



TARTAN

GORDON SETTER CLUB, INC

Tidings

09' Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2009

TarTan Annual Awards Banquet a Huge Success!!



It was Valentine's Day and love was in the air. Well, that is, love of our Gordons, and the company of their devoted owners! Storowton Tavern was once again the site of our Annual Banquet, on February 14th. This year, we were lucky enough to secure our own little building, the Carriage House, which allowed us the coziness of an intimate dinner with over forty members and guests. Valentine's Day decorations and candy enhanced the warmth of the evening.

Members arrived bearing myriad donations for our Brown Bag Raffle. It is always amazing how many beautiful items are donated, and this year was no exception. "The Bills," master salesmen Bill Dargay and Bill Fralick, waged a relentless campaign to sell the pre-made packets of tickets. Power organizer Cindy Fitzgerald, ably assisted by Liz Wilshere, Diane Dargay, Candice Bell, and guest (former longtime member) Jean Engelke created an enticing display of offerings. Our little raffle once again raised over \$300, which, as is our custom, was donated to the TarTan Scholarship Fund. The Maine Vacation raffle was drawn, and the lucky winner was Robin Marshall, who can surely use a week of down time, Down East.



Our guest speaker for the evening was Jan Adams, of Fidelco, who, accompanied by her dog Zeke, explained in detail the course of training and placement for Fidelco Guide Dogs. She began by stating that, since we were all "dog people," she could omit most of the information that non-doggy people needed to know. She was indeed right, but our questions were deeper and more to the nitty gritty point. We wanted details! She enjoyed our company as we enjoyed hers. We, as a club, are committed to support Fidelco, and we participate as a team in the yearly Walk for Fidelco in May.



And, of course, the evening would not have been complete without our Annual Awards. Chair Coleen Banks organized and presented beautiful rosettes and certificates to members winning awards in obedience, rally, agility, conformation and the field. We are nothing if not diverse, ambitious and talented. Our club is proud to announce a special award to another elite dual champion, DC Blackburn Sir Lancelot, JH, owned by Jane deCasteja. In addition to the rosette and certificate, TarTan makes a contribution toward the painting of a portrait of Loch. We hope Jane can display that portrait at next year's banquet. Special gift baskets, prepared by gift maven Cindy Fitzgerald, honored members who have made significant contributions to our club. This year, honorees were Ralph Schmid and Phyllis Perrelli (who seemed surprised, for some reason).



A general membership meeting capped off the evening, and the weather remained dry and clear for our members' drive home. Jim and Joyce MacWalter documented the event for us photographically. Our club is blessed to have such an active membership, as was made clear in the number of awards and in the number of attendees at the banquet. Here's to next year's event. May it be as successful, but maybe not on Valentine's Day!

Laura Bedford





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TarTan Bylaws I; ARTICLE IV- CLUB YEAR, VOTING NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS SECTION I. Club Year.

- a) Fiscal Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1 w day of July and end on the last day of June next following.
- b) Installation of Board of Directors: The elected Officers and members of the Board of Directors shall take office immediately following the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 2. Voting. At the Annual Meeting Regular Club Meetings or at a Special Club Meeting voting shall be limited to those voting members in good standing who are present at the meeting except for the election of Officers and Directors and amendments to the constitution and bylaws which shall be decided by secret written ballot Voting by proxy shall not be permitted The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot by mail.

SECTION 3. Nominations, Elections and Ballots. No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these bylaws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors not later than the first day of February. The Committee shall consist of five members and two alternates none of which shall be candidates for office. All members and alternates on the committee shall be voting members in good standing, no more than two of which may be members of the current Board of Directors. The Board shall name a chairman for the Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for the conduct and preparations necessary in the case of a contested election. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail, electronic medium or telephone conference call.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate firm among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each office and for each position on the Board of Directors and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee -if so chosen. The Committee should consider geographical representation of the membership on the Board to the extent that it is practicable to do so. The Committee, not later than Match 1 next following, shall then submit its slate of candidates to the Secretary, who shall have said report published in the following Newsletter, so that additional nominators may be made by the members if they so desire.

Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition signed by five voting members in good standing and accompanied by the written acceptance of each such additional nominee signifying his willingness to be a candidate and a brief resume outlining the nominees qualifications Such nominations from members must be received by the Secretary not later than April 15 next following. No person shall be a candidate for more than one position

If no valid additional nominations are received by, the Secretary on or before April 15, the Nominating Committees slate shall be declared elected, effective at the annual meeting by means of the Secretary casting a single vote for the election of the unopposed slate No further balloting will be required If one or more valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary, on or before April 15th, the Secretary, or an independent professional firm designated by the Board) shall, cause: to be published in the May edition of the Club's newsletter a listing all of the nominees for each position, in alphabetical order, along with a brief resume of the candidates qualifications.

