



# GPA Communiqué

## A Few Words From Rory.....

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In the last issue of the communiqué I wrote about the process that I call the soul awakening. This issue I would like to share some insight with you on a metric I use to determine if the process is alive and well.

Several times each year, I'm privileged enough to receive various forms of communication from parties who were turned down for a greyhound. These forms of communications always have 4 distinct areas.

They always share how disappointed they are that they didn't get a greyhound, understandable, I'd be disappointed too.

Next they feel they must convey how dog savvy they are. This section always tickles me. In an attempt to tell me about how dog smart they are, 50% always end up confessing that they had a dog that they gave away to a family member, shelter, 25% state that they put a healthy young dog down, another 25% say they had a dog, but are not sure where the dog is at and about 25% say the current pet is not fixed and do not plan to because they see no need to have the dog fixed. About 50% must mention that a previous spouse worked at a shelter. They never explain why the dog was turned in, put down, or how much time they spent looking for the lost dog.

Then the third item they feel they must fess up to is that they fell in love with a certain greyhound at a meet and greet or noticed the grey-

hound for them being taken off the trailer. They then go on about how upset they are that the dog they wanted and determined is the dog for them was not available or not recommended for them. They always tell me that they have done their research, and I'll be honest, I'm still trying to find that book or web site that explains how to be a one minute wonder in selecting the right greyhound for your home.

The fourth and final area they feel they need to share with me is that greyhounds are being killed and how dare we not give them a greyhound?

Generally - by this time I'm a little red in the ears and this is the time that I have to use a little technique that Lou Batdorf shared with me. It is called therapeutic e-mail. I disconnect my system from any outside line and write a response, then delete it. It helps and typically by the time I'm done my ears are back to normal color and I can now write and send a proper response.

Well, you might think I'm tired of these communications, on the contrary—they tell me you are doing a great job and are looking out for the greyhound's best interest. I would be worried if these forms of communications stopped.

Keep them coming, because I know that if I'm receiving them, you're doing right by the greyhounds and I'm perfectly ok with that.

Rory Goree  
President GPA National

## GPA Chapter Adoption Statistics 2002 and 2003

CHAPTER	Dogs Placed First Time 2003	Dogs Processed 2003	Sent to Other Chapters 2003	Sent to Other Agencies 2003	2003 TOTAL	Dogs Placed First Time 2002	Other Agencies 2002	2002 Total
Northern Alabama	No Data					242	0	242
Arizona	103	106	0	36	139	72	33	105
CA-Orange County & Greater LA	223	197	56	22	301	163	8	171
Greyhound Adoptions CA	48	48	1	0	49			
Central FL	70	98	146	309	525	60	279	339
FL-Daytona Beach	38	44	221	192	451	40	234	274
FL-Southeast Coast	39	49	0	10	49	64	0	64
FL-Largo	154	181	11	0	165	179	0	179
FL-Greater Orlando	124	188	0	220	344	204	226	430
FL-Emerald Coast	82	105	63	120	265	68	146	214
Atlanta SEGA	156	173	223	3	382	184	0	184
Indiana	85	89	0	0	85	108	0	108
Indianapolis, IN	121	156	0	0	121	152	0	152
Midwest	No Data					29	0	29
Kansas TLC	178	178	0	34	212	186	62	248
Louisville	30	36	0	0	30			
Louisiana	101	125	0	0	101	120	0	120
Maryland	152	196	0	0	152	101	0	101
Massachusetts	24	24	0	0	24	30	0	30
Michigan	38	48	0	0	38	45	0	45
Minnesota	77	83	0	0	77	70	0	70
Springfield MO	70	70	0	7	77	60	3	63
Rocky Mountain	27	39	0	0	27	35	0	35
Southern Nevada	23	25	0	0	23	28	0	28
Central New Hampshire	59	71	0	0	59	45	0	45
Western New York	21	21	0	0	21	71	0	71
Wheeling Downs	33	62	63	35	131	31	8	39
Oklahoma	20	20	0	0	20	24	0	24
CenOK	40	45	3	0	43			
Northwest	125	189	0	0	189	128	0	128
S.Carolina	45	47	1	0	46	43	0	43
Knoxville TN	27	29	0	0	27	50	0	50
Nashville TN	62	78	0	1	63	53	0	53
Central Texas	72	72	0	0	72	91	0	91
Houston	135	200	0	0	135	192	0	192
Ohio	26	27	0	1	27			
Richmond VA	27	36	0	0	27	37	0	37
Northern VA	65	65	0	0	65	38	0	38
Emerald Pacific	57	63	0	0	57	29	0	29
Wisconsin	92	101	0	0	92	127	0	127
<b>SUB CHAPTERS</b>					0			
Charleston/ Low Country	1	1	0	0	1			
Steel City PA	44	44	0	0	44	12	0	
Wichita	No Data							
Tri-State	10	11	0	0	10			
New Mexico	3	3	0	0	6			
					0			
<b>TOTALS</b>	2802	3254	788	990	4580	3211	999	4198

