

Golden Moments

October 2011



Nikki & Tikki's Story

By Wyllyn Doherty

In early June, GRRCC was contacted by a young woman with a pair of Goldens she needed to surrender. "Nikki" and "Tikki" had belonged to the young woman's mother, but when the mother passed away, the young woman took the dogs in, although she did not have the financial means to care for them. Nikki and Tikki were living mostly outdoors, along with three other dogs. Nikki is Tikki's mother, and the two dogs had been together their entire lives. The young woman kept the dogs for about three years before she decided to surrender them to GRRCC.

It is very difficult to find a foster home for a pair of dogs, and we feared we would have to separate Nikki and Tikki in order to take them into our program. We found individual foster homes for the girls, but dreaded having to pull them apart. Thankfully, an angel -- in the form of long-time GRRCC member and previous adopter Jeanne Truslow -- stepped up to foster both dogs. It was truly a blessing for Nikki and Tikki. Here are Jeanne's words about what led her to open her home and heart to these sweet Goldens...and to discover that sometimes love comes in two's.

From Nikki and Tikki's Mom:

I have been a member of GRRCC for 18 years and recently lost my beloved rescue Golden of 11 years, Miss Liberty. I knew after several days without Liberty in the house that I needed another Golden to love and care for. I called Wyllyn and let her know that I was on the lookout for another dog and would also be willing to provide foster care. To my utter surprise, I was told that the club did not have any dogs available at this particular time that would suit my needs. I thought how strange, as there are usually so many dogs available to foster and/or adopt.

Well, my prayers did not take long to be answered. In about a week, Wyllyn called to tell me about Nikki and Tikki, the mother and daughter team from a near by rural area. She told me they were in a very neglectful situation and were being surrendered to the club. The mother, Nikki, had a foster home that would be available after July 4th and the daughter, Tikki, needed a foster home. Pictures of both dogs were e-mailed to me and I agreed to take Tikki immediately. I got a call back from Wyllyn the next day letting me know that Tikki's owner would only let her go to a home with other dogs or with her mother, as she was worried that Tikki would not do well by herself. I had no other dogs at home and two dogs were not in my plans, so the situation was a no go.

For the next several days I kept picturing Nikki and Tikki outside all day in the almost 100 degree heat and constant thunderstorms. It was breaking my heart, especially since I knew I had a good home to offer these Goldens. I decided to call Wyllyn and ask if I could take both dogs as soon as possible. July 4th was a long way off and I decided that 2 dogs would be great! Wyllyn was ecstatic. She contacted the owner and suddenly, I was going to be the foster mom for Nikki and Tikki!

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And so, the twosome made the long car ride home to South Park, perfect little ladies in the back seat of my car. Our next adventure was the vet the very next day. The girls tested heartworm negative, which was a miracle, but were both about 20 lbs underweight. They were painfully thin with lackluster coats.

Fast forward 2 1/2 months . . . I now have two happy, healthy, well nourished Golden Retrievers with shiny coats. They had been at my home for about a week when I called Wylyn and told her that they would not need to look any further for a forever home. I wanted to adopt them both.

The girls are inseparable and I am so glad I could keep them together. They each have their own very unique personality. The girls constantly play and romp together in the house and the yard. They love the furniture and all the dog toys I have accumulated over the years. That has been since day one. Our daily 2 mile walks are the highlight of their day.

Nikki and Tikki had a good life at one time. They know all their basic commands, have leash manners, ride in the car well, are housebroken, do not chew or destroy, and know several tricks. Imagine my surprise after a few days at my house when they both rolled over on their backs and played dead for a treat!! As I tell my friends, add water and get trained dogs -- who could ask for anything more?

Nikki and Tikki have brought me so much joy and have truly helped me mend the hole that was in my heart after I lost Liberty. Their daily antics of tug of war with toys, having to be on the dog bed together at the same time (even though they each have their own bed), bolting out the door together each morning and crashing into one another, walking on their dual leash like miniature Clydesdale horses with tails wagging back and forth in perfect rhythm, keep me in stitches.

I know deep in my heart that they were never meant to be apart. All you have to do is see them together for a few minutes and you know this is true. They ask for so little and give back so much.

I am forever grateful to GRRCC for placing two more dogs in my care and life. Nikki and Tikki make my number 4 and 5 rescues! They already have nicknames too . . . my future son-in-law calls them Squirrel #1 and Squirrel #2 because they are small, smart, fast, brown, and mischievous.



