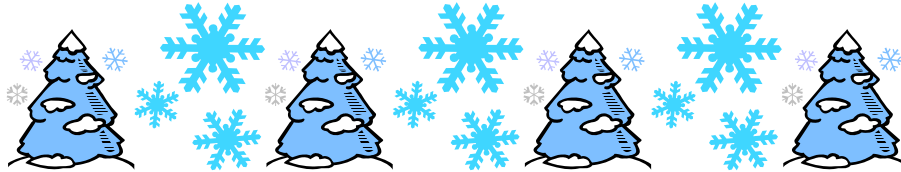




The Scarlet Letter

The Golden Triangle Irish Setter Club, Inc

January 2008



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2008! As another year begins, let's look back at 2007. We have continued to move forward as a Club. We have many new members for the year, the Holleran family, Collins family, Sally Evans, Nancy O'Neill and Karen Gaupp. We welcome them! We had two very successful Specialties. Our reputation for Hospitality, our trophy choices and our fun basket raffle have people looking for us! Mary finding the "Cloudstar" site, Sally O's candy sale idea, and Dee's lottery ticket idea have made our fund raising efforts easy. Our workable fund continues to grow. Judy's idea for the Rescue Masks.. I think has made us all proud of what we do when we present our local EMS' with this wonderful "gift". The hard work and participation of all the members of raising our workable funds has made it possible for us to contribute to such a worthy cause. While AKC now requires a resume to have permission to hold shows, it was not an "effort" to fulfill these requirements. We already had those requirements scheduled before we knew what they were. Why?? Because this is what we do....it is not an effort for us. I think our list of requirements that we have accomplished probably covers two years!

Our year in review.....ATTS testing, 4 Supported Entry Shows, two specialties, RDO, CGC Testing, A Fun Sporting Match, "Photos with Santa". Our VERY successful fund raising projects; our raffle tickets, the basket raffle, Silent Auction, Spring and fall Sarris candy, lottery tickets and our Rescue Masks Community Service project. We can all be proud of our donations to the ISCA and AKC Health foundations for research. We helped in the placement of rescue dogs and also with finding puppies for those that inquired through our club website for Breeder Referrals. How fun was that?

Dee and Judy welcomed the arrival of "James", their spinone puppy. Jean and Bill welcomed the unexpected arrival of "Bob", an Irish puppy. It was a bittersweet welcome for Coleen and "Wagner", our old rescue boy who lost his owner. Ruth welcomed a new English cocker puppy, "Drew". Deb and Skip were pleasantly surprised with the arrival of their new Irish puppy, "Claire". And announcing the arrival of our newest addition, "Noel", a Berner that Lisa rescued. "Noel" had some health issues going on, but Lisa reports that with a visit to the Vets, and a lot of tender, loving care, "Noel" is progressing and adjusting to her new family.

So now onto 2008 to see what fun, exciting and successful events we can get involved with!

Dog News

Congratulations to ~~

At the Cleveland Classic weekend..

- > Coleen and the Spinone "Ruby", [CH Sweetbriar's Brilliant Gem](#), for going BOB all 4 days.
- > Davis for helping Coleen out with "Ruby" on Sunday in the ring for her BOB win! Way to go, Davis!!!
- > Karen and her pointer "Tritan", [Cumbrian Trinity](#), for a Major Reserve on Saturday and WB for the major on Sunday!!!! How exciting for Karen!
- > Dee and Judy and "James", [Sweetbriar's Diamonds are Forever](#), for WD and BOS on Thursday and Friday, and WD on Saturday, for his first points!