**Average Return Rate 2003      16%**

## **Paws Across the Pond Update GPA/Central Texas Austin, Texas**

By Pam Cook

On March 26, we received an enthusiastic message from Nuria Blanco de Andres: "I have just received this evening the microchip reader!!!!" The culmination of this weeks-long project warmed our hearts enormously. As a newbie in the Paws project, I was thrilled to receive her note and photos, in which we could see so clearly the results of our collaboration.

GPA/CT's relationship with Nuria and *Amigos de los Galgos* in Madrid began last year with the collection of coats, collars, and other goods for the galgos. In 2004, Nuria mentioned the long trek to the vet necessary to check incoming dogs for microchip identification. Last spring, for example, *Amigos* was called when several galgos were deliberately released by a van driver in downtown Madrid. Nuria and her crew not only caught many of the dogs but had to transport them 20 miles in city traffic to check for chips. She wondered whether it might be possible to have a small scanner.

Because European chips differ from ours, we embarked on research that led us to a dozen websites, two manufacturers, a Spanish vet, and a distributor in Indiana. Once we'd identified a product that would work, we posted a message to our membership, requesting donations for a "pocket-size" Destron-Fearing microchip scanner usable with ISO-compliant microchips in Spain. Our members rose to the occasion, donating over \$300 in increments large and small to

cover the reader plus express shipping. When it arrived at my home on a stormy Austin day, I scanned one of my dogs—success!—and headed to the Federal Express station across town. Packed in a Fed Ex box cushioned by rolls of pet bandages, the reader began its journey.

Less than forty-eight hours later, the reader was in Nuria's hands. "It will be very useful for our work in gypsy and scrapedealers settlements," she wrote, "where we meet many strayed dogs and also in the middle of the metropolitan city." She scanned Rosana (shown wearing a GIN-donated coat), a recent rescue recovering at Nuria's home after spay surgery.

GPA/CT also collected funds for allopurinol and held a "Greenie buy" that, in part, benefited *Amigos de los Galgos*. (This fundraiser offers members the chance to purchase bulk boxes of the popular treat at reduced cost—and nonetheless makes money for the group.) Finally, we printed in our March newsletter an article Nuria wrote about efforts in Madrid. While our work in Texas remains our top priority, we're privileged to assist Nuria and her group in changing the plight of the Spanish galgos, whose spirits span both oceans and cultures.



## **Update from Anne Finch Greyhounds in Need**

Hello All! ...  
Spring is upon us and the silly season starts again of the 'perpetual mobile' of fundraising events. You all know I'm sure that terrible feeling at 6.00am on Sat/Sun morning when you drag yourself out of your pit and load up the car with posters, boards, tables, boxes, newsletters and bleary eyed dogs plunked on top of it all, and have to head off, map in hand, to some godforsaken field somewhere where some kind soul fell for our sorry 'publicity' pics of suffering galgos in Spain and secured a plot for us to 'sell our wares' (maybe there is a more lucrative way...)  
We can't and don't allow any opportunity to be lost. The costs of the work in Spain for the number of dogs we are covering, are so huge.... We go for them all!.. even if it kills us...Sad thing is, it always seems to fall on the same dedicated few..... Bet you have the same prob.... Anyway- just wanted to tell you how very much appreciated your goodies are and will be this season.....We had a two day event this last weekend and got ourselves just about \$1500. Things that sell well are; The American collars!!!( We even overheard our ' non- doggy' treasurer managing to sell one of your collars to someone who didnt even have a dog..... on the grounds that these were unique and American!"), Bobbie's boys, calendars, books, fridge magnets, the pink/beige pajamas, the greyhound pens, T- shirts, Stickers, notelets( especially those 'Thank you' ones) , tote and other bags, . Probably other things that I cant think of at the moment... but we did do well.

