Once again, our Spring Specialty has posted a loss. The club has lost a significant amount of money the past few years, which is the main reason we will not hold a Spring Specialty in conjunction with the Detroit Kennel Club shows in March 2004.

The following expenditures and incomes show the reason why:

**INCOME:**
- $668.61 MB-F
- $181.37 Catalog Sales

**INCOME TOTAL:** $849.98

**EXPENDITURES:**
- $126.50 Hotel for Sheila Wallington, Regular Judge
- $264.50 Hotel for Peggy Krohn, Sweepstakes Judge
- $67.00 Parking at airport, hotel & Cobo Hall
- $206.90 meals for judges
- $66.00 gifts for judges
- $216.50 airfare for Peggy Krohn, Sweepstakes Judge
- $20.00 postage
- $835.00 airfare for Sheila & Keith Wallington

**EXPENDITURES TOTAL:** $1,802.40

**LOSS:** $952.42

*Note:* Airfare for Keith Wallington, $417.50, may be reimbursed by Detroit Kennel Club since he judged Labradors for DKC at the Saturday show. Annie Cogo will contact DKC concerning this matter. However, even with this possible reimbursement the club would still be at a loss of $534.92.

**Moving?**

If you change your address, phone number or email address, please notify the Membership Chairperson, Jeanine Asch, so she can update the records. Changes will be published in the next newsletter, so that everyone can update their membership directories. Contact Jeanine at (586) 662-9868 or via email at ansileram@yahoo.com

**Website & Email List**

Visit the HRLRC website for complete information about our By Laws & Constitution, Upcoming Events and Results. Our Email List is a convenient way to send a note to the entire membership.

*www.huronriverlrc.com*  
*hrlrc@yahoogroups.com*  
*(to post email messages)*

**WOW . . . A Fresh NEW LOOK!** Take a moment to tell your Newsletter Editor what you think about the new format of The Lab Report. Please forward your comments and suggestions via email to michelle@infinitylabradors.com
**Membership Dues Notice**

Membership Dues were due on May 15th, 2003. Memberships which will soon lapse must be paid no later than August 30th. Once a membership has lapsed, you must re-apply for HRLRC membership. Yearly Membership Dues are as follows:

- Family $40
- Single $30
- Newsletter only $25
- Website Breeders Directory $25

Membership Dues must be submitted to the Treasurer at:

HRLRC Treasurer,
c/o Al Reich
5558 Sunkist
Oxford, MI 48371

The following members have paid their dues for 2003-2004. Names printed in italics indicates that the member has also paid the Breeder Directory Dues.

- Mark & Cindy Adler
- Jeanine Asch, Ruth Achterhoff-Aust
- Cassandra Barrett
- Stella Blair, Helen Bronson, Kim Bryson, Terry Bryson, Nancy Chargo, Jeff & Theresa DePorter
- Mary Evans, Angela Ewald, Mark Foster, Kristi Fruchey, William Gardner, Carrie Gati, Carol Lynn Johnson, Nancy Manning, Steve & Mary MacLean, Mike & Judy Merians
- Laura Michaels, Pauline & Maurice Mortier, Pam Nichols, Freida Paison, Matt & Sandy Pius, Stacy Quake, Mike & Deborah Rathsburg, Laura & Al Reich, Dolores Richards, Heath Roy, Michael Sapienz, George & Beverly Schnell, Larry & Roseanne Seiler, Cindy Skiba, Pam Smith, Janet Stolarevsky, Nancy Todd, Judy Trevino, Michelle VeuCasovic, Lorry Wagner, Patty Wayne, Cheryl Wellnitz, Patricia & Jeffrey York Sr., Madge Ziessow

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**Donations Needed**

The Club continues to accept donations for our annual Fall Specialty Trophy Fund and Raffle. Any member who would like to donate items should make arrangements for delivery to our Trophy or Raffle Coordinators prior to the September show date. Donations can also be given to our coordinators at the July Picnic. Items and monetary donations can be mailed to the Coordinators at the following addresses:

- Nancy Chargo — Trophy Coordinator
  5171 Field Rd.
  Clio, MI 48420  (810)686-0987

- Cassandra Barrett — Raffle Coordinator
  (269)795-2250
cckennel@iserv.net

Mail all items to Stacy Quake, as Cassandra will be moving into a new home in the near future.

- Stacy Quake — Raffle Coordinator
  55342 River Road
  Three Rivers, MI 49093  (269)278-1034
  huntmorlabradors@earthlink.net

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**Medical** records indicate that heart attack patients who own dogs show a notably better-than-average chance of survival. The same is not true of cat owners, who recover at the same rate as non-pet owners.

In 1905, the first canine movie star was featured in "Rescued by Rover". The name Rover, uncommon until then, became popular.

At the end of the Beatles' song "A Day in the Life," an ultrasonic whistle, audible only to dogs, was recorded by Paul McCartney for his Shetland sheepdog.

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**Doggie Trivia**

Female dog bites are twice as numerous as male dog bites.

The state sport of Alaska is Dog Mushing.

The Alaskan Iditarod, an annual 1, 149 mile race, commemorates the 1925 “Race for Life” when 20 volunteer Mushers relayed medicine from Anchorage to Nome to battle a children’s Diphtheria epidemic.

