



Newsletter of the National Labrador Retriever Association

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The National Specialty is THE best opportunity to meet other Labrador Lovers, show off your dogs, learn more about the breed, win great prizes and have fun ! This is a big deal. Come and participate. You are invited !

From the President's Crate ..

Can you believe it's already Fall? It seems that the years go by much quicker these days, but regardless, I always love this time of year. Crisp leaves and cool mornings are always the best when I exercise the dogs and they seem to perk up a bit too, when the cooler temperatures are here and those Fall smells are in the air. It's a short Season here in North Dakota, with the first snow coming in October. The waterfowl are already moving in huge flocks and trucks and trailers from every state are invading. It's a very exciting time for working Labradors!

October also brings another big event, the NLRA National Specialty, this year held in Love's Park, Illinois. Our National Specialty is a great time to get together and discuss issues that concern the Labrador Retriever, dogs in general, new requirements from USDA, Health, Training, Breeding and Whelping and lots of other topics that always creep up during conversation! There is never an end to talking about our Labs! This will be our first National Specialty as the official UKC Parent Club for Labradors. UKC has strict requirements and expectations in order for a Club to earn this designation. It was 5 years in the making and hundreds of hours for paperwork, gathering statistics and providing UKC with all the information they required. I'm glad that part is behind us, but now, we need to start a Membership drive and increase our enrollment to support our efforts and our Specialty. I know that many of us have memberships with multiple Clubs but please be aware that the Parent Club is where the fight goes on for Health testing, Registration changes and all other Breed issues that pertain to the Labrador Retriever. If the Parent Club is not supported, then it will end up in the hands of Breeders/Trainers/Fanciers who most likely will have alternate plans for the Breed. This is something that I hope all of you find unacceptable. So, please encourage your family, friends, clients and puppy buyers to become a member of the National Labrador Retriever Association! Everyone has something to add to the conversation.

As many of us get ready to wind down our travel, training and competition schedules, I invite you all to sit snuggled up in a blanket on a cool evening and write down your favorite stories about the year's adventures, or, perhaps a time-tested dog treat recipe or favorite dog poem. Our quarterly newsletter, The Wag, always needs submissions of all kinds! We want everyone to share their thoughts, triumphs and try-agains with all of us so we can learn from and share a laugh or two with our Membership. And most of all, don't forget those brags and those Tributes for the fantastic dogs that we love and loose throughout the year. All submissions can go directly to the editor at inquiry@shenandoahlabs.com or you can email them to nlraukc@gmail.com.

Fall is also a good time to repair or replace equipment as needed, especially in your Doggie First Aid box. If you come to the National Specialty, the NLRA is going to help you do just that! If you know me, you have probably seen my dog first aid bag. I'm not sure what I don't have in there, but it has come in so handy for others who travel without one! I challenge everyone to gather a basic bag to travel with. You never know when your dog, or someone else's, may need it. Don't end up with a big Vet bill saying "I wish I woulda".

I hope to see many of you at the Specialty. As we get older, dog show gatherings become more precious and the social aspect more important. Even if you don't have a dog to show, you can get in on lots of good conversation and there is always a need for extra hands. I'll be heading out on October 1.

GET THOSE ENTRIES IN NOW ! **ELLEN**

NATIONAL LABRADOR RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

DATES

Fri, Oct 18, 2019

HOST CLUB

National Labrador Retriever Association | [visit website](#)

Held In Conjunction With

Rock Valley Kennel Federation | [visit website](#)

Secretary

Ellen McKinnon

[701.381.9452](tel:701.381.9452)

nlraukc@gmail.com

Chairperson

Mark Holcomb

[815.494.1363](tel:815.494.1363)

pjlabs1@aol.com

EVENTS OFFERED

Specialty, Conformation (Altered Conformation, Junior Showmanship, Brace, Brood Bitch, Novice Puppy, Stud Dog, Veteran)

