

# The Live Flyer



The Newsletter of the Great Western Flat-Coated Retriever Club

September 2004  
Edition



## Upcoming Events

Sept. 18 - General Meeting  
Oct. 2 - Annual Eye Clinic

## In The Live Flyer

President's Message.....	1
Officer/Contact List.....	2
Jordan's Journey .....	2
New Kids In Town.....	4
On The Go.....	5
Kona, My Hero.....	7
Eye Clinic.....	8
Next General Meeting.....	8

Contributions to the Live Flyer are appreciated. Contact the editor for more information. The deadline is the 20th of the month.

To publish litter announcements or ads you need to submit copies of OFA and CERF (or annual eye exam) certificates for both the sire and dam.

## AD RATES

Page	Members	Nonmembers
1/4	\$2.50	\$3.75
1/2	\$5.00	\$7.50
Full	\$10.00	\$15.00



## President's Message

Ed Ferner, GWFCRC President - September 2004

Last month I mentioned that along with the goodbyes we have been saying to some folks that have been part of our club for awhile, we are also saying hello to some new folks. I thought that I would take the liberty of highlighting one of those new members this month. Her name is Debbie Best and I have had the opportunity to spend some time field training with her since she seems to have made herself into a "Prado regular" already.

Debbie recently moved to Huntington Beach from Milwaukee to take a teaching position as an English professor at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She moved here with her two FCRs, Touchdown and Tigger. Debbie got Touchdown, her first Flat-Coat (and her first dog), when he was five and he's almost 12 now. Touchdown (Destiny Lou Holtz CD OA OAJ) is out of Ch Destiny Hoosier Knight x Ch Grousemoor Destiny Take Aim CDX JH WCX. Touchdown was her agility dog, and he was running in excellent when she retired him at age 10. Her young girl Tigger (Destiny Tornado of Ablemark) is out of Ch Amani's Hunter Eclipse UD JH OA NAJ WCX HOF x Ch Destiny Quiet Sensation.

When asked what she likes most about her new situation here in California, Debbie said that she is really enjoying the field training and she is sure she is going to like the winter's here better than the Midwestern winter. The dog beach here is nice, she says, but she misses the open spaces and the daily walks through the woods of Milwaukee.

Since Touchdown is almost 12 now, Debbie's goal for him is to just have more quality time with him. As for Tigger, Debbie has already trained her through open and has dabbled in utility work. She wants to put a UD on her some day and eventually go back and do agility with her, since she is fast. Debbie is also owner-handling Tigger and has put points on her already. As for the field, "We'll see how far she takes me", says Debbie.

Welcome to the club Debbie.

There has been a date and location change for our next General Meeting. I hope to see many of you at the Santa Ana Kennel Club show on Saturday, September 18th at the Cypress College Athletic Field.

Also, we have scheduled a CERF clinic with Dr. Mac here at our home in Escondido on October 2nd. Call Candy to make an appointment.

See you ringside,

Ed



New Member Debbie Best with  
Tigger and Touchdown

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**JORDAN'S JOURNEY**

By Debbie Brooks

**I**n June Jordan earned her place in Flat Coat history by becoming the first breed champion to finish a MACH. At 8+ years, she was running competitively in agility – not as fast as she once was, but happy and with experience that often edged out speed on some courses. She was a lean, fit 60 pounds. The day after she finished her MACH, I ran her for the last time in the 24” class. She had a beautiful run. I left the ring in tears because I knew it was the last time she would compete at that level. My plan was to retire her so I could focus on the needs of my younger dogs and occasionally run her in preferred classes in special situations. A MACH is a long, challenging haul and it was so hard to believe that the journey was now over. But I never saw the next journey Jordan and I would share coming.

The worst part of living with Flat Coats is cancer. It is something that you are constantly vigilant for and hope never to find. So I have religiously removed or aspirated lumps on my girls over the years. In late July I found a tiny lump near Jordan’s elbow, so small that most of it came out with a local anesthetic and two tiny stitches. But the lab report was devastating – it came back as a histiocytic sarcoma.