Sled dogs running the Iditarod burn an average of 10,000 calories per day.
Disclaimer Clause: This list is for litters of our members that are in good standing with our Club and the American Kennel Club and has been made available for your assistance in finding a new puppy. But: The Huron River Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., makes no warranties, expressed or implied as to the condition of any dogs being offered for sale, standards or practices of any breeder, the quality of their animals or the accuracy of any of the information contained within the HRLRC, Inc., newsletter listing, or within the HRLRC, Inc., website or any links from the website. HRLRC, Inc., does not endorse, recommend, or guarantee any kennel, breeder or dog listed.

Reminder: Send $5 litter ad fee per month/per ad to Al Reich, 5558 Sunkist, Oxford, MI 48371. Please indicate in memo section of check the month that you are paying for. These litter ad fees go towards the HRLRC Rescue Account. Please call (248)969-6998 or email laura@lor-allabs.com to renew or update your ad. Deadline is the 15th of the month. NEW POLICY: No litter ad will be published without receipt of the fee. Also beginning July 1, 2001, for ACTIVE MEMBERS fee remains the same ($5 per month/per ad). NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS fee will be $100 per month/per ad. Refer to the Minutes in the March 2001 newsletter for detailed explanation of ACTIVE and NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS.

Lor-al’s Direct Deposit
Lor-Al’s Loverboy at Nani-Loa
  Ch. Saddlehill’s Tazmanian Devil
Ch. Beechcrofts Regal Air
Infinity’s Sasparilla o’Forsythe
  Beechcroft Esperanza
Whelped: May 15  black female
Michelle VeuCasovic  734-728-8889  Westland, MI
Email: michelle@infinitylabradors.com
Web: www.infinitylabradors.com

Ch. Hyspire Darktown Strutter
  Windfall Pipe Major
  Ch. Windfall’s Black Piper
  X
Int. Ch. Bubbling Bedouine
Banners Brown & Serve
  Banner’s Plain Brown Wrapper
Due: June 17  blacks
Nancy Chargo  810-686-0987-8889  Clio, MI

Club Meeting Schedule . . . Mark Your Calendars

July 12 — General Membership and Board Meeting
  Held at Norm & Sheila Norgren’s home following the match

August 8 — General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined at July Meeting.

August 21 — Board Meeting
  Held at Cathy Culpert’s home.

September 5 — General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined at July Meeting.
  Possible Acupuncture presentation

September 18 — Board Meeting
  Valley Family Restaurant (Miller and Linden Roads. in Flint)

October 3—General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined
  Possible Guide Dog presentation

October 21—Board Meeting
  Location to be determined

November 7—General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined

November 18—Board Meeting
  Location to be determined

December 5—General Membership and Board Meeting
  Held at Cindy Skiba’s home for a festive holiday gathering.

January 9—General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined

January 20—Board Meeting
  Location to be determined

February 6—General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined

February 17—Board Meeting
  Valley Family Restaurant (Miller and Linden Rds. in Flint)

March 12—General Membership
  Location to be determined.

March 17—Board Meeting
  Location to be determined.

April 2—General Membership Meeting & Elections
  Location to be determined.

April 20—Board Meeting
  Location to be determined.

May 14—General Membership Meeting
  Location to be determined.

May 20—Board Meeting
  Held at Cindy Skiba’s Home
Members in attendance were: Al and Laura Reich, Maurice and Pauline Mortier, Jeanine Asch, Stella Blair, Dolores Richards, Frieda Paison, George and Beverly Schnell, Mike and Judy Merians, Mary MacLean, Cathy and Mike Culpert, Michelle VeuCasovic, Stacy Quake, Cassandra Barrett, Helen Bronson, Cindy Skiba, Mike Rathsburg, Cheryl Wellnitz, Sheila Norgren, Annie and Ron Cogo, Nancy Chargo and Marsha Standler. Guest: Greg Lemanski.

Meeting was called to order by president Beverly Schnell.

The March general membership meeting minutes were accepted as read except for a correction to the fall specialty judge. Carol Coode will replace Michael Silva.

The treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

Elections were held with the results as follows: President-Pauline Mortier, Vice President- Cathy Culpert, Treasurer-Al Reich, Recording Secretary- Jeanine Asch, Corresponding Secretary-Mary MacLean, Board Members: Karen Brines, Kim Bryson, Mike Merians, Annie Cogo, Cindy Skiba.

There will be a Paws With a Cause open house May 17 at PAWS National Headquarters Wayland, MI to celebrate the grand opening of our new Canine Development Facility. All three facilities - Headquarters, Canine Evaluation Center and new Canine Development Facility will be open for tours from Noon until 4:00 PM.

Field report: If anyone is interested in doing fieldwork with their dogs, the Michigan Hunting Retriever Club (UKC) holds training sessions for members Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. The sessions are held at Don and Sharon Fowlers place in Howell.

There was discussion about the field trailer and its contents and whether we should retain it. If we are not going to use the materials, we could possibly sell them.

Spring 2003 Specialty: There seems to be a discrepancy regarding how much we made from catalog sales and how much we possibly owe to the other specialty clubs. There should have been a check issued by MB-F to HRLRC. Until this is straightened out, we will not be able to compose a profit/loss statement. For future specialties, the membership will need to discuss how much money should be spent for sweepstakes judges. Nancy Chargo made a motion to eliminate the spring specialty held in conjunction with DKC at Cobo Hall. Motion passed.

