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Board Members Info.PVIWC@gmail.com
Kathy Lewis, President, Newsletter Editor naturelady58@gmail.com
Susan Montgomery, Vice President, Rescue, Web Page pviwcweb@gmail.com
Christina Buckner, Treasurer pvtreasurer@pviwc.org pviwcshowsecretary@gmail.com
Susan Wine, Secretary pvsecretary@pviwc.org
Carole Silverthorne Breeder Referral carolesilverthorne@comcast.net
Linda King IWCA Liason
Joe Caballe
Judy Chantelois
Timo Gerlings

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



To everyone who helped make our Specialty Show a success. You are all amazing! Tammy and Christina, we couldn't have done it without all of your hard work, even when life outside of the show was difficult! Hugs to all.

My new puppy, Darcy Grace!



If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Kathy Lewis.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER continued

Orthopedic and Joint Issues

By The Irish Wolfhound Club of America

The growth rate of an Irish Wolfhound puppy is truly astounding. Not surprisingly, sometimes things go wrong. Many of these problems are caused or made worse by inappropriate diet. Too much calcium, for example, is linked to osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). Feeding too much is also linked to OCD and other disorders. Slow and consistent growth is desirable to try and avoid joint issues in a puppy. Click [here](#) to read the article entitled "[How Much Exercise Is Appropriate For a Young IW?](#)" from Harp & Hound by Mel Mercer, DVM, CCRT. Your breeder and veterinarian are excellent resources to help you manage your puppy's growth.

Bursas

Bursas (or hygromas) are benign fluid-filled sacs around a joint. They are most commonly seen on elbows, but can occur around other joints. No one is completely sure why they occur, but it may be related to growing puppies flinging themselves onto hard surfaces such that the body forms a fluid cushion to protect the joint. They are unsightly, but don't hurt the dog and eventually go away on their own. Surgery to drain or remove the bursa is not recommended, as complications like infections are possible, and often the body simply regrows the hygroma, anyway. Patience is required on the part of the owner!

Hip and Elbow Dysplasia

Like many other breeds of dogs, IWs can have hip or elbow dysplasia, which can lead to lameness. However, the incidence in the breed is low. Since both are believed to have a genetic component, the IWCA recommends that all adult IWs be tested for dysplasia. Testing consists of

xrays of the hips and elbows. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals registers test results and has a database where you can [search for individual dogs or list all Irish Wolfhounds](#) in their database.

Panosteitis

Panosteitis is a poorly understood disorder resulting in pain and lameness in puppies 6-18 months of age. It can be thought of as literal "growing pains." Often symptoms come and go in several weeks-long episodes. Xrays can confirm the condition. Ultimately, the puppy will grow out of the condition with no permanent effects. Pain should be managed and activity restricted when symptoms appear.

Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD)

HOD occurs in younger puppies (3-6 months of age) and results in lameness and pain. The growth plates swell, the puppy can be lethargic and uninterested in food, and there is often a fever. Diagnosis is via xray. Like other puppy joint disorders, HOD can be episodic and will eventually be outgrown, although there can be lasting damage to the bones if there have been enough incidents. Pain management, restricted exercise, and a balanced diet aimed at slow, steady growth are important in treating this condition.

Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD)

OCD is a disease of the cartilage rather than the bones, and typically appears between the ages of 4 and 10 months. Cartilage pieces in the joint cause pain and lameness and may damage the growing bone. It can be treated conservatively with strict rest, pain medicine and a slow growth diet. In extreme cases, surgery to remove the cartilage pieces may be required.

Rear-End Weakness

About 20% of senior IWs (those 8 or older) experience a gradual weakening in the rear, to the point that they are eventually unable to use their back legs. There is no known single cause. Possibilities that should be investigated include arthritis, myasthenia gravis, degenerative myelopathy, and spondylosis. In addition to treatment for any cause that is discovered,

alternative therapies such as acupuncture may be beneficial in reducing pain and regaining function.

