



Puppy Prints



North Carolina Puppy Raising Program Newsletter

Summer 2011

Meet the New Puppy!

Ryan, a yellow male lab, is being raised by Julie Haynes and family. Ryan is their 9th GEB puppy! Ryan's vet sponsor is Animal Care Hospital of Matthews, and his food sponsor is Rosanne Bateman also of Matthews. Julie provided the following introduction to Ryan.



A Patriotic Start

"Ryan came to join the Haynes household Memorial Day weekend by way of Delaware thanks to Delmarva Region raiser Marc Cooke. My daughter, Andrea, and I made it a 2 day road trip enjoying sights like the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and the NC Vietnam Veterans Memorial - this last stop inspired by some special friends we met along the way.

Ryan is our 9th Guiding Eyes puppy. One of the things I have enjoyed most about being a puppy raiser over the years has been the people we meet when out with our pups. There is such interest and support for the Guiding Eyes program and having a puppy just seems to entice folks to say hello and share their stories.

This trip was no exception. At a quick stop for fuel on the last leg of our journey, we met a couple who were also on their way home but they would have a much greater distance to travel. They had made the trek from their home in Spokane, WA, first to Los Angeles, joining hundreds of others for a 10 day ride to Washington, DC as part of the *Run for the Wall*. This Memorial Day weekend was the 24th annual *Rolling Thunder* event in our nation's capitol. Hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists ride to focus awareness on our POWs and MIAs and in honor of all veterans who have served our nation.

Returning to the car after Ryan's GB break, I heard this man ending his cell phone conversation because he "just had to come see this puppy". As we stood in the gas station parking lot, 'Stumpy', a combat vet and his wife, 'Teach', a retired elementary school teacher, shared stories with us about themselves and about other vets they knew. My own father is a Vietnam Vet and a Harley guy as well so the connection we made was heartfelt. We in turn shared Ryan's puppy kisses and talked about Guiding Eyes and our puppy raising experiences in and out of the classroom.

I know these pups are bred for a greater purpose and everything we do with them helps bring them closer to fulfilling that mission of enriching the lives of individuals who are blind. But along the way, they create opportunities for us; bringing people into our lives, even momentarily, that touch us and teach us in both small and profound ways. The joys of sharing these pups are returned to us ten-fold. They enrich *our* lives every day."



Andrea with Ryan



Julie with Ryan, Teach, and Stumpy

Puppy Updates: Where are they now?

Abigail, a female yellow lab, raised by Jennifer Foote and family has been released from training at the Canadian Guide Dog School. She is currently being considered for detection work. Abigail's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital in Raleigh, and the Foote's were her food sponsors.

Alise, a female yellow lab, raised by Kristen Shamblin passed her in-for-training test. Alise's vet sponsor was Neuse River Veterinary Hospital in Wendell, and her food sponsor was Diversified Systems, Inc. in Knightdale.

Amigo, a male black lab, raised by Danny and Walter Overcash, passed his in-for-training test. Amigo's vet sponsor was Lakewood Veterinary Hospital in Mooresville, and Danny and Walter were his food sponsors.

Barb, a female black lab, was raised by Margot Bennet and family, Mary Austin and family, and Leigh Ames and family. While with Margot, Barb's vet sponsor was Gentle Care Animal Hospital and her food sponsors were Jersey Mike's of Cary and the Bennett family. While with Mary, her food sponsors were the Austin family. Barb's vet sponsor while with the Ames family was Coddle Creek Animal Hospital in Concord and her food sponsors were the Ames family. Barb was released from training, and is currently in training with Michael Stapleton Associates, a company that is certified by the Homeland Security Act for explosives detection canines.

Harper, a male yellow lab, raised by Susan Piron and Jim Harmeson, recently passed his in-for-training test. While with Susan, Harper's Vet Sponsor was Dr. Norman Manning of Wake Forest and his food sponsors were Food Citizens of Animal Protection of Warren County. While with Jim, Harper's vet sponsor was Jordan Lake Animal Hospital in Pittsboro, and the Harmeson's were his food sponsors.

Jamaica, a female yellow lab, raised by Jesika Baur, passed her in-for-training test and is currently in breed evaluation. Jamaica's vet sponsor was Atrium Animal Hospital in Charlotte, and Jesika was her food sponsor.

Kayla, a female black lab, raised by Tamara Flinchum and Jo Anne and Brian Wiles, has been released from training and lovingly adopted by the Wiles family. While with Tamara, Kayla's vet sponsor was Northwoods Animal Hospital, and Tamara was her food sponsor. The Wiles were her food sponsors while Kayla was with them, and Neuse River Veterinary Hospital was her vet sponsor.

Nigel, a male GLAB (Golden Retriever/Labrador Retriever), raised by Alexander Waddell has been released from training, and is currently being considered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Nigel was raised as part of Alexander's Eagle Scout project. Congratulations to Alexander who received his Eagle Scout Award in June. Nigel's vet sponsor was Sandhills Veterinary Hospital in Southern Pines, and the Waddell's were his food sponsors.

Simba, a male yellow lab, raised by Irene Cucurullo, has been released from training, and is being placed through the GEB adoption program. Simba's vet sponsor was Bayleaf Veterinary Hospital. The Cucurullo's were his food sponsors.



**Harper and Amigo
June IFT**

A Visit from Sanka
By Sally Neve, Puppy Raiser

Sally Neve sent a note to Sherry Dodson to let her know that Sanka's family had come to see them. Sanka is a guide dog who was raised by Sally's daughter, Patricia. Sally invited Sherry to share this heartwarming story with anyone who might be interested. Enjoy!

