

# Greyhound Chatter

**Southeastern Greyhound Club**

**Apr - Jun. 2002**

**Issue**

**Editor:** *Craig Cerreta*

**Publisher:** *Roger Thellen*

## "The Best I.I. Yet"

**By** *John Parker*



*IN THE SLIPS: SEGC members Robbin Wiseman (left) and Jennifer Twillmann (right) prepare to release Blue and Zeus. Tally ho !*

### Inside this issue:

<i>The Best I.I. Yet</i> <i>John Parker</i>	1-2
<i>Editor's Message</i> <i>Craig Cerreta</i>	2-3
<i>"A Remembrance"</i>	3-4
<i>Coursing Corner</i> <i>John Parker</i>	4-5
<i>"The Tricky Tick"</i> <i>Craig Cerreta</i>	6
<i>SEGA\Tallahassee</i> <i>Pam Davis</i>	7-8
<i>Are We Poisoning Our Pets?</i>	9

**Visit our website:**

[www.greyhoundadoption.org](http://www.greyhoundadoption.org)

The 25<sup>th</sup> running of the ASFA International Invitational was a rollicking success. Hosted by SEGC, Coursing Hound Association of the Southeast (CHASE) and Greyhound Association of North Georgia (GANG) April 27 - 28 on the beautiful campus of Berry College in Rome, Georgia, the 2002 I.I. received rave reviews from the lure coursing enthusiasts who came from all over the United States and Canada to run their hounds against the best in the sport. "Best I.I. yet," "sets the standard for future I.I.'s" and "first class in all respects" were just a few comments heard during the weekend.

It was an I.I. of firsts, in several respects. First I.I. ever held in Georgia. First Italian Greyhound ever to win the Gillette Stake, a special run for dogs with both conformation and coursing titles ("Pete," from Texas). First Ibizan Hound to win Best in International Invitational. ("Pogo," from Florida). There were record pre-entries in Greyhounds (42 on Saturday; 46 on Sunday) and Scottish Deerhounds (22 each day). The overall entry was the second largest in the history of the I.I. : 326 hounds on Saturday and 303 on Sunday.

The weather cooperated nicely, making everyone glad that the ASFA Board had permitted the I.I. Committee to move the date of the event to the last weekend in April from the traditional first weekend in June.



***continued on page 2***

## Editor's Message



Welcome to my third issue as editor of "The Greyhound Chatter". I hope you find it interesting and valuable. Though it has only been six months since I started, I don't feel I have accomplished as much as I had hoped to by this issue. My goal in taking this position is to turn this publication into "your" newsletter. Over the past few years we have provided lots of great articles and information, but most of it has come from just a few individuals. For this publication to really be of value it needs your input.

The readers of the Chatter are a diverse group. Everybody has at least one thing in common; we are all Greyhound owners and lovers. The majority of you either have more than one Greyhound, or you plan to soon. A good number of you are active or interested in the amateur sport of coursing, but that is offset by a large contingent that does not course nor has any particular interest in it. Regardless of what category you fit into, we are trying to provide you a valuable publication that you will look forward to every quarter.

*continued on page 3*

## THE BEST I.I. YET CONTINUED.....

Most of the weekend was overcast with temperatures in low 70's, although the sun came out Sunday afternoon, pushing temperatures into the mid-80's.

Roll call each day was at 6:00 a.m., and we learned the meaning of the expression "o'dark-thirty". The one thing we forgot was to check the almanac, which revealed that sunrise, was 6:52 a.m.! So, following the playing of the American, Canadian, and British national anthems and the Blessing of the Hounds delivered by SEGC member Rev. Robert Jones, roll call and inspection was held with the use of flashlights.

The running of the field trial went very smoothly, with minimal equipment problems.

Members of the Field Committee stayed in touch with walkie-talkies, and three golf carts were used to shuttle committee members, equipment and supplies where they were needed. A large number of vendors, including the SEGA Boutique, were on hand to relieve coursers of any money they had on hand. SEGA held a meet-and-greet on the field Saturday afternoon, and several recently retired racers met their new families.

Saturday evening was the International Invitational Banquet, held on the field under the big hospitality tent. Catered by Michael's of Covington, the delicious dinner featured beef brisket and chicken Marsala, with chocolate mousse for dessert. (We even had

dinner music!) Following dinner was the ribbon ceremony and the announcement of the winner of the Gillette Stake, which met with sustained cheering.

