

CALLBACK



From the President's Pen

Mark Antonini

This last year was a reasonably successful one for the Saskatoon Retriever Club. We did not host any major events this year, but we were kept busy hosting our usual events. We had good attendance at our working certificate tests, hunt tests, and field trial. The overall profits were not as good as the last two years, but we have reason to believe that was due to the many retriever events hosted in Alberta this past summer. Our understanding is that two of the hunt tests held in Alberta this past year will not be held in 2020. And the National Master Hunt test was held in Wabamum Alberta last year and this might have affected our turnout. We expect to see higher number of entries next year due to these factors.

I would like to thank all of the committee members and judges from our club that help put on these events. I think that we do a pretty good job hosting these events. We are often told from members from other clubs that our events are very well planned and are an example for them to follow. This does not mean that we cannot improve. We look forward to input from all club members as to how we can improve these events. We also encourage all club members to step up and join one or more of the event committees. There is no limit to the number of people that can sit on a committee. You do not need to be nominated to join to committee. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, or interested in becoming a judge, the best way is to join one of these event committees.

Jeff Morari took over the Retriever Class from Ross Campbell last spring after Ross taught the class for several years. I would like to thank Ross and his helpers for doing a great job introducing newcomers to the sport of retriever training. Many of our newer club members over the years have continued as

members of the club after attending this class. This continued this year with several new members entering our working certificate and hunt tests. Jeff will continue to teach the 2020 class this spring with the usual group of club members who help out. This assistance will be even more critical this year as Jeff will be on crutches while recovering from ankle surgery.

This past year we again had successful Wednesday night junior class sessions, with Jeff Morari and Doug Hildebrand organizing and assisting in training setups. We had so many people attending these sessions that Ross and Lynn Campbell volunteered to organize a class for the more experienced junior dogs. This provides much needed help for those people who are transitioning from Junior to Senior. In my opinion this is exactly what we need to help members to recognize the value of our club. Again, thanks to Jeff, Doug, Ross, Lynn, and the various other club members who help with these sessions.

In November, Jeff Morari presented a proposal to the club executive to host the National Master Hunt Test at our club grounds in 2021. All board members were in agreement that we should submit a proposal to the National Master Hunt Test committee to host this event. Jeff informed us that the committee had approached him requesting that we consider hosting this event, so we can assume that we will receive approval to proceed. We began planning discussions for the National Master at our Hunt Test Committee meeting in December. We need to fill several committee positions, not the least of which is the fundraising chair. Jeff would be interested to hear from anyone interested in this position or any other on the committee. Fund raising is an essential part of the National Master and the financial success of the event relies on it.

We held our annual Christmas party at the club house on the club grounds on December 7 again this year. Thanks to Lynn Campbell for organizing this event and starting the wood stove in advance so the building was warm from the start. As usual, the food was provided by club members and was fantastic. The food rivals any available at City Hotels or restaurants, and hosting the event in our own building allows for a relaxed and friendly atmosphere which is not possible at a restaurant. I know that the drive is farther than it would be if it was held in the city, but it is probably a shorter drive than most places like Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, or Toronto. I encourage all club members to attend next years Christmas party. It is a chance to get together with training partners, meet other club members that you have not yet met, and to discuss and celebrate the achievements of the past year.

If you have been out to the club grounds in the past couple of months you will see that there are several piles of rocks beside ponds one, three, and four. John MacDonald and Garry Taylor were able to negotiate an incredibly good deal to purchase the rocks from the Department of Highways from their pit at the north end of Blackstrap Lake. These rocks will be used to finish the rebuild of the islands on pond one, and to rebuild the point on the north side of pond four. They will also be used to create a new small point on pond three. This will all be done for substantially less than the amount budgeted for the job. This will allow us to consider other improvements with the remainder of the budgeted funds.

Two of our biggest issues that we need to address in the coming year are the proliferation of gophers and gopher holes on club grounds, and the presence of foxtail around some of the ponds. John MacDonald with the aide of several helpers got a good start on treating foxtail with Kerb herbicide in October. There is still some work to be completed in the spring, so you can expect that there will be a call for volunteers to help with ground preparation and chemical application after the snow melts.