Alexandria Parade



Gastrointestinal Problems

By The Irish Wolfhound Club of America

Bloat and Torsion

By far the most common GI problem in Irish Wolfhounds is bloat and/or torsion, also known as gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV). GDV can be fatal even if treated, since it causes so much trauma to the body. When a dog bloats, the stomach expands and may twist over (torsion), immediately cutting off blood flow above and below the stomach. The dog is in a great deal of pain, tissue damage is occurring, the dog can quickly go into shock, and it is critical to get to a veterinarian as quickly as possible. All Irish Wolfhound owners should familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of this condition. This [GDV Quick Reference Guide](#) is a good place to start.

Megaesophagus

Another condition which occurs in Irish Wolfhounds is called megaesophagus. The esophagus fails to properly push food down to the stomach, sometimes forming a pouch where food collects. The dog often regurgitates the food which is stuck in the esophagus. In addition to affecting the dog's intake of nutrients, megaesophagus can allow the food to be inhaled and cause aspiration pneumonia.

Megaesophagus can be congenital or may be acquired, as, for example, when a dog repeatedly swallows inappropriate objects like sticks and stones and damages the esophagus. In puppies there will be a failure to thrive since the puppy is not digesting adequate amounts of food.

Treatment is aimed at getting the food into the stomach. It can include mashing the dog's food into a gruel-like consistency, feeding the dog on an elevated place like a set of stairs, and keeping the dog at an angle where the head is higher than the stomach (again, stairs would work) for some period of time after eating. Surgical correction is possible in some cases.

A condition that presents similar symptoms to Megaesophagus is GOLPP (Geriatric Onset Laryngeal Paralysis Polyneuropathy), formerly known as idiopathic laryngeal paralysis. Further information can be found through Michigan State University's [GOLPP Study Group](#).

Gastric Dilatation (Bloat)

From The Irish Wolfhound Asso. Of America by C. A. Krowzack, DVM

Most owners who have had sighthounds for a while are familiar with bloat. For those owners who are not, and for those who have not had this horrendous experience, I am going to give a brief explanation.

Bloat is an accumulation of gas and fluid in the stomach to the point the stomach is grossly distended and extremely painful. No single cause has been definitively implicated in bloat. Theories include dietary imbalances or maldigestions, bacterial infections and neurologic abnormalities. Dogs with deep chests (all sighthounds) seem to bloat more often, however it does occur in other breeds. Most researchers agree that individual dogs who gulp air (aerophagia), eat very quickly, or seldom belch are at higher risk of bloat.

Whatever the initiating cause, air accumulates in the stomach, distending it. The enlarged stomach presses forward on the diaphragm causing the dog to breath in short rapid breaths. As the distention continues, the pressure obstructs local, then regional blood vessels, impeding circulation. The dog's gums become pale, then gray to bluish, indicating shock. The stagnant blood absorbs toxins from the deteriorating stomach and, in a worsening cascade of events, the dog goes into endotoxemic shock (similar to toxic shock syndrome). Once a dog reaches this point he is unlikely to survive.

A complicating factor is volvulus (torsion), or twisting of the stomach. The spleen is connected by blood vessels to the greater curvature of the stomach. As the distention of the stomach increases and impedes blood