This weekend was a great way to end a great year! Besides Coleen, Dee, Judy, Davis, Sally & Nancy, also attending were;

- > Mary and "Breeze", [Limerick's Against the Wind, CGC](#), running agility on Friday and Saturday! "Breeze" is doing VERY well, and it won't be long before she gets those agility titles! Keep up the good work, both Mary and "Breeze".
- > Linda and "Simon", [Simply Simon](#), along for the relaxing few days and to cheer on all the participants.
- > Deb and Skip, taking their vacation with "Claire", [Courtwood Cobblestone](#)...who were not only cheering on everyone, but getting "Claire" ready for the hustle and bustle of the shows! Little Miss "Claire", had no problem showing off for all!
- > Ruth, who drove up to watch and cheer on Irish Setters and English Cockers on Saturday.
- > Jervaise and Christina Carr, friends of us all, with Christina competing in Junior Handlers. For those not familiar with Christine and her mom, Coleen mentors Christina.

Fun days, great breakfast/lunch food (thank you Nancy for the wonderful goodies you made for us!) and some nice evening dinners out! Ahhhh, Life is Good! And Friends that are all so special!

- > While in Cleveland, Deb was approached by a couple who saw "Claire". They were looking to add a puppy to their family and wanted information on where to buy a puppy. They had just lost three dogs in the past few years, with the latest only a few weeks prior, to bloat. They were not looking for a show puppy, only for a healthy puppy. Deb Davis, Rockherin Irish Setters, was in Cleveland and Deb knew she had puppies needing great homes. They were introduced ringside. After a week, Deb emailed Debbie Davis to see if she had heard from

the couple after arriving home. A wonderful holiday story...the couple went to Debbie's, played with puppies and took TWO home. Christmas weekend, Debbie received a phone call telling her it is the most wonderful Christmas present, having two puppies romping in their home once again! Congratulations to the new family, Bruce and Sharon Bassett of Ohio, and their pups. We LOVE happy endings!!!!

Mary had a very pleasant surprise when she clicked onto the ISCA website only to see a photo of "Chase" standing in the snow!



Breeze's Column of the Month

Happy New Year! Last year was my turn to make new years' resolutions so this year I decided it was my mom's turn, so I made some for her. To make it easy, I only gave her one for each month! Please pass these along to your favorite human if you think they would help make your life easier!

1. I will not bathe my dog after she bathes herself in the mud puddle.
2. I will not push my dog away when she wants a hug after playing in a mud puddle.
3. I will not complain "my arm is tired" after only throwing the ball 30 times.
4. I will not confuse my dog by throwing snowballs for her to fetch.
5. I will not drag my dog away from interesting sniffing spots.
6. I will drop whatever I am doing and take my dog out as soon as she asks me to.
7. I will not tell my dog to hurry up when she is looking for just the right spot to go potty.
8. I will never eat until my dog has tasted what I have and approved it for me.
9. I will not cut my dog's nails
10. I will not abandon my dog for trivial reasons like going to work.
11. I will open the back door the second my dog sits by it
12. I will not run out of treats

If my mom tries to keep all these resolutions, this should be a very, very Happy New Year

Love

Breeze (ISCA Calendar girl, December 2008)



Events and Activities

Photos with Santa - A fun day was had by all! We are proud to announce that we printed 78 photos this year, exceeding last year's total of 68! Thanks to Joan and her photographer, Kerry, for doing a fabulous job! In addition to the photos, several of Joan's clients from her Training Center sent in additional cash donations to add to our total. They could not attend the photo session and wanted to contribute to our cause. We send our gratitude to these generous people! On hand for the day were Coleen, Deb, Sally E., Sally O., Davis, Nancy and our Star, "Santa George". Also there to spend some time were the Holleran family, Henrietta, Mary, Linda H., Lisa & Ruth. A special thank you to Brenkle's Greenhouse for having us there for a second year. All proceeds for this event will go to the purchase of the Rescue Oxygen Masks, which allows us to purchase 6 sets. Another club event well done!

Sarris candy sale - Sally O. has 2 boxes of pretzels left. We need to finish up this fundraiser. If you can sell another box, please let her know.

Rescue masks for Pets -

Dee & Judy - Tri-community South, Bethel Park
Mary - Level Green Firehall, Level Green
Deb & Skip - Citizens Hose EMS, Harrison Twp
Sally & Davis - Lower Burrell EMS
Laura - Baltimore

Deb has had inquiries for 6 sets of masks to be purchased from several other EMT's. They will purchase these through us. Deb also has 6 sets that **NEED** placed. PLEASE get your local information so we can place these mask sets.

