

Ch Dickendall Arnold

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Ch Dickendall Arnold

(Ch Dickendall Ruffy SH x Dickendall A-Ha)

December 1988 – October 2001

Breeder: Liz Muthard and Ted Rosenberg

Owner: Kendall Herr and June Sasaki

Only by writing this article has it come to mind that I was truly fortunate to see some of the dogs I'm going to tell you about grow from whelping box to old age, from match shows to specialty winning champions. It's like living with a famous parent or sibling, but never thinking of them as being exceptional. The personal impact they have on you is simply an everyday experience. It takes a bit of serious thinking to bring it all into focus.

The show career of Ch. Dickendall Arnold was short and successful and some would say that is certainly a point in any dog's favor. In my mind it's a dog's progeny that matter. They are what will determine a dog's place in history and this is what has made Arnold a household name in Labrador circles around the world.

“Arnold”

Arnold won the 6-9 month puppy dog class under Barb Holl at the Labrador Retriever Club's National Specialty in Ohio in 1989 his first time in the ring. A short one and a half years later he was a breed champion. I was not there to watch him take the breed from the Veteran class at the Denver Specialty in 1997, but I can tell you a little about the every day Arnold and along the way perhaps a few informal statistics.

The first time I saw him was at Willow Brook Farms, in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. There he was in Kendall Herr's puppy yard ... a chunky, eight-week-old black puppy quietly looking up at all who came by to see the new addition. His great character, temperament and what would become his trademark outline were present even then. He could not have been named anything else... he was Arnold (Schwarzenegger) right from the start.

How he got in Kendall's yard is perhaps the not so unusual breeders' story of a stud fee puppy. However, in this case, Arnold happened to be not only by Kendall's stud dog Ch Dickendall Ruffy, SH but also out of Kendall's brood bitch Dickendall A-ha. A-ha was herself a stud fee puppy from Lori Early, Bloomingtails Labradors. She was

out of Ch Dickendall Rose Royce by Ch Marshland Blitz. Kendall also bred Rose Royce and her stud dog, Ch Allegheny's Eclipse, sired Blitz owned by Dennis Emken. Ted Rosenberg and Liz Muthard bought the black two-year-old A-ha as their foundation bitch.

Arnold's sire, Ruffy, was out of Ch Moorwood Jewel, WC, a black bitch with pleasing balance, moderate bone, correct angles and nothing out of place. She was owned and bred by Rosalind Moore. In Rosalind's later years, Kendall would occasionally whelp a litter for her and that is how Ruffy happened to be born at Willow Brook. At that time, Am/Eng Sh Ch Receiver of Cranspire had recently arrived from England and Jewel was bred to him. I can still remember Kendall bending down to pick up a little eight-week old black dog while saying "and this is the one I'm keeping." Not understanding any of this back then, I asked why and her response was simply "Because everything fits." That was Ch Dickendall Ruffy, SH.

Ruffy finished quickly with several nice wins. At one point, he was Best Puppy at the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Specialty under the late Joan Macan, Timspring, and Best In Sweepstakes at the Mid Jersey Labrador Retriever Club in 1987 under Eric Bergishagen, Jagersbo. Since Kendall is seldom one to special her dogs, after he finished his conformation title he was tucked away at the farm to allow other Dickendall dogs to be shown. Those who saw him would remember him as a beautiful black dog, short backed, lovely head and dark eye, correct coat, good balance and good rear angles set on a moderate sized frame. Hunting Retriever Tests had recently been introduced to the dog scene and Ruffy was one of the very early bench bred Labradors to achieve a Senior Hunter title being trained and handled to that upper stake by Bobby George. Before then, however, Kendall trained him with the help of Joanne Summers and put a Junior Hunter title on him while working with a local field training group who met regularly in the Bucks and Lehigh Counties of Pennsylvania.

Although Arnold was Ruffy's most famous offspring, there were others who were also impressive. Ch Topform Edward, MH, AAQ was out of Ch Broad Reach Trace of Grace, MH, bred by Susanna Joy and owned by Larry Rieder. As of 2000, Edward was the only bench champion who was a Master Hunter and All-Age Qualified in the field. He went on to produce several more of the same. Edward was a black of moderate size with good angles and balance. Another well-known Ruffy son was the black Ch Broad Reach Bocephus, JH bred by Martha Lee Voshell and owned by Jim and Elizabeth Bowron and Anne Bowron. A big, athletic dog with a beautiful front, Bo was number one Labrador Retriever in 1992. He matured nicely while going Best Of Breed at the Raleigh Specialty and taking Best of Opposite Sex at the LRC of the Piedmont