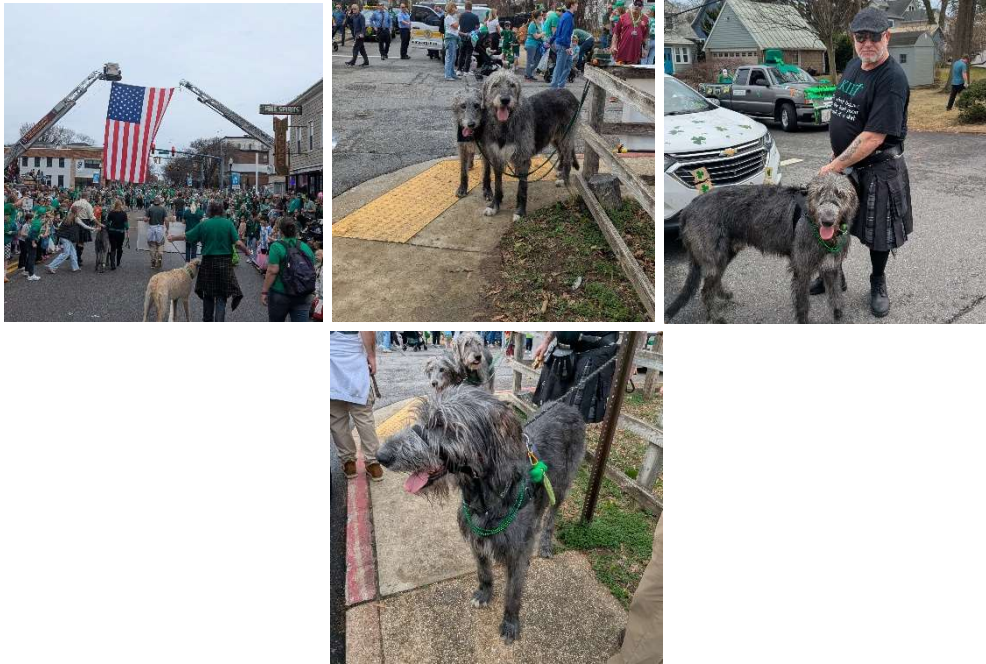
flow to and from the spleen, the spleen becomes engorged and heavy. It is thought this abnormally heavy spleen pulls the stomach down and around until it is twisted upon itself ninety to one hundred and eighty degrees. Volvulus dramatically shortens the sequence of events from normal to dead dog.

Early signs of bloat (with or without volvulus) are restlessness, panting, inability to lie down comfortably and gulping. As it progresses the distension of the abdomen behind the ribs becomes more noticeable. The dog may whine or whimper and look back at his flank, like a horse with colic. He will have nonproductive wretching which can be described as sounding like: "ga-a-ack." If you touch the abdomen, it is hard and if you thump on it with a finger it sounds like a drum. The gums are pale (occasionally initially they are deep red with congested blood). Without immediate veterinary care the dog will become weak, lethargic and eventually nonresponsive. Breathing becomes more labored. The gums turn bluish gray and he becomes comatose. Death follows quickly.

What do you do? Most importantly become aware and learn the early signs. Feed your dog two small meals rather than one large meal. Learn the [bloat points](#), and use them on the way to the veterinary clinic. Call your veterinarian and get there IMMEDIATELY. It is better to be wrong with a live dog than ignore signs and have a dead dog. Dogs with bloat need immediate and intensive treatment if they are to have a chance to survive. I hope you never have a dog bloat, for it is a terrible experience. Remember: an alert aware owner and immediate care does make the difference between life and death.

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Annapolis Parade



Bloat Acupressure Point - IT SIMPLY WORKS!

by C.A. Krowzack, DVM

In February of 1998, the Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association (GLIWA) held their annual meeting. The meeting is an occasion for fellowship of the members; the club attends to business and hosts a speaker on a special topic. In the past it has been obedience, therapy dog training, and this year the topic was acupuncture.

Dr. Debbie Mitchell gave an overview of what acupuncture is, its history and its medical uses. Then, using a member's dog, showed the participants several acupuncture/acupressure points that they could utilize. One point was to stimulate gastrointestinal motility to combat bloat.