(f) In the event of an untested slate of candidates, the election of Officers and Directors shall be held at the annual meeting by secret ballot the time allotted for the election shall be published in the newsletter prior to the annual meeting and shall provide sufficient time to allow all members wishing to vote, to do so. The nominating committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the election, the preparations necessary and shall serve as an election committee as listed herein. Ballots must be clear and impartial with the candidates listed in alphabetical order in each office section of the ballot Members will be checked against the current list of voting members, as provided by the membership chairperson, given a ballot to be marked and shall return the ballot to be placed in a ballot collection box Ballots shall be counted once each member has had the opportunity to vote Once the voting has been closed at the annual meeting no more votes may be accepted Those voting members not able to attend the annual meeting may request an absentee ballot from the nominating chairperson not later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Said absentee ballot shall be the same ballot as will be used by members attending the annual meeting. Dual envelope procedures shall be followed for all absentee ballots. The Nominating Chairperson shall provide a ballot, together with a blank envelope and a return envelope addressed to the nominating chairperson marked "Ballot". So that the ballots may remain secret, each voter, after marking their ballot shall place and seal the ballot in the blank envelope which in turn is then placed in the return envelope. Each voting member must then legibly sign the outside of the return envelope Absentee ballots must be received by mail prior to the date of the annual meeting to be valid The nominating Chairperson shall then Carry the ballots unopened to the annual meeting Absentee ballots shall be checked against the current list of voting membe's and the list of members who voted in person at the annual meeting. Once the ballots are checked for privileged and duplication they shall be removed from the outer envelopes by the nominating chairperson, who then gives the ballots in the blank envelopes to one of the other election committee members who shall remove the ballots from the blank envelopes and place them in the ballot collection box to be counted along with the ballots cast by the members voting at the annual meeting. Voting shall be restricted to those voting members in good Standing with the Club as of the date of the Annual meeting. The ballots shall be counted by a committee of at least three persons and shall be chaired by the nominating chairperson; no person who is a candidate for office shall serve on the election committee. The results of the election shall be announced at the annual meeting and published in the following month's newsletter. (f) The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. In the case of a tie for any office the Board of Directors by a majority vote shall determine the issue or may call for a runoff election in the undecided slot If any nominee, at the time of the election, is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be

Rally, an AKC titling event:

Rally is a fun way for you and your dog to get further into the obedience scene without your dog getting bored! Or you getting bored, for that matter! Trials offered at each level are Rally Novice (RN), Rally Advanced (RA), and Rally Excellent (RE). You must earn three qualifying scores at each level at three rally trials. Teams compete against the top score of 100 and must have a qualifying score of at least 70.

Handlers get a walk-through of the course ahead of time without their dogs in order to acquaint themselves with the course layout. The dog and handler team then move continuously through a rally course of 10 to 20 signs with the dog at the handler's left. At each numbered sign the team performs the indicated exercise, then moves on to the next sign. Unlimited communication is encouraged - the handler can talk to the dog and give multiple commands and signals. While this is a timed event, the time only matters if there are ties in scoring. Scoring is less rigorous than traditional obedience.

In the 1980s, I competed in traditional obedience with my Labrador and my first Gordon Setter. I discovered early on with my Gordon that too much repetition bored her (and me too!). Her scores for her first two trials were in the 190s (out of 200), but after two non-qualifying trials, and then a trial where she was so bored that she nearly wandered out of the ring, I realized that she needed some stimulation. Advanced obedience worked for her, but I know that if Rally had been around then, she would have loved it. Because Ronan gets bored very easily, I found that starting out in Rally, where we move quickly and do different exercises, I've been able to keep his interest.

Because obedience and Rally trials at our TarTan Specialty are an added expense, it's important that members support them and enter! We stand a really good chance of losing those trials without a better entry. Rally is a great way for the novice obedience person to get into the whole obedience scene. And it's fun for both you and your Gordon!

For more information on details and rules of Rally Obedience, please check out the AKC website at www.AKC.org/events/rally/index.cfm. You can also get some great help at www.rallyobedience.com. I purchased my Rally kit with signs and holders at J&J Dog Supplies online. There are several good books on the subject that you can purchase at either Dogwise.com or Amazon, but the one I've found to be really good is Charles "Bud" Kramers' book Rally O: The Style of Rally Obedience which is in its third edition. He has great course designs to work with and photos of he and his dog doing exercises.

Jani

A new directive regarding transporting live animals into/through the United States has been put into effect by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Effective February 1, 2009, the directive requires that all animals, including dogs, coming into the United States booked as manifest cargo must be tendered at their [foreign] origin airport by a "Regulated Agent" or "IATA-Approved Agent".

Parties not affected include:

- **People (breeders, owners, etc.) shipping their pets as cargo within the US.**
- **People traveling with their pets as excess luggage or in-cabin within the US.**
- **People traveling with their pets as excess luggage or in-cabin into the US.**

Affected parties include:

- **People shipping pets as cargo overseas/across the US border.**
- **Individuals living overseas who want to send their pets back to the US as cargo.**

These affected parties must now use the services of a registered/licensed shipping/cargo/freight agent or broker. Such agents are easy-to-find, as there are usually a number of them near major airports.

As always, individuals flying with a dog into the US should check with their airline to confirm its policies on live animals as excess baggage.

For more information, please contact the Transportation Security Administration at (866) 289-9673 or the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at (877) 227-5511.