Christmas Meeting / Dinner @ Atria's - Saturday December 8th. - Our Christmas party was a fun celebration! We had 20 total people able to make it. We had some of our newest members there, Karen, Tim, Ellen and Nancy. Everyone must agree that the gift exchange was a blast! All of the gifts were fabulous. Each one was fun and the anticipation to see what they got, was exciting... The gifts moving all around before finally getting to the last person. This was a special night..of special friends..a nice beginning to a holiday season.. a special ending to a special year! We hope you had a very Merry Christmas as we move on to a Happy New Year!

Lottery Tickets - ALL lottery tickets, stubs & / or money should have been returned to Dee by December 30th. IF you still have any of these, please contact Dee ASAP!

Toy Box Raffle at the Wellness Training Center produced another \$118. This can also help with the Dyson sweeper purchase for that raffle. Thanks to Dee & Judy for making a wonderful Toy Box, and to Joan who bought a ton of tickets and won it at the Dog Match, then turned around and raffled it off at her Training Center!! THANK YOU! And congratulations to Stan Schultz of Butler, who won this wonderful Toy Box!



Specialties 2008

MSDA - We will be offering supported entries on Saturday, March 1, 2008. Deb, Mary and Coleen are happy to announce that all trophies have been purchased. Our theme for this show is "treats".

Memorial Weekend Cluster- May 22nd through the 26th

GTISC shows - All trophies are purchased. Our themes for these two days are "Grooming" and "Buckets & Bowls,etc" . George has received all final paperwork that our shows have been approved by AKC. Ya-hoo!!! We will be listed in the AKC Gazette and the ISCA MEMO.

Saturday's Judges are Sweeps, Leah Lange (PA) and for Breed, Charles Sloughy.
Sunday's Judges are Sweeps, Bill Hosler (NY) and Breed Joann Colvin.

At our next meeting, the organization of committees will begin. We will need a chairperson for Hospitality. This does not mean that the chair does it all..this means the chair organizes and delegates.. assigning a different responsibility to each person. We will have the "Silent Auction", "Basket Raffle" and raffle item....we will go over all of this at that time. Hopefully, Coleen will be able to make arrangements for us to have our items set up Thursday and Friday near the rings, as we did last year. If you already know what it is you would like to do, or if you have any suggestions or ideas, bring those to the meeting.

Supported entries Thursday, Friday and Monday - All trophies are purchased. Our themes for these three days are "Treats", "Buckets and Bowls", and "Leads".

ISCA National 2008 will be held in April, in Scottsdale AZ. The theme is "Red Tails in the Sunset". Deb & Skip and Sally Evans are planning to attend. They are all very proud to represent GTISC in AZ. Mary is working on our ad for the Nationals Catalog.



Rescue

Laura requested the first original photos of Bailey when he was found in the shelter. Mary searched the old files and found them, sending them off to Laura. One paragraph of her message, I thought, was so touching and so important to share....

"So back to your pictures... thinning bodies get filled out,, you all took care of that... the one picture that really touched me was the head shot of his blank stare out the window. That one really made me think. He has no blank stares anymore. His look these days has purpose. Always,, he is thinking of something always. He has a plan (not always my plan) but I think he has a purpose these days. If only to make me happy."



"from the Rescue side..."

My Aunt Mary sent this wonderful rescue story to us here in Baltimore. It made us all so very grateful that we have only the past to forgive, the present to enjoy and a future with Love, a full belly and warm bed.

Happy New Year's Everyone,,, Laura, Little Ruby and Big Bailey



Martha's Christmas Miracle

Martha was sitting in her living room watching television this Christmas Eve, alone as she had been for the last five years. All of her children had married and moved to the four corners of the nation, her youngest, a surgery resident at the Vet School across the state had planned on coming home, but had been assigned to work the emergency clinic and couldn't find a replacement. Martha told herself that having Sally working to help the sick and injured animals this Christmas Eve was worth being alone, besides, Sally would be driving over for Christmas dinner the next afternoon.