Sunday was another nice day, with clouds giving way to blue skies and puffy white clouds. Temperatures rose, but a nice breeze blew throughout the day to keep hounds and humans cooled down.

Best of Breed winners from both days closed out the competition Sunday afternoon with the run for Best in I.I. Finalists were the Saluki Dasheer and the Ibizan Hound Pogo, both of whom put in a breathtaking run-off. In the end, it was the speed of the Ibizan Hound that won the day, and Pogo was

awarded the President's Cup by ASFA President Ellen Bonacarti in a closing ceremony featuring all the Best in I.I. contenders.

Tired but happy Field Committee and Host Committee members lingered on the field to drink a toast to a successful I.I. that was the result of months of planning and hard work by members of all three host clubs. Both coursing and non-coursing members of SEGC were in abundance, working at a variety of jobs from set-up on Friday to clean up on Monday. Thank you, one and all! It was a superb group effort, proving once again that we can pull off a big event and have lots of fun doing it.



**EDITOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED.....**

My message today is first and foremost a request to find out what you like and dislike about the Chatter. Is it too long or too short? Is once every 3 months enough? What would you like more of: medical; behavior; coursing; training; diet; activities; sports; events? What else?

My second request is that you write articles. This is "your" newsletter. I am just the editor, not the chief bottle washer, writer and editor. The thing that will help lift this publication to a new level is your input. You have stories of love and affection. You have stories of aging or illness. You have stories of bravery, pride, and glory. You have stories that other

Greyhound owners will find interesting and beneficial. And I can't believe that out of all you coursing folks that no one other than John Parker has any stories of interest on coursing. Give the guy a break.

Maybe you don't have a good story on the tip of your tongue. That is ok, this is not a one-time request. I want to have more articles than I can publish. The next time an idea catches your interest just jot down a few notes while it is fresh. Flush it out later or give me a quick email to kick around the idea. You don't have to be a great writer. These are just stories about our people and our dogs. Write it up and send it in. As editor,

I will make adjustments and corrections.

The only real guideline is length. Articles should be 250 to 750 words long. This Editor's Message is about 580 words. We can only have one 700+ word article per issue. Most need to be in the 500 word range. We also have publication cutoff dates. If you miss the cutoff your article will be pushed to a later issue. We can not extend the cutoff dates. Cutoff for the next issue is August 25, 2002, but you can send in articles anytime before that. In fact, I would appreciate it if you do not wait until that last day.

Please send me your input and ideas. Even if you don't want to write anything, please let me know what you like or dislike. We

really want to make this your "Greyhound Chatter".

Craig Cerreta  
rustytherabbit@yahoo.com



**Maxine Strupe: A Remembrance**

**By John Parker**



The Club has lost a kind and unique soul from its ranks. After a long, courageous battle with cancer, Maxine Strupe died on May 5 at her home in Waverly Hall, Georgia at the age of 51.

Maxine was a sportswoman in the most traditional sense of that word. She was an accomplished horsewoman and fox hunted with the Midland Fox Hounds. She also enjoyed Basset Hound hunting with the Ripshin Basset pack. When health problems took her out of the saddle, Maxine took up lure coursing with her Greyhound Ranger, a sweet black fellow with a bob tail and a wonderful, easy stride. She also kept Lurchers, the unique, wire-haired Greyhound/Scottish Deerhound mix bred for their combination of speed and endurance. For the last few years, she enjoyed open field coursing with them in the West.

Maxine and her husband Pat were longtime members of SEGC, and could almost always be found at Club field trials.

*continued on page 4*

## COURSING CORNER

By John Parker



Rescue Trophy was the Whippet Daisy, owned by Shannon Lyons of Charlotte, North Carolina. Daisy, running in the Open stake, is in her "rookie year" of lure coursing.

The Aiken foray was very well received, and attracted coursers from as far away as Ohio and New York. We are considering returning there next February, so stay tuned about our plans.

The SEGC lure-coursing program is now on summer hiatus (and we're all still recovering from hosting the ASFA International Invitational!). We'll resume in the Fall with the Old Mill Stakes October 19 - 20 at Old Mill Farm in Cartersville and the Fullerton Cup November 16 - 17 at Pinetop Farm in Thomson, Georgia.