The gopher issue is likely harder to solve. We have had many suggestions, including carpet bombing and agent orange. Of course I am exaggerating, but you can be sure that there have been many

suggestions and just as many reasons as to why they are impractical or only temporary in nature. We are open to any suggestions and with enough information we should be able to plan a way to reduce if not entirely eradicate these pests. We will be holding a land committee meeting this spring and this will be one of the main topics for discussion. Please consider attending this meeting if you think you have anything to offer in the way of maintenance of the club grounds.

This fall our treasurer Paddy Thompson sent out an e-mail message providing some information about the club finances. This message indicated that we have a yearly budget of approximately \$ 24,000 and that half of that is spent on spraying for thistle and foxtail in an effort to provide a safe environment for our dogs. It also reveals that the majority of the club funds come from hosting our annual events which include the Working Certificate Tests, Hunt Tests, and Field Trials. It should be evident that without the revenue from these events, our club membership dues would be three or four times higher than they currently are. This points out the need to have as much volunteer help from the membership to help organize and host these events.

Keith Althouse announced at our annual meeting that he will be stepping down from his position as chairman of the equipment committee. I would like to thank Keith for his work and the many hours he spent on maintaining our club equipment. We are looking for a replacement for Keith this spring. Please consider volunteering for this position if you have a mechanical aptitude. Most of the equipment is serviced at our spring clean-up day so the work is not too extensive. The biggest commitment is to keeping the Kunz Rough Cut Mower in operation. This mower takes a beating on our club grounds so it does take some care and attention.

Lastly, John MacDonald has announced that this will be his last year as chairman of the land committee. John has done a fine job over the past several years, but he feels it is time for somebody else to take over this position which is easily the most important in the club. If anybody is interested in this position it would be very beneficial to work with John on the committee this year to learn about the job and the job responsibilities.

Winter is almost half over, and we have not had much snow. If you are like me, you may have been able to do some simple training in the past few weeks. But it won't be long before we start the real thing in the spring. I look forward to seeing everybody at the club in a few short months.

**Seasons Greetings, Merry
Christmas and a Happy New
Year!!**

2X NMH GMH Saskquill's Prairie Thunder QFTR

January 13, 2006 - December 6, 2019

When the time finally arrives that you, as a responsible dog owner, must decide that your retriever has come to that point where it's no longer fair nor humane to prolong life, you are awash with a flood of memories and emotions. When you think of the many enjoyable hours of training, competing and hunting with your companion, it's hard to let go. Those of us that have gone through this, know that it never gets any easier.



Thunder showed from day one that he was going to be the ideal retriever for my needs. While quiet and gentle at home (I don't know that I ever heard him bark), he showed early on that he had the skills to compete in retrieving competitions and be a solid hunting companion.

When he turned two years of age in 2008, our Retriever Club was hosting the Master National and I secretly hoped that Thunder would be able to participate. However, that spring he had never competed in a Master Hunt Test let alone received a qualifying score. However, we decided to go for it and he managed to string together seven qualifying scores in a row and qualify for the Master National. He further made me proud by continuing his great work in the MNH by qualifying in what was one of the most challenging Master Nationals ever. I believe, at the time, he was one of youngest dogs to qualify in a National.

While Thunder primarily played the Hunt Test game, he showed that he could excel in Field Trials as well, achieving success in the Qualifying and even doing well in the Open with limited participation. He was test dog in Regina for the National Open Field Trial and made us all proud.

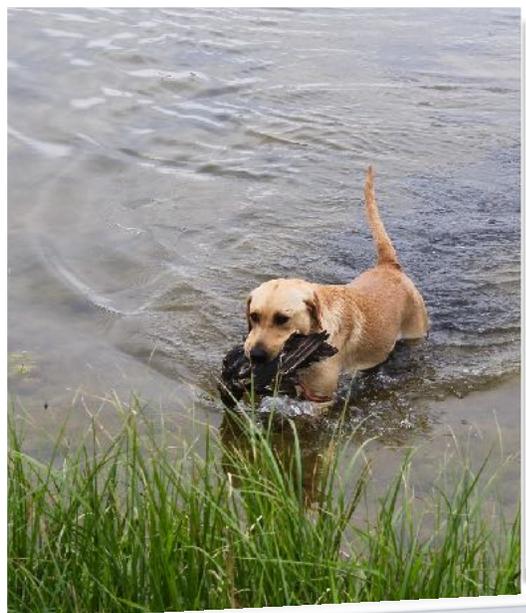
Ultimately, I want a retriever because I am a bird hunter and a canine companion just enhances the whole experience out in the field and on the water. Thunder proved that as much as a retriever enjoys WC, HT or FT or even retrieving a bumper, ball or stick, the level of excitement is cranked up a notch when in a hunting scenario. Hunter especially enjoyed hunting pheasants as he was able to freelance and didn't have to sit quietly and wait to be sent.