Event Entry Fee Notes

Conformation Pre-Entry \$20.00

Conformation Day of Show Entry \$25.00

Junior Showmanship -- no charge

Non-Licensed \$10.00

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE: received by Oct 11 2019

MORE NATIONAL SPECIALTY INFO

DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 90, West Or East: Exit at Riverside Blvd. West to Material Avenue (One stop light west of Forest Hills Road at the RR tracks). Right on Material Avenue. Go over the small bridge to 6203 Material Avenue (right hand side). Turn right in driveway and left behind the bldg. From Route 251: From the North, turn left (east) at Windsor Road. Right on Material Avenue. To 6203. From the South, turn right on Riverside Blvd. to Material Avenue (at RR tracks). Show Site Is Forest City Dog Training Club Building.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Friday Show 1 is limited to breeds assigned to the UKC Gun Dog Group Junior Handlers who enter the Gun Dog Group (S1), must show a Gun Dog Non-Licensed Classes for Show 1 is limited to Novice Puppy and Veteran

Friday Show 2 is designated as the Labrador Retriever Provisional National Show

Junior Handlers who enter the National Show must show a Labrador Retriever

All listed Non-Licensed Classes are offered during Show 2 and is limited to Labrador Retriever's only.

Conformation Entry Form - Use Starting January 1, 2019
(PDF)

Vital information concerning entries!!!
<http://theukclabradorclub.org/page18.html>

50 Years in Labradors by Martha Anderson, PhD

When I type those words it seems so unbelievable, and yet, it is. Andy sits next to me in his easy chair, and 4 Labradors of various ages from 2 to 15, both genders, and 2 colors lounge around us. Even though I just vacuumed, there is already a herringbone pattern of yellow fur woven into the area rugs, and clumps of black fur visible on the white vinyl floors in the corners. Our primary item of house décor is the dog bed, the double-stacked dog bed. Yep, this is a dog household.

And a dog property. Two other groups of Labradors are also resident – the girls in the ‘Little Kennel’ and ‘the boys’ in the ‘Big Kennel’. We’re surrounded by several acres of fenced, mowed exercise paddocks. And oh, yes, a pond.

How did it come to pass? What’s that road been like?

Well for Andy, it started as a youngster growing up in the hills of Southwest Virginia as a hunter, the youngest of 4 brothers. Upland game birds were plentiful – turkey, grouse, pheasant – and so the men hunted. Fast forward to his US Air Force service stationed in England near Norfolk. The hunting club featured land populated by pheasant. And so, Andy sought a good working Labrador as a hunting companion. Having found a reputable field breeder, he and his English bride, Doreen, purchased a lovely black female they named Shenandoah Jet Lady. Called her Dusty. She was a crackerjack retriever and flusher for Andy and the consummate companion for Doreen. Having grown up in England, Doreen was familiar with the English Agricultural Fairs, and so they attended. At the dog rings friendships were developed with the Labrador people.

Before they knew it, they were being mentored by the great Bridget Docking of Ballyduff Labradors. This was a stroke of good fortune for Doreen and Andy and Bridget’s influence is still seen here today at Shenandoah Labradors. Andy & Doreen chose that kennel name to honor Andy’s roots in Southwest Virginia. We register our latest 8 generations using the YNDA prefix [anagram of Andy].

Dusty was bred to the great black Crufts winner and English Champion Ballyduff Hollybranch of Keithray known as ‘Ben’. He was an early chocolate carrier. The Andersons brought 2 of his daughters to the USA when they returned, and one became AKC CH Shenandoah Spritely Diana ‘Sprite’ who finished her AKC CH as a puppy. The other was dam to AKC CH Shenandoah Ebon Echo, a group winning female. This Ben x Dusty pairing became the foundation for the first 8 generation of Shenandoah Labradors. While Andy continued to serve in the USAF, and later to work for the US Government, Doreen competed with the Labradors in conformation and shepherded their bloodline in the whelping box. Andy was also in the conformation ring, most notably with one of their English imports, AKC CH Ballyduff Barnes of Shenandoah ‘Barnes’. Barnes won 3 majors, finishing at LRC Potomac as Winners Dog.

