



The Ridgeline

Newsletter of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

September 6, 2022

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President's Letter

Hope everyone has survived the heat & rainless summer. Fear not, because the best season is just around the corner, Sweatah Weathah!

We will be ending this summer with a "bang"! NERRC'S 6th Annual Regional Specialty and Supported Shows are September 15 thru 18 at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds located at 1220 Nathan S. Ellis Highway, Falmouth, MA. As always we will have a Potluck Luncheon with lots of homemade goodies after judging followed by our traditional Silent Auction and Raffle to benefit Rescue on Saturday the 17th. Judging will be in Ring 8 in the morning.

Our summer annual meeting, which we had to postpone because of the weather, will be October 2nd and we are planning an introduction to Lure Coursing which the dogs will love!

Next up is our fall Lure Coursing Event on Oct 29/30 and then we will be wrapping up the year with the Holiday Party.

Hope to see y'all,

 Barbara



In Summer, the song sings itself. ~ William Carlos Williams

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2022— Virtual

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, President, Alan Fraser, Treasurer, Helen McCune, Julie Paul, Evelyn Strawn, Secretary

Guest: Stephanie Kennedy

President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed everyone.

Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There are two new applicants awaiting publication in The Ridgeline:

Elizabeth Aleksinas Morris, CT Family Sponsor: Evelyn Strawn

Sarah Lechak & Chris DiMartino Wrentham, MA Assoc Sponsor: Nikki Newton

Evelyn had distributed a draft of a proposed mailing to be sent to RRCUS breeders in New England. The mailing was approved, and it was decided to include breeders in NJ, NY & PA.

Evelyn reminded the board that this would be her last meeting as secretary.

Treasurer's Report – Alan Fraser

Alan provided an Income and Expense Report to the board prior to the meeting:

Rescue Funds	\$2557.87
General Funds	\$14,019.75
Show Funds	\$2379.71
Total	\$18,957.33

After Alan closed the accounts for this report he received a check in the amount of \$504 from the RI Kennel Club for a recent Fast CAT Trial.

Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

Plans are moving forward for the Regional Specialty which will be on September 17th as part of the Cranberry Cluster to be held on Cape Cod.

Barbara reported that the pottery trophies are nearly completed. Helen has arranged for the rosettes. The committee needs to start focusing on items for the silent auction and raffle which are held in conjunction with the show.

Mass Fed -- Vacant

Alan will renew the club's membership.

Historian – Michele Ruest

Michele Ruest has volunteered to take on this role. Barbara needs to meet with her and transfer the materials that she has stored. Evelyn will contact the previous historian to clarify if there are any digital files that should also be transferred.



Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior

Don and Chris have sent out welcome packets to three (3) new members.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

PHOTO submissions and pre-orders of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc 2023 Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar are now open. Photo submissions and calendar pre-orders can be done here <https://www.ridgebackrescue.org/calendar/orders/order.php>

A Tisket-A-Tasket – Time to call for a Basket! There is plenty of planning time for any club members, breeders, and the club itself to organize a Silent Auction Basket(s) to benefit RRRI at the upcoming 91st RRCUS National Specialty happening in Wilmington, Ohio the week of October 9 – 16, 2022. NERRC has enthusiastically supported this endeavor in the past, having submitted fabulous themed baskets. Transportation of basket donations to Ohio is available. If anyone is interested in leading a basket drive this year, please contact Cheryl Fraser – chaza@pobox.com 508-393-6966.

Barb moved and Helen seconded that the club support a Silent Auction Basket in an amount up to \$250. The vote was unanimous in favor so that the motion passed.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc. (RRRI) remains in great need for **foster homes**. We continue **to scramble** when a dog is in need to find a foster home willing to provide foster care. Please consider giving back to our beloved breed by volunteering to be a foster home.

HOME CHECKS – With the ongoing pandemic, we have reverted to performing **virtual homechecks**. The use of Zoom and FaceTime and other virtual means are being used. If you would be able to perform home checks for potential adoption applicants, please let us know. We have a checklist of questions to ask applicants while virtually visiting them in their home. Help is always needed to vet adoption applicants.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

Alan has renewed the domain name.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune & Maura Bushior

Helen and Maura will be working together on the next issue. This will go out after the minutes are approved. It will include a flyer for the annual meeting and summer picnic.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

No activity since last committee report.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Nothing to report.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Barb explained that the information about last year's specialty will be included in the next edition.

Need to clarify if Bonnie is going to continue in this role.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton

On behalf of NERRC, Nikki conducted a Fast CAT trial with the RI Kennel Club. See check received under Treasurer's Report.

Unfinished Business

Julie and Helen are chairing the committee for the annual meeting and summer picnic which will be held on August 7 at Carriage Hill Farm, 4 Mechanic St., Hopkinton, MA. Hopefully this central location will encourage more member participation.

