

## GOLD RUSH CHAMPIONS

## DOG SENSE

Carrots, green beans, and squash are good sources of vitamins and fiber for dogs. Sliced raw they may be added to kibble. Left whole, carrots serve as a great low calorie chew treat. Buy fresh, canned is likely to contain lots of salt.

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# Gold Rush Champions

# THE NUGGET



**CANINE COMPANIONS  
FOR INDEPENDENCE**

DECEMBER / JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008 / 2009

## GRC Leadership—Changing Of The Guard

GRC chapter members met on Monday March 23, 2009 at the Carmichael Library to discuss the new GRC chapter structure which relies on the work of several committees, and to elect new chapter officers. The meeting was very well attended and helped to renew enthusiasm for the fantastic GRC!!

Outgoing GRC president, Jill Quan, expressed her great pleasure in having been the GRC president since 2001. Jill reflected that the position had been challenging at times but overall very rewarding. She is quite excited to have a new group of GRC members take on the leadership with her able assistance as the past president. Jill expressed her appreciation for the GRC family that she describes as devoted, supportive, quirky, and a very diverse fun bunch of characters. THANK YOU Jill!

The new leadership team for the GRC includes the GRC Board Members:

President	Robyn Strand
Vice President	Teresa Hart
Secretary	Krystina Nolan
Treasurer	Warren Strand
Public Relations Chair	Nancy Vise
Social Activities Chair	Stephanie Wilson
Puppy Activities Chair	Bev Pimentel
Outreach	Roger Andriess
Reno Satellite Rep	Lin Nelson
Graduate Rep	Wallis Brozman
Breeder Caretaker Rep	Patty Daniel and Kathy Kaestner

The new GRC Board will also have Advisory Members, Kathy Zastrow, NW Board Liaison and Past President, Jill Quan.

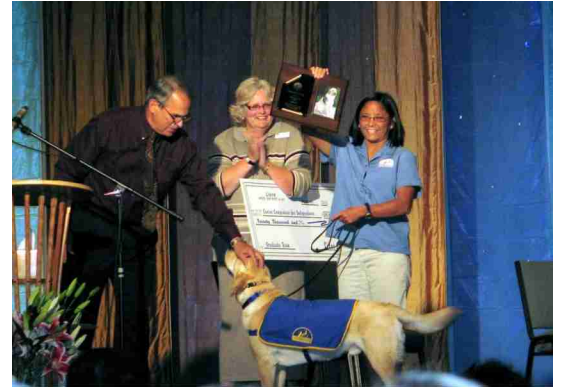
Although her tenure was brief, special thanks go to Nancy Ferro who is relocating to Colorado and unable to complete her term as GRC President.

“Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.” *Pauline R. Kezer*

# May 2009 NW Graduation

CCI Matriculation and Graduation Saturday, May 30, 2009, 1:00 p.m., Center for Spiritual Living – Priceless!

The program opened with a warm welcome from NW Regional Executive Director, Kathy Pierson. Then, Kathy introduced Phil Olavarri, Past President of the Lions Project For Canine Companions for Independence (LPCCI). In 1991 Lions in the Sacramento area organized an annual Crab Feed to fund raise for CCI. Phil presented this year's check for \$20,000 and proudly announced that twenty-five graduate teams have been sponsored by the Crab Feed, including two graduates in the May 2009 class. Phil and the Lions also honored GRC's own Jill Quan with a team sponsor award for her support and dedication to the success of the Crab Feed. Way to go GRC!



Next up Esther Molina, National Breeding and Puppy Program Manager acknowledged new breeders, including two from the GRC, **Akeelah**, Matt Beymer and Mary Roseberry Breeder Caretakers, and **Tamlyn**, Karen and Kathy Lawler, Breeder Caretakers.

The always entertaining puppy slide show featured most of the GRC matriculating class that included:

- Chip IV** puppy raised by Steve and Danni Van Lone
- Dupre** puppy raised by Koren Lamar
- Enso** puppy raised by Teresa Hart
- Gabbie II** puppy raised by Mark, Nancy, and Kerry Ferro
- Moki** puppy raised by Lori Martinez
- Neela** puppy raised by Janet Feil
- Skipper** puppy raised by Jill Quan



The Shahan's Present Skilled Companion, Zinji

The grand finale was the presentation of nine new CCI teams, with four of the new teams puppy raised in the GRC! Congratulations to:

Jisel Moore and Scott Moore who raised skilled companion, **Fern**

KC and Angela Palazuelos who raised service dog, **Sunke**

Beverly and Al Pimentel who raised skilled companion, **Walker**

Kristin and Jeff Shahan who raised skilled companion, **Zinji**

The class speakers touched everyone in attendance with their heartfelt speeches about the wonder and gratitude they feel with their new graduate dogs at their sides. Priceless!