Specialty. He was Jim's personal gun dog and they hunted often together until Bo died at the age of eleven. Another substantial Ruffy son, Ch Lobuff's Bare Necessities, JH was the number one Labrador in 1993 and 1994. This black dog was bred by the Guide Dog Foundation of Smithtown, New York and owned by Emily Biegel and Lisa Agresta. Cumberland Ida Claus, MH was bred by Susan Biddulph with her lines coming through Sandylands and Follytower. Ida was never shown but made a significant name for herself as a top hunt test dog qualifying at the Master National several times before her retirement. She was a black, feminine bitch set on a moderate frame, carrying Ruffy's lovely head and coat. Kendall currently has her own black Ruffy son and daughter in Dickendall Ruffalo Bill and Dickendall Buckstone Ruff-N-It, JH.

Arnold's dam, A-ha, was never seriously shown. Liz Muthard was a professional handler in those days (now an AKC breed judge), and clients' dogs always took precedence over her own. A-Ha lived a sound and healthy life as a housedog and companion while going field training a few times a week with Ted, who was newly retired at that time. She was a smaller sized bitch with good angles and well balanced front and rear quarters. A-ha had a wonderful temperament and turned old gracefully with good hearing and sight. Even at the age of thirteen and a half, with very little graying around her muzzle, she still carried a good topline and moved well, although a bit slower. A-Ha's repeat breeding to Ruffy produced yet another talented male this time in yellow. Dickendall Orange Ruffy, SH was trained to his Senior Hunter title by Bernadette Brown, Kings Ransome. He was Dick's hunting buddy until he died just a short time after Arnold passed away. Orange was a dark yellow, somewhat smaller dog, but otherwise carried many of the same features as Arnold. Unfortunately, he was seldom used due to the enormous popularity of his brother.

From the beginning, Kendall had an interest in obedience and field work. It was not hard to get her to join our Wednesday field training group if we could meet at her farm. When we were able to convince her husband Dick to shoot for us, Ruffy, A-Ha, Arnold and his young son, Drifter, were always among the dogs that ran our hunt test scenarios. Little did I know at that time how fortunate I was to be able to see these dogs every week, learn correct breed type and balance, watch form and function in action and learn proper temperament. If not for the move to Texas, I'm sure Arnold would have gotten his Junior Hunter title as he always enjoyed being out among the guns, holding blinds and duck calls. But it was not an option to leave him behind, so field training ceased and Arnold followed the rest of the Dickendall crew West. After that, it was daily walks to the tank (Texan for pond) and bumpers thrown in the yard for fun.

Once Dickendall arrived in Texas, Arnold was a housedog. He was treated like any of the other pets at Dickendall. He got petted as much as the Cattledogs and Border Terriers, the cats and the Conure. If Kendall could manage to pet the gold fish and peacocks, I'm sure she would. It's just that kind of a house...made of people whose life is livestock that they approach with good old fashioned commonsense, and an astonishing affection for all of them.

Arnold was never far from the kitchen, hoping to catch a treat from a family member or any of the constant visitors, many who would come just to see him in person. One notable occasion was during a Dallas Fort Worth Labrador Retriever Club Specialty. After the yearly show, everyone would converge on the ranch to see Kendall, sample her prime rib dinner and visit with the boys ... Ruffy, Arnold and Drifter. There was no telling how many would be there for dinner, how many would stay over night, or even who might appear. It never mattered to Kendall and Dick, but almost always the underlying reason for visits was to get a glimpse of Arnold. During one particular occasion, Mary Roseberry managed to get the "Three Amazing Guys" together for a picture; three bench champions, sire, son and grandson. During another visit, Arnold was dubbed "The King" by Ann Dee Yuric. She said going to Texas to see Arnold was like going to "Graceland" to see Elvis.

Pedigrees, although hopefully accurate on paper are only a small part of learning about each individual dog. Dogs seem to be better described either verbally or visually. If you are able to see important dogs in the flesh, that impression will never leave you. One accurate description passed along and perhaps caught occasionally in print leaves a lasting picture for those lucky enough to read such stories. It is a combination of all these impressions ... genealogy, photography and print that completes the picture.