All the animals had been fed and now were safely in either the kennel building or lazily laying around the house. Martha had to stop to think how many dogs she had at her house this Christmas, she sighed when she realized there were 16. She did rescue and the number of dogs was always changing with some dogs being adopted, and new abandoned dogs coming in. Feeling overwhelmed by the number of dogs she had and all the dogs still left in shelters to die because there was no room for them in rescue,

Martha seriously wondered if she should stop working rescue. If she didn't have all these dogs, she could have flown to any of her other children's homes for the holidays to be with family. Besides, the heartbreak of seeing each dog in such need was beginning to really weigh on her.

Tonight she had a new dog, brought home that day. Martha didn't really plan on adding another dog but on her way home from the store she saw a dog lying on the side of the road. Certain the dog was dead, Martha stopped, to pick up the body and take it home for a burial. As she got closer, she recognized the shell of an Alaskan Malamute, the breed she rescued. Covered by cuts and festering wounds, what fur was left was matted and filthy, it was so skinny that laying there you could see each rib and it's hipbones were the widest part of his body.

With tears in her eyes, mourning for what once had been a majestic animal now reduced to almost a skeleton she reached down to give the poor dog one last pat on the head. "Oh, you poor boy, what a way to end your life. Well, at least I can name you and give you a decent farewell." As her tears fell on the dog's head, one eye slowly opened and the tail gave a single wag.

"You're alive! Everything will be OK now, I'll take you home and you will have a soft bed and food tonight." She said, tears streaming down her face, this time from happiness.

The rest of the afternoon was spent cleaning the dog's wounds and making sure he was able to eat and drink water. Martha set up the large run in the kennel building for him. A soft blanket and a thick foam pad was to be his bed, fresh water and food beside him. Papers for his 'necessary functions' were placed at the far end of the run. He lay there watching every move she made.

Martha left the dog resting on his bed, somewhat surprised at the reaction of the rest of the dogs in the kennel. Pandemonium usually broke out with all the other dogs wooing and barking when a new dog was brought in, tonight all the other dogs just stood and silently watched as Martha cared for the new dog. Thankful the other dogs were not disturbing the new boy, Martha went to the house to finish preparations for tomorrow's dinner.

Later that evening Martha went down to the kennel to check on the new boy and feed the other dogs. As she walked in the door the new boy shakily stood to greet her. As she was straightening up the kennel after feeding and exercising the dogs, she saw her microchip reader. "Well, this will be a waste of time" she thought as she ran the reader over the dog's body.

BEEP! The reader had located a chip! Writing the number down, she

hurried to the house to call the chip registry and report the found dog. As she suspected on Christmas Eve, all she got was a machine.

Very late that night, the phone rang. Martha answered and a strange voice was on the other end. "Did you find a dog with a microchip?"

"Yes, are you the registry needing more information?" Martha asked.

"No, the registry called us and told us you found our dog!" and then the man broke down crying. After composing himself, he continued.

"The dog you found is BISS AM/CAN/INT CH Wasilla's Ice Sculpture, WPD, WTD, WLD, TT, CGC but to us he is our heartdog, the love of our life, Icy. Three years ago Icy was stolen from his exercise area in our back yard. We did everything we could think of to find him, but lately we had almost given up hope of ever seeing him again. This is a miracle. We are leaving now to come pick him up. We are about 14 hours from you so we will see you and Icy in the morning."

Martha was crying, indeed it was a miracle! And the new dog now had a name, his own name and his people were coming for him. What a wonderful Christmas gift.

Martha hurried down to the kennel to let Icy know that his humans had been found and they were on their way to take him home. As Martha walked up to Icy's kennel he stood to greet her, "Icy, yes, I know your name and I have spoken to your people. they' re coming to take you home." As she was talking to Icy, she heard the old clock in the building strike midnight.

Much to her amazement, Icy said "Thank you."

Martha thought, Now I am sure I have been around dogs too long, I could swear I heard Icy speak.