2009 TarTan GSC Nominating Committee:**Chairman: Deborah Burke****Committee: Ellen Shanahan, Jim MacWalter, Jani Wolstenholme, & Sherie Grober****Alternates: Karol Paduch & Jane DeCasteja****2009-2010 Slate:**

President:	Larry Clifford
Vice President:	Laura Bedford
Secretary:	Cindy Fitzgerald
Treasurer:	Nancy Smith

**Board members to serve a two year term:
Richard Dwyer & Ralph Schmid**

Board members Ellen Shanahan & Robin Marshall's terms are not up for election yet

The election is at the annual general membership meeting held at the picnic in June

Maine Federation's First Lobby Day a Huge Success

By Jay Kitchener

Augusta, ME, 2/5/09 -- More than 25 delegates, friends and family of the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs braved a pre-dawn snowfall and frigid temperatures yesterday to converge on the state capitol in Augusta for FMDC's first-ever Lobby Day billed as "Dog Day at the State House."

Maine Governor John Baldacci, an avid dog lover, was scheduled to make a brief appearance in the Hall of Flags at noon. Federation members were thrilled when Governor Baldacci emerged from his office around 10:30 am and began to mingle with Federation folks. & p; The Governor spent close to half an hour visiting the many informational booths and talking candidly with Federation members. FMDC Legislative Director Jay Kitchener presented Governor Baldacci with a lavish blue rosette ribbon emblazoned with "Best in Legislature." "I've never had a dog that got a blue ribbon," said the Governor. "Thank you!"

Governor Baldacci was especially interested in the details of a piece of legislation put forward by FMDC that seeks to re-structure dog licensing and rabies vaccinations in the state. The Governor said, "While I need to read the actual language of this bill, if I understand you correctly, this sounds like a very good idea. Your group is concerned about this problem and you're coming to the table with a workable solution. This is wonderful." Governor Baldacci excused himself from the group only to return moments later with his wife, Karen, and first pets Mia and Sam, their beloved English Springer Spaniels. The Governor and Mrs. Baldacci spent another half an hour visiting with folks while Mia and Sam enjoyed dog treats supplied by Federation members.

Dozens of state legislators and their staff enjoyed a breakfast buffet spread across several tables next to the informational booths. When the breakfast food began to run low, sled dog delegate Sara Vanderwood sent her husband to buy 100 "whoopie pies", a traditional Maine treat (think of an Oreo cookie on steroids). "Today was a huge success," said Kitchener. "For a long time, folks here have only been served the dish by the Humane Society of United States. Today, legislators and staff devoured FMDC's information—and the free food."

New email addresses for:Dr. Sue Conley: drsusanconley@verizon.netBill Fralick: wfralick@myfairpoint.net**Address Changes**

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241 East Haddam Colchester Tpke
East Haddam, CT 06423-1002
(860) 307-5458

Dianne Avery
10650 E 200
South, Avilla IN 46710

Membership News

Schnurr, Martin & Susan - Regular members
288 West Hyerdale Dr.
Goshen, CT 06756
860 491-9071
CTONUS@aol.com

They were endorsed by James & Elizabeth Dillon
They own: Miliko's One In A Million HBM "Hannah" wh 7/15/07
Sire: Tripleb Flyin-High Cessna
Dam: Tartana Miliko Instant Karma JH
They are interested in Agility, Field Trials, Hunting Tests, and meeting other owners.

TarTan Gordon Setter Club, Inc.
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 14, 2009 – West Springfield, MA.

Vice President Laura Bedford called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm
A sheet for attendance was circulated and 31 members signed with 6 guests in attendance.
A quorum was certified.
Motion was made by Candice Bell to accept the Minutes of the last meeting as published.
Bill Dargay seconded the motion and all voting members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Officers' Reports:

President: Larry Clifford-absent due to family issues/no report

Vice President: Laura Bedford-No report

Secretary: Cindy Fitzgerald-Very little correspondence. Only action Taken by Board between board meetings was choosing a nominating committee chair and supporting their committee decisions.

Treasurer: Nancy Smith – Balance in our general account is currently \$19,167.32 with over \$7,000 plus raised for Health and Genetics by the recent three agility trials. She said we are in good shape even though we still have this coming year's insurance to pay as well as this evenings dinner expenses.

Committee Reports:

Agility: Maureen McLatchy – Nancy reported a profit of \$4,872.23 from the Jan 31/Feb 1 trials and an additional \$2,649.96 from the third trial held on Feb 8th. All this profit will go to the Health & Genetic committee for the TarTan GS Donor Advised Fund as previously designated by the Board at Maureen McLatchy's request. The upcoming summer trials, also held in NH are scheduled for August 8 & 9, 2009. It should be noted that all profits from this trial go into TarTan's general fund and are what allows the other events to exist, THEREFORE it is critical for members to support this activity.

Archives: Karen Gatchell- No official report but Karen sent down some extra catalogues and newsletters that she had found after she categorized donated items for the Archives.

It should also be noted that Cindy has been communicating with George Whitney regarding his late wife's, Dorothy Page Whitney, papers. We have acquired a few boxes containing old TarTan secretarial records and correspondences as well as many of Dot's personal breeding records. There are old newspaper and American Field articles chronicling Gordons in the field as well as photos from those old events. Also, George has communicated that he has found many old slides from field trials which he will sort and donate to us as well. All these items will be sorted and filed appropriately when we have a chance and sent to TarTan archives.

Awards: Coleen Banks-Many titles this evening, congratulations to our members. Coleen reported she has plenty of rosettes and medallions in store.

Banquet: Laura Bedford –Great turnout, new room/building. Ardys McElwee suggested the Club look into rotating the sites to allow easier acces from various areas of the Club's environs. Laura said we would discuss it at the next board meeting.