A discussion ensued regarding hosting back-to-back specialties and if there would be enough volunteers to support this. Mary MacLean has agreed to check into available dates for holding 2 consecutive shows. Possible locations for this show need to be determined. It doesn’t appear that Cabela’s has enough lawn space to permit a show. A possibility is the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Belleville. Michelle VeuCasovic has agreed to check into this. If anyone thinks of a hotel that might possibly have enough space to hold our specialty, please let us know.

It was pointed out that we might encourage more people to volunteer and assist at events if people who have done the job in the past make operational notes so as to help their successor. This way, everyone would know exactly the expectations of them are. We currently have a manual that contains some of this information.

Fall specialty: A judge change from Michael Silva to Carol Coode has been made. AKC has approved the revision. Cheryl Wellnitz has agreed to be the show secretary.

Annie checked with Gretchen Turner regarding the software she used for the Hoosier show. We could purchase it for $250. Cheryl is going to talk with Marie about an upgrade for our existing software.

If you are interested in a trophy sponsorship, please contact Nancy Chargo. Pauline has agreed to again donate large ribbons for BOB, BOS, WD and WB. We still have an inventory of pewter plates and magnets. To use up our existing inventory, we could award a plate for 1st place and provide slip leads made by Jeanine as prizes.

Annie is going to check into why we have not received a refund of our security deposit for the 2002 fall specialty from Newport Fireman’s Park.

Fun Match: Cathy Culpert has agreed to run the summer fun match. Laura Reich will do publicity. The match will be held Saturday, July 12 at the Norgren’s. Ron Cogo mentioned he has some raffle items from Mary Cox. We could use these items for the match or the fall specialty. Stewards for the match will be: Nancy Chargo, Al Reich, Helen Bronson and Cindy Skiba. It is being considered to add classes such as a sexually altered class and a costume class.

New Business: Al asked if the club would pay $39 to renew the license plate tabs for the trailer. If the trailer needs to be moved, the fee will be paid. Sheila has the title for this trailer and will get it to Al.

** Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m. **

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanine Asch, Recording Secretary
Board Meeting Minutes—May 29, 2003

A board meeting of the HRLRC was held May 29, 2003. **Members in attendance were:** Mike Merians, Mary MacLean, Al and Laura Reich, Pauline Mortier, Jeanine Asch, Annie Cogo, Sheila Norgren, Angela Ewald, Kim Bryson, Nancy Chargo, Karen Brines and Cindy Skiba.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by president Pauline Mortier.

**Recording Secretary:** There were no minutes available from the April board meeting.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Angela transferred materials to Mary. Mary stated she has a form that needs to be completed and sent to AKC.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

**Field:** Cindy is organizing a bulk order for bumpers. If you would like to order some, please contact her and let her know what you would like. Upcoming hunt test dates are June 28-29 in Lapeer, July 19-20 in Belding, and July 26-27 in Lapeer. For more information, please contact Kim Bryson at kjsynergy@aol.com.

**Spring Specialty 2003:** All bills are in except Keith Wallington’s airfare. We might have made an approximate profit of $100. Pauline has contacted Erik Bergishagen and informed him we will not be hosting a specialty in conjunction with the DKC show. We are still awaiting clarification about the distribution of money amongst the specialty clubs.

**Fall 2003 Specialty:** If you would like to give a trophy donation, please contact Nancy Chargo. Slip leads made by Jeanine will be used as class prizes. We will be supporting Saturday and Sunday’s entries at Monroe KC. Judges are Wendy McNaughton, Saturday and Dr. Clyde Shaw, Sunday. It will cost us $25 each day to support the entry. Annie will check with the Schnauzer club representative about the obedience judge. Annie will also check with MB-F and Monroe KC about adding sweepstakes. She is going to looking into possible sweepstakes judges. An ad will be going into the LQ and ILR. Annie will create a flyer to distribute at LOC. If there will be food vendors on site Friday, we will not sell bag lunches.

Annie is to contact Monroe Fireman’s Park about getting our deposit money from the 2002 show refunded.

**Programs:** There are plans to have a speaker at the September meeting talking about acupuncture. A speaker from Leader Dogs for the Blind is scheduled for the October meeting. Another possibility for a future meeting is to have a lawyer present on how to make a good dog contract. Laura has agreed to check into this. We may possibly have an accountant and/or someone who can discuss legal issues speak at an upcoming meeting.

**Specialty:** Mary has emailed Chris Wincek inquiring about changing our specialty date(s) to possibly hold back-to-back shows. She is also currently working with Cabelas about the prospect of holding a specialty there.

**Volunteer Positions**

**Newsletter:** Spike and Pauline have decided to resign as newsletter editors. Michelle VeuCasovic has expressed interest in being the editor.

**Litter Ads/Helpin’ Waggin’:** Laura Reich has agreed to do this.

**Coming Events:** Jeanine Asch will continue to do this.

**Membership Chair:** Jeanine Asch

**Sunshine:** Helen Bronson

**Wins N’ Grins:** Sheila Norgren

**Puppy Match:** If we are going to have microchips available at the match, the club needs to purchase some more.

**Eye Clinic:** Nancy Chargo is looking into dates and availability of an ophthalmologist for an eye clinic possibly in late June.