Histiocytic disease is a Flat Coat thing. The cutaneous histiocytomas that occur on the skin are benign problems and a lot of dogs develop them. They do not appear to be linked to the development of the more serious histiocytic diseases. Splenic histiocytosis is seen in mid-

dle-aged and older Flat Coats and causes anorexia, weight loss, and lethargy. By the time the disease is detected, most dogs have already had metastases to other organs, primarily the liver and lungs. There is also a syndrome called malignant histiocytosis which is a nodular disease that develops in the histiocyte rich tissues – skin, lymph nodes, liver, spleen, and lungs. Most cases appear to start out in the skin or lymph nodes and can be felt, but by the time they are biopsied and the diagnosis is made, the disease has spread to other organs.

At first glance, it would appear that Jordan had the latter type of cancer. Most dogs do not survive more than a year after diagnosis. As soon as I got the results of her biopsy, I had her to the oncologist. The tone was rather grim when we discussed what to do next – but as with any cancer patient early on, the first step is to stage the tumor. First they radiographed her chest – fortunately her lungs and heart were normal. The next step was to evaluate her abdominal organs, in particular her liver and spleen – again, this screening was all normal. Next they aspirated her lymph node. Although the lymph node was reactive, this was expected since she had just had the biopsy. But much to everyone’s surprise, her lymph node was free of tumor cells. More aspirates along with blood were sent to the pathologist for evaluation and everything came back normal.

This was all great news and completely atypical for histiocytic dis-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

ease in a Flat Coat. So a few days later I took her to the radiation oncologist. She has 20+ years experience and is one of the few oncologists in the world boarded in both medical and radiation oncology. She told me she had never seen a dog with histiocytic disease who was clean on all the staging tests. The first thing she did was take a few additional aspirates to verify this. Since the mass is a soft tissue sarcoma, the plan is to irradiate the remaining mass and for safety, to include the lymph node as well. Radiation therapy kills cancer cells by disrupting their DNA so they cannot continue to replicate, and cancer cells replicate at a rate much different than normal cells. The best way to kill soft tissue sarcomas is with very high doses of radiation. The best way to minimize damage to the surrounding cells is by dividing that dose over a period of time. Most of the normal tissues (at least near this tumor) can recover from the radiation damage in about 24 hours. Metastases are what would ultimately kill Jordan, so we plan to follow radiation with a course of oral chemotherapy.

Since this type of tumor has not been treated with this approach before, we are not sure what to expect. But I cannot sit and watch the disease envelop her elbow and spread throughout her body without trying to help her. In addition to her radiation, she has been put on a new food, a preservative free puppy diet that is higher in protein and fat and lower in carbohydrates. I was given several options to choose from and have put her on what is considered to be the best diet. I was also given the option of cooking for her – I don't have the time

to cook for myself on a consistent basis so I opted for the commercial diet so I don't have to compromise should I work late. She gets no processed foods – no dog cookies. But she can have fruits and vegetables, either raw or cooked. It is important to clean the raw foods well for her. The oncologists did tell me that in no way could they ever recommend the BARF diet for a cancer dog – feeding uncooked meat is extremely dangerous for an immunosuppressed or immunocompromised animal. They also informed me that over the years they had had problems with dogs on the BARF diet as most people tended to feed more carbohydrates and less protein and fat. Unlike humans, dogs are much more dependent on fat and protein as an energy source. Jordan was also pleased to learn that she could gain some weight to help her through her treatment – she is at 64 pounds now.

Jordan has just finished the 10<sup>th</sup> of 19 radiation treatments, so she is halfway through. If not for some missing hair, you would never suspect there was a problem. She is happy, running, playing, swimming, and trolling the house for food. She is not in pain and so far has no skin problems although some skin irritation is expected toward the end of her treatment. The mass is smaller and softer which is encouraging but we are still in uncharted territory so unsure of how things will go. She has to stay in Tucson during the week since I cannot make the 250 mile round trip every day and work too. I take her down on Monday morning and bring her home on Friday afternoons. Her treatments require anesthesia – she has an intravenous catheter placed and is put on fluids

to support blood pressure, then is given an intravenous anesthetic while the sites are irradiated, treatment takes about 10 minutes total. She has a few small tattoos for beam alignment.