ByLaw Review & Revisions: Cindy reported for Robin Marshall and committee. She apologized for things moving along so slowly but mentioned that the bulk of the work and responsibility fell to her now. The amended Constitution will be published in an upcoming newsletter and then a real vote with written ballots need to be sent out. This is time consuming and expensive so we are waiting until Cindy has the time and the TarTan treasury can handle the expense, which should be sometime late spring or early summer

'09 Spring Field Trial: Susan DeSilver no reported but Deb Freidus said the dates were April 11 & 12, 2009 which is Easter weekend so we will need all the extra help that we can to run the trial efficiently.

'09 Spring Hunt Test: Ralph Schmid reported that the dates are April 25 & 26, 2009 in Hopkinton, NH.

Health & Genetics: Candice Bell reported that TarTan hosted a very successful blood draw for the DNA repository at the 2008 GSCA National Specialty resulting in over 300 blood samples in the repository. She reported that there is currently a developing health survey being produced by OFA in order to get direction for their research and that there is possibly commercial tests coming for remissions.

Inventory: Laura Bedford reported that she had inventory here is looking into a new company for upcoming items.

Library: Phyllis Lundy reported that she has quite a few tapes available for sign outas published monthly in the newsletter and asked if anyone had any suggestions for new items..

Membership: Dorie Viguers –No new members.

**TarTan Tidings
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 Deadline the 10th of
 the month**

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**TarTan Tidings
 Advertising Rates**

Business Card	\$10.00
1/4 Page	\$15.00
1/2 Page	\$20.00
Full-Page Ad	\$35.00

No charge for:
 Wags-n-Brags
 Wiggles-n-Giggles
 Or Small Lost & Found
 or In Memoriam

FEATURED DOGGIE YUMMY!**Biscuits**

2c. Flour
 1c. dry milk
 1 Tbsp corn oil
 1 tsp. garlic powder
 1 egg beaten

Just add enough water to make it stick together, roll thin on greased cookie sheet. Score before baking at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, or until edges brown (or use your favorite cookie cutters). Break apart if still moist place back in the hot oven. Turn off the heat and finish drying. Makes 2-4 cookie sheets.

Optional ingredients for flavor:

1c. cornmeal
 1/2 package Lipton Tomato Soup (dry)
 1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
 Strained baby food meat
 Or chicken, beef, or turkey broth in place of water.

Membership,

The Flaherty Field trial area is looking for people to advertise (from 1/4 page to full page) in their yearbook. The book is distributed to other State club members (NH, NJ, RI), local hunters and residents who use the area as well as all Field Trial and Hunt test attendees.

**For more info please contact Debby Freidus.
 ph-860-485-0323**

Got a favorite Gordon Goodie or a special treat you would like to share? Send your Recipe Ideas and Suggestions to

Karol: trilogygordons@aol.com **or** **Jani:** vger4@verizon.net
for publication in the Newsletter!!

**CALL TO
 MEMBERSHIP:**

Have you read a book you think would be useful to others? Did a certain book or author make a difference in your life, training approach or outlook on life and you would like to share that with others?

Send your book recommendations along with a review of the book and author in 500 words or less to our editors!

Karol: Trilogygordons@aol.com
 Jani: vger4@verizon.net

NEW TITLES – December 2008**PERFORMANCE & FIELD:****Companion Dog**

Ch Celtic Fly Me To The Moon CD (D) – Dec 7, 2008
 (Ch Celtic Jedburgh Abbey x Sea Gem Woodsmoke Blues Diva MH)
 Breeder/Owner: Beth Beatty & Cindy Fitzgerald

Junior Hunter

Ch Celtic Fly Me To The Moon CD JH (D) – Dec 13, 2008
 (Ch Celtic Jedburgh Abbey x Sea Gem Woodsmoke Blues Diva MH)
 Breeder/Owner: Beth Beatty & Cindy Fitzgerald

As published in AKC AWARDS, Vol 29, No 2 – February 2009 (Covering events from December 1 – 31, 2008)

Submitted by Karol Paduch
trilogygordons@aol.com

Wags and Brags

I am proud to announce that, on Jan 11, 2009 the day before her 2nd birthday, Laka (Am/Intl CH South Sea's Tautahi Laka JH) passed her 4th Junior Hunt Test to earn her JH! Laka competed in 4 HTs and passed each one with better scores than the prior test. On her last test she had 6 points that produced 6 birds in the first 15 minutes! Watching her work the scent and reposition herself working towards the birds was a beautiful sight!! I have to add, Laka got her first 2 legs of her JH in early December, just 2 weeks after going BIS Bred By Exhibitor at an IABCA show. It was my first time handling her after major knee reconstruction in Oct 07! I look forward to starting some serious Rally and/or Obedience training this spring. Laka is out of my girl Am/Can/Intl CH Karrelene's Anail O Muir JH (Stormy) and is sired by NZ CH Charnnah Private Eye (Marlowe).

TARTAN SPRING FIELD TRIAL

The TarTan Gordon Setter Club will hold its Spring Field Trial on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 – 12, 2009 at the Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, Connecticut, pending AKC approval. Premium lists will be mailed in March; the first date that we can accept entries will be March 9. Larry Clifford will again serve as our field trial Secretary.