*continued on page 5*

The Club kicked off its 2002 lure-coursing program in February by taking its show on the road to Aiken, South Carolina, a charming equestrian community near Augusta. The venue was the Powderhouse Polo Field, a large "double" polo field, arranged for us by SEGC members Ernest and Catherine Carlisle, who live in Aiken. The flat, expansive field and the sand-based soil provided excellent sight lines and footing for the hounds, and the large live oak trees bordering the field gave wonderful canopies of shade for the humans.

Two of our traditional trials were combined for the weekend. Saturday,

February 9<sup>th</sup> was the fifth running of the Southern Turf Classic. Seventy-one hounds competed for the Lucy-Foxey Cup, presented by the Edwards and Alley families in honor of two of SEGC's original great coursing Greyhounds. The Cup was won by the Greyhound Porsche, owned by Donna and Larry Richards of Denver, North Carolina. Porsche is currently the Number 1 lure coursing Greyhound in the nation.

Saturday night a dinner for all the field trial participants was held at the Track Kitchen, a local family-owned country cookin' restaurant that serves the local horse racing community. Fried

chicken and plenty of vegetables were in abundance as everyone "dug in" hungrily after a big day on the field.

On Sunday was the sixth annual Run For Rescue, which was the Club's first official field trial and offered our first perpetual trophy, the Rescue Trophy, which depicts a Greyhound at rest. Five dollars of each entry fee was donated to the SEGA kennel fund. With 66 hounds running, that translated to \$330 in the kennel fund, which certainly will pay a few nights' stay at the kennel for Greyhounds waiting adoption.

This year's winner of Best in Field and the

## Maxine Strupe: A Remembrance Continued.....

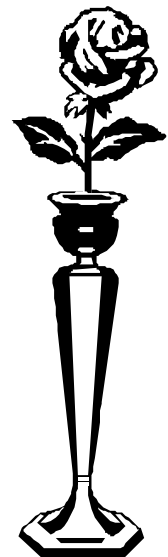
Pat was the warm-up/cool-down walker, and Maxine was the slipper. She loved the fellowship of field trials, and could always be counted on for an enjoyable conversation about Greyhounds, horses, and any number of amusing field sports stories.

Maxine took great satisfaction in the time spent walking with her hounds on her property, enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of nature, and letting them enjoy impromptu "coursing

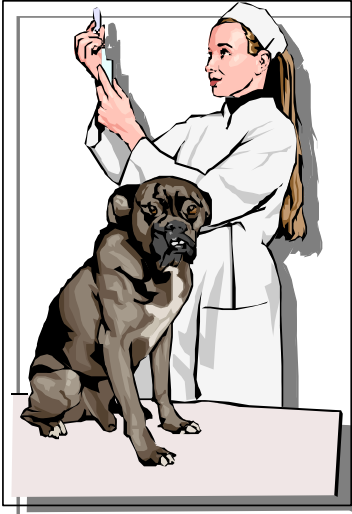
opportunities" if they spotted a squirrel or rabbit.

I last saw Maxine at the Fullerton Cup in October at Berry College in Rome. She was undergoing a tough regimen of chemotherapy at the time and was battling its side effects. However, she was determined to come coursing and see the fields where the 2002 International Invitational would be run. Not even the ravages of her cancer and the chemotherapy could keep Maxine from

enjoying watching her Greyhound in the thrill of the chase. We joshed about whose Greyhound would win Best of Breed at the I.I. and decided that we might just place a friendly wager on the outcome. Her good spirits and determination made my day a little brighter, and I missed her cheerful presence at the I.I. We will all miss her at future field trials, which will be a little less fun in her absence.



### Farewell to Dr. Lynne O'Neil...by Craig Cerreta



A good vet is hard to find. A great vet is harder to lose. Dr. Lynne O'Neil has been one of the lead Greyhound vets in the Atlanta area for a good many years. Her superb diagnostic skills have helped many a Greyhound live healthier and happier lives. Her positive attitude and pleasant disposition have helped many an owner through difficult times in the best possible manner.

Her focus on vetting for the benefit of the animal versus the benefit of her pocket has enabled many owners to get necessary treatment without breaking the bank.

Lynne has cared for all six of my Greys. She has tended to everything from ticks to bone cancer to a disastrous accident. She has come to my home to put down the two I have lost. She has educated me to be a better

owner, and she has been a friend.