# August 2009 NW Graduation by Kathy Kaestner

I didn't know what to expect at my first CCI Graduation/Matriculation Ceremony but I wanted to see first hand the result of all our labors. I began my career as a Breeder Caretaker last December with my Breeder Dara. For me, there isn't anything that compares to helping Dara bring those puppies into the world. I was anxious to see how successful they become at their jobs and the impact they will have on someone's life. With this in mind, I traveled to Santa Rosa to see the outcome. As we arrived we noticed that there are dogs and people everywhere and there is an air of energy surrounding us.

Kathy Pierson, CCI NW Regional Executive Director opened the program by recognizing the people in the audience from Becoming Independent and lead the audience in a moment of silence in honor of the recently deceased Eunice Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics. Kathy did a nice job of drawing comparisons between the journey of a CCI graduate dog to make and the Special Olympics. She said, "CCI dogs are our Olympic torch, but our torch has big brown eyes and floppy ears" and quoted Eunice Shriver's 1987 speech at the Special Olympics, "You are the stars and the world is watching you," by your presence, you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory. The right to play on any playing field? You have earned it. The right to study in any school? You have earned it. The right to hold a job? You have earned it. The right to be *anyone's* neighbor? *You* have earned it." The auditorium erupted into spontaneous applause as we realized all that our CCI dogs do to help support these basic rights.

Puppy matriculation followed the presentation of the new breeders: **Kaelen BC's** Krystina and Brian Nolan, **Branda II BC** Rodenberger Family, **Alondra BC** Simonds Family, **Connie II BC** Johanna Riley, **Gabbie BC** Barbara Monsma, **Jaker BC** Anita Sauber, **Yvette BC** Jacquelyn Bordessa & Kandice and Mitch Davis. Two letters from incarcerated PR's from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility were read that expressed the hope of the puppy raisers for success of the pups and the love the PR's have for these special dogs. Fourteen GRC pups matriculated including:



**Cris and Hondo**

**Dawna II** PR Kim, Douglas, and Aaron Brewer and Cathy Chenu-Campbell, **Daphne III** PR Debbie and Ken Vanderford and Cathy Chenu-Campbell, **Elan III** PR Sandy McKaig, **Gerrit** PR Kirstin Hill, **Hondo II** PR Cris Gerard with Stefane and Marilyn Lu, **Idelle** PR Mary and Tim Nobbe, **Isaiah III** PR Jim and Joan Buntin, **Larissa** PR Katie Heffelfinger and Paula Dunn, **Nolee** PR Mary and Daniel Shear, **Nick V** PR Pam Kitani, Kathy Ulm and Gloria Merk, **Shera** PR Cindy Lawton, **Storm III** PR Kathy and Courtney Dill, **Saris** PR Mark and Debbie Steffens, and **Taya** PR Cindy and Jennifer Baker.

The ceremonies were capped off by the presentation of the graduating class of August 2009. Fourteen new teams were presented including two GRC raised dogs: Skilled Companion Dog **Elvira** PR Jeff and Janet Chamberlain and Facility Dog **Vivian III** PR Mary Jo

Colletti. The graduate speaker said it best, "the unconditional love and companionship we get from the CCI dogs is something we could not have imagined. We are leaving here changed people. To the Breeder Caretakers, Puppy Raisers, other volunteers and CCI staff, we truly thank you from the bottom of our hearts".

And that is what it's all about. I came away from my first CCI graduation ceremony a changed person myself. More committed, more inspired, more humble, more in love with my dog than ever. I just love this quote, "Some angels have wings, others have tails..." How true that is.

# Demo Season by Nancy Vise

Some think we don't really have seasons here in California, but as volunteers for CCI, we certainly do have "Demo Seasons". In fact, one of our busiest demo seasons of the year is coming up soon. As students return to school and various agencies rev up their annual giving campaigns, every year the requests we receive for demos increase in September and October.

As you well know, CCI depends entirely on supporters, both volunteers and donors. Demos give us the opportunity to inform people about CCI and the various ways they can help. We can also educate potential graduates about what CCI offers when we attend a demo.