Our stakes will be as follows in the order listed: Open Limited Gun Dog, Open Derby, Amateur Gun Dog (Gordons only), Open Gun Dog, Open Puppy, and Amateur Limited Gun Dog. All you folks with puppies and young dogs, please remember that judgment of Puppy stakes doesn't consider bird work, and that puppies 6 months of age and under 15 months may enter. Derby stakes are open to youngsters 6 months and under two years of age. Even though horseback handling is allowed in Open Puppy and Open Derby, the pace is set by the walking handler. Please remember that we have a horse wrangler with sedate and peaceable mounts for anyone who wishes to handle their dog or just to watch some braces. If you plan to enter, send in your entries to arrive at the opening date because our entries are limited to the number of dogs that can be run in the available daylight hours. TarTan's trial is very popular and fills up early. If you think you would like to come, but aren't sure – send in your entries anyway – you can always scratch before the closing. And remember, we can always use help from new folks and novices – and there is no better way to learn than by helping.

The judges' dinner will be held Saturday night in the clubhouse. We hope lots of you will come and make a weekend of it. Questions? Contact Chair, Susan DeSilver at 1647 Middletown Ave., Northford, CT 06472. Phone (203) 484-4738 or Secretary, Larry Clifford at (603) 463-7951.

Submitted by Susan DeSilver

A group of concerned dog owners in Rhode Island has been working with Kris Christine of the Rabies Challenge Fund to update the state regulation of giving the vaccine every two years instead of the manufacturers' and AVMA's recommendation of three years. I have contacted my state representative, who also happens to be the president of the General Assembly of RI, and she has moved very quickly to have our request reviewed in committee and passed on to the State Veterinarian and Department of Health. We are hoping that the Rabies Committee accepts our request as well as to add a clause for medical waiver for dogs with a compromised immune system or who are ill.

Jani Wolstenholme



Our Adventures – Part 3

The third installment in the continuing saga of a Gordon Setter and his man.

Ahh, what a marvelous day it is t'day Joyce. The air has that crisp bite of a fall day, the leaves are putting on their dress colors, it's enough to make ye break out in a tune.

“♪Oh, a Gordon for me, a Gordon for me, if your no a Gordon yer nay use tay me. The Black Watch are tall, the Seaforths and all, but the cocky we Gordon's the pride of them all ♪”

“What's that ye say luv?” “Well, ye dinna have tay be say critical of my musical talents lassie, ye might have hurt my feelings.”

Oh, there is a knock at our door. I'll answer it lass, ye need not bother.

Hello, welcome back. So ye have not had enough of my meandering tales of Brodie. Well come in and set ye doon. Let me have your coats and hats, it's a braw day out is it nay. Alright, all you we bairns, off wi' ye now. Go and play with Brodie and we may have a treat for ye later. Brodie ye keep a close watch on them. “Joyce luv, would ye put the kettle on?”

Well now, were did we last leave off? Oh yes, I told you of Brodie's first experience in the field. That was a memorable time for us both. But did ye kin that Brodie is also a show dog. Och aye, his first time in a show ring was in October of 2006 at an event called the TarTan Gordon Setter Club Specialty. It was my first time as well and quite a learning experience it was for us both.

As I recall, this is how Brodie's career as a show dog began. I believe it was in August of that very same year when Allison called us on the telephone and asked if we would be available the following weekend as she would be in the vicinity and would like to stop for a visit. You remember Allison. She's that bonnie lass that was Brodie's breeder. Aye, that's the very same Allison, ye have it right. Well we replied that we would be absolutely delighted to have her visit us and a few days later Allison was in our drive.

As I looked out the window I see her at the back of her vehicle removing some articles. So out I go to see what I could do to help. “What's this”, says I as Allison removed a grooming table and grooming gear from the back of her auto. “Well”, says she, “I thought as long as I was here we may as well give Brodie a little grooming and give you a bit of a lesson while we are at it.”

“All right” I said apprehensively, I must admit I was a bit stunned. Here this lass just finished a five hour drive to come and visit Joyce, Brodie and myself and here she is dragging out grooming equipment faster than I can relate it to ye to help educate Joyce and myself into the fine art of grooming a Gordon Setter.

So we set up the grooming table in the middle of Joyce's kitchen and before Brodie could blink he was up on the table and Allison was turning on her clippers. As the fur was literally flying, Allison asks “are you going to show him?” I replied to her that I had honestly not given it much thought. “You really should give it some thought, he is a good looking dog and showing is a lot of fun”. Joyce was taking a keen interest in the grooming lesson, so as Allison was grooming and giving instruction to Joyce, I was thinking about this new idea that Allison planted in my noggin.

“OK Allison, you have peaked my interest, what do I need to know to show Brodie” I inquired. “Oh, not too much” Allison replied with a knowing smile. “Your dog has to be groomed and I am showing you that right now, you will need to know how to stack him and how to handle him in the ring. Also be sure to dress nice. Sport Jacket, light colored trousers, shirt and tie.” Allison finished up on the grooming and went on to give a short lesson on handling and etiquette in the show ring. “This does not seem all that difficult” I thought to myself. I think I can do this; I'll give it a go.

“Allison, where is there a show that we may enter Brodie?” I asked. “There is a show this October in Connecticut. It is a specialty show run by the TarTan Gordon Setter Club. By the way, have you joined this club yet?” Allison asked. “No not yet, the paperwork that you gave me when we purchased Brodie requires the signatures of two members. We have your signature but you are the only person we know who is a member.” I answered. “No matter, just bring the application with you to the show and we will get someone there to provide the second signature.” Allison stated.