Dozens of Greys and their families will miss you. We wish you well in your new Boston home, but we really hate to see you go.

Thank you,

Sabre, Fasty, Adam, Brandy, Sun, Star, Nevile, Chapin, Savannah, Macy, Pi, Hannah, Cinderoo, Jack, Ben, Skinny, and a whole lot more.



### Coursing Corner Continued.....

Straight racing for Greyhounds and other sighthounds has finally made it to Georgia! The Borzoi Club of Greater Atlanta (BCGA) held its first race meet officially sanctioned by the Large Gazehound Racing Association (LGRA) June 1<sup>st</sup> at Old Mill Farm in Cartersville. Twenty-six sight-hounds -- including six Greyhounds -- competed, and had lots of fun. Among the Greyhounds, Karyn Mulholland's Sally took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and earned the high-point designation for FTE (first time entered) Greyhounds, and her Sophie took 5<sup>th</sup> place. John Parker's Golden Girl brought up the rear in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

The competition consists of 3 straight runs of 200 yards each, with a

rest period between each "program." Hounds run muzzled, with their own breed, up to four at a time. They are hand slipped, though starting boxes may be used at the option of the host club. Usually all participants pitch in to act as foul judges (watching for interference), line judges (determining order of finish), slippers and catchers.

Many SEGC members have long been interested in straight racing, and the BCGA racing program is just what those folks have been waiting for. BCGA does not yet have its next race meet scheduled, but plans to hold regular meets in the future. Stay tuned to the **Chatter** and the South-eastern Greyhounds e-list for more information about

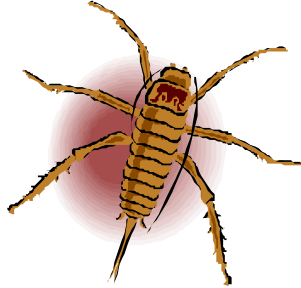
upcoming straight racing events.



**Rescue Trophy winner was the Whippet Daisy, owned by Shannon Lyons of Charlotte, North Carolina.**

## The Tricky Tick

By Craig Cerreta



Let us set the ground rules for common sense: during the warm weather months you should check your pet for ticks every day and remove them as soon as you see them. The risk of catching a disease from a tick goes up significantly after the tick has fed for more than a day.

Ok, most of us are aware that ticks are nasty little disease carrying bugs that we pull off our pets and ourselves as soon as we see them, but most of us don't think about the risks that our pets were exposed to before we adopted them.

Odds are your Grey had dozens of ticks before you adopted him. There is wide spread infestation of ticks in the Greyhound system. Most adoption groups de-tick the dogs before adopting them out, but your pet may have already been exposed to serious tick-borne diseases which can lead to illness and death months and even years later.

Considering the odds that your pet was exposed, you need to have some basic knowledge about tick borne diseases and what it might mean to you and your pet. Tick borne diseases (TBD's) are silent and tricky. Many of the dogs leave the tracks, carrying TBD's with no noticeable symptoms. They come into your homes happy and healthy. Then a few months or several years later your pet gets mysteriously ill and neither you nor your vet can figure out why.

The two most common TBD's in Greyhounds are ehrlichiosis (ehrlichia) and babesiosis (babesia). There are others such as Lyme disease or the Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever disease that my boy Adam was recently diagnosed with. The organisms enter the dog's blood system and attack the blood cells and immune system.

In the initial stages the dog may develop flu-like symptoms, diarrhea, or other typical illnesses. In Adam's case, he began limping days after the initial infection. This may last for a few days, weeks or months. This often happens while they are in the track

system and may go unnoticed. The stronger the dog's immune system the better he is able to keep the disease in check. The disease will then go into a sort of dormant stage that may last for several years.

Out of the blue your dog gets sick a few months or years later. He may exhibit intermittent problems that are confusing to diagnose. Over time, more symptoms will develop such as decreased appetite, occasional fever, weight loss and an overall loss of body condition. Other symptoms may include diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, respiratory distress, back or neck pain, arthritis like symptoms, sores in the mouth, swelling, jaw pain and even seizures.

You and your vet may be baffled as you try to figure out what is wrong. If untreated, or if not treated until the later stages, the dog usually dies.