The board agreed that the potluck has been successful the past couple of years and should be continued. This new location will require some tables, pop-up tents for shade and fencing. The club will also need to rent a port-a-potty. Julie will follow up to see if it will be possible to set up the food inside the carriage house.

New Business

There is now a vacancy for the secretary position. The board needs to recruit someone for this role who would be appointed at the next board meeting.

The board appointed a nominating committee consisting of Julie, Stephanie Kennedy, and Cheryl Fraser. Julie agreed to be the chair. She will need to recruit two alternates for the committee before July 1. The committee needs to meet by August 1 and prepare a slate by September 15. The positions to be filled are president, treasurer and two board members (Julie and Maura's positions). Barbara said that according to the term limits in the by-laws she cannot serve as president for another term. Whoever is nominated for this position must be a RRCUS member.

Alan asked if anyone knew anything about the Better Breeder Institute. No one had any information about that organization. He said he would share a recent communication he has received.

Next Meeting: August 7, 2022

Board meeting - 10 AM

Annual meeting - 11 AM

Carriage Hill Farm

Hopkinton, MA

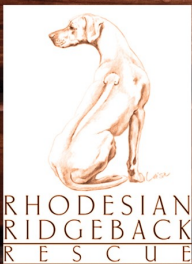
Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Strawn
NERRC Secretary





DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND ...
Submit Your Photo for the 2023 Rescue Calendar Today!



LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE!

www.ridgebackrescue.org/calendar/orders/order.php

Design by
Theresa LYONS
www.lyonsart.com

Let 'em Sniff

The thing about nose work is, you don't teach your dog about odor, your dog teaches you. Scent is the dog's world, and they are the ultimate experts. Doing nose work with your dog is an opportunity to experience the world from their unique perspective. We often refer to the hamburger example. A human just smells a hamburger, but a dog smells the bun, the ketchup, the lettuce, the tomato, the cheese, and the meat. Each odor its own tendril behaving in a unique way that only the dog can perceive. And the dog will tell you all about it if you know how to listen.

Learning to listen is the critical skill the handler must acquire. The dog needs only to learn what target odors you want him to find. Not surprisingly, it is far easier to teach the dog the target odors than it is to teach the handler to listen.

We start the dog on "primary" which is a desirable item such as food or a toy (since this is a Ridgeback club we'll focus on food and leave the toys for the Malinois club). It isn't difficult to get a dog to go looking for food and this may be a game you already play. We use this technique for two reasons. First, we want the dog to build confidence hunting in various environments (interior, exterior, vehicles, and containers) before we introduce them to target odor. Second, we use the primary to pair with the target odor to teach the dog which odors to find once they are comfortable with the search environments.

For me, learning to listen was a long process. I had owned many dogs and had a decent handle on dog body language. But I was not immediately able to connect the dots between my dog's body language and her working an odor picture. When I began in nose work, I was more focused on my dog indicating that she had found the target odor (referred to as "at source") rather than focusing on her process of working the odor to get to source. Once I connected those dots everything changed. Not only did we become a much better working team I also began to see the world through my dog's eyes (well, more specifically her nose). My dogs are passionate about nose work. It brings them so much joy. And there's nothing I love more than listening to them tell me about odor.

You gotta let 'em sniff. It's what they were born to do.

By Michele Ruest



Michele with Ripley

I have been a Ridgeback owner since 1999. I started nose work in 2011 and we earned our first title in 2013. Currently, I have four Ridgebacks and a terrier mix who are all trained in nose work. My oldest Ridgeback Symetri Here We Go Again CGC ELT-CH (Ripley) is the first Ridgeback to achieve NW3-Elite, ELT1, ELT2, ELT3, and ELT-CH with the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW). She is retired from competing but still loves to practice. My oldest male CH Symetri's Echo In My Heart CGC L1V (Echo) didn't care for the trial setting and retired from competition early on. But he still loves to practice around the house. Two of my younger Ridgebacks are preparing for their first Odor Recognition Test (ORT) and I hope to be competing with them in the fall. My terrier mix just earned his NW2.



Luca



Michele working with Ripley



Ripley— the first Ridgeback to achieve an Elite Champion in NACSW.



Zuva

Attention !!

The club still has significant equipment needs to be able to continue hosting lure coursing events.



Can you help with any of these?

Big ticket item:

- Equipment trailer- must have total weight including contents of less than 3500 lbs, be enclosed, have the door be a drop down ramp and be at least 10 ft long, maybe 12 ft. Hoping to find one (used is good) for around \$2000

Smaller needs-does anyone have these items to donate?