So as I reflect on a life too short but well lived, I realize that what Thunder has given me far outweighs anything that I could have given him in return. He has given me devotion, trust, enjoyment and companionship while never asking anything in return. He will be greatly missed!

Doug Hildebrand

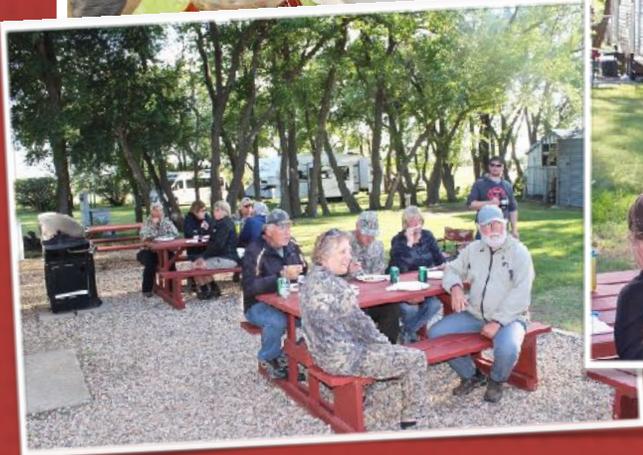
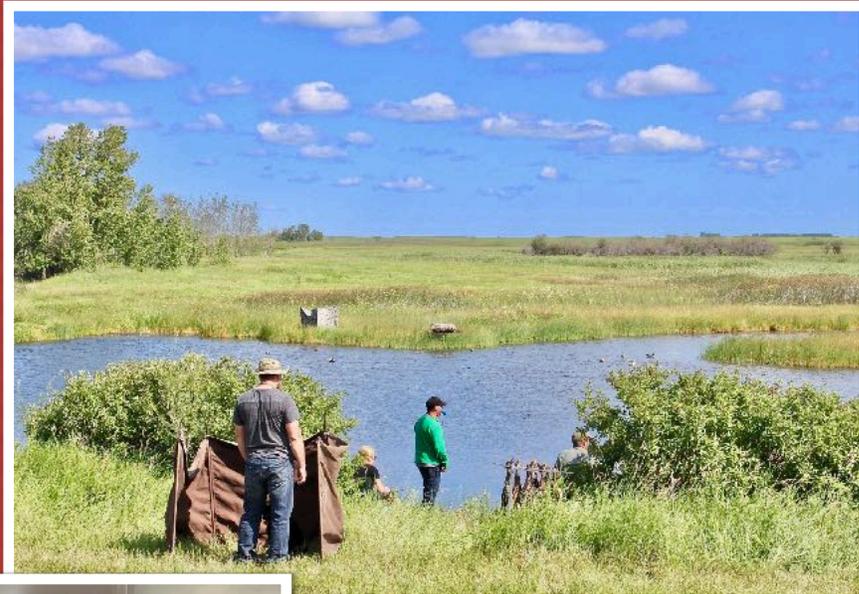
WC Testing



SRC AND SRCA FIELD TRIALS



SRC Hunt Tests



Spring Training Class for New Dogs

We are looking forward to the start of our Spring Training Class for new dogs. Application forms have been sent out to those who already expressed interest, and we should have another solid group to work with. The first class will be an orientation for handlers only on February 16th, followed by eleven more sessions commencing March 1st. We are awaiting confirmation of space and times for the indoor portion of the class, but the plan is to run on Sunday afternoons as in past years.



This year Alan Davies will be lending his expertise to the obedience portion of the class. As always, Club members are invited to come and help with the class. This is a great way to meet new members, and to show them the depth of knowledge and experience our club has to offer. Last year's initiates

were very impressed with all the help they received. This is the very best way for us to continue building our club, some come on out and be part of the fun.