Anne

## Upcoming Greyhound Events

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
GGPA Central New Hampshire Greyhound Benefit Dinner	April 24	Manchester, New Hampshire	1 800 507-9597
Greyhound Gathering Kanab 2004	April 30 May 1-2	Kanab, Utah	<a href="http://www.greyhoundgang.org">www.greyhoundgang.org</a>
GPA Richmond Spring Picnic	May 2	Hidden Rock Park, Goochland, VA	<a href="mailto:gpa@greyhoundsvirginia.com">gpa@greyhoundsvirginia.com</a>
3rd Annual Verde Valley Spring Picnic	May 15	Cottonwood Riverfront Park, Arizona	<a href="mailto:monica@gpa-az.com">monica@gpa-az.com</a>
14th Annual GPA/MD., Inc. Greyhound Reunion	May 16	Oregon Ridge Park in Hunt Valley, Maryland	Call 410-744-4542 for information
GPA Orange County GreaterLA Annual Picnic	June 5	La Habra Heights Park, La Habra, CA	<a href="mailto:president@fastfriends.org">president@fastfriends.org</a>
GPA Springfield Picnic	June 5	Springfield, Mo	<a href="mailto:alane@gpamo.com">alane@gpamo.com</a>
Greyhound America 2004	June 10-13	Abilene, KS	<a href="http://www.racethewind.org">www.racethewind.org</a>
Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering	June 25-27	Benton Harbor/St. Joseph, Michigan	<a href="http://www.glgg.org">http://www.glgg.org</a>
Retired Racers Reunion 2004 Multnomah Greyhound Park	June 26	Multnomah Greyhound Park	<a href="mailto:bwschoepf@aol.com">bwschoepf@aol.com</a>
National Greyhound Adoption Conference	September 17-19	Richmond, VA	<a href="http://www.greyhoundpets.org">www.greyhoundpets.org</a>

## ***A Dog of Inspiration by Claire Tyler***



***This is a unique story about a greyhound that Dennis & Claire Tyler From GPA Central Florida had the privilege to Foster.***

Nothing in her racing lines indicated a promising career. They do show Sydney got into a lot of trouble. Comments like "collided first turn" and "knocked back" show up several times. From what is posted on Rosnet2000, Sydney started out in Wichita, Kansas in February 2003. She made it to Florida and raced at Flagler, Sanford and then finally made it to Melbourne in October.

On December 3, Sydney managed to break her right front leg and marked the 12<sup>th</sup> greyhound to have sustained a severe injury since the start of the racing season, November 7. The vet put a temporary splint on Sydney and she was brought into the GPA Adoption Kennel. She had a lot of personality and won everyone's

heart. In spite of it being awkward to maneuver with a front leg splinted, Sydney was quite agile and quickly adapted. When she went to the vet for x-rays and assessment, it was obvious that the break was severe. After our vet conferred with a specialist, it was decided that our only viable option was to remove the leg.

When Dennis and I discussed it, all I could think about was "We have trouble finding places for all the four legged greys; how were we going to place a three legged one." Dennis was confident that there would be someone who would want her. Dennis brought Sydney to our house to recoup and I got to meet her. What a neat grey!! Nothing got her down.

Sydney adapted quickly to being a tripod. She was absolutely amazing. She loved lying on her back and would get into some rather interesting positions. When she walked around the house, it appeared laborious. However, when she ran in the back yard, she sprinted with ease. She literally flew around the yard and delighted in chasing squirrels. In a few weeks, she was insisting on going for a walk. She pulled all the way and delighted in chasing a squirrel or two up a tree. In the blink of an eye, she would have her one front paw stretched up mid-tree as she searched for that squirrel. She did not know she had a handicap.