The impact of the Andersons bringing Ballyduff conformation bloodlines to the States cannot be underestimated. Their cleaner typey outline, their depth of brisケット, their substance overall – all contrasted to many of the conformation Labradors of the time. Other breeders of note rushed to bring their own Ballyduff imports – Tabitha, Borador, Beechcroft [known as Tite at that time]. The Tabitha bitch line was founded on Ballyduff Sparkler and the Beechcroft one on Ballyduff Lark, a repeat breeding of Ballyduff Barnes of Shenandoah litter.

The older Shenandoah-Ballyduff lines died out soon after Doreen’s death in 1995. Andy and I married in 1997, and decided to re-found his Labrador line. We chose 2 beautiful females from England who were daughters of Cannonridge Jackdaw and granddaughters of Hawksmoor Webster. They were line-bred on ENG CH Charway Ballywillwill. What beautiful girls they were and have proven to be invaluable assets down through these 8 further generations that we have bred.

The accomplishments we value are the AKC Breeder of Merit designation – earned with obedience and conformation titled dogs; the AKC licensed Labrador Judgeships [Doreen & Andy]; Marti as a UKC Conformation Judge; all those lovely AKC and UKC titles on our Labradors; Martin earning #1 and at the time Most Top Ten Breed Points for Labradors in UKC; those lovely 3 generations of Best in Specialty and Best in Multi-Breed Dog Show awards multiple times for Martin, daughter Jeannie, and grandson Lewis; those many Register of Merit and Register of Merit Excellent designations from the ukc ULRA club; the more than 20 UKC titles for St John’s offspring; and the 182 Service Dogs produced by our bloodlines. Our great joy has been to Judge Labradors of quality, and to share our lives with these wonderful dogs.

REMINDERS

- Club dues are payable at the first of the calendar year. Please remit your dues if you have not already.
- New membership information can be found on the club website.
- We desperately need someone to volunteer for jobs within the club. Please contact Ellen for more info.
- We need someone to take over the WAG newsletter. It isn't hard to do. I'm happy to send along all the templates in Publisher.

50 years ... continued ...

Our ideal Labrador would be our Martin – multi-BIMBS/multi-BISS GRCH Ynda's "I Have A Dream" ROMX. While no Labrador we have bred would be considered 'perfect', there is very little either of us would change about Martin. A singleton pup, he was simply, 'the King'. There is video of him on our web site, video of him as an 'old man', but still with his magic.

The thing about being in dogs for 50 years is that it is a way of life. It dictates where we live, when we go to bed and when at least one of us gets up in the morning, our finances [having dogs and being a responsible breeder is not cheap], influences our circle of friends and acquaintances, has huge impact on our children and grandchildren juggling kennel-keeper and activity schedules, and centers our daily routine around feeding/exercise/training schedules.

We are 'cradle-to-grave' dog breeders. If we keep a Puppy, we make a commitment to it for its lifetime here with us. And the very few we have placed with members of the public or other breeders, we demand they make that same commitment. We do not believe in 'retiring a dog to a pet home.' We have regretted all but one of the times we have been persuaded to do that. We also have a life-time guaranteed take-back for a placement, including any career-changed service dogs and including offspring of our stud dogs. There are times this has prevented us from forging ahead with more generations of our dogs because we are 'full up' with 'keepers' and 'take backs'. We have never regretted the decision to rehome one of 'our own' here with us. Our 'take back' of record was one of our Rhodesian Ridgebacks that Marti drove all the way to Albuquerque to pick up.

Andy's always been a Gun Dog person. I've been influenced by my early dog years as a musher and breeder of Siberian Huskies, and by my long association with Rhodesian Ridgebacks as an owner, breeder, conformation handler. I was introduced to the wonderful world of Labradors when I met Andy in 1996, and I've never looked back.

Our number one 'pet peeve' is people who think they can ignore the Breed Standard and produce whatever kind of dog they want to because they 'like it'. Our number two 'pet peeve' is people who produce puppies just to sell for income or to fund their dog competition activities. To us, dogs are not livestock. They are family.

Our moto is 'where true type, not trend, is always in fashion'. 50 years has flown by and we hope our dogs will be remembered through the accomplishments of our Service Dogs and Champions.