If the term "demo" concerns you, don't worry about having to show off your pups' perfect commands. For most people we meet, having the pup sit nicely by our side is impressive. Also, in many cases, we only staff a table and talk to people who drop by, rather than doing any kind of presentation. If there is a presentation to be done, I can always find someone willing to do the talking on our behalf. Don't think you have to make a speech if you volunteer to come to a demo. Also, you may be able to help with part of a demo, rather than stay for the entire event. Talking to the public at a demo is a lot like going to the grocery store with your pup and answering questions. You are not expected to memorize statistics, just tell people in general terms about the mission of CCI. We have a variety of great brochures to hand out at demos, too.

As a side benefit, demos are a great way to socialize your pup and to get together with other GRC volunteers. If you have any questions or concerns about demos, please contact me, Nancy Vise at (916) 684-8527, You may also contact me via email at [nvise@frontiernet.net](mailto:nvise@frontiernet.net)

## Monroe's Big Weekend by Kathy Zastrow

In May, Monroe and I were invited to join National CCI staff and members of the South Bay Chapter at Laguna Seca Raceway for the 'Festival of Speed'. CCI shared an informational booth with Eukanuba for 3 days. It was great fun! We met new friends from the South Bay and introduced many people to CCI.

On Saturday evening after the races, I was asked to speak to some boy scouts who were having a campout at the raceway and were trying to earn some merit badges. After my talk to them about dog ownership and training, they got to work on the merit badge requirements.



**Monroe—Honorary Boy Scout**

The boys answered questions from their testers and demonstrated their dog handling skills. Monroe was their test subject. Considering his youth, Monroe, he did a great job. He responded to 30+ strange boys giving him 3 or more commands each. Of course, they were easy commands: "Monroe, here, sit, down, shake & speak". In addition, each scout had to show how they would care for an injured dog. They had to put a 'make-shift' muzzle on Monroe. Monroe was a good sport! He performed so well that all of the scouts earned their merit badges and Monroe earned lots of merits in the form of treats. I wish we had video taped the exercise - it was hilarious! After spending 2 glorious days in Carmel, we went to San Jose to CCI FD Nyak's school. Nyak (the 12th puppy that we raised) and his partner, Outi, work with very disabled pre-schoolers. Monroe had a good time watching Nyak and interacting himself with the students. They loved having 2 dogs in their classroom and many students & teachers from other classes came to visit and meet Monroe. It was a great weekend!

## Meet New GRC Board Members

Before my retirement, I donated to CCI for 12 years, then was able to raise my first puppy starting in 2005. I've raised 3 pups and all are literally Change of Career dogs now, doing pet therapy at local hospitals and a homeless shelter. I'm not currently raising a pup but continue to volunteer as the Demo Coordinator for the GRC. Recently I also became Public Relations Chair, **Nancy Vise**



My name is Stephanie Wilson I am the social activities chair. I become involved with CCI about 10 years ago with my first dog Porter. A co-worker of my mom was a PR for CCI and she said it was amazing to watch what the dog could do and at the time I was looking for something to do with animals. I have raised 7 puppies so far my latest one is Trenton, and I love doing it. I love the people of the GRC they are the best group of people, kinda like a family. **Stephanie Wilson**



I became a puppy raiser in July 2008 after having worked with other puppy raisers for nine years. I have supported CCI for a number of years by providing puppy sitting services and volunteering at the golf tournament. I am not the only puppy raiser in my home; both my kids Adam and Erik, as well as my husband Warren, take an active role in raising our puppy.

I wanted to be more involved with CCI so I volunteered for a board position and the GRC general membership elected me secretary in April. Along with my husband, I am also the wine and beer committee co-chair for Bone Appétit. These positions have allowed me to get to know more of our GRC members and I really enjoy this. I recently stepped in behind Nancy Ferro as the GRC president.

In addition to volunteering for CCI, I work full-time at Hewlett-Packard as a new product introduction manager. I enjoy gardening and reading. I would like to travel more, but that will have to wait until the kids are out of college. **Robyn Strand**

## Summer Fun—Dog Paddle 101

*Adapted From Canine Summer Safety Tips [www.akc.org/public\\_education/summer.cfm](http://www.akc.org/public_education/summer.cfm)*

Important Tips for teaching a dog how to swim include:

- \* Never throw your dog into the water
- \* Start in shallow water and coax him / her in with a treat or a toy, always keeping your dog within reach.
- \* Another way to introduce your dog to the water is with a dog that already swims. Let your dog follow his friend.
- \* If your dog begins to paddle with his front legs only, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.
- \* Never leave your dog unattended. You should always be in a position to help him get out of the water.