We posted Sydney on our website:

[www.floridagreyhounds.com](http://www.floridagreyhounds.com)

and told several of our friends in adoption groups in the eastern US of our tripod greyhound. One friend, Bob Checkanek with South Carolina Greyhound Adoption Program posted her on his website. One thing led to another and Karen Hendley from Mount Vernon Ohio contacted us about adoption.

This was going to be a very special placement. Karen Hendley was a very interesting lady with a unique job. Her work was involved with children who were disabled. Some disabilities were due to the loss of a limb. She was interested in working with Sydney to be a Therapy dog. Sydney's determination and ability to adapt would be an inspiration for the children who were in recovery.

Arrangements were made with Barbara Fields, Central Ohio Greyhound Rescue to do a home visit and she agreed to oversee the adoption. Sydney was slated to be on our April 3<sup>rd</sup> shipment up the east coast. Dennis and I loaded Sydney on the trailer. Both of us had tears in our eyes as we hugged her. After being at our house for more than 10 weeks, we had become quite fond of her. The hardest part of being a Foster is letting go but just knowing that this exceptional greyhound was now going onto a career as an ambassador made it all worthwhile. In retirement, she will be a "**Super Star**" and a "**True Inspiration**".

*Have your own story of inspirations to share? Please send them to [communiqué@greyhoundpets.org](mailto:communiqué@greyhoundpets.org)*

## Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund

Our newest recipients.

**Einstein**  
GPA Springfield



Last October, Einstein broke a hock at the Woodlands Greyhound Track in Kansas City. His surgery was \$516. A trainer at the Woodlands (Einstein was not in his kennel) volunteered to rehab and foster Einstein for free. Einstein was there 3 months and he arrived at GPA Springfield in February. Einstein's registered name is Seen It Before. He is a sweet sweet boy. Einstein was adopted by the Blauvelt Family of Springfield, MO on March 3rd.

*Grant applications for the Emily Griffin Memorial Fund are available at the GPA National Website [www.greyhoundpets.org](http://www.greyhoundpets.org). For more information contact [vp@greyhoundpets.org](mailto:vp@greyhoundpets.org).*

**Dharma**  
GPA Central Florid



GPA Central Florida applied for funds from the Emily Griffin Memorial Fund for a greyhound named Dharma. She is a 4 year old brindle female and weighs in at 58 pounds. Dharma was the 26th greyhound to suffer a break during this racing season at the Melbourne Greyhound Park. Up until now GPA Central Florida had managed to take care of the vet bills involved; however, Dharma had such a bad break that they were referred to an Animal Specialty Hospital. The cost for repair was over \$1700. GPA Central Florida feels very fortunate to have been able to apply for the grant to help cover the Veterinary expenses.

## GPA National Position Available

Public Relations

The GPA National Officers are in search of:  
GPA National Public Relations Director. reports to the President of the corporation.

The official duties of this director are:

- Attempt to acquire favorable news coverage for GPA
- Work toward finding national advertising
- Write press releases
- Work with chapters on local PR campaigns
- Work with the President and Corresponding Secretary to dispel any adverse publicity received by GPA.

Expected time  
5-10 hours a week.

\*This is not a dollar paid position, PR person will be responsible for their long distant phone call expenses.

If interested please contact  
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## Don't Forget...May is Adopt a Senior Month



Jennifer 10 years old  
GPA Emerald Coast

Siren 11 years old  
GPA Atlanta



Abby 7 years old  
GPA NM



Kandi 10 years old  
GPA Indiana



Lizzie 12 years old  
GPA Houston

## Aggression and Who Decides by Lee Livingood

I'm never sure what makes me crazier.

There are the folks in adoption groups who know of a dog that is exhibiting aggressive behavior but are in denial. Sometimes the denial is because of a lack of knowledge. The two or three year old dog that is using his mouth inappropriately is rarely identified as "aggressive" because the adopter or group doesn't recognize what they are seeing. They think the dog is "playing" when he is mouthing a hand or a leash as a way of objecting to control. With Greyhounds, this is frequently, "Oh, it's not aggression. He was sleeping and I startled him." Hello. When a dog growls or snaps he is warning you.