**Show prizes:** Cheryl Wellnitz makes a stained glass duck on a wooden base. These could be used as trophies for BOB and Best Puppy. Cheryl will bring one to the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned 8:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanine Asch, Recording Secretary

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**Bumpers, Bumpers, and more Bumpers . . .**

Cindy Skiba is organizing a bulk order for plastic (knobbed) bumpers. If you would like to order bumpers to begin your field training, please contact her and let her know that you would like to take advantage of the bulk pricing. Cindy can be reached via email at epochlab@aol.com or via phone at (989)662-9868.

**Now, where’s that bumper? It’s gotta be here Somewhere?**
Members in attendance were:
Jeanine Asch, Al & Laura Reich, Pauline Mortier, Nancy Chargo, Annie Cogo, Angela Ewald, Michelle VeuCasovic, Pam Nichols and Patty Wayne.
Guest: Laurie Lentz, Greg Lemanski.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as read.
The treasurer’s report was approved as read. Al is working to resolve the DKC/MB-F money discrepancy.

Programs: Cathy is working on having a presenter talk about acupuncture at the September meeting. The date and location will be announced in the newsletter.

It looks like January, February and/or March would be good months to schedule programs. This would probably be best to allow members from other dog clubs to attend. If we had a late spring/early summer event, we could advertise in the DKC catalog.

Field: The prospect of selling the field trailer and its contents was discussed. It was decided that we shouldn’t sell the trailer. Some field classes might be organized at a later date.

Fall Specialty: Pam Smith has commissioned Cheryl Wellnitz to do a stepping-stone to be awarded for 1st place in Open Black Bitches in Diane Masserant’s memory. It was the consensus of the members present that only one memorial trophy should be awarded. The club will respectfully decline Patty’s offer.

Annie will check with Mark about being the chief ring steward. Annie reported Stacy Quake and Cassandra Barrett have graciously agreed to be the raffle co-chairs.

Nancy is checking into the logistics of holding a silent auction in addition to the raffle. A possibility is to purchase a stained glass piece from Cheryl to use for the silent auction.

Al Reich has agreed to do catalog sales. Catalog ads will be $40 per page including one photo. Additional photos will be $8. Annie will be in charge of the catalog.

Whats special: Michelle is still looking into the possibility of using the Wayne Co. Fairgrounds as a specialty show site.

Eye Clinic: Michelle will organize this. Dan Lorimer would charge $37/dog for a clinic held at his Auburn Hills office. Dr. Ramsey has agreed to a fee of $22/dog. Pam Smith said the clinic could be held on an evening at her clinic in Troy. Annie volunteered her place as another possibility. We may consider doing cardiac evaluations at a future clinic.

Whelpin Waggin: There was discussion about moving the litter ads from the newsletter to a web page off of our club website so that it would be easier for the public to access.

Newsletter: The new newsletter editor will be Michelle VeuCasovic.

** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**
Respectfully submitted,
Jeanine Asch, Recording Secretary

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A Reminder From The Treasurer . . .

Our Match and Specialty are just around the corner, which means the club will incur expenses to make these events successful.

Please submit original receipts for products and services purchased on behalf of the club for reimbursement. Hand written receipts will no longer be accepted. If a credit card is used for the purchase, please make a copy of the bill for submission. Use a pen to mark over purchases that are not of interest to the club.

Timely submission of your receipts is the guarantee to a timely reimbursement.
Wins –n- Grins, submitted by Sheila Norgren

Epoch’s Brown Baggin’
Cindy Skiba
Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best of Breed
Mt. Pleasant KC, Saturday, June 7th
Winners Bitch, JAM, Winnebago LRC (5pt major)

East Hill Shasta
Sheila Norgren
Winners Bitch, Winnebago LRC supported entry
Janesville KC, 4pts from 9-12 class
Winners Bitch, BOW, BOB, Kalamazoo KC
(Sunday & Monday)
Labrador Owners Club, 1st 9-12 senior puppy
Labrador Owners Club, 3rd Sweeps puppy

East Hill Fergus
Sheila Norgren
Labrador Owners Club, 2nd Sweeps puppy

East Hill York
Sheila Norgren
Labrador Owners Club, 2nd senior puppy

Alegra Sabo Bonaventure’s Albert
Tom & Gail Shearer
Labrador Owners Club, 1st 12-18, 3rd Sweeps

Bonaventure’s Clipper
Tom & Gail Shearer
Labrador Owners Club, 2nd Bred-By-Exhibitor

Bonaventure’s Beatrice
Tom & Gail Shearer
Labrador Owners Club, 2nd Bred-By-Exhibitor

Bonaventure’s Quentin
Tom & Gail Shearer
Labrador Owners Club, 3rd Open Yellow

Lor-al’s Direct Deposit
Laura & Al Reich
Winnebago LRC, 2nd Bred-By-Exhibitor

Lor-al’s Direct From Tantara
Laura & Al Reich
Winnebago LRC, 3rd Open Yellow

Lor-al’s Direct Northmark - Laura & Al Reich
Winnebago LRC, 2nd 12-15 Sweeps, 1st 12-18,
Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Best of Breed (5 Point Major)

