



SPRING/SUMMER

I never thought I would begin our letter with the news of my beloved Klunker going over the Rainbow Bridge on August 13. She would have been 14 on Nov 8. Somehow we never see our precious newfs as growing older, maybe a form of denial knowing their relatively short lifespan compared to smaller dogs. After being Klunkers caretaker for the past several months since she lost the use of her hind legs, it seems so odd to not check on her throughout the day. Now Morgan is the last of the old guard from the original club group. Klunker's passing has reinforced the need to shower love and attention on the remaining dogs we have, and to enjoy to the fullest each day they brighten our lives.



May started off our parade month with the Loyalty Days Parade in Longbeach. As usual the weather was perfect for both humans and Newfs. Taya Tobin dressed up as our Sacagawea with Hoover close by as Seaman. Bad Ben got to ride sitting on Trista Tobin's lap. Morgan and Klunker made it through another parade and CRNC was awarded another first place trophy. It will hang on the wall at Tobin's for Teya's wonderful impersonation of Sacagawea.





Klunker rides again!



Bad Ben and Trista



Rufus and Tristan discussing flintlock rifles.

Hazel Dell came next. It was not quite as hot as last year, but we still poured water over the dogs and had umbrellas for shade. We got moved up the about the middle of the line up thanks to Laurie telling the officials the dogs could not sit and wait in line in the heat. Bad Ben rode on the float for the first time in Trista Tobin's lap until she got fed up with his behavior, and made him walk the rest of the parade route. Having a dog walking the last mile was a huge hit with the crowd. Ben was petted, fed ice cream and photographed. I should have known that audience participation would be huge remembering how at the first Starlight Parade the crowds rushing our float just to try to pet the dogs! This would be one parade where it is permitted for the dogs and handlers to walk the route if so inclined. Something we should remember for next year weather permitting. We came home with a second place ribbon, beating out the local police boat!



Morgan rides again.



Donna adds to the waves.

A work party was assembled consisting of Michael and Teya and Tristan Tobin, Kurt Leipzig, Alan Bronson and Dan and Donna Acevedo. The donkey was banished from the paddock and Teya set to work with paint adding waves to the front and sides of our float. Donna and Teya then used wadded up newspaper to give the appearance of whitecaps. Dan and Kurt took clear plastic runners and added grommets, punched holes and threaded icicle lights through them. They were then hung from hooks over the waves to give the impression of movement. The 120' rope light was strung outlining the boat to save time on parade day. Since we had all heard "Look! Its Pocahontas!" "Oh Mom! See Beethoven"! "I like the Pirate Ship best", a hand lettered sign stating CORPS OF DISCOVERY, SEAMAN AND LEWIS AND CLARK, 1804 was hung from the back of the float.



Teya Tobin gives us waves.

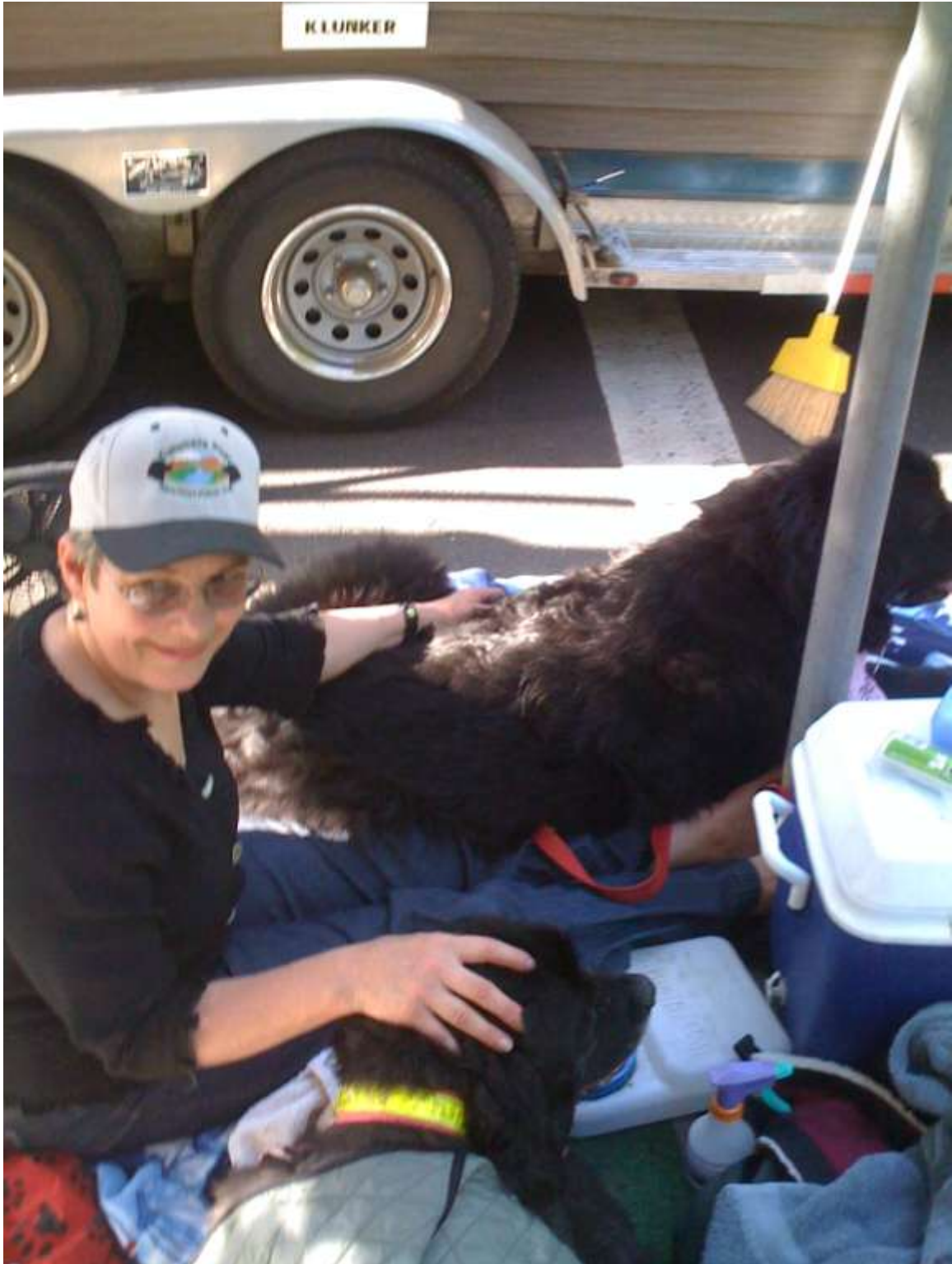
May 30th was the start of our last parade, the Starlight Parade in downtown Portland. The crew met in the CNF lot at 1:30 and the rest of the lighting