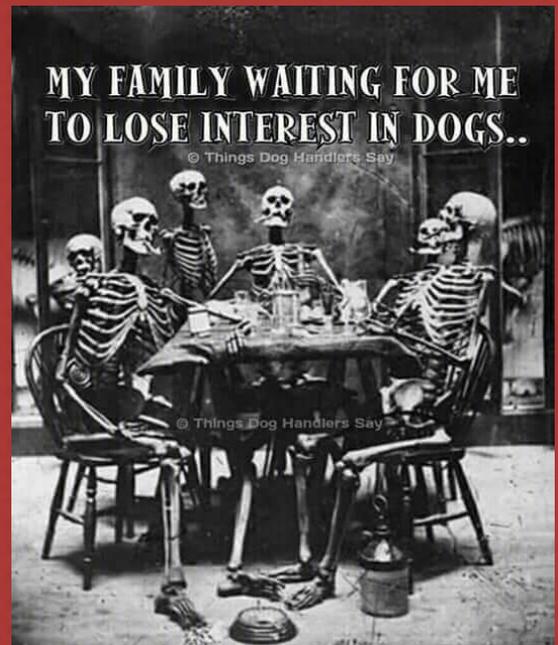
If you have any questions, please contact me at 306 230 5122

Jeff Morari, Training Class Coordinator





Laugh of the Day



2019 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The 2019 SRCA High Point Open Dog Award

- FC - NFTCH-AFTCH Taylorlab's Sweet Cheeks QFTR-JFTR
Owned by Garry & Sue Taylor and handled by Sue

2019 WC & Hunt Test Awards

Featherz Fowl Mouth Shaylee WC "Shaylee" Owned by Mark and Shelly,
handled by Shelly Campbell

PrairieLight I Spy WC got her WC owned by Hans & Magareta Berin

PrairieStorm Gander the 2nd JH WCI owned Derrick and Natasha Wiebe,
handler Natasha Wiebe

Ch PrairieLight Wilkers Creek CDX WCI, JH owned and handled by Ken Stirling

Diamondridge Leroy Brown WCX SH owned/handled by Linton
Auchsaetter

Diamondridge True Blue Roo WCX SH owned/handled Tracy
Auchstaetter

PrairieStorm Fast Flying Finn WC JH owned and handled by Ian Hayne

PrairieStorm Ryder 2nd WC JH owned and handled by Ty Campbell

Drakesmarsh Lady Remington CD WCX SH owned and handled Nowell Greasley

Windrose Sierra Juniper CD WCX SH owned/handled by Lynn Campbell

The following are all owned by Kristy's Bowditch

Merlin (PrairieStorm Merlin 2nd WCX SH) he received his WCI, WCX and SH

Tex (Duxbac PrairieStorm Vortex WCX JH) Received his WCX

Willow (Oak Lane's Ebony Willow WCI) Received her WC and WCI

Snow (Oak Lane's Perfect Storm WC) Received her WC

Rook (Oak Lane's Trick Up My Sleeve WC) Received her WC

Red (HR TTF Silversnipe Mississippi Red Man WCI JH) Received his WCI

Bishop (Oak Lane's Bishop Of Fendawood JH WCI) Received his WCI

Cheater (Oak Lane's Shore Runner) received her WC

NOTE:

**Titles earned
in 2019 are
indicated in
dark blue**

2019 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS





UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 SRC Training Class Begins

- Orientation February 16, 2020
- First indoor session March 1, 2020

2020 SRC Working Certificate Tests - June 20 & 21, 2020

2020 SRC Field Trials - June 27 & 28, 2020

2020 SRCA Field Trial - June 29, 2020

2020 SRC Hunt Tests - July 25 - 27, 2020

The SRC will be hosting the Canadian National Master Hunt Test August 14 - 21, 2021

Gord and Marlene Benn



Gord and Marlene Benn from Fort Saskatchewan, have been supporters of our retriever club for many years, competing in our Field Trials, judging at our events and helping with our Nationals. They both passed away in November within days of one another. Some of our club members attended the combined funeral which was held on November 15. Gord, a former RCMP officer had an honour guard of police members in their red serge who also served as pallbearers. Marlene had an honour guard of field trial friends all wearing their white handler jackets. Her pallbearers were female field trailers in white. They will be greatly missed by our Club and our spring trial will be dedicated in their honour. Sue Taylor was asked to give a tribute at the memorial from the Field Trial community. Included are some of her remarks at that time:

Gord's first real field trial dog was a nice black Lab named Clem. As happens so often, however, when Clem got older she got wiser, wilder and more opinionated, so Gord asked Marlene who was a more patient trainer to take over Clem's training and trialing while he started a much more sensible young male dog, Code. Clem and Code were the dogs Gord and Marlene were running when I came on the scene, and I used to love watching them run because both dogs were exciting and animated and very talented and Gord and Marlene were very good handlers. They had lots of success and won quite a few trials.