Can Ch, U-CH-U-AG1 Woodhaven Hat Trick WC, CGC
Laura Michaels
Labrador Owners Club, 4th Veteran Sweeps

U-Ch Woodhaven Two for Roughing CGC
Laura Michaels
Labrador Owners Club, 2nd Novice A—First Leg

Hysspire Windfall Cookie Cutter
Annie Cogo
Winnebago LRC, 1st 9-12 & Sweeps, BOS Sweeps

Windfall’s Banner’s Magic Gem
Annie Cogo & Nancy Chargo
Winnebago LRC, 2nd 12-15 Sweeps & 12-18

Banner’s Sea Lark
Nancy Chargo
Winnebago LRC, 1st 9-12

Witts End Epoch Windfall
Angela Ewald, Cindy Skiba, Annie Cogo
Winnebago LRC, 1st 12-15 Sweeps

U-GRCH Lubberline Endeavor Binnacle, CGC
Jeanine Asch & Pauline Mortier
Geneseee KC 5/18, 1st 12-18, RWB
Labrador Owners Club, 3rd 12-18
UKC Premier, Novice B qualifying score

U-CH Lake View Rhapsody at Endeavor, CGC
Jeanine Asch & Juanita Pyles
Ohio TFT Assoc. - UKC, Champion of Champions

U-CH Infinity’s Dalwhinnie Endeavor, CGC
Jeanine Asch & Michelle VeuCasovic
Ohio TFT Assoc. - UKC, Champion of Champions

Jalin Wayne’s Fame Us Affair
Patty Wayne
UKC Premier, Best Male & Winners, New UKC Champion!

Wins –n- Grins, submitted by Sheila Norgren

Eye Clinic—July 10th, at The Norgren’s

Eye Clinic Location:
Norm and Sheila Norgren
900 Gulley Rd.
Howell, MI
(517) 548-4037
Email: normcc@aol.com

It’s that time again for our annual eye clinic. CERF examinations are yearly examinations to evaluate dogs for inherited eye disease. Dogs which are free of such eye disease may receive a registration number from CERF which is valid for one year.

Dr. Ramsey, of The Animal Ophthalmology Center in Okemos, has been selected to perform exams at our clinic this year. The HRLRC Eye Clinic will be held on Thursday, July 10th at the Norgren’s home in Howell. The clinic will begin at 6:30 pm. The cost of the exam is $22 per dog.

The essential information needed at the time of examination is the sex, birth date, breed, variety, and color. If you are applying for a CERF registration number, you also need a tattoo or microchip number or DNA number, in addition to an AKC number.

CERF forms are available for completion ahead of time to those who have more than 5 dogs needing an eye exam.

If you plan on attending, please contact Michelle Veucasovic, so that we can get a preliminary count of dogs. She can be reached at 734-728-8889, or via email at michelle@infinitylabradors.com

HRLRC Eye Clinic
Thursday, July 10th
6:30 pm
at the Norgren’s in Howell.
## Coming Events—AKC

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of Show</th>
<th>Judge(s)</th>
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<td>Bitches: Barbara Nowak;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sweeps: Jean-Louis Blais</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Monroe, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/21</td>
<td>Monroe KC</td>
<td>Wendy McNaughton</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Monroe, MI</td>
<td>Supported entry</td>
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<td>9/22</td>
<td>Monroe KC</td>
<td>Dr. Clyde Shaw</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Monroe, MI</td>
<td>Supported entry</td>
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## Coming Events—CKC

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of Show</th>
<th>Entries close:</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>Essex Co. KC</td>
<td>8/6</td>
<td>Leamington, ON</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Burlington Kennel &amp; Obedience Club</td>
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## Coming Events—Hunt Tests

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<tr>
<td>7/19</td>
<td>Flat River Ret. Club</td>
<td>JH: Ann Heilbrun;</td>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Fenwick, MI</td>
<td>Neil W MacDonald, Event Secretary, 1221 Indian Lakes Rd Nw Sparta, MI 49345-9520 (616) 887-5092</td>
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<td>Betsy Kaiser-Bernock;</td>
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<td>SH: Terry Bryson, Steven Bernock;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>MH: Judy Smith, Heath Roy</td>
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<td>9/13</td>
<td>Golden Ret. Club of America</td>
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<td>8/13</td>
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<td>Dave Bauman, Event Secretary, 131 Wellington Rd. Aliquippa, PA 15001-5999</td>
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<td>9/20-21</td>
<td>Ohio Valley Retriever</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
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<td>Chris Bell</td>
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<td>Wildlife Area</td>
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<td>5585 Wilcox Rd</td>
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<td>Coshocton, OH</td>
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Other Events

**July 27—Battle Creek AKC sanctioned B/OB All Breed Match.** Judging will be indoors. Calhoun Co. Fairgrounds, Marshall, MI; Sporting & Group: Nancy Gallant, Battle Creek, MI; Sub Novice: Valerie Keller, Battle Creek, MI; Novice: Ellen Wilson, Kalamazoo, MI; Open & Utility: Denise Vivla, Kalamazoo, MI.