"Just wanted to tell you about our delightful visit with Sanka, Cheryl and her husband, Ed. They came to our house yesterday @ 5:30 PM, had dinner with us and visited until 10:00 PM. It was a wonderful time! **Sanka looks great** and quickly settled right back in with Powell, as if he never left. Cheryl McNeil Fisher and her husband, Ed, are a wonderful couple and it was a privilege to get to know them.

They chose to stay at a hotel but offered to let Sanka stay with us for a sleepover. We took them up on their offer so that Christopher could stop by early this morning to visit with Sanka, since he was working last evening. I took Sanka back to them @ 10:00 this morning so they could get on their way to Myrtle Beach for a 2 week vacation.

They were so appreciative of all we had done and they LOVE Sanka! GEB did a great job finding someone who truly appreciates Sanka. It has made a Golden lover out of Cheryl! They are lovely people - kind, sensitive, friendly and open. Cheryl brought a creative, personal gift for Patricia. Visiting with them has been one of those sweet, special memories which will impact our lives forever. It makes all of the time commitment, frustrations, and tears that accompany raising a GEB puppy overwhelmingly worth it! It meant so much to Patricia!"

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bob Schmidt

By Sherry Dodson

Our program lost a good friend in February when Bob Schmidt passed away. Bob was an avid supporter of GEB. He and his wife, Jackie, were critical in helping the raisers in the Eastern part of the state when we had a group along/near the coast.

Bob was the "quiet, behind the scenes person" and was so, so supportive of Jackie and all she had to do. Bob truly loved every dog they raised. Oh, how he and Jackie loved the Golden Retrievers! He had a wonderful dry wit and though was in failing health in the last few years that they were active, he continued to come to evals and help all he could. Many times we would use their motor home as a place to go into to get out of the heat or get out of the cold when we were having evals outside at MacGregor Village. They were so very generous with their time and resources.

Through Bob's health challenges, he was so cheerful and upbeat. Every time they came to evals, he came in with that huge smile for everyone. He was a real "trooper" when I am sure he was not feeling well or was very tired. It took a great deal of effort for him to attend and he was admired for his effort and we all looked forward to seeing him. I am so glad Jackie and Bob were able to travel a great deal for a few years before Bob's health would no longer allow it. I know it was a great time for both of them. Our sincere and heartfelt condolences go to Jackie and family.

Tina

April 19, 1997 – June 18, 2011



Tina, a female black lab, was raised Sharon and Ken Blewis currently of Spokane, WA (GEB released). Sharon provided the following information about Tina. "She was diagnosed with bladder cancer last August and her vet didn't expect her to live more than a month at that time. She did exceptionally well battling her cancer up until this past week when it was obvious to us that "it was time". Even on the day we made the decision, Tina still took comfort in being in our company. It was very hard, but we know it was in her best interest.

Tina was the sweetest, most affectionate dog I have ever had the pleasure of caring for. She brought such enjoyment into our lives and she will be missed terribly."



Siblings Ladybug and Fenwick visit the FDR Memorial in Washington DC – They look like they fit right in!



Alise visits her favorite aisle in BJ's one last time before returning to Guiding Eyes.

EVALUATION SCHEDULE

July 28, 29, 30, 2011

Raleigh Church of Christ, 911 Barringer Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606

Thursday, 7/28/11	PUPPY	RAISER
5:00 PM	Tally	Echols
6:15 PM	Tosh	Wiles
7:30 PM	Roger	Stewart
Friday, 7/29/11		
3:00 PM	Murphy	Soost
4:15 PM	Ryan **	Haynes
5:30 PM	Tripp	Huebner
6:45 PM	Meeting for Leadership	Team
Saturday, 7/30/11		
8:15 AM	Fenwick	Flinchum
9:00 AM	Ladybug	Carey
10:45 AM	Ray	Tanner
12:00 NOON	General Meeting	
1:00 PM	Jan	Vogelhut
2:15 PM	Jax	Lyman
3:30 PM	Newton	Cucurullo

**** Beside Pup's name and Raiser's name indicates need for photograph Saturday morning or with someone on Friday. Please let Sherry know if you can't make it on Saturday if you need a photo.**

PLEASE REMEMBER to bring your evaluation DVD's.

Raisers, please be a little early for your evaluation as we may be running ahead of schedule. Thanks!

DIRECTIONS to the EVALUATION

**Raleigh Church of Christ
911 Barringer Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606**

Driving Directions to Raleigh Church of Christ for the Evaluation:

From I-440:

- Take exit 1C, Jones Franklin Rd and drive North approximately 0.35 miles.
- Turn Left onto Barringer Dr and the church building will be on the Right about 0.11 miles.

Please bring your DVD and an accurate reading of your puppy's weight to the next Evaluation (if you did not have it for the Quarterly Raiser Report) and don't forget to submit the Quarterly Raiser Report (www.guidingeyes.org)!

UPCOMING EVENTS: 2011

April 30-May 1, 2011

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

July 29-31, 2011

Evaluation, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh Church of Christ

November 5-6, 2011

Evaluation, Pittsboro, NC
Pittsboro Baptist Church

MISSION STATEMENT

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is dedicated to enriching the lives of blind and visually impaired men and women by providing them with the freedom to travel safely, thereby assuring greater independence, dignity and new horizons of opportunity.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

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WEBSITES: www.guidingeyes.org

www.guidingeyesnc.org



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