The test, known as "Tick titers", is a simple blood draw and laboratory test. The results can sometimes be inconsistent and hard to diagnose, but it can always be run again. Some people are starting to test their dogs even before they show symptoms. There is no harm in doing so, and there is a train of thought that you can stop the disease before it gets too advanced. It does cost some money, but it may help you catch and treat the problem before it is too late. To get the best test, the body needs to have time to develop antibodies. Testing too early can produce a false negative result, so it is a good idea to wait several months after the dog leaves the track system.

In Adam's case, we started antibiotics even before we had the test back. The tick was buried in the underside of his paw and had apparently been feeding for a few days. It has been two months and he has not shown much improvement. He displays significant arthritis pain in both the front paw and leg where the tick was and in the lower back, but we expect that the early treatment will enable Adam to recover.

I have not tested my other Greys yet, but after seeing Adam's pain first hand I plan to. I am not saying you should run out and get your Grey tested, but I certainly think you should spend the time to better educate yourself so you can make better decisions. If you don't discover it until the disease is in the advanced stages, it is often too late.

For more information try these links:

<http://www.adopt-a-Greyhound.org/advice/health.html>

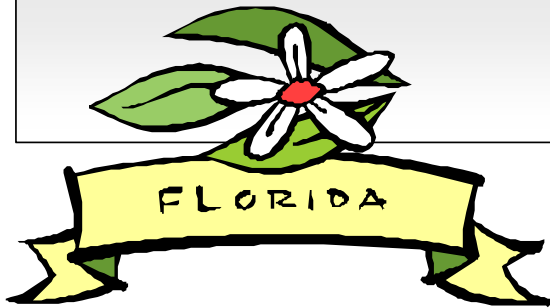
[http://www.geocities.com/bo\\_freddy/](http://www.geocities.com/bo_freddy/)

[www.Greyhoundlist.org](http://www.Greyhoundlist.org)



## Introducing SEGA / Tallahassee!

By Pam Davis



GPA-Atlanta/SEGA has a new "branch office". A few weeks ago, the SEGC and SEGA boards unanimously approved the affiliation with our new organization, SEGA/Tallahassee.

Over the years, many people have tried to make a difference for the

(JCKC) in Monticello, FL. SEGA/Tallahassee is the latest iteration of those efforts. We are attempting to establish a new model for success. With the help of many good people, we are succeeding. We have moved more than 100 dogs into adoption from JCKC in

dogs at Jefferson County Kennel Club

the past 7 months. Our numbers are growing. We will move 30 or more dogs out of JCKC in June.

We are holding Meet and Greet events, advertising in the newspaper, placing flyers around town and doing what we can to place some dogs locally. Our major focus, however, is on moving dogs to adoption groups in non-racing states. Many JCKC dogs have

found safe haven in the SEGA kennel and foster homes. Others have been shipped to adoption groups in other states. June 24 will see 24 lucky dogs leave the Florida Panhandle for new homes in WV, MD, PA, NJ and NY. July 17 will see another group head for groups in the Mid-West.

*continued on page 8*

## SEGC Greyhound Pet Therapy Program

For more information, contact *Jennifer Twillman* at [JenniferTwillmann@hotmail.com](mailto:JenniferTwillmann@hotmail.com)

***"You and your Greyhound will enjoy the visit"***

### **A.G. Rhodes Nursing Home**

900 Wylie Rd., SE  
Marietta, Ga.  
Second Saturday - 10:30 a.m.

### **Presbyterian Village**

2000 East-West Connector  
Austell, Ga.  
Second Thursday - 7:00 p.m.  
(Beth Kuhn)

### **Arbor Terrace Care Residence**

425 Winn Way  
Decatur, Ga.  
Third Saturday - 11:00 a.m.  
(Suzanne Palmer)

### **Marietta Health Center Nursing Home**

South Cobb Dr. & Austell Rd.  
4th Saturday - 2:00 p.m.  
(Helen Sutton)

### **Manor Care Health Services**

2722 N. Decatur Rd.  
Decatur, Ga.  
Third Saturday at 9:30 am .  
(Suzanne Palmer)

### **Corner Stone Terrace Assisted Living & Alzheimer's Home**

Johnson Ferry & Roswell Rd.  
2nd Saturday - 2:30 p.m.  
(Helen Sutton)

### **Sunrise Assisted Living @ Ivey Ridge**

2950 Old Alabama Rd.  
Alpharetta, Ga. 30022  
First Sunday at 1:30 pm .  
(Jennifer Twillmann)





**Introducing SEGA / Tallahassee!**

**Continued.....**

One of our biggest challenges has been transporting dogs to Jacksonville, to meet the hauler who takes them on to the groups in other states. Don Jairett, of Sorrento Kennels, is our "angel hauler". He is helping us acquire a six-hole, air-conditioned dog haul trailer. Don is donating half the cost in labor and materials to get the trailer built. The other half will come from an American Greyhound Council grant. In a few weeks, y'all may see the Davis d arriving in Atlanta with a new appendage and 12 lucky dogs on board!