Arnold left a lasting impression both personally and through his progeny. Although he was simply a black dog and Kendall and Dick's devoted companion with an endearing expression and gentle manner, he had the incredible ability to have been able to upgrade most of the bitches he was bred to. He was a masculine, thick dog; thick body, thick bone and thick coat. He was a strong, methodical mover with tight, round feet and wellarched and padded toes blending right into the pastern and leg. He was a little plain in head, but Arnold had the kindest of expressions. His solid old-fashioned temperament and beautiful outline were his trademarks. He never changed and at almost thirteen years of age, he still possessed the same outstanding characteristics.

The famous Am/Eng Sh Ch Receiver of Cranspire, Arnold's grandsire, was a Labrador who excelled in the breed points for head and coat. He had jet black pigment, was well

balanced, and a flawless mover with that great “show dog” attitude that we all wish for. He had a clean fit from neck into body with good spring of rib. Although he was a shade up-right in shoulder, he was an exceptional dog and a rarity in yellows.

Just as in the 80’s when you could easily identify a ring full of Receiver kids, the same was true of Arnold progeny in the 90’s with his easily recognizable, cookie-cutter outline. These extraordinary images of him are seen in his children (all black), grandchildren and great grandchildren who hold bench Championships, hunt test, field trial, obedience and agility awards and titles, as well as performing as guide dogs for the blind. Many of his get number among some of the most well known show Labradors in recent times. Regardless of the pedigree, outcross or linebreeding, Arnold was able to improve breeding stock at each opportunity.

One of Arnold’s early children, Ch Broad Reach Gripper, U.D., MH was an exceptional bitch bred by Martha Lee and Buddy Voshell. Martha Lee selected four puppy bitches from the litter; all miniature Arnold’s as youngsters. If not for Martha Lee’s keen interest in performance programs, there would have been little to separate them. However, Gripper had a tremendous desire to retrieve and I believe that was the overwhelming reason for keeping her. Although never a personal gundog, she was an enthusiastic and very successful hunt test competitor who went on to do equally as well in the obedience ring. Another from that same litter and owned by Larry Nichols was hunt test titled Broad Reach Shades, JH. To my knowledge, neither bitch was ever bred.

Another early success story was Ch Tabatha’s Kersey, WC bred by Carol Heidl and Carroll Downing with a Specialty Best In Sweepstakes, Winner’s Bitch and Best of Breed to her credit. Then, out of Carol’s impressive yellow, Ch Tabatha’s Valleywood Decoy, WC came what was to become another impressive sire, Ch Tabatha’s Drifter at Dickendall, JH along with three bitch champions, Tabatha Dazzle, WC (a top producer in her time), Tabatha Graemoor Dinah, WC and Tabatha Delectable. Out of other Tabatha bitches Arnold produced Specialty Best In Sweepstakes and Specialty Winner’s Bitch Canadian Ch Tabatha Mirth and Ch Tabatha’s Rollick At Carrowby, C.D., JH who was top winning Labrador in the country 1997 and 1998. Right behind him in the year end placings in the number two spot of ’97 was Ch Sunspots His Majesty, WC bred and owned by Lisa Keplar and Frances Davis.

Drifter, too, has been a prolific producer of outstanding stock in his own right, with many champion and performance titled children to his credit. He was Top Producer of the Year in 2001 according to Labrador Quarterly and when he was shown by Kendall in 1992, he was Winner’s Dog, Best of Winners and Best Opposite in Sweepstakes at

the Labrador Retriever Club National Specialty. Again in 1992 he was Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the Mid Jersey Labrador Retriever Club Specialty. He was Best Of Breed at the Labrador Retriever Club of the Piedmont in 1994 and 1995. In 1997 Lori Rudy took The Breed with him at the Boston Specialty. Drifter was a taller dog than his sire; nothing exaggerated, with that same undeniable Labrador temperament. Although he was a more moderately angled dog than his sire, he was able to pass his beautiful balance of leg to body on to his children. He was a powerful mover that literally floated around the ring with seemingly little effort. Drifter children number among some of the best.

Am/Can Ch Linray's Over The Top was a very successful black son of Drifter's. He was bred by Linda Schiele and owned by Jill Ickowski, Deborah Bielec and Marry Ellen Bittlinger of New York. Topper did some big winning including Best Of Breed at the Miami Valley LRC Specialty and then in 1998 BOB at both the Potomac Specialty and Westminster Kennel Club with his Drifter-like balance, outline and strong, sound moving side gait. He matured beautifully, maintaining a good topline and coat with just a bit of wave to it. From Topper came BISS Am/Can Ch Wiscoy's Noah who has continued to carry on Drifter's pedigree in some of Wiscoy's young stock.