FEES: $6.00 ($3.00 additional entry of same dog and Jr. Showmanship). Entries taken 8:00-10:00 A.M. (no pre-entries) Judging starts @ 9:30 A.M. with Jr. Showmanship and Obedience. All other judging starts @ 10:00 A.M. CONFORMATION CLASSES: 3-6 months, 6-9 months, 9-12 months, and Adult (divided by sex and breed). NO MAJOR POINTED DOGS. Professional handlers may exhibit only their own dogs. Puppies and adults do not compete against each other. Obedience Classes: Dogs must compete in classes higher than their degree unless shown non-competitively. ROUTES TO MATCH: I-69 to Marshall exit. East on Michigan Avenue to South Marshall (Watch for Fairgrounds sign.) Turn right on South Marshall to Fair Street. Turn left into Fairgrounds. OR I-94 to Marshall Exit 110. South to Michigan Avenue, East to South Marshall. Turn right to Fair Street. Turn left into Fairgrounds. Match Chair: Cindy Buford 269-968-2885 (P.M.) Cell 269-420-4392. E-mail for information: Cbuford4@aol.com

**September 25—Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club Seminar:** “What Makes a Dog a Good Labrador Retriever?”, will be sponsored by the Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. in conjunction with its 2003 Specialty Show. This seminar offers valuable information for everyone involved with Labrador Retrievers. An understanding of correct structure and temperament is important to all Lab owners whether their Lab be active in agility, obedience, field work, conformation or “riding the couch!” Presenter: Mary A. Wiest of Beechcroft Labradors Distinguished judge and long time breeder Mary A. Wiest will incorporate slides, great handouts and live dogs in her discussion of the Labrador Retriever. Time & Date: 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, 2003, which is the evening before the ILRC Specialty, (9/26/03). Venue: Pavilion at Sampson State Park (Finger Lakes Region) The pavilion, located in the same park as the Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club Specialty Show site, is on Rt. 96A, in Romulus, New York. Also, bring your own chairs as the pavilion’s wooden picnic tables and benches may be uncomfortable after a long day at the dog show. Cost?? Dinner?? TBA Check ILRC’s website at www.ilrc2.com or email the Seminar Chair: Barb Corbelli at pcorbell@rochester.rr.com after June 1, 2003 for updated information. Reservations: Are a MUST! Due to limited space, reservations are required and will be taken on a first come bases. All reservations must be received by Sept. 12, 2003. Make checks payable to: ILRC, Inc. and mail to Barbara A. Corbelli, 5730 E. Main St., Batavia, NY, 14020. More about the Seminar: If this seminar sounds familiar it is because a seminar by the same name was held after the 2002 Potomac Labrador Specialty. For those that attended the first seminar, our seminar will address the same topics - topline, tailset, stop, balance, front and rear angles and etc. But, all these aspects of the Labradiator will be discussed from the perspective of a different breeder judge, Mary A. Wiest.

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**Member Spotlight—Ruth Achterhoff-Aust**

My name is Ruth Achterhoff-Aust. Some of the members of HRLRC don’t know me at all. Others have probably come to know me as that member with the difficult to pronounce last name, and a small collection of people within the club share common particular members within our pooshes’ pedigrees. As I recently had occasion to chat with Michelle VeuCaso-vic, she told me with her intentions of asking members of the club that may be ‘less familiar’ to others, to share their story, their attraction and introduction into life with Labradors. Here’s my story . . . .

I grew up on the west side of Michigan, in Muskegon, the beautiful, friendly and relatively small “Port City.” It was accepting a position at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan in 1978 that brought me to the area that has since become my permanent home. Through my years in the employ of Leader Dogs, I had the opportunity and pleasure to be in the company of a large number of dogs including Labradors, Golden, Shepherds, and crossbred dogs within those breeds, and even an occasional ‘trial’ breed for the program. Through that experience, I came to develop an appreciation for each of the individual breeds that made up the dog guide program at Leader Dogs. As far as Labrador Retrievers, I came to develop somewhat of my own stereotype for the three colors. Just as we from one cultural perspective are quick to slap a set of characteristics onto another cultural group based on our limited personal experience with that group, so went my label slapping with Labradors based on coat color. As you might guess, it only took but one puppy purchase based on my preconceived notions of personality characteristics inherent to coat color to prove me completely wrong!

Little Debutante of Sisu (Abbie) was purchased from Cheri Willhouby in 1985. She was a product of Sisu’s Ashes of Roses and Windsong’s Silver Bullet. Abbie produced five litters of puppies during her childbearing years, most of which were donated back to Leader Dogs and went on to become dog guides or to further Leader Dog’s breeding program. I became a member of HRLRC within the general timeframe of becoming part of the Labradoraing family. Yes, in the beginning I was much better about attending meetings, etc., but my attendance became less of a priority in my life in time.

In the late 80’s my priority became higher education; I went back to school in the pursuit of a degree in Social Work. I made the decision to leave Leader Dogs and started a pet-sitting service in the Rochester area called A Beastly Business and worked part time.
Member Spotlight Continued—Ruth Achterhoff—Aust

for a State Regional Center. Beginning at Oakland Community College, then Madonna University, I finished my Master’s Program at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1992.

