Therapy Team
& Handling Skills Class

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning about animal-assisted therapy or those already volunteering with their dog who want to improve their skills.

Class will include:

Information on Regional & National Certifying Organizations

Safety & Healthcare Issues

Team Problem Solving & Communication

Introduction and Use of Proper Equipment

Advanced Animal-Assisted Therapy Skills

LOTS of Practice with Equipment & Role Play

and Field Trips to Perfect YOUR TEAM SKILLS

Classes - Saturday, March 12 - April 30, 10:30 am
(7 week session - no class held on the holiday weekend)

Instructors, Marilane Bergfelt & Jana Gray, will combine their talents to help you and your pet become an effective, safe & happy team.

Marilane is a Licensed Evaluator & Registered Therapy Team Handler with the International Delta Society / Pet Partners Program. She has spent more than 10 years working extensively in hospitals, with special needs children and with the elderly as a handler, team trainer, therapy program coordinator, & officer / administrator of a regional animal-assisted therapy organization.

Jana is a professional dog trainer and graduate of the SFSPCA's Academy for Dog Trainers. She has AKC and international titles with multiple dogs, and specializes in rescued and fearful dogs. She is renowned for her in-depth understanding of companion pets and her ability to communicate that knowledge to handlers.

Prerequisites: Consistent Sit/Stay; Down/Stay; walk on a loose leash and dogs must be "dog friendly".

Costs: Non-members \$100; members \$75; \$15 discount for senior / junior handlers, rescue dog or 2nd class same dog.

Additional \$10 cost for class binder filled with information, guidelines & articles.

For more specific information or class content email: LAPS_AAT@msn.com



MEMBER PROFILE

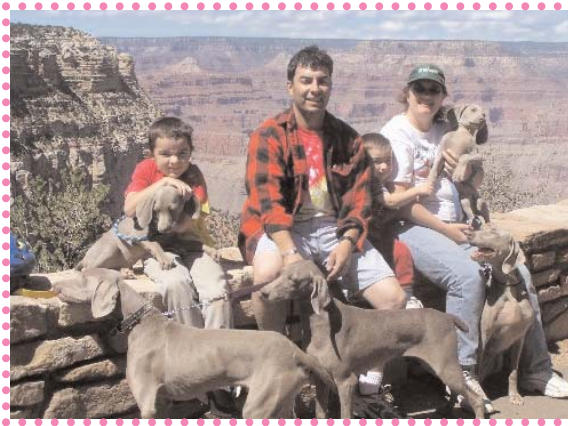
Esteri Hinman and the Hinman family

My name is Esteri Hinman,

though I started in Weims as Esteri Randlett in 1985. We have the Graenit Weimaraners kennel name. George married into the dogs. Our first date he said "I'm not really a dog person." I quickly responded with "It's a package deal." So, he got the dogs, and I got the Air Force.

My first Weim was rescued from the St Louis Humane Society in May of 1985. His name was "Hogan". He was 2, I was his third (and last) owner. My roommate, who had recommended the Weimaraner to me – her sister had one, found him when she wandered into the Humane Society because she was early for a job interview nearby. She wanted me to look at him so that I'd recognize the breed someday-when-I-was-established-and-could-have-a-dog. I put him on my "emergency" VISA card that my parents had given me - well it was an emergency for him. I knew what I was getting into as my roommate had a dog and we had a very long conversation about the trials of finding housing when you have a dog. I moved back in with my parents immediately after. My mom drove with me across the country from St Louis to Seattle. She wasn't all the excited about Hogan, but he completely changed her mind by the time we reached Seattle. Then I landed my first "real" job and moved to Detroit. They were happy I had him looking after me. He was the kind of dog who checked all the windows and doors every night. If I had a guest - he slept in front of their door all night. He was a fabulous dog who watched over me while I was single. I miss him still, and am sorry that my boys never knew him. We lost him when our son Jakob was 6 months old. In retrospect – Hogan was one of those "little" decisions that turned into a life-changing event.

