



Looking Back, Looking Forward

Last year was filled with expectations, accomplishments, disappointments, and the unexpected. I started the year as president of the Napa Valley Dog Training Club filled with hope to see the club shine, encouragement of online dog training opportunities, more speakers at meetings and workshops being held. Instead COVID put too much of a strain on all of us at the club and very little of this came to realization. There was much more stress being president than there should have been. And with that, I chose to step down to become past president in 2022. With the ongoing march of COVID, I do not see the direction of the club changing much in the near future. I am looking at turning my involvements in new directions like joining the local genealogy society, seeing what I can do to help at Napa's senior center or writing short stories for magazines.

An AKC Championship and Junior Hunter title for Morgan. more drawing, publishing my Mom's writings as a full book to share with others, agility trialing with Brooklyn, and doing more writing (I really do like to write) are other activities I look forward to happening in 2022.

The unexpected included Robert having an appendectomy in February, losing my sister, Donna, in May and me breaking my foot in August.

Accomplishments included celebrating the 40th Gray PEAR Affair family reunion in style, completing some very nice drawings (commissioned and as gifts), purchasing a SUV, showing Morgan and Brooklyn with some very nice wins one of which was Robert taking her to her Grand Championship and getting my driver's license after finally being able to schedule a driving test in November, this after an almost two-year COVID related delay.

Eighty-Six Stories & Counting

I am making good progress on my Mom's legacy writings. I am about to put together book #4 of another 20 of her stories to send off to her and have already transcribed another six stories for book #5. Originally I expected five books, each with 20 stories, total. I see now I miscalculated. It is looking a lot like there will be at least seven or more books!

Reading her stories is such a treasure. I feel like I am right there as I read about her childhood, teenage years, raising a family, her active life after her four girls were grown with families of their own, and all the activities, associations, and groups she has been involved in throughout her life.



The healing process on my foot is coming along. I am now going to the park with Robert to walk the dogs, *even in the rain*. So far I can handle walking up to a half hour—I am looking forward to getting back to hour long park walks as I had been doing before injuring my foot in August.



Morgan patiently waiting her turn to point birds.

Focusing on Hunt Title

I have now hooked up with someone recommended by Morgan's breeder to help me work Morgan with hunt training, a very experienced lady named Terry. I have met with her twice now, last Saturday and yesterday. Because Morgan has gotten behind not making it to a lot of hunt practices with her breeder, she needs a boost especially given she is now entered in hunt tests, two in February and two in March. Yes, working her right now is proving to be a challenge given my ankle is not quite up to par but I am determined to see Morgan receive a Junior Hunter title. Plus doing this gets me out and about.

Not only am I focusing on hunt training, I am also back to taking Morgan and Brooklyn to dog classes. Morgan is taking freestyle musical rally and Brooklyn is taking a scent work class.