- 1 or 2 shovels (spades)
- Wheeled cart for storing pulleys-and dragging them around the field
- Heavy duty extension cord
- Toolkit for repairs (screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers)
- Distance measuring wheel
- Easy up or other canopy
- Folding table
- Sharp pocket knives for huntmaster
- Something to post scores on at events-magnetic board, wire rack with clips...
- Traffic cones (about 8-10)

We also could really use some leads on possible fields. We only have the one field and it is only available before May and after September.

Field needs:

- 7-10 acres
- Mowed grass
- No major holes/terrain hazards
- Safe from road/traffic
- \$300-\$400 for the weekend
- Can park 30 or so cars
- Within 2-3 hour drive of eastern MA

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2022—Virtual

Meeting called to order at 10:03 am by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, Alan Fraser, Julie Paul, Meghan Terwilliger, Maura Bushior, Cheryl Fraser,

Board Members: Absent - Helen McCune, Bonnie Johnson,

Guests: Stephanie Kennedy

President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Welcoming address.

Secretary's Report – Cheryl Fraser

There are two applicants awaiting publication in The Ridgeline:

Elizabeth Aleksinas Morris, CT Family

Sponsor: Evelyn Strawn

Sarah Lechak & Chris DiMartino Wrentham, MA Assoc

Sponsor: Nikki Newton

No new applications were received.

The AKC sent an "AKC Banner" to the club. The AKC is pleased to provide our specialty club with the AKC branded table runner. The runner can be used in many ways to recognize NERRC's relationship with the AKC. Suggested uses include use at the trophy table, event secretary's table, functions promoting our club etc.

Online Motion - Background - suggestion for NERRC to place an ad in the 2022 Cranberry Cluster Catalog. A full page is \$40 + \$10 per photo, 1/2 page is \$20 + \$10 per photo.

Motion made on July 19, 2022 by Barbara Ferguson to place a full page ad in the 2022 Cranberry Cluster Catalog. Helen McCune provided a second to the motion. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Online Motion - Background - suggestion for NERRC to postpone the Annual Meeting from August 7, 2022 to October 2, 2022. The region is under heat advisories with temps expected to be in the 90's and thunderstorms possible.

Motion made on August 3, 2022 by Barbara Ferguson that for the safety of club members both canine and human we postpone the date of the Annual Meeting to October 2, 2022. Helen McCune provided a second to the motion. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Alan Fraser

Alan provided an Income and Expense Report:

Rescue Funds	\$ 2557.87
General Funds	\$14,462.45
Show Funds	\$ 2256.10
Total	\$19,276.42 - Bank balance as of 7/31/2022



See Attachment A for details.

Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

The Cranberry Cluster is fast approaching. I am again having a difficult time getting companies to donate to our raffle and silent auction. If anyone would like to donate to or frequents local pet food stores who would be willing to donate a basket or item please contact me!

The trophies arrived and are beautiful. Helen has been working toward getting the Rosettes all in order.

We will once again have a potluck luncheon following judging. If you have a favorite dish you could provide please bring it along and enjoy the day with all those who are entered.

As always I am in need of volunteers to help with setting up before judging begins and cleaning up afterwards.

The judge for the Regional Specialty, Frank DePaulo, began breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks in the early 1980's and added Pointers in mid 1990's under the kennel name Tahari. He is past president of RRCUS and has been the show chair for the National Dog Show that airs on Thanksgiving morning since 2014. He has bred many of the top winning and producing Ridgebacks in the country.

Our Sweeps Judge, Susan Morrill, is traveling from South Carolina. She has been a member of RRCUS since 2004 and breeds beautiful Ridgebacks who successfully compete in Conformation as well as Obedience, Rally, Lure Coursing, Agility and Scent Work.

Mass Fed -- Vacant

Historian – Michele Ruest

The NERRC History records have been transferred to Michele Ruest.

Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior

Nothing to report

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

A family from Falmouth drove to Maryland to adopt Jada from RRRI. This is the 4th Ridgeback adopted by this family.

PHOTO submissions and pre-orders of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc 2023 Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar are now open. Photo submissions and calendar pre-orders can be done here <https://www.ridgebackrescue.org/calendar/orders/order.php>

A Tisket-A-Tasket – Time to call for a Basket! There is plenty of planning time for any club members, breeders, and the club itself to organize a Silent Auction Basket(s) to benefit RRRI at the upcoming 91st RRCUS National Specialty happening in Wilmington, Ohio the week of October 9 – 16, 2022. NERRC has enthusiastically supported this endeavor in the past, having submitted fabulous themed baskets. Transportation of basket donations to Ohio is available. If anyone is interested in leading a basket drive this year, please contact Cheryl Fraser – chaza@pobox.com 508-393-6966.

HOME CHECKS – With the ongoing pandemic, we have reverted to performing **virtual homechecks**. The use of Zoom and FaceTime and other virtual means are being used. If you would be able to perform home checks for potential adoption applicants, please let us know. We have a checklist of questions to ask applicants while virtually visiting them in their home. Help is always needed to vet adoption applicants.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

The Website calendar is up to date with event information and active links to the premiums we have available at this time.