You see, I had adopted this hunting dog. And being a city girl I had been raised with the all-hunters-are-Bambi-killers mentality. One day, I saw a small community event ad for a hunting dog clinic. Thinking that Hogan might be this great hunter, I went. I went and learned many important things: hunters are some of the most conservation minded people you'll ever meet, Hogan wasn't a great hunter, and I really enjoyed training dogs. It was a NAVHDA clinic – and I met some really great people. Soon I was out training every weekend. On my way out to a training session one weekend I passed the trial grounds where the Detroit Weimaraner Club was having a field trial. I stopped in, and met other Weimaraners. The first I had met since adopting Hogan. I wanted to start testing and trialing, but had this one little problem – Hogan had no papers, and an AKC ILP wasn't



Our vacation this last summer was what we called "The Great Western Circle". Sacramento, Salida Colorado (in-laws there), Hooker Oklahoma (dogs there), and home by way of the Grand Canyon. One guess where this was taken. It was a mile walk to this spot from the van - and it was too warm to leave the dogs in the van. So off we went on our adventure: Mom, Dad, Jakob (7), Issac (3), 3 adult dogs, and 2 10-week old pups. And an adventure it was. Dad had two adults, including one who only learned how to beel in the parking lot with a bit of cheese. Issac was in charge of himself. Jakob started off with an adult, but ended up with a pup. And I had the remaining adult and pup. About half way in Issac's little legs gave out and he rode on my shoulders (Dad, apparently, wasn't reliable enough.) Goodness you should have heard the comments we got from other tourists on the canyon rim.

The pups gave out on the trip back. So, I wound up with Issac on my shoulders and Taiko in my arms. George had Banjo slung over his shoulders and Digit and Slater on lead. And Jakob finished the march with Kaiya. The comments from other folks were even more fun on the way out as we got pretty spread out with Dad in front, followed a little while later with Jakob, and me bringing up the rear. My most common response? "Well, the young 'uns got tired."

A very nice lady from Brooklyn NY took this picture. Starting at the left side, back row, and going clockwise: Banjo, Jakob, George, Issac, Esteri, Taiko, Kaiya, Digit, and Slater (on his way to his new home).

good enough for entries to NAVHDA events.

So, I needed a "real" dog. A member of the club very kindly gave me pick out of their field litter provided I promised to field trial her through Derby. I remember calling home to tell my parents how excited I was about my future pup and the breeding. There was this long pause on the other end of the phone, and my mother said – "You're really serious about this dog thing aren't you?" It

took them this long to figure it out? U-CD Palimar's Kahden Kerta, JH, CDX, Can CD, NSD, NRD – "Keri" came home in early summer of 1988. I trained and trialed Keri myself, and she went to #5 on the Derby list. I wasn't able to attend the National Field Trial in 1989 – so she was sent with Ken Jellings. Keri placed 4th in the National Open Derby. Two weeks later – she was diagnosed with moderate-severe hip dysplasia at Michigan State University. We couldn't believe what we were seeing on the films. I had been planning on breeding her to a prominent Dual Champion at the time (Valmar's Valiant Knight) – but all those plans were scratched. I now needed another bitch to fill my dreams of breeding Dual Champions.

Fortunately, the owner of the Val, Joan Valdez, knew of another litter in the area by him. Through some networking, and some excellent references – I was able to get pick bitch out of that litter. Ch Grayshar's Piper v Graenit – "Pippy" came home in 1990. At this point I traded in my Jimmy for an Astro van since I was now dragging three dogs around the countryside. Pippy became a group winning special, but had absolutely no talent for the field. I needed to go back to the field and pick up some talent there. I became interested in another Dual Champion, this one a National Field Champion, 4x National Amateur Field Champion – Top Deaugh. I couldn't believe he'd barely been bred to. Virginia Alexander helped me lease a bitch to breed to Topper – neither one of us felt he was a good match for Pippy. My first home-bred litter entered the world in June of 1992, 3 boys and 1 girl – the smallest pup was 17 ounces, the biggest – 24.5! Out of that litter – I kept the best pup, a male – Ch ArimarLisa Arkansa v Graenit, SH, SDX, NRD – "Benton".



Jakob Hinman handling Ch Graenit's Rusbin' Roulette, JH, SD at the 2004 WCA Nationals.

My breeding program was underway. I figured it was a 20 to 30 year project. My goal? Duals shouldn't be happy accidents –

they should be deliberate on purposes. There is no reason we can't have a National Field Champion who wins the National Specialty. I have a vision of this dog; who trots past my inner eye regularly. It is slow going getting there – and it will take a very special combination of structure, talent, and temperament to achieve this. Between frequent military moves (a thing of the past!), and deciding to

have children – my plans have slowed down somewhat. But I am a patient person; we'll get there eventually.