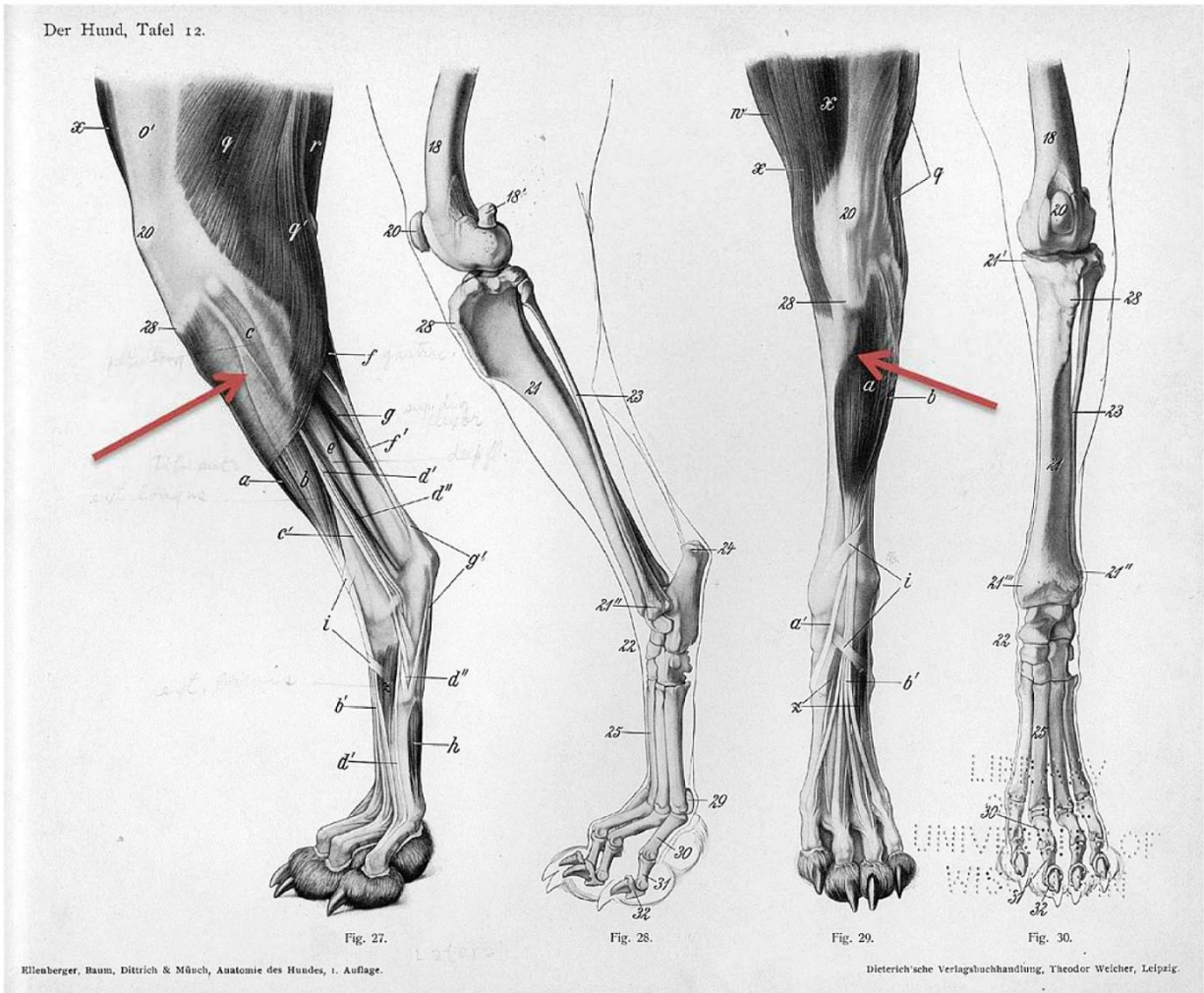
This week at my clinic, a GLIWA member brought her wolfhound in for an examination.



Chris Krowczak demonstrating the bloat pressure point

During the night Quinn had begun experiencing discomfort. He sleeps in the bedroom with his owners. The husband had worked a long day and was asleep, but the wife was awakened by the restless behavior of Quinn. When she petted him, she found his abdomen severely enlarged and hard to the touch. She knew it was bloat but didn't know what to do. She is a small woman, and Quinn a large dog. She remembered the acupuncture point Dr. Mitchell had shown and began massaging it. Within a few minutes, Quinn began passing "a lot of gas" and his abdomen became smaller and softer. The husband and wife brought Quinn in the next morning to make sure he was all right, and because he had diarrhea.

