

The First Word...

A number of you have emailed me about 'ol Jones and the beard. For a fellow who stayed pretty clean shaven most of his life why would he want to start looking like a Cuban dictator. Well it's no secret ol' Jones likes to eat, but the only workout he gets is running away from exercise. This has led to the acquisition of another chin which has dealt quite a blow to his ego. I would think it would be something of a challenge to look at that face every morning when shaving so it must be really hard when it is beginning to grow.

His good friend Dr. Phil (Morrisette III, not Oprah's buddy) told him he needed to spend some time at a local gym or YMCA. When ol' Jones said he was, Dr. Phil had to explain to him he was not there to watch girls exercise but to exercise to increase his heart rate. Ol' Jones said what the heck did the doctor think he was doing when watching girls exercise! That doctor has to be mighty patient with his patient.

Keep a leg up,
Luke



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With the Holiday Season coming up I know some of you will feel generous about sharing the turkey and dressing with your pets. And as much as they enjoy eating just about everything you put in front of them let me warn you about what you give your best buddies. Most of you have been informed about giving dogs chocolate, but please be careful about giving them super-rich food and food that has ingredients that are not good for them even though they may be begging for a taste!



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Clarke (and Luke's)
newsletter!

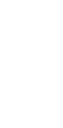
LUKE'S FUN TIME

Since Ol' Jones has taken up writing, his lifestyle has had to make a few adjustments. I try to help him by not only retrieving but also pointing out things that he can do that cost very little money and yet are different and entertaining.

On December 8th we are taking a drive to [Smithfield, VA](#) to see their annual Christmas Parade down historic Main Street. Call 757-357-5182 for information about the parade. Also ask about Breakfast with Santa, the 2nd annual Christmas Progressive Supper, and the Civil War Christmas at the "Old Fairgrounds".

Kinda gotta feeling to go someplace different? Ol' Jones and I went down to Cape Charles the other day just to look around. Now anybody can go in the summer but who wants to be where everybody else is? If you are a fisherman or duck hunter you probably know about Stingrays about 6 miles from the bridge but have you checked out the [Cape Charles Coffee House](#) on Mason Ave in Cape Charles for lunch? Say hello to Mrs. Romeo for me.

Keep a leg up,
Luke



Here's some fetching thoughts...



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Dear Luke,

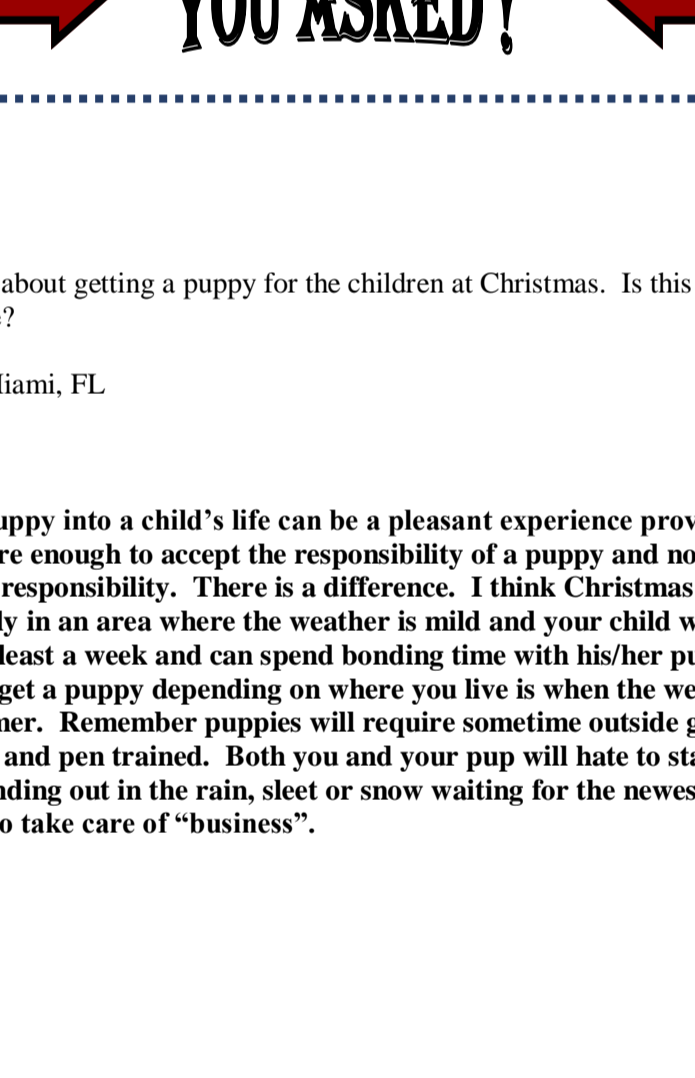
My husband who has just retired fell out of a tree stand while deer hunting and broke a leg and two ribs. It's lucky the old fool didn't kill himself. Now he's hanging around the house in a foul mood because he can't go hunting. What do you recommend that will keep him occupied and out of my hair?

