



Dedicated to placing our rescued golden retrievers in safe, loving & permanent homes

GOLDEN CONNECTIONS E-Newsletter

December 2009

That "Aha!" Moment

I never understood the buzz surrounding, "the Aha Moment" that people talk about or write about in magazines but I do now. I had my "Aha Moment" on November 7th, 2009. Why that date and actually why those moments? November 7th was AZGRC's Gotcha Day and after the event I followed my husband, Terry, who was pulling AZGRC's trailer, home. Basically I stared at our name, **Arizona Golden Retriever Connection**, for miles.

We are one of the few animal rescue organizations that do not have the word "rescue" in our name. I have been asked over the years what is the reason that "rescue" is not in our name. I have even been strongly encouraged to add the word "rescue" to our name or change our name.

Here comes the "Aha Moment". We are so much more than just rescue. At Gotcha Day, I watched Tom and Janet surrounded by their foster dogs that they helped find their forever families and the **connection** between the new families and the foster family was amazing. I watched Eileen greet our members and remember and **connect** with each and every member and their dog. I thought of the emails that we get announcing the newest and cutest thing that one of our adopted dogs has done and how that dog has **connected** with their new family. I thought about Cody and his shark baby **connecting** with a scared little boy and his penguin baby at Phoenix Children's Hospital and realized how so many of our dogs that have gone on to become therapy dogs have **connected** with the community.



For me the **connections** I have made through AZGRC have been incredible. This year has been a trying year in my personal life and the individuals that have been by my side every step of the way have been through my **connection** to AZGRC. Although I realized my passion was all about the dogs, I now understand it is also about those **connections** to the dogs, their foster families, our volunteers, the adoptive families, the community and most importantly the friends I have made through AZGRC.

So this Holiday Season, I hope you will take a few moments to think about all the **connections** that your special "rescue" dog has made for you and give them an extra pat on the head or a nice long belly rub and maybe whisper "thank you" in their ear. Trust me; they will totally understand what you are thanking them for.

Wishing you a Holiday Season filled with **Golden connections.**

Candy

Hope For The Holidays - Joey's Tale

Dear Friends,

Would you be our good Samaritan during this holiday season? Each year Golden Retrievers in need look to AZGRC to help them.. And, without caring people, willing to give of themselves, many of these dogs would not survive.

Joey is one of those dogs. Left running on the street, he was accidentally hit by a car, crushing his hind legs. Joey's good Samaritan rushed him to the vet and then spent hours looking for his owner. Unable to cover the vet expenses, AZGRC was contacted to help.. Fortunately, one of our members agreed to foster him through his recovery and we were able to pay for his care.

Through the kindness of the man who brought him to the vet, our foster and the veterinary clinic, Joey will have the opportunity to run and play again. Without donations from our "good Samaritans" we would not have been able to provide for his care and recovery.

Would you like to be the good Samaritan for other Golden Retrievers who need our help on the way to their forever home? Please make a donation to AZGRC during this holiday season. Or consider asking friends and family to give a gift in your name to the rescue.

Thank you and have a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Candy Ziemer
President



Great Holiday Gift Ideas!



This is the perfect time to stock up on AZGRC's 2010 calendar. They make great holiday gifts and a wonderful way to help support rescuing and re-homing Golden Retrievers.

To order your calendars, and for more gift ideas from AZGRC click [GOLDEN SHOPPING](#).

December Business Partner

Malinda's Pampered Pets

You love your pets, so naturally you want only the best for them. That's the belief of Malinda Malone, owner of Malinda's Pampered Pets. Her full-service grooming, boarding, and pet daycare facility is upscale, without the upscale price. Malinda's goal is to make sure your best four-legged friends

[Click Here To DONATE](#)

Last Call For Pet Holiday Photos

There's still time to get your Holiday photos of your canine kids and the rest of the family. AZGRC and Santa will be at Pete & Mac's in Gilbert on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and December 13. It's a great way to get in the spirit of the season

and at the same time help us to help Golden Retrievers in need.

For just \$25, you will get two 4X6 prints AND a CD filled with extra shots. And you don't have to wait, the photos and CD will be ready within minutes of your photo session! All proceeds go to paying medical expenses of our rescued Golden Retrievers.

Pete & Mac's
Saturday, Dec 12
10AM - 3PM
Sunday, Dec 13
10AM - 3PM



For the location address and phone number, click [HOLIDAY PHOTO.](#)

Walk ins are always welcome, however we suggest that you call ahead and set up an appointment.