I don't know how this journey will end. I hope that she will have a great life for a few years more. I want to remind everyone to pay attention to all those little lumps and bumps and don't delay finding out what they are. And I am sharing this with the hope that it will help someone else who is fighting the same type of battle – it isn't easy. It is mentally draining. I watch my dog run around the yard, swim in the pool, and play with the others and just cannot believe anything is wrong with her. I wonder how much longer I will have her with me, and I hope that when the time comes I can put my own emotions aside and make the best choices for her.

It is great having her home! She is doing everything she had been doing before I found her lump. I try not to take the time with her and the other dogs for granted now, this has been a reminder that our dogs are precious gifts that we do not have for nearly long enough. I encourage you to remember to cherish every day you have with your dogs.



## NEW KIDS IN TOWN

Several of our club members have new puppies, so I asked them to tell us about their new furkids...

**K**ari Mueske has a puppy out of her boy, Arrow. The new pup's name is "Summer", Cedarhill Karasail SummerMoon (Ch Dexmoor's Shoot The Moon CDX JH OA OAJ WC TDI CGC ex Ch Cedarhill Yukon Jacki) She was born on May 22nd and bred by Kellie Panizzoi and her sister, Cyndi Compton of Michigan.



onship! Agility will come later, but it won't be a priority, although she has confidence in all she does and she adores following her father, Arrow, over my teeter totter and dog walk all the time! She will also be a Therapy Dog. She has already been to work for the day with me and the wheelchairs and walkers didn't phase her.

She and Play are inseparable. Recently Arrow and Summer started playing a lot of chase together.



Summer should have been born a fish! I can't keep her away from any water, I can't even keep her away from the sound of running water, she hears it and she is on top of it!

She has a funny habit she shares

with her father, Arrow, who likes to gather things up in his mouth and set them aside. He doesn't run off with his treasures, he puts them in a neat pile. Summer does the same thing. Silly - eh?"

**N**ew club members Bill and Monica Stephens are enjoying their new little girl, *Magic Surf's Up At Westwind*, "Surfer". Surfer was bred by Claudia Henning, Jerry Peters and Hope Meaker and was born on March 6, 2004. Her parents are the English import *Ch Wemdon Rippling River CD AX OAJ* and *Light-Foot's Ghiradelli Magic NA NAJ*. Surfer will compete in agility, breed, field and obedience. Monica tell us, "Surfer and Archer (*CH Light-*



*Foot's Robin Hood WC*) enjoyed our trip from New Jersey to California. Among other things, we visited her breeders in Colorado and stayed overnight at their ranch. We also walked along the rim of the Grand Canyon. Since our arrival, we have been to the Dog Beach in Huntington Beach where both dogs enjoyed running

*(continued on page 7)*

Kari writes, "Summer knew her name the day I picked her, or shall I say, the day she picked me. She is already a heeling machine. Since 8 weeks old, she knows sit, come, down, heel, finish, and stand.

She LOVES retrieving birds. She is retrieving pigeons with amazing drive! But then, she does EVERYTHING with amazing drive (including eating)!

My plans are to do a lot of obedience, nothing short of a UD; a lot of field, hopefully a SH and a WCX; and of course her Champi-

# ON THE GO

By Candy Ferner

A few years ago I was surfing the internet, and came across a web site with gorgeous pictures of gorgeous Flat-Coats. I promptly sent off an email of admiration to the web master and owner of these dogs, Jo Hewison. We have been emailing back and forth ever since.



Here's Noof, *Casblaidd Don't Pay The Ferryman*, bred and owned by Jo and Richard Hewison, photo by Jo

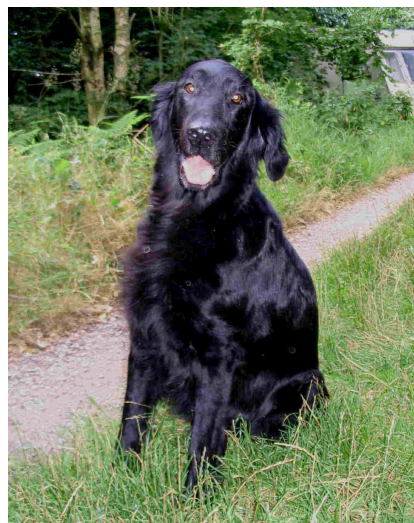
Jo and her husband Richard raise Flat-Coats using the Casblaidd (pronounced Cazblythe) prefix, and are located near Surrey in England. Their dog, Noof, *Casblaidd Don't Pay The Ferryman*, was featured on our trophies for the Mission Circuit last May.