Or they assume the adopter is exaggerating, didn't understand what she was seeing, or that there was some valid reason for the aggressive behavior. Couldn't really be aggression.

Unfortunately untreated aggressive behavior is a skill that virtually always gets "better" with practice--that is the dog exhibits the aggressive response sooner and escalates his level of aggression to a more serious level. What started as a stare/freeze eventually becomes a snap and later a bite. Makes me nuts.

And equally crazy-making are the folks who, even though totally unqualified, throw a label on a dog that virtually assures he can not be adopted. Aggressive behavior can take lots of forms and have lots of levels. Some aggressive behaviors are highly treatable and others are

virtually untreatable. Many times the dog is labeled without any first hand knowledge of the incident, or worse the label is attached by someone with insufficient training or experience to make such a diagnosis. Without an in-depth understanding of aggressive behavior and dog behavior in general, it is unfair if not downright unconscionable to label a dog as aggressive.

Labeling a dog vicious or aggressive is not something that should be done without appropriate evaluation by a qualified professional. The dog's future, if not his very life, is at stake. It certainly isn't something to be done lightly or without regard for the consequences. All too often however, once there is an incident, it becomes the fodder for untold gossip and Monday morning quarterbacking. And the dog ends up the loser. Once the label is attached every thing the dog does becomes suspect. An otherwise reasonable behavior is viewed differently when this dog does it.

If your group is facing a situation with a dog that has reportedly shown aggressive behavior, before you take another step, consult with a qualified behavior counselor--not a dog trainer. Let's talk about the differences.

Anyone can call himself a dog trainer or a behaviorist. That doesn't mean he's at all qualified to evaluate or treat aggression.

Most dog trainers teach normal dogs to respond to normal be-

havioral cues. They may encounter an aggressive dog on occasions but their usual work is teaching pet manners, obedience competition, agility, or similar activities. They may be committed professionals who spend time and energy learning their craft and keeping current. Or they may be totally unqualified to do what ever they are doing, let's not even talk about treating aggression.

Those who do companion animal behavior counseling on the other hand should have spent significant time studying companion animal behavior, has significant experience dealing with problem behaviors, possesses the appropriate skills to evaluate and work with problem behaviors and counsel the animals' human caretakers, and be committed to continuing education in the field. They may or may not have advanced degrees or certifications in their fields.

Generally, behavior counselors get all behavioral referrals from veterinarians and work closely with those veterinarians.

As a behavior counselor it is my job to:

1. Obtain a significant, in-depth history of the animal and the behaviors. The forms I use for an aggressive behavior history are 15

pages long. Nothing less is going to provide me with sufficient information to properly evaluate the specific situation.

2. Require the client to have the animal fully assessed by a veterinarian to rule out any medical causes for the problem behavior. In the case of aggression, this includes a full physical exam, a CBC, a Chem Profile, a urinalysis, and a thyroid panel.

3. Evaluate the information received, determine the underlying issues, make treatment recommendations, and design a behavior modification program appropriate to the animal and the client. In situations where medications are part of the program, work with the veterinarian who determines which medications and what dosages are appropriate.

4. Work with the family to develop the skills necessary to implement the program.

5. Follow up with the family over at least three months to be sure the treatment plan is working.

6. When requested, write a report to the referring veterinarian.

You all owe it to each dog to give him every opportunity to live a healthy, happy life. Don't short change him by labeling him inappropriately or by allowing an unqualified person to make an evaluation. I've seen plenty of dogs that are troublesome in one home and perfectly fine in another. Unless a dog is dangerously aggressive, look at all the options and work with a professional who is qualified and experienced.

Several months ago I wrote a column for CG on assessing aggressive behavior. For a refresher course on how aggressive behavior is evaluated visit the following webpage.

[http://www.greytpals.org/Eval\\_agg.pdf](http://www.greytpals.org/Eval_agg.pdf)

## New Discussion Board and Newsletter from Lee Livingood

Do you keep your copy of Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies next to your bed? Do you try and attend every event that Lee speaks at? Do you find that you just can't get enough of her words of wisdom about our wonderful greyhounds? Well you are in luck. Lee is now sending out a bi-monthly newsletter focusing on topic of interest to greyhound adopters. In addition she has started a Discussion group where those of us involved in greyhound adoption can discuss and share ideas pertinent to our goal of placing greyhounds in forever homes.