Bette Davis - A Rescue Success!

Sunday, November 15th was the final day of the United States Dog Agility Association's Cynosport Dog Competition. The top competitors from around the world were competing for top honors in fly ball, herding, dock diving, agility, musical freestyle, luring and several other sports.

This year a new category was added, "Rescue Success" and our very own **Bette Davis Orantes** took 2nd place. Before the final agility competition the arena was turned over to five dogs that had beaten the odds and not only survived but blossomed into wonderful companions. Bette was presented a beautiful plaque and AZGRC was presented a check for \$750.00. A contingency of AZGRC members and Golden Retrievers were on hand to celebrate this great honor.

Following is an excerpt from the entry Bette's mom Christine

always look and feel their best, and live long, happy lives. Malinda is also a proud supporter of numerous local animal shelters and rescue groups. To learn more about Malinda's Pampered Pets, click [MPP](#).

Tributes, Memorials, & Thank You

Golden Sponsors

Amy, Joe, & Molly
Barrett
Gus Urbanowski
Sue & Troy Gray
Steve Redfield
Paul & Jan Dudek
Petco Foundation
Happy Tails Books

In Honor Of:

Onzie Williams
from
The McKesson Foundation

Merry Christmas
to
Peg & Rick Bundy
from
Missy & Bill Parkerton

Golden Angels

Jennifer Bortz
for
Nikki

Michele Soules
for
Parker

In Memory Of:

My Beloved Holly
She was 14 years old
when we had to put her
down on Oct. 7. She was
the love of my life! Mv

submitted for this award.

Bette Davis is now a therapy dog that cheers up patients with her boundless heart at a local Children's Hospital. It wasn't always that way for Bette Davis. A little over a year ago I received an urgent phone call from the President of AZGRC immediately followed by emails about a Golden Retriever that was in the local shelter. Due to her poor medical condition she was scheduled to be euthanized the next day.



Time was of the essence to save her life. This Golden was estimated to be 3-5 years old, weighed 98 pounds, recently had puppies, so not yet spayed, her eyes appeared to be infected causing dark discoloration in the fur around her eyes, with possible vision problems/blindness, and as a result of hypothyroidism there was significant hair loss on her back, her tail and hind quarters. The fur she had left was an awful burnt red color, feeling dry and brittle to the touch. Although she must have felt miserable at the time, she never stopped wagging her tail.

At the onset of this journey my Vet told me all of Bette's health issues were fixable and after 6 months she would be back to normal. Bette Davis became a miracle that developed right before my eyes. Indeed my Vet was right. Bette Davis is now simply beautiful with a light gold coat of soft healthy fur, weighs a healthier 70 pounds, smiles all the time, loves to swim, enjoys a great life, still wags her tail and oh yes, we still hold hands every night and watch TV.



Thank you, Christine, for taking a chance on Bette and giving her the care she needed to flourish.. And a huge Thank You to Bette for representing AZGRC, and all the great dogs that we have rescued.

Editors Note: Bette's story is also being submitted for a HOPE award in February 2010.

The Rainbow Bridge

In remembrance of the beloved pets that will be forever missed by those who knew and loved them. Please visit the [AZGRC Rainbow Bridge Memorial](#) and read their tributes.

wishes are that all Golden Retrievers get a chance to live a healthy & longer life, as Holly did.

Love
Joni & Woody



Paws To Recognize

Santa's Helpers

A special thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard during our Holiday Photo sessions. It's because of you that we were a "howling" success!

AZGRC QUICK LINKS

- [ABOUT AZGRC](#)
- [AVAILABLE GOLDENS](#)
- [BUSINESS PARTNERS](#)
- [BECOME A FOSTER](#)
- [BECOME A VOLUNTEER](#)
- [COMMUNITY LINKS](#)
- [EVENTS CALENDAR](#)
- [GOLDEN CORNER LIBRARY](#)
- [GOLDEN SHOPPING](#)
- [GOLDEN TALES](#)
- [GOLDENS IN NEED](#)
- [HEALTH & EDUCATION](#)
- [THERAPY DOGS](#)
- [TRAINING TIPS](#)

Holly Cipollone

Crossed the Bridge October 2009



Homer Palazzolo

Crossed the Bridge November 2009



Misty Fein

Rescued 2003

Crossed the Bridge August 2009



Rocky Bonnin

Rescued December 2004

Crossed the Bridge November 2009