When Jo found out I was going to Germany with Ed, she invited us to come visit her and Richard (and the dogs) in England. At first I wasn't going to go, as Ed would not be able to accompany me and I'm a big wimp about going anyplace by myself. But my buddy Lea' Plaut convinced me this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up! So I flew from Nuremburg to Stansted, took a bus from Stansted to Heathrow, and Jo and Richard (along with Flat-Coats Noof and



Here's Jo in front of her wonderful home. I called it "The Gingerbread House"

Gordon, in one large crate in the back of a station wagon) collected me at the Central Bus Station at Heathrow Airport. Jo and Richard turned out to be as wonderful in person as I had suspected they would be. And their dogs! They have nine Flat-Coats of various ages, three are intact males. All of



*Casblaidd Foggy Dew*

them get along, and all of them greeted me as a long lost friend. I had gone to England prepared to give my heart to Noof, but the first evening we were there one dog leaped over a barrier between their kitchen and dining area to say hello, and it was love at first sight.

Her name is Foggy, and like all the Casblaidd dogs, has lovely type and a charming personality. She has one of the prettiest heads I have ever seen. Here's an interesting bit of trivia, Foggy's sire, *Little Red Rooster of Varingo*, is now owned by Sting! I spent the next two days hinting to Jo that Foggy could do great things in California,



Casblaidd dogs resting during "The Perfect Walk"

but Jo wasn't having any of it. Maybe some day we'll get a Foggy puppy.

I spent two days in England. The first morning Jo and I took several of the dogs and went on the most perfect walk a dog and nature lover could ever go on. (Noof and Gordon go to work with Richard). Behind the house, are acres and

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



acres of what is called "Common", undeveloped land covered with grass, ferns, trees, meadows, you get the picture. We walked for an hour or so. The dogs romped around and Jo and I talked Flat-Coat. I also took lots of pictures including one of Jo with some of the dogs and her favorite tree.

Later in the morning Jo and I visited different friends of hers who own Flat-Coats. Jo kept introducing me as, "Her friend Candy from America, you know, Sanderling Kennels." That was pretty funny. Everyone was very polite and no one ever said they had never heard of Sanderling Kennels! We had lunch at an English pub, and then Jo and I (along with FCR's Foggy and Stanley) did some field training with Jo's friend Judith, who is



Here's Jo and Judith. Can you imagine living in countryside like this?

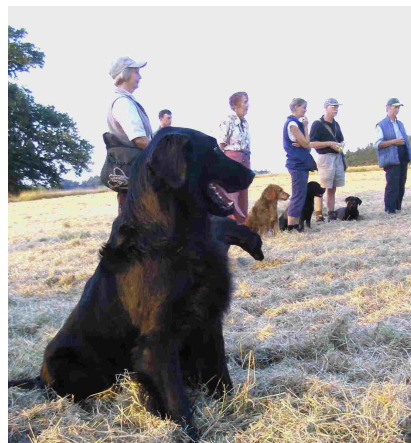


Here's Richard and Noof at field training class

training a couple of Labradors. Judith has access to a pond, and it was fun watching the dogs work. I was quite impressed with Stanley's drive.

Jo and I then went back to her home and spent a couple hours discussing the dogs in the Casblaidd pedigrees.

When Richard got home from work that evening, we loaded up Noof and Stanley's sister, Beech, and headed off to attend some field



The dogs take turns picking up marks and running blinds. A quiet, steady dog is of much value in England



Walking up. The Instructor is on the far left. She would hit a tennis ball in front of the dogs, and then call out which dog was to retrieve it. That's Noof and Richard on the right.

training classes that the Hewison's are involved in.