## Where In The World Is Carly Fermer?? Socialization 101

Can't remember where puppy class is? Wonder why Carly wanders the tri-county area conducting classes with puppies and their handlers? Well, the answer is . . .

Carly can be found all over the GRC working on socialization, socialization, socialization! This effort to introduce our pups to the world is one of the most important parts of puppy raising. Why? Socialization has dramatic effects on how your pup will view the world and in shaping his or her personality and behavior for the rest of it's life.



Puppies go through a critical social stage between 8 to 16 weeks of age. Many experts believe that the whole basic personality of the dog is formed during this time frame. However, this can also be a time of temporary "fear" and is the time before most puppies have completed their vaccination. Therefore, it is a delicate time and one where you need to expose the puppy to as many people, places, dogs, and noises as possible but in a safe and controlled manner. Socialization outings should be calm and low key. Focus on socializing your puppy not running errands or taking care of your personal needs. Plan to take the puppy on one or two short socialization outings per day.

You must be able to read your puppy to know when the puppy has had too much, is fearful, over stimulated, or stressed. You should remove the puppy if this happens without coddling or reinforcing the negative emotions that the puppy is experiencing. Signs that the puppy is fearful or stressed include: arousal with shallow rapid panting, leaning away from stimuli that indicates avoidance, low to the ground stride, worried facial expression, i.e., eyes wide open, ears back, lips tight, trembling, and / or a tail that is low or tucked between his or her legs.

Never avoid socialization at an early age due to fear of the puppy not having had all of it's vaccinations. The initial vaccinations that the puppy has received protected it against disease fairly well. CCI reports that more dogs are released from Advanced Training due to social issues than to disease. With that in mind, it is important to take the puppy to places that you know are safe!

Besides your own neighborhood some ideas include small urban settings, the beach, the woods, parking lots, etc. You can make almost any trip out a chance for a safe and appropriate socialization. Be sure to take the puppy on socialization outings both day and night. Dogs may become fearful of going out at night or avoid things they don't have an issue with during the day.



Fair Oaks Park

Have fun and socialize, socialize, socialize!

# I Love a Parade

## as dictated by Sunday to PR Barbara Monsma

Not knowing where we were headed or why, Essex and I were nevertheless very excited to be riding together in the back of Ferro's car and quickly settled down for the drive from Sacramento to Reno early in the morning of June 20<sup>th</sup>. It was good that we spent much of the drive sleeping as little did we know what a very full and fun day lay ahead of us.

When we arrived in Reno, we were warmly welcomed by the Reno area CCI contingent, as we joined them and a mix of Sacramento area CCI grads, companions, puppies and PR's. Shortly we headed off to get into place to become part of the big parade that kicks off the Reno Rodeo. I'd never seen a horse before, let alone stood near one....and there were literally a hundred or more of them, some of whom had glitter on their hind quarters, others with braided, curled tails. Imagine that! We CCI dogs/pups stood tall and proud in our blue and yellow as we walked behind the CCI banner along the parade route. Puppy raisers handed out CCI bookmarks and brochures to people along the way and we all did our best to avoid stepping in any of the very aromatic road apples left behind by the horses, whose "hurry" doesn't seem to be followed by a quick clean up. Show-stealer, Ruel, the youngest pup among us, got to be carried in the arms of his PR. Ahhh, advantages of youth!

After the parade, many of us met up at a restaurant for lunch for the PR's and grads and for some much-appreciated rest under the table for 9 of us canines. When we got up to leave, it was quite a surprise to other customers in the restaurant that there were any dogs in the place, let alone a literal pack of us. Our timing had been perfect for a little indoor break as a thunderstorm came through just as we arrived and we dog-tired dogs all slept through it.



After our lunch/nap break, some of us headed over to the little lake/beach where Lin Nelson lives and even reluctant swimmers (ahem, Essex) got more than their feet wet. We weren't completely dry when we went into Scheel's, the most amazing sporting goods store in Sparks, so it appeared that we'd just gotten caught in the thunderstorm. Of course we were all very well-behaved in the enormous place that is full of stuffed (once- living) animals and a wide range of distractions. We showed CCI-approved restraint even in our most favorite of aisles: dog treats/toys. Throughout the store we attracted a lot of attention and positive reactions from shoppers since it's not every day that a big group of CCI dogs, grads and PR's becomes the sideshow. After saying our goodbyes to new and old friends, both canine and human, we headed back to the car where we enjoyed a quick bowl of kibble and some water before we were very shortly asleep, dreaming of the very full and fun day we'd had.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the Reno folks: Lia Versaevel, President of Reno Host Lions Club for organizing and getting CCI's entry fee paid, Lin Nelson, who walked Lia's dogs Darlan and Heron in the parade and Janet Forrester ....for making this very special opportunity available. Also, thank you to ALL who made the trek to Reno, where you made more than a few heads and hearts turn all along the parade route. **YOU ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE** .....