Michele Ruest (historian) and Meghan Terwilliger have been in touch and the website will be updated with club history stuff as she gets through some of it.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Cheryl Fraser to email the BOD the Ways & Means P&P, the BBQ checklist, the Secretary duties P&P and the Treasurer duties. It was discussed that each Board positions and Committees should have a P&P to guide the respective com-

mittees and Board positions.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune & Maura Bushior

The 2nd issue of The Ridgeline is in process and should have it to the membership by next week. Maura Bushior is helping to proofread this issue and then the plan is to start the transition process where Maura will take on the role of editor and Helen will assist as necessary.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

One sweatshirt sale to report.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Social Media is up to date with event pages for all upcoming events: Picnic, Specialty, and Coursing.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Barbara Ferguson to check with Bonnie that she will provide a report to RRCUS for inclusion in the RRCUS magazine.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton

Details on Attachment B

Nominating Committee – Julie Paul

Committee members: Julie Paul, Cheryl Fraser, Alternates Rhonda Lapham , Stephany Kennedy

Timeline

Nominating committee chosen - before July 1st - Completed on 6/23/22

Nominating Committee meet prior to August 1st - Completed on 7/27/2022

Slate prepared by September 15th - On schedule

Meetings were held via Zoom

Attendees: Julie Paul, Cheryl Fraser, Stephanie Kennedy and Rhonda Lapham

As per the Bylaws the Committee met before August 1st and agreed on the nominations for the following positions:

President – Helen McCune

Treasurer – Alan Fraser

Director 1 – Julie Paul

Director 2 – Maura Bushior

As per the Bylaws the nominees were contacted, confirmed they were in favor of being nominated for these positions and requested to provide a brief resume to the Secretary of NERRC by August 1st. All nominees' agreed to be nominated by the committee and submitted their Resumes on or before August 1st.

Summer Potluck Report August 2022

Julie Paul and Helen McCune are chairing the committee for the annual RR Romp and Summer BBQ. Tents, Wadding pools, tables and fencing had been organized but unfortunately due to the extreme heat forecast for the weekend it was agreed by the board to reschedule the Summer Potluck. The new date will be October 2nd at the same venue. Carriage Hill Farm, 4 Mechanic St., Hopkinton, MA. The port-a-potty has been cancelled and rebooked for this date. The Meal planner has been updated and the Membership was notified by the Club Secretary of the change in date and the reasoning behind this decision.

Unfinished Business

As the Lure Coursing Chair was unable to attend today's meeting, the Board will schedule an additional board meeting to discuss the various topics in the Lure Coursing report.

Also to be covered in the additional Board meeting will be any needs for the Regional Specialty, the annual meeting and plans for the Holiday party.

New Business ???

Next Meeting: August 26, 2022

Board meeting – 7 PM (ZOOM virtual format)

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted / Cheryl Fraser / NERRC Secretary

Join Us!! Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon!!

NEW LOCATION!!!

Carriage Hill Farm 4 Mechanic St. Hopkinton MA

Sunday, October 2nd from 10:00 to 4:00

Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members; children under 12 free BOD

Meeting starts at 10:00 - all are welcome

Annual Meeting Begins at 11:00 before lunch, playtime and socializing!

Ways & Means will be set up so plan to shop! There will also be a 50/50 Raffle!!

Pam & John Larter, of Carriage Hill Farm have graciously offered to host our event this year. They are fellow Ridgeback lovers and owners of a new puppy too!

Well socialized dogs will be allowed off leash to run and play in a fully enclosed outdoor arena. If you have an insecure or reactive dog please keep them on leash and under your control at all times. Dogs will be crated or leashed during the annual meeting to alleviate distractions. Please be sure to pick up after your dog.

NERRC will provide the paper goods and water. To help spread the workload so that everyone can partake in a fun afternoon we are asking that you bring something to share. If your last name begins with the following bring: A-K—Appetizer; L-P—Entrée; Q-Z—Dessert.

Come make new memories with us!



2019 Summer Social Participants

NERRC Presents:

**LURE
COURSING**
DARTMOUTH, MA

October 29-30, 2022



Join us for a fun Fall AKC trial. JC offered both afternoons, QC offered Saturday afternoon. Costume Contest on Saturday. Premium will be available soon www.nerrc.org



Welcome New Members!!

Melissa August, Single Voting;

Marsa Hatfield, Single Voting;

Helena Passamonti, Single Voting.

Join us 9/17 at our 6th Annual Regional Specialty !!

For all show entrants and spectators coming to the Regional Specialty on September 17 in East Falmouth, MA , we have a sign up for the potluck luncheon being held after judging of Ridgebacks. Please use this sign up to let all know what you are bringing.

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=NNNP1487>