Hendrick Lexus Golden Opportunity Event

Special thanks to Hendrick Lexus for inviting us to their Golden Opportunity Sales Event in August. They raised and donated \$1400 to the GRRCC from car sales and Facebook "Likes".



This year GRRCC celebrates its 20th Anniversary. Started in the late 1980s as a breed club for Golden Retriever owners, it evolved into a rescue club and was incorporated in March, 1991.

We may be a little late (the actual anniversary was in March), but we will be celebrating this auspicious occasion with a 20th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, December 1 at the South Charlotte Banquet Center (located near Ballantyne Country Club). Information and invitations to the event have been mailed so look for your invitation in the mail. We also are challenging our GRRCC friends to help us raise \$20,000 for our 20th Anniversary – see more about this on p. 6.

Several of the founding members are still dues-paying members and somewhat active in the club. We recognize and appreciate them, and all who have followed, in making GRRCC the wonderful organization that it is. While several rescue groups around the country (even in our state) have dissolved, GRRCC continues to operate with wonderful support from our board members, donors, veterinary staffs from several animal hospitals, vendors and supporters.

With that said, we say farewell one of our most dedicated volunteers, Wyllyn Doherty, this month, as her husband Mike takes on an exciting new career opportunity in Mississippi. We will miss them tremendously and while Wyllyn is not one for recognition and praise for herself, I must thank her and Mike and her entire family, including her father, Gary Rhinesmith, for all they have done for GRRCC. Wyllyn held the position of intake coordinator for more than six years and was heavily involved in all facets of the club in that position and as a board member for most of that time. She will be sorely missed by all. And instead of throwing her a party or giving her a gift, the best way you could honor her for all her years of hard work is to support the 20th Anniversary Campaign in her honor.

Where is the next Wyllyn Doherty? We continue to seek volunteers for a myriad opportunities within the club, whether it is as a board member, foster parent, volunteer, or helping on our new intake committee. Are you able to help with your time and talents? Please contact either our vice president Jill Santuccio (jill@grrcc.com) or me (gene@grrcc.com) for further information.

Many thanks to all who were involved with our recent Tennis Ball Raffle held on October 1 (special thanks to Katie Skaats and Melissa Winter for helping spearhead the event). Many new faces and their owners participated this year and the event was another success.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming anniversary event on December 1.

I remain grateful for your support and friendship.
Gene Fitzpatrick

AT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Our condolences to our GRRCC families and friends whose beloved companions live on in our hearts forever



Mandy Sloan
Submitted by Kathy Sloan

- Huey Adams-Corley-Furr**
- Maddie Allen**
- Kova Buchanan**
- Rafter Buchanan**
- Hogan Kiernan**
- Joy Levin**
- Mac Neal**
- Solly Nexsen**
- Kramer Thibeau**
- Maggie Yoder**
- Mandy Sloan**
- Hailey Nixon**



Rafter Buchanan
Submitted by Jim Buchanan



2011 Golfing for Goldens Fall Tournament at Skybrook

Congratulations to Our Adopted Dogs and Their Forever Families!

Shamrock	6/8/2011	Ron & Marcia Mercurio
Oliver (now Scout)	6/15/2011	Jon & Missy Giles
Tucker	6/16/2011	Genene Peterson
Schultz (now Brady)	6/18/2011	Alan & Janis Alsop
Spencer (now Fitz)	6/18/2011	Stephan & Corrine Goodwin
Nikki	6/24/2011	Jeannie Truslow
Tikki	6/24/2011	Jeannie Truslow
Susan (now Lily)	6/26/2011	Rose & Jon Griffin
Luke	7/2/2011	Ron & Joanne McLamb
Lucy (now Brodie)	7/8/2011	Mike & Jeanne Hammons
Bella	7/15/2011	John Greco & Jo Ann Jones
Jack	7/16/2011	Rachael Gorman
Sherry (now Charlie)	7/19/2011	Walter and JoAnn Patrick
Megan (now Lillie)	7/23/2011	Tom & Leslie Washburn
Ginger	8/1/2011	Elaine & Bill Griffin
Tynlee (now Bonnie)	8/20/2011	John and Christie Hartlove
Dixie	8/27/2011	David and Deb Stimmel
Dixie II	8/27/2011	Paul Riehle & Tracy Jones
Max	8/28/2011	Tom & Karen Kirby
Charley	8/29/2011	Nancy Truesdale
Chase (now Marley)	9/3/2011	Joe & Kim Bergmann
Oscar	9/10/2011	Kristen Ward
Anna	9/13/2011	Charles & Kim Wickenden
Lucky	9/17/2011	Natalie Ashenfelter
Meadow (now Taylor)	9/29/2011	Mike & Nancy Schneider
Lilly	10/2/2011	Seth Dwyer
Jackson	10/12/2011	Mike & Beth Ellis
Buddy (now Barkly)	10/19/2011	Courtney Murray & Jacob Kellam
Hope (now Abby)	10/15/2011	Art & Jill Schwartz
Tripp	10/23/2011	Mike & Sarah Standley
Bailey	10/12/2011	Lou & Karen Ross