## Litter News

**Halor** whelped nine puppies sired by OMSI on March 30, 2009. Litter letter is "L". BC Patty and Dennis Daniel



**Halor's "L" Pup Beats The Heat**

**Elisha** whelped nine puppies sired by Lamond on April 5, 2009. Litter letter is "N". BC The Gil Family

**Lyric** whelped three puppies sired by Weldin / Jaker on April 9, 2009. Litter letter is "O". BC George and Lorrie Moore

**Robin** whelped ten puppies sired by Lawrence on April 24, 2009. Litter letter is "B" BC Pam Blake

**Bryar** whelped ten puppies sired by Luca on April 29, 2009. Litter letter is "H". BC Jodi Adkins with Pam Flanagan

**Ember** whelped ten puppies sired by Lamond on May 30, 2009. Litter letter is "T". BC Joan Buntin



**Ember's "T" Litter**

**Avani** whelped nine puppies sired by Desi on June 4, 2009. The litter letter is "B". BC Alyshia Patrick

**Hilani** whelped nine puppies sired by Baja on June 17, 2009. The litter letter is "F". BC is Martina Brumley

**Marita** whelped seven puppies sired by Lamond on July 10, 2009. BC Nick and Doreen Contes



**Hilani's "F" Litter "Hangin' Out"**

**Caro** whelped six puppies sired by Lamont / Luca on July 17, 2009. Litter letter is "L". BC Cindy Lawton

**Omeeka** whelped ten puppies sired by Zorba on July 20, 2009. Litter letter is "O". BC Cindy Lawton with Peggy Keefe.

**Auburn** whelped nine puppies sired by Desi on July 21, 2009. Litter letter is "P". BC Kathy Albrecht

**Darlan** whelped seven puppies sired by Lamond on July 28, 2009. Litter letter is "R". BC Lia Versaevel

**Keala** whelped eight puppies sired by Lamond on August 2, 2009. Litter letter is "S". BC Jan Thornburg

**Sashi** whelped ten puppies sired by Terrell / Luca on August 5, 2009. Litter letter is "T". BC Cindy Whitcher

**Rowina** whelped nine puppies sired by Luca on August 17, 2009. Litter letter is "B". BC Rachel and Holt Gedeit

**Tamlyn** whelped nine puppies sired by Lamont on August 21, 2009. Litter letter is "D". BC Karen and Kathy Lawler

**Linar** whelped six puppies sired by Lamont/Terence/Beckett on August 23, 2009. Litter letter is "F". BC Pam Flanagan

## Mom's To Be:

**Arlie** was bred to Jaker / Randy and is due on September 7, 2009. BC Pam Eisele



**Marita's "K" Pups  
Learn to Play**

## Featured Breeder—Tamlyn

**Breeder Caretaker— Kathy and Karen Lawler**

**Name:** Tamlyn

**Status:** Active

**DOB:** July 5, 2007

**Parents:** Paxton x Tiffi

**Breed:** Lab

**Puppies:** Nine so far!

**Fun Facts:** Tamlyn is a very quiet dog who loves to play fetch. Tamlyn is quite exuberant at work and play and her favorite command is JUMP! Tamlyn is Delta registered and hopes to work elsewhere after her breeding career.





**CANINE COMPANIONS**  
FOR INDEPENDENCE®

### **Gold Rush Champions**

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## Who We Are . . .

The Gold Rush Champions is a volunteer chapter of Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). We are a group of volunteers who come together to support the mission of CCI in the Sacramento foothills region of California historically known as the Gold Rush area.

CCI is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the needs of people with disabilities by providing trained assistance dogs and continuing support to ensure the success of the working team.

The Gold Rush Champions are volunteers who support CCI's mission with their time, special skills, and dedication. Our members include Puppy Raisers, Breeder Caretakers, Graduate Teams and volunteers. We hold fund raising events and public education activities in addition to supporting each other in our efforts to volunteer for CCI.



**Lovely Larissa Raises Funds For GRC Bone Appetit !**