Ridge View has successfully used Drifter to produce good size and balance in their yellows. Ch Ridge View Frosty The Snowman, C.D., JH was 1999 Westminster Kennel Club's BOB and Ch Ridge View Bugs Bunny was sire of the 2002 Westminster Kennel Club's Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex.

Linda Schiele's Ch Linray's Go Farr It is the result of her Balrion pedigree bred to Arnold. Farrit is a consistent Specialty winner including 1999 BOB at Potomac and 2001 BOB at the Dallas Fort Worth LRC Specialty. Linda has gone on successfully with her daughters, all typical Linray outlines of lovely shoulders, solid topline into tailsets, correct angles, athletic structure and strong movement. They have won the Breed at multiple regional Specialties under many different judges and continue to influence the breed with their own next generation.

Annie Cogo introduced Arnold into her pedigree back in the mid-90's. When she bred her Ch Windfall's Win Storm, JH (Ch Beechcrofts Citadel out of Ch Tabatha's Windfall Abbey) to him the results were remarkable; four champion children of which three were specialty winners, Ch Windfall's Drambuie Smuggler, Ch Windfall's Highlander, WC, Ch Windfall's Scotch Thistle and the lovely Ch Windfall's Black Piper, WC. Piper possesses beautiful breed type and is as close to being flawlessly made as one can imagine. She is compact, well boned and beautifully proportioned while maintaining a feminine appearance, lovely headpiece and typical Labrador coat. Her

beautiful neck and shoulders go into a strong, level topline with the tail going right off her back. Nine year old Piper is the top winning specialty bitch in the history of the breed and well deserving of that honor. With that breeding, Arnold brought what Annie had been hoping for; bone, balance and breadth of skull. From there, Annie went on to breed Piper to Ch. Hyspire Darktown Strutter, JH to produce Windfall's Pipe Major. Major is a well balanced, powerful looking male with lovely head, angles and topline. He is pointed and a specialty sweepstakes winner. Because of the success of their first breeding to Arnold, Stormy was bred to him two more times producing champions in both litters; Ch Windfall's Fortune Teller, Ch Windfall's Stormy Sky, WCX, JH and Ch Windfall's Fortune Cookie.

Lori Bentine, Tremont, is another who has successfully bred on from her first Arnold puppy in the early 1990's. Lori's line goes back to Ch Springfield's Dinorah purchased by Barb Reisig, Inselheim, from Diana Beckett. Photographs show her as an eye-catching, solid, old-fashioned yellow bitch. That line produced Ch Inselheim Just Jokin'who when bred to Arnold produced three champions: Ch Inselheim Pixie Dust, Ch Inselheim Ty Breaker, JH and Ch Inselheim Just Kidd'n, WC. Once again these lines have continued to produce successfully with Specialty winners, Best Puppy winners and hunt test titled get. Two black bitches are of note; Ch Inselheim No Kid'n at Tremont, a Just Kidd'n daughter, who was both Winners Bitch and Best of Breed at the Potomac Specialty in 2000 and 2001 respectively and her daughter, CH Tremonts Kid Gloves, is a third generation Arnold great-granddaughter who is also a two-time specialty winner as well.

Another Arnold son, Hawksmoor Webster bred by Kate Perry, was the first Labrador Retriever to be imported into Great Britain. It might not have happened if ... Kendall was preparing for her move to Texas when Kate called to breed a bitch to Arnold. I was walking into the house as Kate was walking out with a black dog at the end of the lead that looked a lot like Arnold. It was. Kendall had just given him to Kate to take home to breed to her Hawksmoor Raven's Flight as Kendall didn't have time to do the breeding herself. The result was four beautiful littermates that were retained, all to be producers for the future: Hawksmoor Webster, Ch Hawksmoor Wellington, Ch Hawksmoor Whisper Of The Wind and Hawksmoor Willow Warbler. This beautiful brood of Arnold puppies won several Sweepstakes and Specialties over the years. The Hawksmoor line goes back to New Zealand Ch Mascot Rayners Choice behind which is the great Balrion line. Kate has successfully combined her Balrion and Dickendall lines along with her own to continue to produce top specialty winners of the highest order. Their outlines have been consistent throughout the generations being clean, well bodied, strong moving Labradors. Hawksmoor Webster was the Top Sire in Great Britain in 1996 and Top Stud Dog in 1999 and 2001. When bred to Eng Sh Ch

