



UNLEASHED

Volume 31 Issue 7 A publication of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club September 2020

2020 Meeting/Event Dates

The next COLRC meeting will be
Wednesday, September 9
6:30 p.m. at the home of Jan
Eichensehr

The club will provide pizza.
BYOB

Specialty Information: The Delaware
Kennel Club has decided to cancel its
2020 Show.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. MEETING DATES; CANFIELD OR BUST
- 2 - 3 CANFIELD OR BUST
3. DOWN 'N BACK
4. GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION

CHECK OUT CENTRAL OHIO LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB
ON FACEBOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/575516432535825/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/575516432535825/)



Canfield or Bust

When exhibitors were sent home in the middle of the Louisville cluster mid March, I don't think any of us imagined what the future would hold. I can still remember being mystified as Sally, Angela, Brian, Christian and I sat in Lily's in old Louisville for dinner on Thursday night, the only diners in the normally bustling hot spot. Where was everyone? Why were we literally the only clientele there from 5 PM to around 7:30, when two other tables of dog show folks entered. Our server informed us that since word of COVID-19 had started to circulate, they had seen their reservations dwindle. We still really didn't grasp how our lives were about to change.

Fast forward to late June..... After months of dog shows screeching to a halt, our first opportunity to venture back out came, thanks to the diligence of Joan and Jerry Saldana and Nina Work and her new superintendent company, Executive Dog Shows. Miami Valley was permitted to hold their specialty in late June at Fetter Field in Lima. But it sure was a different world.

All attendees were required to wear masks while on the grounds except while at personal vehicles/campers. Spectators were not permitted. Those watching judging were required to socially distance. No raffle. Separate entrances and exits from the rings. Different system for picking up armbands and ribbons. But no one complained and the show was a success. Labrador world was elated to have the opportunity to show dogs again.

So it was with great anxiety, that we waited for word on Canfield. Would it happen? Would the governor ban it? Would the health department shut it down? We figuratively held our collective breath until we were in our vehicles and converging upon Canfield. Our group always arrives on Monday, despite the fact that the show doesn't begin in full until Thursday. It's a vacation. Typically, the others arriving Monday are the workers from the host clubs and a few handlers that come straight from another show circuit. This year.....we had to wait in line to be parked on Monday!! Apparently others were as anxious to attend the cluster as we were!

Any of you who have attended Canfield or have seen the pictures, know that we decorate, heavily. The Northern Ohio LRC hosts the weekend with a specialty on Saturday and thus have a rented tent with a cement floor, which typically serves as Labrador central. The tent is filled with crates of Labradors, picnic tables, snacks, food, an inflatable swimming pool, a pink couch, pink Adirondack chairs, pink flamingo straw mats, and our extensive collection of flamingo objects containing everything except live flamingos (maybe one year.....). By Saturday, there are plastic flamingos in the ring, around the ring, and every once in a while, one gets loose and ends up at another camping area (known as being "flamingoed") . And on specialty day there is a raffle with more flamingo items to win, flamingo prizes, and a luncheon provided by club members.

But this year was different...in so many ways. We put up a few decorations around our camp site but the tent remained barren....the first of many changes. Our logic was that since the local health department would attend the show daily, we did not want to draw attention to our area or our group by providing a gathering place.

The normally bustling vendor area had only a fraction of the typical number of booths, and many were just for dog supplies. The area that is usually filled with the smells of "fair food" like onion rings, corn dogs, elephant ears, was bare. Only three food trailers, and one coffee vendor were on site, and in a different location. Buildings that have always housed the toy dog rings were locked, rings moved outdoors. Show rings were spread out over the entire fairgrounds.

In stark contrast to the sparse vendor and food area, the fairgrounds was jammed with campers. All camp spots with electric on the grounds were sold out. The show cluster had its largest entry in years, over 3500 dogs on the weekend. The dog show fancy was ready to be back at it.

In addition to no indoor rings or grooming, the show cluster made other changes for the safety of exhibitors. Bathrooms were cleaned frequently. Masks were required in all public areas, including the show ring. Each large tent had a worker whose job it was to keep exhibitors distanced from the ring and each other while waiting to show, and who monitored the use of crates under the tents so that they didn't inhibit those waiting to enter the ring from staying distanced. Rings had separate entrances and exits. It was the judges' discretion how to handle distribution of ribbons and trophies. Exhibitors were expected to know their armband numbers when arriving at the steward's table as there was no ringside catalog. In the ring, there were marks to identify where exhibitors should stand. Exhibitors were permitted to remove masks while running dogs if necessary.

Judges were careful to stay as distanced as possible during the close contact required for the exam. I'm sure there were many other changes that went unnoticed but that contributed to the success of the cluster.

The health department was on the premises daily and of course, prior to the start of the show on Thursday, rumors and speculation were abundant that the show would be shut down, especially once word got out that many exhibitors had come straight from the South Carolina cluster, a hot spot state. To the contrary, the health department gave a sterling review to the host clubs....an "excellent report of compliance". The weekend went off without a hitch....even the weather was mostly cooperative after Monday. With so many shows and clusters cancelled, even into 2021, this four day cluster, which drew exhibitors for all over the US, was a success in countless ways. Thanks and appreciation for the committee's diligence was expressed in multitude on their Facebook page.

The dog show community pulls together when necessary. With minor exceptions, I saw a group of diverse people with a common interest, dogs, who complied with new rules and requests for the general good of all, to just be able to return to some semblance of a normal life. So yes, our lives have changed more than we could have imagined back in Louisville in March, but some critical aspects have remained the same.....the dog show folks can depend on each other to get the job done. Perhaps the citizens of the United States at large could learn a bit from the dog community. And yes, I had my win photo taken with my mask on....stories to tell for years to come.

~ Jennifer Stotts



Down 'n Back

ClearCreek Second to None

New Castle Kennel Club
7/30/2020

WD, BOW 4 point major

Beaver County Kennel Club
8/1/2020

RWD to major

Owner: Jennifer Stotts

General COLRC Information



The **UNLEASHED!** is a publication by and for the members of the **Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club** and others interested in the betterment of the sport and advancement of cooperative communication within the Labrador community and the dog fancy.

The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed by the editor to be of interest to our readers but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of the editor or COLRC members. Reader input is actively solicited.

Please address or email all articles, announcements, comments and suggestions to newsletter@colrc.com. Unleashed is published ten to twelve times per year. Closing for each issue is the 20th day of the month prior to publication.

Dues are \$25 annually for a single membership and \$40 for a joint membership. Business cards will be placed on the COLRC website for the year at a cost of \$50 for members and non-members.

Club members who wish to utilize the Litter Listing Column of the newsletter and website will be required to pay \$50 per litter listing unless they have worked at two of our three club events during the course of the year.

Meetings General meetings shall take place the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

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Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Treasurer.....	Linda Bednarski	(Term expires Dec 2021)
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