



## YANKEE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB FIELD TRAINING SESSIONS

### 2009 FIELD CLASSES

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

These classes are designed to teach the handler how to train his/her dog to become a competent hunting retriever and to prepare for participation in the AKC hunting tests, the NAHRA hunting tests, and the GRCA WC/WCX tests. There will be six classes for each level. Homework will be given, and handlers are expected to train between class sessions. If you have any difficulty determining which class level best fits your situation, please give Judith Erlanger (978) 263-7301 a call for further information.

#### NEW FOR 2009:

**Handlers are welcome to repeat class levels, but preference will be given to first time handler-dog teams. We usually can accommodate everyone.**

**CLASSES WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE.** In case of extreme weather, please call your class coordinator (this information will be given to you with your class confirmation) for further details. We advise you dress in layers. Bring rain gear and wear waterproof shoes or boots. Bring your own lunch, as training locations are often remote. If you are planning to carpool, please note that different class levels may be training at different locations. Family members are welcome, but children must be supervised by an adult who is not a class member. Classes will usually be held in the Gardner and Stow areas. The classes begin at 9:00 A.M. and usually end close to 3:00 P.M.

**PLEASE NOTE!** These classes are instructional classes for handlers, to teach handlers how to train their dogs. They are not designed as training sessions for handlers to work their dogs and get multiple set-ups accomplished in each session. Instructors will be encouraged to take as much time as necessary to work out retrieving problems and concerns with each handler. Class size is limited and preference will be given to YGRC members and others on a first come, first served basis. **Your application and payment must be received by March 9, 2009 to ensure enrollment.**

#### CLASS LEVELS

##### FUNDAMENTALS LEVEL

This class is for inexperienced handlers and inexperienced dogs. Experienced trainers will teach you how to train your dog the basic retrieving skills. Included will be a general introduction to field training and field tests, step-by-step methods for teaching the retrieve, and the basic obedience needed for field work. Progression from simple retrieves through back-to-back singles, to double retrieves on land and from simple single retrieves to back-to-back retrieves in the water are the goals for these sessions. Training on varied terrain, the use of guns, blinds, birds and boats will be covered. **The only prerequisite for this class is that your dog must come when called from a distance of at least 25 yards, off lead.** This class will begin at 9:00 AM sharp. The instructors will be Judith Erlanger and Patti Sullivan.

Please note that this class is specifically designed for those who have never trained a retriever for field work, and who seek an introduction to the various field endeavors, and is not necessarily the first step of a comprehensive training program. Class members will be encouraged to attend hunt tests and field trials for exposure to "finished retrievers" and experienced handlers.

##### WC / JUNIOR HUNTER LEVEL

This class is designed for persons who have previously attended the Fundamentals class and whose dogs have basic obedience training. The emphasis of this class will be for those seeking a WC title and those wishing to participate in Junior Hunter tests. Teaching the dogs JH scenarios, doubles on land and more difficult single and double retrieves on land and in the water to build confidence, and the obedience required, will be the focus of the sessions. Line manners and the concept of a training program will be

introduced. **The only prerequisite for this class is that your dog must be able to do a 50 yard retrieve with no long line. Delivery to hand is not required.** This class will begin at 9:00 AM sharp. The instructor will be Becky Whitmeyer.

### WCX / JUNIOR HUNTER LEVEL

This class is designed for those individuals whose dogs have mastered the basic retrieving skills of single retrieves, delivery to hand, and simple double retrieves on land. The emphasis of this class will be learning the skills necessary for the WCX test: land triples, steadiness, and water doubles. Dogs entering this level shall have their WC titles, know basic obedience, deliver to hand, and be familiar with and comfortable with pigeons, ducks and pheasants. This class will begin at 9:00 AM sharp. The instructor will be Sally Bridges.

### CLASS DATES

Fund. Class 1:	March 28*	WC/JH Class 1:	April 4	WCX/JH Class 1:	April 4
Fund. Class 2:	April 4	WC/JH Class 2:	April 11	WCX/JH Class 2:	April 5
Fund. Class 3:	April 18	WC/JH Class 3:	April 25	WCX/JH Class 3:	April 11
Fund. Class 4:	May 2	WC/JH Class 4:	May 23	WCX/JH Class 4:	May 10
Fund. Class 5:	May 16	WC/JH Class 5:	June 13	WCX/JH Class 5:	May 17
Fund. Class 6:	May 23	WC/JH Class 6:	June 20	WCX/JH Class 6:	May 24

\*This first Fundamentals class, held at the Harvard Sportsman's Club, begins at 9:30 A.M. and is required only for members of the Fundamentals class and those participants in other class levels who have never attended YGRC field classes before. Anyone wishing to buy training equipment should also attend the indoor morning session. **A short Yankee Golden Retriever Club membership meeting will be held at lunch time. This meeting will count toward partial fulfillment of membership requirements.**

**FUNDAMENTALS CLASS MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Please DO NOT bring your dogs and puppies to the first Fundamentals Class. The material we will cover that day will be classroom discussion and demonstrations only, so leave your dogs and puppies at home.**

### ENROLLMENT

**To enroll, please fill out the enclosed form and return it by March 9, 2009.** There is limited enrollment, so please don't delay. Preference will be given to YGRC members. The fee for each handler/retriever team is as follows:

YGRC members:	\$130.00
Non-members:	\$150.00

### EQUIPMENT

Training equipment and other field materials will be on sale on March 28. **Beginning students are encouraged to wait** until the first class to purchase equipment to ensure you have the correct items.

**ALL CLASS APPLICANTS: PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION FORM BY MARCH 9, 2009.**

THANKS IN ADVANCE,

*Judith M. Erlanger*

YGRC Field Class Coordinator