THANK YOU SEGC/SEGA for all your help and support! We couldn't do this without you!

**You Feed The Rabbit**

Rusty needs your input for future issues. Please take a moment to shoot Rusty an email on the following topics:

- List your favorite parks or trails that are particularly dog friendly and fun
- Name outstanding veterinarians who are especially Greyhound savvy (and their location)
- List any restaurants that allow your hound to hang out on the deck with you while you eat.

And of course Rusty and his gang are always looking for articles for the newsletter. So if you think you have something you would like to share, just write it up and shoot it to the rabbit.

**Here comes Rusty**

*The smartest and fastest rabbit around*

**Dear Rusty** – How can I get my Grey to take pills?

Dear Grey Parent – Dogs are such wimps about pills. There is no single answer for every dog, but here are some ideas. Try the "shove and treat". Pry the mouth open with both hands, while at the same time saying "open". He will learn the word. Once open hold it open with one hand. Push the pill as far back in the throat as you can. Keep to one side or another on the tongue, not in the center. They can't push it out as easy from the sides. Have a treat ready and immediately give the treat as your hand leaves his mouth. This not only rewards him, but it forces him to swallow. Praise him by telling him what a good boy he is.

If you can't handle the "shove and treat", try wrapping the pills in cheese, hotdogs or some other tasty food that they really love.

**Dear Rusty** – My sweet little Grey girl is getting over a messy stomach problem. What can I feed her to firm her stools?

Dear Grey Parent – Humans, didn't you learn anything about Halloween? The pumpkin is not just to scare people. Canned pumpkin is a great diet filler. It adds fiber so the stool gets firmer. It can also be used as a diet supplement for dogs on a weight loss diet. It is very filling, but it does not have many calories. Pumpkin is a great little secret, and most Greys like it.

**Dear Rusty** – Can I give my Grey aspirin?

Dear Grey Parent – It is best to give your Grey "buffered" aspirin. Do not use coated aspirins. They are not readily digestible by any canines, and are often passed through without dissolving. Remember to check your dog's stool after giving any aspirin. Black stools can indicate occult bleeding. Discontinue immediately if this happens.

Send your questions to Rusty at [rustytherabbit@yahoo.com](mailto:rustytherabbit@yahoo.com)

## SEGC\SEGA Trailer Gets A New Face Lift!



Thanks to Les Pekarski of PAL Signs, Inc., we now have shelves and racks in the trailer that will forever end the need to pack all our gear in the trailer "just so" so that we can get everything in it.

Gone are the days when the "lucky ones" left to load the trailer after an event struggle to get everything to fit. There is now a place for everything, with room to spare !



## Are We Poisoning Our Pets?



Dr. Tom Lonsdale, Australian vet and author of "Raw Meaty Bones Promote Health" says 'Yes most definitely.' Dr. Lonsdale will be conducting a seminar in Atlanta Georgia on August 17, 2002.

Dr. Lonsdale has spent the last ten years campaigning to get the good-health message across to veterinarians and pet owners. He explains the advantages of feeding pets a more natural diet. Most vets treat symptoms, not the problem. Through natural diet, Dr. Lonsdale tackles the underlying problems that cause many common ailments and diseases. For more information on this topic and Dr. Lonsdale go to [www.rawmeatybones.com](http://www.rawmeatybones.com).

The August 17 seminar is from 9am to 5pm at the Cobb Government Center, 4400 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta Georgia. Pre registration is

\$45.00 before 8-01-02. After this the registration fee will be \$50.00 per person.

To register go to <http://dc-vc.net/sebarf/lonsdale.php>, or contact Alison Tyler 770-757-1498; [atyler1462@aol.com](mailto:atyler1462@aol.com).



*Southeastern Greyhound Club*

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