Since that time, there have been many changes. My husband, Ric, and I were blessed to add a son to our family. Tyler came to us at the age of six in 1994. It has been a gratifying experience to watch Tyler grow and develop such appreciation, care and empathy for the animals with whom he lives and with whom he has contact. In my professional life, I worked for Oakland County as a Children’s Residential Liaison until the end of 2000. A Beastly Business still continues to serve the pet care needs of a number of Rochester residents.

Throughout the years, Labradors have continued to be an important part of my life. I have continued to produce occasional litters of puppies over the years, donating a number of puppies to both Leader Dogs and Paws with a Cause. In the role of pet-sitter, my ‘girls’ have joined in and assisted me in the running of other dogs in my care. I have also had occasion to raise several dogs for Leader Dogs, and they were additionally invaluable assets to me in accompanying me to my every day work assignments throughout the state. Children in residential settings, often lonely, isolated and angry, would often be at much greater ease talking to a social worker with a friendly, furry and affectionate dog to console during an interview.

My involvement with the club and Labradors, may be quite different than those club members who spend countless hours traveling and participating in shows across the country and taking part in field events, etc. I admire and respect those of you that have such dedication to ensuring that the integrity of breed standards of the Labrador are maintained. I am proud to count myself as a member of the HRLRC, although my part is minute.

The ability to network with, learn from, and refer to Labrador enthusiasts throughout the State has been a great benefit to me over the years. As life continues to evolve, it may be possible that my time availability will increase, and thus, opportunity for greater involvement in the club. In the meantime, I appreciate having the pleasure of the current level of contact.

Breeder Feature—Mary Weist (Beechcroft Labradors)

Reprinted with permission of the Dallas-Fort Worth Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

DFW LAB REPORT: Let’s talk about your perfect Labrador—over and above, head, coat, and tail.

MARY WIEST: Okay, but you must have head, coat, and tail. That’s the crux of the breed. And then, it’s all about balance. Without balance, you can’t have a dog that can work. He needs good angles so he can use himself, which makes him a good show dog as well. My BOB dog at the DFW Specialty didn’t have great angles, but he used what he had very well. He would and could work in the field all day.

The topline is of utmost importance. If you don’t have a strong topline, then you won’t have the front supporting the rear, and the rear supporting the front as the dog moves. The topline is the connection from front to rear.

I like to see a neck in balance with the rest of him as well, and long enough so the dog’s head isn’t sitting on his shoulders.

On the other hand, a swan neck can’t hold a duck. So again, it’s about balance. Another problem is a reverse or ewe-neck. The neck should be longer from top of the head to the point of the shoulder than from under the bottom of the jaw to the chest. Whether the dog is square or rectangular doesn’t matter that much. Again, it’s all about balance. A longer-bodied dog works fine (of course, as long as the length isn’t in the loin), provided that the dog is balanced. His angles need to correlate with his body length. What I allow or want in my own dogs and what I won’t allow, are not necessarily the same things that I use for judging. For example, I won’t have a yellow dog in my kennel because of the shedding. But, I still use yellows in the ring. (Editor’s note: Ms. Wiest put up a yellow dog as Best of Breed at the DFWLR Specialty in March.)

DFWLR: Tell me about your breeding philosophy: how did it develop; how has it changed?

MW: As breeders, our philosophy always remains the same: breed good Labradors. However, the dogs have changed somewhat. The dogs winning today are not the same as those that won yesterday. We have more bone and more substance now. As a breeder, you have to keep up with the times, but not lose your dogs. You have to have in mind—both as a breeder and a judge—the ideal dog, even as that evolves over time. That said, I did make a drastic change. For ten years, I tried to breed mediocre bitches to top dogs. I got mediocre dogs (for which I spent a lot more money!). Then, I went to England and visited Ballyduff, and Mrs. Docking had what I wanted to breed. She said no when I asked to buy a puppy. So I begged. I pleaded. I just wouldn’t go away. And finally she sold me the third pick, and I got Lark. That made all the difference. Ten years into
breeding, I basically started over.

My goal is to produce a really typy dog who is healthy. I eliminate a lot of dogs, so it takes me longer but in the end I get something like Study in Black—the epitome of what I want in a Labrador. Charmer has the most gorgeous of heads, and Study will have that head as well. Not only are theirs correct with relation to back skull and stop and muzzle, but they have that expression: kind, gentle, but intelligent with a hint of Labrador mischievousness. These dogs aren’t hyper in temperament, but always ready to go, with that, “What next, Mom?” look about them.

The point is, I was willing to start over with Lark. I even changed my kennel name. But in essence, it wasn’t a change in philosophy because I finally found what I wanted. I hope if Mrs. Docking is looking down, she’s happy with what I’ve done with her lines. LR: Do you put more focus on phenotype or genotype?

MW: I truly feel that pedigree is very, very important. Line breeding is the only way to truly breed a great dog, especially if you don’t have room for fifty dogs! For example, I once purchased a lovely bitch. Her great grandmother was a field bitch. Every litter we produced had that head—long, snippy, the typical field head. So whatever’s back there is gonna come out.