I went with Richard and Noof to the advanced class. The English style of field work is quite different from what we do here in the U.S. In American hunt tests, a dog is given a lower score if the handler helps him find a marked retrieve. The mark is thrown, the dog watches it fall, and is allowed to hunt as long as he stays in the area of the fall. In England, the dog marks the fall, but if he doesn't go right to it, the handler uses hand signals to help him locate the fall.

The other difference is on blind retrieves. Here in the U.S., a blind retrieve consists of a bird which the dog does not see fall, but the handler knows just where it is. Usually it is marked with an orange ribbon, and all the dogs go one at a time to the same spot to pick up their bird. Dogs that go out of sight of their handler are disqualified. In England, the birds are scattered in an area out of sight of the handlers. The object is to get the dogs to the area where the

(Continued on page 7)

*(Continued from page 6)*

blind is, and send them out of sight to hunt on their own for the blind. Most of the dogs had average drive and did a decent job taking their handler's casts. I would certainly like to go back and see more field work.

All the folks I met at Richard's training group were very nice and it was fun discussing the differences in training techniques. We got back to Jo and Richard's house about ten that evening and had dinner. Late for me but normal for them.

The next morning Jo and I talked more about Flat-Coats, and then Jo and I went to a near by town to do some shopping. I wanted to buy Ed a tee shirt from England. It was quite amusing as most the t-shirts we saw had surfing stuff on them. I refused to buy Ed a California t-shirt in England and we eventually found a shirt manufactured in Great Britain.

I had a great time in England. I loved the Hewisons and their dogs, and can't wait to go back. Next time along with seeing more field work I would very much like to attend a dog show. The Hewison's do show their dogs, but like Ed and I they focus mostly on field work. It is much more difficult to "make up a dog as champion" in England than it is here. Jo was amazed to see all the champions in Constance's pedigree. At that point I told her Foggy could become a champion in America but she still wouldn't let me have her!



## KONA, MY HERO BY BARB ANDERSON

**H**ere is my true story of Aug 17.....thought it might be of interest to the club.....

My husband and I and our Flat-coats moved into the Arizona Mountain wilderness four years ago. We live five miles back on a dirt road, a mile from the nearest house, on 30 acres with a seasonal creek running through our property. It is a beautiful place, and we all love it.

Today Kona and I were on our patio doing obedience training. I threw her a tennis ball reward as she completed and exercise, and she ran off along our fence. Then I heard a loud hiss and the scramble of a large animal crashing up a tree. I called my dog. Kona came back wagging her tail looking at me as if to say, "I handled that, what's next?" Halfway up a pine tree not 100 feet from the patio was the mountain lion Kona had treed! I took her in the house and got a gun to scare the cat away. when I came back outside, it was gone. I hollered a little and fired a couple of rounds for good measure. Then I got my dog, and we continued our training. Kona possibly saved my life in the middle of her obedience training! Flat-coats sure are versatile--mine is a hero!



*(Continued from page 4)*

and jumping in the surf and retrieving tennis balls and frisbees. Since our house is being remodeled, lots of things are still packed away but we have found our bumper supply.



Surfer likes to play "Keep Away" with Archer. She has an old plastic soda bottle that she carries around to entice him to chase her and then drops in the pool so that Archer can jump in and retrieve it! She also enjoys Archer's fruit picking—Archer jumps into the air and "picks" peaches from the tree in our backyard and gives them to Surfer to snack on."



*Surfer smiles for the camera while Monica marks the fall.*





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**CERF CLINIC WITH  
DR. MACMILLAN**



**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 2ND  
8:30—12:00  
\$20.00**

**At the Ferner's home  
1970 Peppermint  
Place  
Escondido**

**For an appointment  
Call or email Candy  
Edcandy@tns.net  
(760) 747-9640**

**Next General Meeting**

**NEW DATE AND LOCATION!**

***Saturday, September 18th  
Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club Show  
Cypress College Athletic Field  
Cypress, CA***

***Go to [www.jbradshaw.com](http://www.jbradshaw.com)  
for ring times***

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