

IN MEMORIUM

This past year has been a very sad & difficult one for the Wild Rose Retriever Club, as we suffered the loss of not one, but three, of our long time club members, Gordon & Marlene Benn in November 2019 and Barbara Karamouzis in March 2020

BARBIE KARAMOUZIS

This year saw us lose Barbie Karamouzis, beloved wife of Jimmy (the Greek) Karamousis. Never a trialer or competitor, Barbie loved the dogs - they were all stars, in her eyes - and she was always there, in rain, heat, blizzards... supporting the training group or trial event, ensuring that no one missed out on her wonderful baking - cookies, muffins, loaves - complete with take home bags for everyone. And of course making sure that Jimmy was handling "her dogs" correctly! ... sometimes requiring considerable restraint on her part!

She will be missed by all who knew her as an incredibly kind, generous, classy lady who was always there, with words of encouragement, willing to help and support the club and it's members.

THE BENN MEMORIAL TROPHY

Gord and Marlene Benn, two of the longest serving and founding members of our club, sadly passed away within days of one another.

Enthusiastic sportsmen & students of the retriever game they competed in field trials for many years with their much loved dogs Clem, Code, Reba, Herbie, George & Emmy.

Both were called on to judge, and to organize weekend trials & national events, not only here in Alberta but across the country and the continent...two of the most well-respected amateurs in Canadian field trials.

We will miss their enthusiasm, their guidance, their stories, Gord's gruff humour and Marlene's ever present smile (never bigger than when she titled Emmy at Stampede City last year, one of the last trials they would run together)

This year we will inaugurate the Gord and Marlene Benn Annual Memorial Trophy. Kindly donated by the Benn's daughters, Lesley & Krista, it depicts a handler, bumpers in hand, sending his dog on a retrieve. Originally given to Gord for judging the 2007 National Open at Iron Bridge, it will be repurposed as a reminder of the couples dedication to the sport we love so much. Gun's Up!