Of course, I’ve been proven wrong at times! But I want a quality bitch, with type throughout. To breed the perfect dog, line breeding is the way to get there. Then, through all those generations to get him, you have to have been very hard on the health issues—keeping problems out of the line. Line breeding doesn’t produce healthy dogs unless the breeder works at it. But the result is that we have a great dog, who’s healthy! And, it matters that you stay consistent. When you go to a different type dog, you must know how the growth patterns in that line are going to mix with your dog’s growth patterns. For example, if you have a line that’s known for loose elbows, and you breed into a line known to have short upper arms, you have a good chance of getting elbow problems. But if you stay with one or the other, you’ll avoid that. A lot of this is just common sense.

DFWLR: How important are Hunt Tests to your breeding program?

MW: I firmly believe in breeding dual-purpose dogs. They have to be retrievers. I won’t breed a dog that won’t work in the field.

That said, I only do hunt tests under duress! I would love to see hunt tests that didn’t kill birds. That’s a waste of nature—to kill for a title—which is my biggest problem with it. Hunting with a dog is a different issue entirely. And seeing good dogs work in the field is one of the great joys of life.

I also have a problem with using e-collars to get titles. Is this a test of natural hunting ability or of training? If the test requires training with a collar to pass, then the test is wrong. We have to keep the tests as hunting examples. This is supposed to be about the relationship between you and your dog; a test of your dog’s retrieving instincts and willingness to work with you.

This goes back to temperament as well. The dogs don’t have to be pushy, but they have to be there. Ready to go. I won’t breed a timid dog. Period.

DFWLR: What do you see as the biggest problems in the breed? Not from the standpoint of over-breeding, but from good dogs, from serious, reputable breeders?

MW: Well, people usually don’t bring dogs to show under me unless they have type. So, with typy dogs, the biggest problems I’m seeing have to do with structure. Heads are bad right now as well—we’ve lost that kind expression. I’m seeing dogs that are wide through the shoulders, ones with straight upper arms, and those that are so angulated in the rear they can’t move. You can’t have a good Labrador without good structure. There’s not really one place where we’re failing. But we’re being too kind to our dogs. By lowering our standards, we’re allowing the quality of our dogs to drop. You’ll hear people all the time critique their dogs, and then keep one with a big problem while explaining, “Well, they’ve all got something wrong with them.” And they’ll breed that something into their line.

Bridget Docking said to me, “Be ruthless.” I’ve lived since then by that philosophy. If you keep the quality of your kennel high, and only bring in quality as high or higher, you’ll continue to improve.

DFWLR: Okay, I think we all know your position on splitting the breed. Can you add any additional insight?

MW: This isn’t a split between field dogs and show dogs. We have two factions here—the English dog and the rest. If you’re happy with the standard, then you can stay right where you are—the difference will be that some of us won’t be there.

Look at both standards—the one we have and the FCI (which the rest of the world uses). Which one best describes your dogs? Then, go with that standard. That’s the point. Yes, you’re going to have to make a decision about your own dogs. Are they English, or American?

The point is, there’s a place for both types of dogs. The split will allow both kinds to be “right.” Once split, the dogs become really split. Right now, the different factions don’t get along at all. But once we are no longer competing about which type is correct, we can become friends and learn from each other. Both sides will stop making compromises. Now, that would be wonderful.

The split will also help with Lab Rescue. Right now, the average person wanting a Labrador doesn’t know the difference in one type or the other. Often, they end up with the wrong type for them, i.e., with a hyper dog, when the more easygoing English type would better suit their needs. And vice versa. Once the lines are clearly drawn, people will be better able to select the sort of dog they really want, and fewer Labradors will end up needing rescue.

Some people say that splitting the breed isn’t fair because they want the option to breed to my dogs, or other English lines—to dogs that would no longer be part of their breed if we split. Well, why should I sacrifice my breeding program for theirs? I’m going to have my breed.

We all have decisions to make about our own dogs.
Annual Fun Match & Club Picnic — Saturday, July 12th

It’s that time again. . . . Our Annual Fun Match and Club Picnic will once again be held at the home of Norm and Sheila Norgren on Saturday, July 12th, 2003. Bring your puppies to show, a chair to sit in, a dish to pass, money for the “Super” raffle, and hang out with fellow club members for a day of fun in the sun with food and labbies. Burgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided by the HRLRC.

This year’s judges are:

**Regular Conformation**
Steve Kirschner

**Sweepstakes**
Shari Kirschner

**Entries**: 8:30am– 9:30am

**Judging Starts**: 10:00am (sharp)

**Classes**: 2-4 month, 4-6 month, 6-9 month, 9-12 month, 12-18 month, Adult, Veterans

**Entry Fees**: 1st entry $8, 2nd or more are $6.

For more details, contact Cathy Culpert at (248)634-1716, or via email at winsomelabs@aol.com

Norm and Sheila Norgren
900 Gulley Rd.
Howell, MI
(517)548-4037
Email: normccc@aol.com

**Directions:**

**From West**: I-96 east, East on M59, past Latson Rd., Right on Gulley, home is on the left.

**From East**: I-96 west, Exit 141 to Grand River West (Left), Right on Latson Rd., Right on Golf Club Dr., Left on Gulley, home is on Right.

**From US23**: Exit M59 Howell/ Pontiac west, Past Argentine and Hughes roads, Left on Gulley, home is on the left

Come relax at the Picnic on July 12th. Is Helen coming again with that FABULOUS CHEESECAKE?