As fast as Allison arrived, she was off again telling us that since she is so close she wanted to also visit some folks in New Bedford or Fall River, I forget which. Her grooming gear was repacked and she was off leaving me wondering whether she was ever really there or did I dream it. Brodie came and sat next to me. Aye lad, she must have been here for you look about four pounds lighter than you were a brief time ago.

So I went to the TarTan web site and downloaded the appropriate forms as I had been instructed, filed them out to my best ability and posted them. Allison had recommended that I enter Brodie in the Sweepstakes as well as the classes. She said it would give him more experience in the ring.

“Well Brodie, your career as a show dog has officially begun” I said to the lad as he looked up at me with cocked head.

The time went by quickly and the excitement built exponentially. We decided to go the night before and stay over at a motel so that we would not have so far to travel to get to the show the next morning.

I believe we arrived at the Rotary Pavilion at about 7:30 AM the next morning. We unloaded our new grooming table and our newly acquired grooming kit. We put Brodie up on the table and started to comb him out. Somehow it did not seem to register in our minds that there were not very many people in this parking lot yet and we seemed to be the only ones working away on our dog. In trying to look oh so professional I believe we instead showed exactly how green we were.

As we anxiously watched the minutes pass, I noted that Allison had arrived. I went over to her car to greet her. After some small talk Allison asked if we were all set. I believe so I replied. “Do you have your show lead?” Allison inquired. I proudly produced the show lead from my pocket and displayed it to her for inspection. “It's red” Allison stated what I thought was the obvious.

“Yes, I ordered a black one but they were out and asked if a red would be OK. I told them, why not, send it along” I innocently replied.

"You cannot show a black dog with a red lead" Allison explained and rummaged a bit in her kit to produce a black lead. "Here, use this one" I noted that the lead was still in its original package. "Thank you, I'll return it to you as soon as we are finished in the ring" I said. "No, you hang on to it, I have plenty" Allison graciously replied. "Now go over to the steward's table and get your number"

"Get my number" the words echoed through my brain. This is it; its official, Brodie and I are going to be in a dog show. The butterflies all simultaneously lifted off from the pit of my stomach and proceeded to do laps around my internals.

Well, the time quickly arrived for the sweepstake judging. Brodie and I patiently waited beneath the tent for our number to be called.

"There it is, that's our number laddie, let's go" I silently projected my thoughts to Brodie. As we entered the ring, I overheard the steward state that the only other dog in Brodie's class was absent. I believe the man judging the sweepstakes knew by one look at Brodie and me that we had never seen the inside of a show ring before. But he was a gracious gentleman with apparent great patience and he guided the two of us through the routine that was expected. Och, we were so proud of ourselves trotting about the ring, in our minds we were doing so well. I brought Brodie back to our starting point and proceeded to do my best job to place Brodie in a stacked position. Brodie had other ideas. Being as he had not yet reached the age of ten months, he thought standing in this awkward position made absolutely no sense to him and he would have none of it.

The judge smiled and said he had seen enough, went over to his table and came back with a beautiful rosette ribbon and an envelope. Well, Brodie and I had thought we had just won the Irish Sweepstakes and to a much smaller extent we had. The only difference was, in this race there was only one horse.

As we exited the ring I thanked the judge, turned to Brodie and said "Look at what you have won laddie. Isn't it the most beautiful ribbon you have ever seen? Brodie!! This envelope has money in it. You have won a cash prize boy-o!"

As I walked back to Joyce, feet barely touching the turf, I could see she was all smiles too. "I have someone you should meet" says Joyce. "Her name is Janice Beattie and she is the owner of Brodie's father" While I was busy in the ring, Allison had introduced Joyce to Janice.

After a brief introduction, Janice looked me square in the eye and said, "take the keyring off your belt and get rid of the cell phone hanging from you pants pocket, it's distracting to your dog and to the judge. Keep you dogs head up while you are gaiting and you have to practice stacking him."

Well that let some air out of my balloon. Here I thought we had done so well and now I have been told that I really had some work to do to get this right. I could tell that Janice had given me these corrections because she cared about how Brodie and I appeared in the show ring. We followed with a pleasant conversation and I asked a multitude of questions and absorbed Janice's answers like a thirsty sponge.

Janice alerted me that I should probably return to the tent area, as the classes would be promptly starting following the sweepstakes, which were now concluding. So Brodie and I made our way to the tent area, less the keyring, cell phone and anything else I could think of and with what seemed to me to be a million tips and instructions careening about in my head.

I noted that there was a different judge in the ring for this event. This gentleman had a very serious look about him.

As expected, Brodie and I did quite well, being that we were the only entries in his class. The judge presented us with another glorious rosette.

"Well Brodie", says I to the lad "this show stuff is not all that hard now is it" As ye can see, that gay colored bit o' ribbon had quickly restored our sense of false confidence.

We exited the ring and were instructed to stay close as we would be needed for the "Winners Dog". So Brodie and I cooled our heels and watched as the other classes of dogs entered the ring, went through their paces and exited the ring in either a jubilant state or rather somber depending on the selection.