Covetwood Elouise of Carpenny he produced GB & Int. Ch Norw/Swe/Fin UCh Ch Carpenny Walpole who also won a second in an Open Stake Field Trial as well as going BOB at Crufts 2000. For Kate, Wellington produced the Winner's Dog at Mid Jersey LRC Specialty in 1998 with Ch Hawksmoor Keswick and Reserve Winner's Dog at the same show was her Arnold grandson through Webster, Balrion Black Emissary. The following year, Kate's Arnold granddaughter through Wellington, Ch Hawksmoor Coriander, was Winner's Bitch at the same Specialty. In 2002, Kate once again repeated this incredible achievement by going Winner's Dog with her Webster son (Arnold grandson) Carpenny Will Do At Hawksmoor and Reserve Winner's Dog with her Wellington son (Arnold grandson) Hawksmoor Thundercloud at the LRC Potomac Specialty. And oh yes, Arnold did make it back to Willow Brook in time for the trip to Texas the following day.

Mike and Lenore Hamilton have two champion Arnold littermates in Ch Blackwing Sherman and Ch Blackwing Bramble. These dogs go back through their bitch line to the striking yellow, Ch Sandylands Radiance. Sherman was Winners Dog at both Shawnee Mission and Dallas Fort Worth LRC Specialties in recent years while his sister was Winners Bitch under Winnie Limbourne at Hoosier LRC and Best of Breed from the classes at the Dallas Fort Worth Specialty as well. Their depth of quality is typical. Blackwing Phoebe, a black Ch Hennings Mill Talimar Martin daughter and Arnold granddaughter through Bramble, carries a well balanced body with a clean outline and lovely neck into shoulders. These Labradors can not only compete successfully in the show ring but are also proficient gun dogs that hold up well in the flooded timbers and duck blinds of the serious duck hunting area of Arkansas.

Presently there are several young Arnold males at Dickendall. Dickendall Buckstone Zane, with his kind Arnold expression, square outline and great bone was BOB from the Bred By Exhibitor class at LRC of Greater Denver in 2001 under Tom Bradley. Littermates Puckett's Andre' at Dickendall, Ch Pucketts Armadilo at Dickendall and Am/Int'l Ch Puckett's Ms Alfie are Arnold children out of Puckett's Bunnie of Rosehill bred by Max Puckett. Digger, a strong looking, well made male was Winners Dog from the 6-9 month puppy dog class at the Shawnee Mission LRC Specialty in 2000, Winners Dog and Best Opposite in Sweepstakes at the 2001 LRC of the Piedmont Specialty and completed his bench Championship in April 2002. Alfie, who is owned by Max Puckett and Erin McClurg started out going Best In Sweepstakes at the Dallas Fort Worth LRC Specialty, picked up several Group Placements and ended 2002 as Number One Labrador Bitch in the US. Ch Dickendall Davaron Gable and Dickendall Davaron Grant are out of the beautiful English import Wolvercote Gaiety Girl going back to the prolific lines of Kimvalley as well as Sandylands through Bliss and Gad-About. She was bred by Jean Henwood.

Ch Dickendall Gable, “Clark”, finished his breed championship by going Winner’s Dog at three Specialties and has been used more in recent times than the others. He is producing some attractive youngsters who are already doing well in the ring. At the risk of sounding redundant, he is another masculine, well made black dog with all the Arnold trademark features on a larger frame. The depth of quality continues as the generations continue.

Different pedigrees, different countries, same results. Arnold was a producer of producers, plain and simple. That is what has made him the great dog that he will be remembered as. He is buried next to his sire, Ruffy, at Dickendall. In the fields nearby are his young sons who no doubt have a lot to live up to.

What a stroke of luck for me that I was able to know Arnold. First and foremost in his owners’ eyes he was a housedog and companion, but to the rest of us a housedog that just happened to be famous.

Faith Hyndman

Progeny Report Updated September 2017:

110 AKC Show Champions	49 Junior Hunter Titles
3 Show Champion/Master Hunter Titles	12 Senior Hunter Titles
1 4x Master National Qualifier	5 Master Hunter Titles
1 Obedience Trial Champion	16 Rally Titles
39 Companion Dog Titles	17 Agility Titles
14 Companion Dog Excellent Titles	1 Tracking Dog Title
6 Utility Titles	1 Therapy Dog Title
4 Utility Excellent Titles	Many Guide Dog & Arson Graduates
	Many Beloved Friends

Many thanks to all those mentioned for their memories. There are many more successful Arnold children and grandchildren in other parts of the world, but I am simply not familiar with them. Perhaps that will be a story for another person and another time.