Icy continued "Martha, yes I am talking to you in human language, you see, at the stroke of midnight on Christmas Day, all animals can speak. Let me tell you what happened to me today."

"I have been kept in a dark barn for a long time by some very mean people who beat me and often forgot to feed me. Two days ago I found a loose board on the barn and was able to escape. I walked as fast as I could, looking for my people, or at least for some kind person to feed me and give me a warm place to sleep before I died. I was in the middle of a big field when I couldn't walk or even crawl any more, I laid down, knowing I was about to cross to the Rainbow Bridge. As I stepped onto the Bridge, an Angel came towards me."

"Icy," the Angel said "If you agree, He has a job for you before cross

the Bridge. There is a very kind human who needs you today to restore her spirit."

"Of course I agreed to help a human -- that is what Malamutes do. The Angel picked up my body and carried it to the side of a road and laid it down. The next thing I remember is you were scratching my ear and talking to me and your tears were falling on my face. You have cared for me this day."

Martha heard a chorus of voices all about her. To her amazement she was surrounded not only by her dogs, but dogs she had rescued and sent on to forever homes, all voicing stories how Martha had cared for them and restored them to health and loved them, thanking her for her love.

The first Malamute Martha had rescued many years ago stepped to the front of the gathering and said, "Martha, you took us in to your home, cared for us, healed us both in body and spirit then, even though it broke your heart, sent us on to our new forever families. This gave us a life we would never have had without you. Others of us here, never were adopted and lived out our lives with you, loved and cared for as if we were your own dogs. In our hearts we are your dogs. Thank you."

Then one small mixed breed puppy stepped forward from the back and said, "Miss Martha, you never held me nor fed me, you see I am speaking for all the shelter dogs and cats gathered here for which you did all you could. We understand that you can't save us all, but you read our shelter stories, knowing we would cross the Bridge without knowing a home of our own, and you cried for us. We thank you for that. You see, we knew you cared and loved us, too. And that love helped us as we crossed. We thank you and all the other Rescuers for that small act of love."

Icy looked at Martha and told her, "It is getting late and you will rescue work to continue. Our time to be able to talk to you is growing short, but always remember what happened tonight. What you do for the animals is a gift to us and to Him, the Father of us all. Each of us, animals of every species, needs people like you. Please keep on helping. You are doing the work of Angels."

At that point all of the dogs in unison said "Thank You," and their voices blended into a joyous howl which echoed from the heavens to the ends of the earth.

Humbly offered as a Christmas Gift to all who love animals.

Hug your dogs tonight!!!!!!!

PR- Judy Roberts

Birthdays

Laura Williams - 2nd

Davis Denny - 6th

Sally Evans - 12th



Happy Birthday!!!!

Please continue to keep Shirley Semich in your prayers.

Club News and Reminders

Reminder that dues notices were sent out. Dues are to be in to Mary, before January 31st to avoid Membership lapse. If you have not received yours, please notify her.

Elections for the officers and board 2008 will be held at our January meeting. Judy Roberts is our nominations chair person. At this time, all present officers are on the slate for another year. One board position must be added per AKC and our by-laws revisions. Sally O'Neill has been nominated and has accepted the nomination. If you are interested in running for an office or position, contact Judy. All persons nominated must accept the nomination to run.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, January 18th, 7:00p.m. at Mary's. Bring your slippers! We will be planning our upcoming year's events and activities.



The Golden Triangle Irish Setter Club, Inc



President - Coleen McGee

Vice President - Ruth White

Treasurer - Deb Lawrence

Recording Secretary - Mary Hummert

Corresponding Secretary - George Towle

Board Member - Ways n Means - Joan Fiser

Rescue - Sally Stewart (local) Joan Fiser (national)

PR - Judy Roberts

AKC Liaison - Dee Hasley

Newsletter - Deb Lawrence

Editing - Coleen McGee and Mary Hummert

"Breeze's column of the month - Mary Hummert
"From the Rescue side...." - Laura Williams
"Dog News" information provided from members
ALL articles welcomed