As we watched the last class exit the ring, the steward called out numbers, "Number 25". "Och, Brodie, that's us" I whispered more to myself than to the lad. So here we were for the first time in the ring and not by our lonesome. I glanced out of the corner of my eye and it seemed that the other dogs and their respective handlers seemed so composed and professional. I on the other hand could sense a rivulet of sweat starting on its journey from between my shoulder blades to its inevitable destination in my boot. Brodie thought it was great fun trotting about this ring but he was nay say interested in posing for the judge. I think in his young mind he thought that this was just so much nonsense to stand still while this stranger felt his neck, shoulders and other parts that he cared not to mention. The judge made his selections and this time we exited the ring without any brightly colored ribbons.

And that my kind listeners is the story of our first experience in showing. It would not be our last. I have found the show ring to be mildly addicting. Now as one show is wrapping up my thoughts are on the next event.

Here comes Joyce now with a pot of tea. "What's that ye have there luv? A brandied mince pie! And ye made it while I was rendering my story? Ye never cease to amaze me my dear."

"Help yourself to the tea and pie. I promised your bairns a treat so give me a moment to retrieve the sweets I have hidden.

It's been delightful having you here and I hope you enjoyed hearing another tale of my Brodie as much as I enjoyed telling it. Come ye back soon and I will have another for ye.

Ramblin' the Coverts Jim Dillon

The last article I wrote we discussed a little bit about health, safety and grooming preparation. In this article I'd like to touch on starting a dog off. Remember we're talking about hunting dogs, this is not the way you should start a dog you plan to trial. If you think you might trial, give someone like Suzy DeSilver a call, I'm sure she would be happy to point you in the right direction. For the rest of you, you usually fall into two categories of dogs and two categories of people.

Dogs first, we have puppies and older dogs. I like to introduce puppies to birds by the time they are 4 months old. Quail are the preferred bird to use because of the small size as it relates to the pup and the scent that the bird gives off. Whether you are going to hunt the dog or do Hunting Tests, this or something like it is what your dog is going to be running into for the rest of its career in the field. Pigeons, though cheaper to use, can scare a young pup because of their size and somewhat loud wing flapping. Although pigeons are fine with an older dog, most of the time you need to use training scent with the bird and a release trap. As this all costs money, for the occasional trainer, quail are a better deal.

So what do you really need? For a young puppy you will have to have a check cord, the use of a field of about 5-6 acres, three quail, a roll of surveyors tape, gloves and a couple hours. For very small puppies I make check cords up from parachute cord, very lightweight nylon cord that you can find at many surplus stores. Tie a snap on one end and thread spool on the other. The cord should be 30-35' and the spool on the end is there to help you catch the pup if junior tries to get too much out of hand.

When you pick out a field to work in, check that the cover in the field is sized to your pup, too high and the pup will be too tired to work and not high enough, you won't have anywhere to put the birds. Look for a field with moderate cover and patches of denser cover that are adequate to hold birds. Now you're ready to plant birds, bring your gloves and the surveyors tape with your birds. You are going to rock or shake the birds to dizzy the birds and gently put them into the dense cover. Tie a little piece of that tape to the tallest bit of cover and move on to plant the rest. Now you're ready to start working. Not, before you get the little nipper out check the wind. You would be surprised how many people bring their young pup into its first bird from the wrong direction. Always work with the wind in your face. Before you hook up the puppy, throw the check cord out straight on the ground and as you move out with the pup play out the line to a comfortable distance. As you approach the first bird, remember we are not looking for the bird, we are there so junior can scent the bird. Imagine a 5' circle around your little orange flag, that's as close as your puppy needs to be. Watch for the initial reaction, usually the ears peak up or the tail starts going and the puppy may start pulling in the direction of the bird. This is where the word whoa comes in, stop him and make him stand. No stand, no bird. If you wanted a flushing dog you could have got a nice Springer. Once he stands for a bit, you flush the bird. It is alright to let him chase a bit, you want to get the juices flowing. Then it's "Let fine another one and go off to the next bird. Always make him stop outside of that imaginary circle. At the end of the day, praise your dog for being a good boy and don't go back and try to fine the birds that you flushed. You always want to work in a controlled environment. At home you can work on that whoa word. Puppy wants to go out, "Whoa", the feet stop moving, you open the door. Do Not let him sit under a whoa command, it's not a sit stay, it's a whoa.

Well I think this is running long, so I guess we will talk about the older dog next time. By the way if you are interested in a glossary of terms used in the field you can email me at huntlysetters@sbcglobal.net

The Pheasant Dip

By Bill Hardie

It was the day after Thanksgiving and my Gordon Setter Lassie and I were checking my beaver traps. A colony of beaver had built a dam on Ripley Brook that threatened to wash out the road. This had created an emergency situation and I had received permission to trap them.

I was pleasantly surprised to find a fifty pound beaver in my 330 conibear trap, under one inch of ice. I removed it and reset the trap, placing it in the channel the beaver had dug.

When I looked for Lassie, she was interested in something else in the swamp. She was locked on point near a patch of cattails. As I approached her, two cock pheasants flew over my head.

I quickly returned to my Ford SUV and got my double 20 gauge and followed her into the swamp. She was on point again near another cattail patch. Two beautiful cocks rocketed into the air. I missed the first, but the second dropped near a piece of open water.

Not known for her retrieving ability, Lassie surprised me by tip-toeing onto the thin ice to the pheasant. As soon as she picked the bird up she broke through the ice. She climbed out onto the ice, shook herself off and returned to me, dropping the pheasant six feet away.