On examination, Quinn was completely normal. He was not experiencing discomfort upon palpation, and no abnormalities beside the diarrhea could be found. Because she remembered the acupuncture point, the wife had saved Quinn's life.



Permission granted for use by the University of Wisconsin

The acupressure point is on the hind leg. If you start at the hock, on the front of the leg (anterior) you can feel the tibia. Move your hand up the leg along the tibia's sharp crest; what in humans would be called the shin. As your hand approaches the stifle, or the "knee" the crest becomes very pronounced and then curls around to the outside (laterally). Just inside this curve is a depression. The acupressure point is in this depression. An acupuncturist might insert a needle into this spot, or inject a liquid, but, as Quinn's owners will attest, massaging also stimulates the point. The gastrointestinal tract starts to contract and move (peristalsis) and expels the built-up gas before torsion can occur. If torsion has occurred, massaging the spot will not help.

I don't recommend this procedure instead of veterinary treatment, but begun early, or on the way for veterinary treatment, can save your hound's life!

*This article is provided with the kind permission of the Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association and Chris A. Krowzack, DVM
Originally published 1998*

Judy's New Puppies

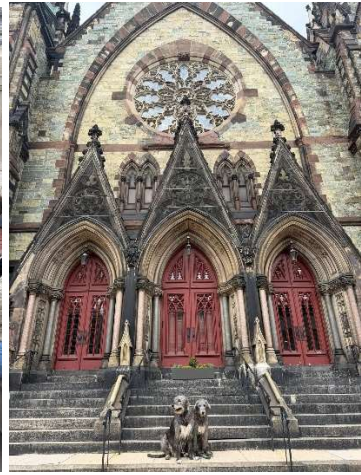


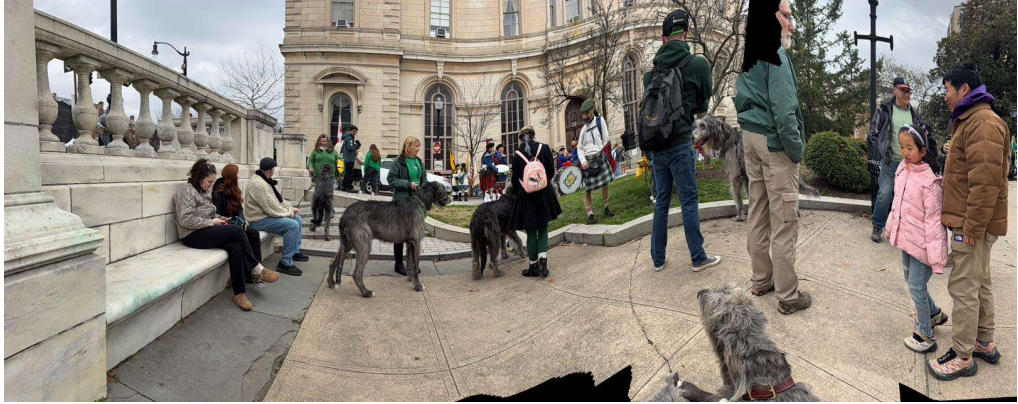
Lyra



Aowen

Baltimore Parade





Harrisburg Parade



Never Fail Scones

Ingredients:

4 C self-rising flour

1 ¼ C + 1-2 T thickened cream

1 can of Lemonade (closer to 10.14 oz Or a little more than 1 ¼ C)

Method:

1. Add SR flour to a bowl and make a well in the middle. Add cream and lemonade.
2. Mix well and make a dough. Roll out dough (add flour to surface beforehand) until no more than 2cm thick.
3. Cut out with scone cutter and brush with milk once settled in pan.
4. Bake approx. 20mins in moderate oven or until golden colored.
5. Serve with cream and jam. Enjoy!