Over the years, as their older dogs retired, Gord and Marlene got new pups and it seems that each new dog was a little better and a little wilder than the previous one. Reba, Herbie and Emmy Lou were all legendary for their talent, their enthusiasm and their rowdy line manners.

From the first time I met them, I considered Gord and Marlene field trial royalty. They were outgoing, friendly, smart, and very knowledgeable about dogs, dog training and judging. They were also very generous and willing to share their knowledge. Both Gord and Marlene trained, trialed and judged field trials in many locations in Canada and the US and made fast lifetime friends every place they visited.

They were both excellent judges and some of my favourite field trials were trials they judged together. They always set up very challenging and innovative but fair tests and you really got the impression that they wanted the best dogs to rise to the challenge and complete the test successfully. Gord and Marlene were clearly equal partners in the judging team - long before it was fashionable to take women seriously in the sport. Gord and Marlene were both involved in organizing weekend and National events and they each judged a National Championship, the pinnacle of a field trial judging career.

In the Canadian field trial community you typically see your fellow competitors at trials between May and September and then you don't see them at all until the following summer. Part of what we look forward to each spring is reconnecting with our field trial family. I can honestly say that there was nobody I looked forward to seeing each season more than Gord and Marlene.

Gord was so funny, and had an infectious laugh and so many stories that he often got us in trouble for making too much noise in the gallery. Marlene was one of the nicest people I have ever known – she always had a ready smile and a kind word and she had the ability to laugh at herself and her dogs – which is a good thing because although they were extremely talented, sometimes her dogs (especially Emmy Lou) got so wild and did such crazy things you had to either laugh or cry. Marlene loved watching dogs work and judging them from the gallery, and I enjoyed doing that with her.

Gord and Marlene's appreciation and love for the dogs was exemplified in the grace Gord delivered at numerous National Championship Banquets. It went something like this:

God of all living things, you do indeed work in mysterious ways.

Only you would use a dog to help mold us into better people

Dogs are loyal, as they accept us as we are

Dogs are patient, as they quietly wait and watch for our moods to pass

Dogs are quick to forgive, - one word, a crack of a smile, and the dog returns to our side

Dogs are the best friends, always there when we need them

Dogs give us a sense of humor, making us laugh together

Dogs teach us about love, for they love us unconditionally. Very much, I suppose like your love for mankind.

How thankful we are that you have allowed us to gather here together with our dogs and our friends for this great event. Thank you for the food, fun and fellowship.

*Please keep our dogs and our friends safe
and*

Thank you for blessing us with these dogs lives.

Gord and Marlene were an important part of our Field trial community and their loss leaves a huge hole in our hearts. I think the best way we can honour their memory is to try our best to emulate them and be the best people we can be, good friends to all, and ambassadors for the field trial sport.

Sue Taylor

Canadian National Master Retriever Championship 2021

The Saskatoon Retriever Club has agreed to host the Canadian National Master Retriever Championship in 2021. This week long event is the pinnacle of the hunt test game, with qualified Master dogs coming from across the country to compete. Our club has hosted the National Master in 2008 and in 2014. Putting on this high profile competition will provide a great focus for those of us willing to accept the challenge of getting our dogs (and ourselves) ready for five days of challenging tests. The event will also provide our club a significant opportunity to showcase our assets, and build for the future.

As has been often stated, national events like this involve “all hands on deck”. The planning committee needs to be in place early in 2020. I would invite ALL members to answer the call and become part of the planning and running of the National Master. The Saskatoon Retriever Club has a reputation for putting on first class events of this nature. I look forward to talking with you as we plan for August 2021.

Jeff Morari
2021 Canadian National Master Chair





“Maybe if I give the judges a Timbit, they’ll pass my dog.”



“ Up Schitts Creek without a paddle, but, hey, I’ve got a shovel .”



“I don’t know how many more titles I want to get.”



“ I may be a pussy cat on the inside, but I’m a fearsome tiger on the outside.”