The instant I reached for the bird, the ice beneath me let go and now I was sitting in three feet of icy water. Lass gazed at me, retrieved the bird to my hand and licked my face. We had taken the pheasant dip together.

Newsletter: Karol Paduch, Jani Wolstenholme, Jeff and Jessica Martin- Ardys McElwee mentioned immediately that she, and others, were 'blown away' by our recent all color issue. Karol Paduch reiterated that she and Jani did the chasing and compiling but that Jeff had the hard part with the formatting and publication. (It should be noted that this all color issue did cover three months and although we are committed to having one all color issue each fall, it may not be the same size depending on the timing)

Nominating Committee: Deb Burke- Chair

Committee: Ellen Shanahn, Jani Wolstenholme, Sherie Grober & Jim MacWalter Alternates: Karol Paduch & Jane de Casteja
The slate and all voting instructions will be published in the newsletter. The election will take place at the annual meeting and picnic on June 28, 2009.

The slate : President- L. Clifford, Vice President- L. Bedford, Secretary- C. Fitzgerald, Treasurer- N. Smith, Board members to serve a two year term- Richad Dwyer & Ralph Schmid

Picnic: Robin Marshall sent word that it is scheduled for June 28, 2009 at the Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, CT. People seemed to really like new ideas and 'doing things' with their dogs so this year we will forgo the match and plan on spending more time with bird work, agility, rally and obedience training and our ever popular fun games.

A flyer will go out at the beginning of June and reminders will be in the newsletter.

Public Education: Jani Wolstenholme temporarily filling in (Thank you Jani)

Mention of the continued support to the Fidelco Walk in May on the 16th, information to follow. Guest speaker Jan Adams also mentioned a Fidelco Open House at their kennels in Bloomfield, CT on April 18th.

Rescue: Ellen Shanahan reported 5 successful placements last year ranging from 10 mths to 10 yrs. We currently have no dogs in foster care, although we are assisting the Pioneer Valley Humane Society with a placement of a found young female Gordon Setter-'Rhoda'. This dog was found in RI, was extremely emaciated and found to have some manageable medical issues. They have asked to handle her placement and we will support with names from our waiting to adopt list, as well as sending them a sizable donation in her name. Ellen reported that Tracy Murch has approximately 10 families waiting to adopt and she also thanked everyone for their support and hoped that they all realized that no matter how minor the support, it was all necessary and greatly appreciated.

Scholarship: Richad Dwyer- No report

'09 Specialty: Robin Marshall sent a report that the show committee is in place and all judges have been contacted and hired. Obedience and Rally judge will be Joyce Leach, Puppy Sweepstakes will be Kevin Flynn and Breed and Junior Showmanship will be Carol Brown from PA. There is also an ongoing discussion as to whether TarTan will be able to continue to offer Rally and Obedience at the specialty. The AKC fees are getting prohibitive, especially considering the small numbers that we draw in this area. This year will be the 'test' year for whether we continue to offer, so everyone is encouraged to come out and join Jani and Ronan in Rally and Maureen and Jake in Obedience. Also, in an effort to save some money, the Board has been discussing not renting commercial tenting and having the club buy some EZ-UP tents to use instead.

Supported Entries: Karol Paduch reported that TarTan will again be supporting the entry both days at the New England Sporting Association Shows in March in Fitchburg, MA. The next will be Ladies on May 31, 2009 in Wrentham, MA.

Trophies: Beth Beatty- Beth is talking to Kerry Scott regarding some of her Gordon Setter pottery for some of the trophies with leather leads and buckets and bowls for placements in the classes. She is working on a budget as TarTan has voted to continue to support the specialty by donating all the trophies again this year.

Website: Lynn Tenny no report but Laura mentioned that Lynn had a computer disaster which meant nothing has been updated on our website, but Anita Lustenberger has been corresponding with her to keep her updated with events and that things should be up and running shortly.

Delegates Reports:

Flaherty: Susan DeSilver no report but Deb Freidus said that there had been two work parties scheduled in January which had to be canceled.

HELDCA: Maureen McLatchy – No report.

GSCA Liaison: Jane Matteson- No report.

Old Business:

New Business: Next Board Meeting is scheduled for the Saturday of the NESG shows in Fitchburg, MA and all are invited to attend.

Next General Membership Meeting (and Election of Officers): June 28, 2009 at the Flaherty Field Trial Grounds in East Windsor, CT at noon.

Candice Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting/Ardys McElwee seconded/All voted in favor/ VP Laura Bedford called the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

TarTan Archives

GSCA Newsletters --
To complete our records of Gordon Setters --

We are in need of the following

GSCA Newsletters #1- thru #27, #58, #60, #86-88, #90, #29-94, #96, #117-#126 and #526 (which would be the March 1997 issue) to today ---- instead of putting these in the trash, please advise what you are willing to donate, so I can complete our records...

Also looking for several copies of the GSCA National Specialty that the TarTan club hosted, in 1998, Warwick RI. I can not find that we kept any copies for our records ..

Thanks for all the CD's that I have received already --
-- and thank for dating them as well --- Events and Dates are very important on the info sent to Archives



Why... YES This is MY Couch.....Why do you ask?

TarTan Tidings
PO Box 269
East Nassau, NY 12062