went up with no problems. The new generator from the Bronson's fitted the remade boxes perfectly. While we were working a loud hissing noise drew our attention. It was a broken valve stem on one of the float tires. This was about 1 hour before the motorcycle police were due to arrive to escort us to our location downtown. Allan and Cliff took the tire to Les Schwab and when told of our time problem of getting the float moved, they fixed it immediately with a new metal stem and would not accept any payment for it. Needless to say, they have our business! Back to the float and tire on just in time for the police to lead us downtown.

Our neighbor Ed Bartholomy and his wife Kathy joined us. Ed drove the tow vehicle and Kathy was an out walker. Another friend, Sherry Ferris, who has 3 dogs totaling less than 15 pounds, was another out walker. With Cliff and Jim Flood that gave us two walkers on each side of the float. This works well as both fore and aft can be guarded from kids rushing the float wanting to pet the dogs while we are moving!

Riding the float was Alan Bronson holding Annabelle, Mike and Teya Tobin, again as Sacagawea, first time rider Lyndsay Ewert with Kona and Mom Laurie. Bethany rode in Ed's Excursion with her stuffed newf due to age limits on float.

Karen Schneider and her husband Lou Peretta had Jerry Garcia, Kurt and Jackie Leipzig with Lana who once again sat up straight and tall for the entire route. Don and Donna Acevedo with Lola and Olivia, my 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ yr old Klunker made it for one more parade. The weather was perfect and being number 21 in line got us thru earlier than the usual midnight. Already new suggestions for improvement were noted, including using net lighting over the banner for more illumination.



Klunker has her motorcycle cooling vest on.





Changing the flat tire

August 8th members of CRNC went to the School for the blind in Vancouver. Babies and children up to 3 yr old with vision impairments were thrilled to get up close and personal with the newfs. Present were Donna Acevedo with Lola, Julie with Klunker, Subi and Annabelle, Laurie, Lyndsay and Bethany with Kona and Morgan, Pam with baby Bubby, and guest David Bondi with Landseer Lady. Kona gave a ride in the cart to 2 young siblings while the other newfs lay in the grass and received the petting and attention they so richly deserve. You can see from the faces of these children how much they enjoyed the soft fur.



Subi bonds with a little boy



Annabelle gets hugs.



Bobby shows a staff member how strong he is.



Lyndsay and Kona give a ride to 2 siblings.



Morgan shares the love.



Klunker watches the action.

I will close with an article from Colonial Bear Fare.

"Just a Dog"

From Time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or that's a lot of money for "just a dog".

They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog". Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog".

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog", but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog", and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog", then you will probably understand phrases like "just a sunrise", or just a promise".

"Just a dog", brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

Because of "just a dog", I will rise early, take long walks and look forward to the future. I am so happy because "just a dog" became "Just My Dog".

So, for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog", but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog", brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but that which gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a human."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog" just smiles, because they "just don't understand".

Written by Richard A. Biby

See you at the Lewis and Clark College Sept 4th for Pio Fair dinner 5-7:30 pm with your dogs.

Next meeting Sept 14th.

Newfoundly yours, Julie