Here is what Lee has to say about her new discussion group.

*Thanks to all of you who've joined and a very special thanks to those who have taken the time to share. It takes a lot of courage to come to a public forum and ask for help or advice. It takes courage to put your ego and feelings aside in order to do what's right for the hounds. It takes work and commitment, not just a big heart to get the Right Hound in the Right Home and to help new folks learn and grow*

*We've had some discussions on*

*several issues. I'm hoping that this will become a welcoming place for all groups to share experiences and to learn and to grow. I don't want this to be the Lee Livingood show. I don't pretend to be THE expert on adoption. My field is dog and cat behavior. What I do best is gather, sift, assimilate information from those of you in the trenches, and then share that information so we can all do a better job of putting the Right Hound in the Right Home. I can't do that without your ongoing participation and help. So please jump in and test the waters.*

*If you would like to become part of our online community, please read the "rules" carefully. You'll find them in the announcements at <http://www.greytpals.org/greytforum>*

Please take some time to check out the new discussion board and to subscribe to The Inside Track. I am sure you will find the information invaluable.

*Lee will be one of the featured speakers at the Greyhound Adoption Conference in Richmond, Virginia in September.*



## **GPA Chapters and Subchapters**

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## North American Greyhound Adoption Conference

Make your plans to attend now!  
Online registration available at:  
[www.gpaconvention.org](http://www.gpaconvention.org)

### Registration Fee

Prior to Sept. 1, 2004 \$75

(After Sept 1 \$90)

Saturday Only Fee \$60

Registration includes admission to all presentations, vendor area, refreshments and dinner on Saturday night.

Join your hosts-GPA and GPA Richmond--at the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference. We are looking forward to seeing you all in Virginia for an outstanding conference filled with great speakers, entertaining social activities and outstanding hospitality. From sessions on fostering to fundraising, events to public relations and first aid to selecting the best care for your Greys when you are out of town...this is adding up to be a great conference. And, of course, there are plenty of vendors lining up to bring us the latest, greatest and showiest of Greyhound merchandise found at any conference anywhere.

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### Featured Speakers include:

**Cynthia Branigan:** Author of Adopting the Racing Greyhound and The Reign of the Greyhound: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs, Cynthia will be speaking on "Greyhound Adoptions: Why We Do It, How We Can Do It Better, Who We Do It For"

**Gary Guccione:** Executive Director National Greyhound Association

**Lee Livingood:** Author of several books including The Retired Racing Greyhound for Dummies. Lee's presentation will be entitled "Evaluating the Other End of the Leash"

**Cindy Hanson:** Editor-in-Chief of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

**Jacque Schultz:** Director, National Shelter Outreach/Companion Animal Programs Advisor ASPCA

**Anne Finch:** Founder of "Greyhounds in Need"

**Cindy Victor** - Author of "Leo A Greyhound's Tale" Title of her presentation: "Finding Leo: A New Breed, a New Life"

**North American Greyhound Adoption Conference  
September 17 - 19, 2004  
The Sheraton Richmond West  
Richmond, Virginia**

- **Registration Fee \$75**, (after Sept. 1 \$90) **Saturday Only Fee \$60**  
The full registration fee includes a reception on Friday night, dinner on Saturday night, all breaks, meetings, and networking activities. The Saturday only fee includes all Saturday activities including the dinner
- Please register by filling out the form below and mailing it to:

GPA Richmond VA  
PO Box 70811  
Richmond, VA 23255

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Saturday only \_\_\_\_\_

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GPA Chapter/Sub Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Other Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel? Yes No

What name (s) would you like on your name tag?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**T-Shirts Orders**

Advance T-shirt prices are \$10 for small through XL, \$13 for XXL through XXXL  
Shirts will be available to be picked up at the conference registration desk. If you order a shirt and do not plan to attend the convention, please pay \$5 for shipping and handling for up to 2 shirts.

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