TENNIS BALL RAFFLE 2011



Thanks to all of you who participated in the 2011 Tennis Ball Raffle and Annual Picnic on October 1. Just as last year, the weather was perfect and we had lots of GRRCC members and Golden Retrievers in attendance. Our raffle winners this year included John Layton - \$1,000 (who donated half of his prize back to the club - THANKS!), Brian Jabeck (\$500) and Thad and Allison Reece (\$250). After expenses (and not including merchandise sales) we netted about \$2558.

This annual event couldn't be possible without the tireless work of our board and volunteers. We also especially want to thank Dave Grindstaff and his great team at Continental Boarding for always making us feel so welcome and Brian Rich at Q2U BBQ who provides us our yummy barbecue lunch at his cost. Please patronize these two businesses whenever you can and thank them on behalf of GRRCC!

THANK YOU TO OUR TENNIS BALL RAFFLE VOLUNTEERS

Heidi Kraus
Jane Cannon
Gina La Point
Susie Klein
Allison Parker
Sarah Campbell
Dana Iannielli
Frank Iannielli
Vittorio Iannielli
Alex Ghiz
Brandon Balicki
Shannon Sarpa
Chris Sarpa
Kathy Byrne
Meghan Kendall
Kasey Booher
Susan Spencer
Tony Barr
Chris Winter



2011 GRRCC Board Members

President	Gene Fitzpatrick	gene@grrcc.com	Jim Adler
Vice President	Jill Santuccio	jill@grrcc.com	Paula Barr
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Website	Michelle Nugent	michelle@grrcc.com	Golin Kosowitz
			Valerie Sancibrian
			Katie Skaats

The 20 for 20 Campaign

With a goal of \$20,000 to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we ask that you consider making a generous gift for the next 20 years of GRRCC. We are an all-volunteer rescue that relies solely on your donations for veterinary care, food, medications, leashes/collars and so much more. We ask you to consider a donation that "starts" with 20: \$20, \$200 or \$2,000. Or get creative and send \$20 for each Golden you have or ever have had! All contributions are tax-deductible and if you would like to make your gift in honor or memory of a person or pet, just let us know. You can mail donations to the address on the back of the newsletter or contribute online at grrcc.com. Last but not least, matching gifts through your employer always are welcome!

We thank you on behalf of all the GRRCC Golden, past ... present ... and future!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

	Lisa, Pat, Judy, Joanne, Jamie, Rhonda, Brenda & Julie	In memory of Emma Porter, beloved golden of Robin and LP
	Anonymous	
Binkiewicz	Deborah and Frank	
Charles	Beth	
Cobb	Elizabeth	
Eichenbaum	Dr. Jessie	Thank you for your continued support of our GRRCC dogs!
Frazier	Sally	
Furr	Randy	
Hebdon	Danielle	
Johnson	Brian and Linda	In memory of Maddie Allen, cherished golden of Art and Judy
Jousma	Heather	
Kiernan	Tom and Carol	For the care of senior golden!
Laedlein	Judy	
Makarewicz	James and Susan	
Miller	Heather and Andrew	For the Golden!
Motta	Robert and Pat	
Ringquist	Jon	
Rhinesmith	Gary	In memory of Wyllyn's beloved "Jack".
Rose	Carol	In memory of Morgan, beloved golden of Dottie and Tom Purnell
RR Donnelley Co.	Jeanne Hranica	Hayden's Photo Shoot
Sheehan	Tom and Julie	In Memory of our beloved Jake!
Stimmel	David and Deborah	
Tierney	Bob and Sam	In memory of Brinkley Mannion
Wittenberg	Harvey and Susan	In memory of Tom and Carolyn Kiernan's golden, Hogen
Yoder	Rhonda and John	Thank you for all you do!



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Easy Ways to Support GRRCC

Shop online through **iGive**.
Register at www.iGive.com

Selling on eBay?
Donate a portion of your sales through
www.MissionFish.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1

20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

6-10pm

South Charlotte Banquet Center