With nearly 20 years in dogs we've had our share of tragedy and triumph. We've lost wonderful dogs before they were a year old; we've lost them for really weird, once-in-a-lifetime reasons; we've lost them to old age. But we've had our share of wins too. There is something satisfying about taking a dog to the field and watching it do what it was bred to do. I leave the field right with the world. I think my proudest moment in Weims is a tie between two things. The first was when "Kaiya" – Ch Graenit's Rushin' Roulette, JH, SD – became only the third Weimaraner in history to earn the Dual Futurity award. (Won by placing in both the show and field futurities.) The second was watching my seven-year-old son, Jakob, handle her at the National Specialty this last April.

Hogan, Keri, Pippy, Benton, Kaiya, Jet-A, Jake, Gizmo, Digit, Tess, Pete, Solo, Gizmo-the-Second, Taiko, and Banjo – all told 15 dogs I've considered as "mine". Though some were sold, or are for sale – so not all will be mine when they cross the Rainbow Bridge.

Our dogs gift us with "ownership" for different reasons. Hogan was mine because he was grateful. Keri was mine because I was the only person on the face of the planet she respected – mostly. Kaiya isn't mine at all, but gave herself to George for her own reasons. Digit belongs to whoever has food in their hand at the time. And, Benton was mine because he gave me his soul. The joy went out of dogs for me when we lost him unexpectedly to cancer in late 2001.

It's been a long time, but as I sit here giving his great-grand-son, Taiko, scratches – I know it is time to break out those dresses with pockets, climb back in the saddle, and rediscover the joy that our dogs bring to our lives.



NEW STANDARDS FOR RATINGS

By Frank Sommer

At its December Board meeting, the WCA approved some changes to the Standards for Ratings, that is, the rules for Ratings Tests. These changes took effect on January first of this year. Some of the changes are minor, but several of them are quite significant. The change that will by far be most important to some people is the fact that dogs having disqualifying faults will now be allowed to earn Shooting and Retrieving Ratings. There is the proviso that they must be spayed or neutered, and must obtain a certification number from the National Office, but blues, and dogs that are too tall, or too small can now take part in these great tests. I think it is wonderful that more owners will be able to work with their dogs in these venues, and show what our favorite grey friends can do.

The remainder of the changes relate to some new Versatile Ratings titles, and changes to the schedule of points for those titles. The full details of these changes are available on the WCA website at <http://www.weimclubamerica.org/ratings>, but I will mention some of them here. For starters, Rally Obedience and Preferred Agility have been added to the schedule. Amateur Field Champions and Master Agility Champions are also recognized, whereas before they were not. Would you believe that a dog with an NSD carried more weight towards a Versatile title than did an Amateur Field

Champion? Well no more, the AFC now gets the same recognition as other Champions.

The first of the new titles is Versatile Master (VM). The VM requires the same number of points as a VX, however it does not require a Championship as the VX does. Instead, it requires titles from four of the six versatility areas, whereas VX requires titles from only three of them. So the VM is less demanding than VX in one respect, but more demanding in another. The titles are considered to be roughly at the same level of difficulty, and a dog qualifying for both may display only one or the other after their name - not both. I suspect that for most dogs, the more traditional VX will be the title of choice. The idea behind VM was to have a title (and something to shoot for) beyond V for those dogs that will never attain bench championships.

Finally, VX is no longer the end of the line in versatility titles. There is a whole raft of new ones from Versatile Excellent 2 through 7. While we are not likely to ever see a VX7 (it requires a five-way champion), the intervening titles give literally everyone something to shoot for.

I applaud the WCA for making these changes, which can only serve to grant recognition, and give encouragement for people to do more with their fine versatile friends. I know I've got my eye on that next level, and I've established a roadmap for getting there. I encourage you to do the same.



BRAGS

New Champion and Best of Breed

At the Rose City Classic shows in Portland, Lexi, (Carizma 'N Bing's Reflexion, JH), went WB on Friday (4 pts.) to finish her Championship AND went on to beat 4 Specials for

BEST OF BREED, and her little sister, Cela, (Carizma 'N Bing's Celebration- age 7 months), went Reserve to her!!

It was a very exciting weekend. Cela went Reserve the next day, also.

–Kathy & Jack Weber, proud breeder/owner/handlers

Highest Scoring Rescue Dog

Jimmy James qualified in "Novice A" with a 181.5, his first leg towards his CD. He also received a "Special Award" for "Highest Scoring Rescue Dog" a cash prize of \$15.00.

I'm so very proud of him! He was rewarded with a steak! (Well part of one anyway, I did a little work too).

–Taria Sarkisian

New CD!

Rockvils Diamond in the Rough CD, CGC (Drake) finished his CD with a first place in Novice A at the Golden Gate Kennel Club shows at the Cow Palace.

–Proud owners are Amy and Ian Carpenter