Salvation Army Christmas Kettles



More Salvation Army Christmas Kettles



SULLY

mB(A)IS B(A)ISS HIT OTCh Ch(A) Kasomor's New Monster Shoes SH WCX RE RATN CRNMCL

Owned and loved by Shelly Campbell and Mark Antonini



Sully arrived one day after moving to our new acreage in August 2010. He was a big fluffy happy puppy and grew into a beautiful easy-going always-entertaining dog to live with and he made us laugh every day. I will say that Sully made a lot of friends who were often vying for the chance to take him into the ring or wishing to borrow him to take into some new event!

He earned his Obedience Trial Championship at just under three and a half years of age and continued in other venues to achieve Rally Excellent and Rally Caro Novice, a Barn Hunt Novice Title, his WCX and his SH. CKC implemented an Altered Championship for Conformation, same point system as regular Champion. Sully was the first toller in Canada to receive his Champion Altered status, which qualified him for the NSDTRCC Dobirstein

Award for versatility. Along the way to his Conformation Championship, he won Best Altered in Show at the 2015 Canadian Toller Specialty as well as Field Class Winner and scored a hat-trick by going Best Altered In an All-Breed Show every day of a three-show weekend! He ended his career with one more Best Altered In Show and was the #1 Altered Sporting Group Dog and #5 Altered All-Breed Dog in Canada for 2018.

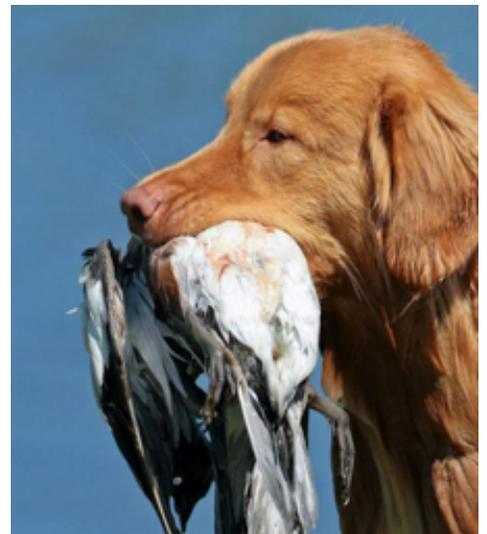
Some early setbacks created some issues for Sully's early love of field work but we kept at it with highs and lows. He loved hunting grouse, ducks and the 'forest' snow geese we stumbled upon but the same eagerness was slow to transfer to field work. The last summer we had with him, I decided to train with one goal for Sully – fun and no expectations. He really came along that summer and we introduced live pigeons a couple weeks before our home hunt test. He was loving the game! Mark convinced me to enter Sully in Master as that was not on my to-do list for the summer. Well, he was a bit too over-the-top excited the first day and was not listening well... we both could not have been happier about

that! It felt so good. The next day he passed his first MH test and ending the day with a beautiful channel blind is something I will always treasure in my heart. I know Mark was very proud of us that day and I am forever thankful he pushed me to enter. It was a wonderful weekend and I looked forward to the following summer with all these new plans!



But, it was not to be. Over the winter and after finishing Ribbon's Master Obedience title, I decided to spend some time working towards a newly introduced Master Rally level with Sully. He was doing very well and we were very excited to entered two trials. He seemed down that weekend and we came home a bit disappointed but that quickly changed to alarm as he coughed up

a spot of blood that evening. This was mid-March. We had strong suspicions due to test results the following week and things seemed to be going downhill quickly. Sue Taylor helped us make sense of what the tests were showing us and we decided to make the best of the time we had. Steroids brought some happiness back to Sully's life and he was a puppy again! But two weeks later they no longer worked and as tough as it was to have Sully leave our lives. there was no question. It was time.



Our summer plans changed, Sully and I had no chance to have the fun I thought we would be having in the field. A long time to get where we ended our field work - my first time to Master Hunt level and I did not have my dog any longer – selfish thoughts but tough times. Life does throw curve balls. Lives are changed in an instant but the pain of losing the beloved dog lasts a long time. We did make it through the summer but there were a lot of rough times, especially with a National Specialty to attend and no dog to defend the old awards. We always have the wonderful memories to hold onto but they can still bring the tears. Every dog takes us on a journey. Sully and my journey was too short.

Written by Shelly