Baked Brie

Yield is one round of brie; recipe can be doubled for a party.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Ingredients:

1 8-10 oz wheel of brie	¾ t fresh rosemary
½ C fruit preserves of your choice	¼ t crushed red pepper (optional)
¼ C chopped pecans	Crackers or baguette slices
Extra sprig of fresh rosemary for garnish	

Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

Toast pecans at 350 degrees for 5-10 minutes. Remove and set aside.

Unwrap brie, trim and discard rind from the top of the wheel. Place brie in an oven safe dish and put onto baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

While brie is baking, mix preserves and spices. Place on brie and continue baking for another 10 minutes or until brie is melty. Remove from oven.

Sprinkle brie with pecans and rosemary garnish.

Serve with crackers or baguette slices.

Mordu in NY City for Tullamore Dew



Ellicott City Irish Festival





Joe and Eileen's New Puppy, Fennel



Susan's New Puppy, Merida



Body Condition System

1 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.



2 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.



3 Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

4 Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

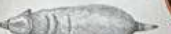


5 Ribs palpable, without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

6 Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.



7 Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.



8 Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9 Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



TOO THIN

IDEAL

TOO HEAVY

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina PetCare Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications: Mawby D, Bartges JW, Mayers T et. al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client-owned dogs. *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70 Laflamme DP. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System of Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22: 10-15 Kealy, et. al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 220: 1315-13203.

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Bah Humbug To Easter from Wolfhound Poetry by Philip Santilhano



Bah humbug to this Easter thing
It really is no fun
no roasted ham they're going to bring
we can't eat hot cross bun
They say that chocolate's poisonous
and will not share a piece
What would make Easter nice for us
a Christmas turkey feast!
Dougal [D.Lit]

(Dad's note: Happy Easter from all of us. Please stay safe and keep your hounds away from the Easter goodies.)

Specialty Show Candid Shots









PVIWC List of Meeting & Events 2026

January 11	Regular Meeting
January 24	<i>Irish Wolfhound Association of Lake Erie Specialty Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA</i>
February 8	Regular Meeting
March 2026	<u>St. Patrick's Day Parades</u>
• March 7	Alexandria, VA
• March 8	Annapolis, MD
• March 14	Manassas, VA
• March 14	Gaithersburg, MD
• March 15	Baltimore, MD
• March 21	Harrisburg, PA
March 8 & 9	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Carolinas Specialty Durham Kennel Club, 7318 Guess Road, Durham NC</i>
March 14	Westminster Celtic Center
March TBD	<i>Ellicott City Historic Downtown</i>
March 29 & 30	<i>Specialty Harford County Equestrian Center, Bel Air, MD (Meeting Following Judging)</i>
April 17 & 18	Dills Celtic Festival, Dills Tavern, 237 Baltimore St, Dillsburg, PA
April TBD	<i>Southern MD Celtic Festival</i>
May 28 & 29	Annapolis Irish Festival, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Crownsville, MD
May 2 & 3	Faerie Festival Marshy Point Rocky Point Park in Baltimore County, MD. 2200 Rocky Point Rd, Essex
May 17	Show Wrap Up Meeting
May 18-21	<i>IWCA National Specialty Purina Farms St Louis, MO</i>
June 13 & 14	Carroll County Celtic Festival, Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, MD
June 21	Regular Meeting
June 20	Penn Mar Irish Festival, Shrewsbury, PA
June	<i>Celtic Fling (with a concert on Friday night) PA Renn Faire grounds</i>
August 9	Regular Meeting
September 13	Fun Day
September	<i>PA Renn Faire Shamrocks and Shenanigans Weekend</i>
October	<i>Irish Wolfhound Assoc of the Delaware Valley Specialty</i>
October 18	Regular Meeting
November 13, 14 & 15	Maryland Irish Festival, Timonium, MD
November 15	Regular Meeting
December 13	Holiday Party
December	<i>Druid Hill Winter Solstice 5Miler, Baltimore, MD</i>
December	<i>Military Bowl Parade, Annapolis, MD</i>

Dates, Time, or location to be determined and subject to change on some events.

Need Volunteers to Host meetings.