Ophelia T. Summerville, West VA

Dear Ophelia,

I don't know what it is about you humans climbing trees to shoot a deer. You would think a man in his 60's would know by now that deer don't live in trees. Squirrels do, but they are hardly worth the effort of tree climbing. My suggestion is to get him a book by Gene Hill, Nash Buckingham, Havilah Babcock, Archibald Rutledge, or Robert Ruark. All these gentlemen were wonderful writers. Just click on the calendar on my [webpage](#) and it takes you to Amazon.com and you can order from there.

Keep a leg up,
Luke



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This time of year is when I earn my keep by taking ol' Jones hunting and there is nothing better than when I have hunted all day in the cold and wet than to come home and lay by a crackling fire and watch ol' Jones fall asleep.

Now to look at him or any room in his house you would not think ol' Jones as the fastidious type. But he really draws the line with a wet muddy dog shaking water all over his sheetrock. So after one of those days when I have been in the briars and weeds trying to find some pheasant ol' Jones has wing shot and is running like crazy to the next county, he takes me over to [Crittter Town Bathhouse](#) and gives me a good cleaning. Here you can wash your pet and they clean up the mess. They furnish the shampoo (I get the Lavender scented if I have a date or Flea & Ticker if it is summertime), towels, and blow dryers.

It's a lot of fun watching your dog friends taking showers together.

Keep a leg up,
Luke

YOU ASKED!

Dear Clarke,

I am thinking about getting a puppy for the children at Christmas. Is this a good time to give them one?

Bonnie W. Miami, FL

Dear Bonnie,

Bringing a puppy into a child's life can be a pleasant experience provided your child is mature enough to accept the responsibility of a puppy and not given to teach a child responsibility. There is a difference. I think Christmas can be a good time especially in an area where the weather is mild and your child will be out of school for at least a week and can spend bonding time with his/her pup. Another good time to get a puppy depending on where you live is when the weather starts turning warmer. Remember puppies will require sometime outside getting housebroken and pen trained. Both you and your pup will hate to start or finish your day standing out in the rain, sleet or snow waiting for the newest member of your family to take care of "business".

Go Well,
Clarke

Dear Clarke,

When is the best time to introduce your young retriever to water?

Mike T. Sioux Falls, SD

Dear Mike,

Always try to make anything you introduce to your pup a positive experience. So if you get a pup in the dead of winter I would wait until the weather and more importantly the water is WARM. One way to introduce your pup to water is by taking your training dummy that you are using on land and toss it about ankle (the dog's ankle) high into the water. When your retriever goes to get the dummy, most of the time he doesn't notice the water when bringing it back to you. Give him lots of praise and throw it just a little further in the water the next time and so on and continue with lots of praise. Stay close to the water's edge just to reassure your pup when he has to start swimming. Don't over do it. When your retriever has confidence in his swimming you won't be able to keep it out of the water.

Go Well,
Clarke

Dear Clarke,

My girlfriend loves bird hunting but her allergies act up when she is around a dog. Are there any hunting dogs you would recommend that will not affect her allergies?

James C. Charlottesville, VA

Dear James,

Unfortunately I can only report what I have heard about certain hunting breeds that may not create an outbreak of your girlfriend's allergies. Those breeds would be the Irish Water Spaniel, the German Wirehaired Pointer and the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. Further investigation into allergies and these breeds is warranted on your part.

Go Well,
Clarke



This is me at 9 weeks old!

Looking for dog friendly places in Richmond, pet treats, a vet? You might want to get a copy of the Richmond Area DOG BOOK [www.familydogdigest.com](#) or call (804) 539-6477. Tell 'em a good looking black Lab sent ya!

Keep a leg up,
Luke

The Last Word...

This is the best time of year if you own a bird dog or retriever or a clay shooter. Grouse, duck, pheasant, and quail seasons are coming in and the long hot summer is becoming a distant memory. This is a great time of year to introduce your significant other and family to shooting sports. An upcoming article in Virginia Wildlife Magazine, "Girls Gone Shooting", written by my favorite author, relates that despite all the bad press about guns, there has been an increase in female participation in shotgun sports over the past decade. This has been brought about through the realization by women that shooting, as one participant stated, is an "even" sport. One doesn't have to be particularly fast or strong to play. It hasn't hurt either that European clothing manufacturers such as Barbour, Musto, and [Really Wild Clothing](#), noticed this trend in the rise in the number of women shooters a few years ago and have started an aggressive marketing campaign geared towards women's apparel. If your bride or girlfriend shows up in an outfit seen in their catalogs you will be glad you are armed to keep the wolves away. So introduce your child or bride to something different by giving them a shooting lesson at a shooting range. If your family is what you love most who makes a better hunting partner?



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Go Well,
Clarke