



# *The Ridgeline*

A Publication of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Inc. est 1984

Issue #1 2019

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## **Presidents Message**

2019 already, how on earth did we get here, seems like the older I get the faster life flies by! At least we're being offered a milder winter than normal, in my neck of the woods anyway.

There's been a lot of activity behind the scenes of NERRC this winter. Right before last year's Regional Specialty we were informed by RRCUS that they would no longer approve us to hold future Specialties, despite the fact that we met all the requirements for approval. After consulting with AKC we decided that it made more sense for us to accept their offer of help in becoming licensed to hold point awarding shows than it would to fight with RRCUS over it. So in December we held our first match according to AKC rules and in doing so qualified us for licensing which we were approved for this month. So we will be holding our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Specialty this year once again! This year will have expanded prizes and some amazing raffle items are already lined up – it's going to be an exciting year!

Our first Board meeting was held last month and thanks to Alan and Helen's behind the scenes work we have completed the By-laws revisions that have been discussed over the past few years, including allowing for remote Board meetings so as to allow more diverse participation on our Board going forward. They must be voted on at our Annual Meeting in August so we will send out to you this summer for review prior to that meeting.

For spring events we have CGC testing being offered at Sirius Fun Dog Training in March and we're working on lure coursing for later in the spring. Hoping to do both a regular trial and a CAT weekend.

I would like to publicly thank Linda Hothan for stepping into the Secretary position when we needed someone, thanks for getting us on track and sorry you couldn't stay. The Secretary's position is open again so if you're interested in joining us on the Board, have strong computer and communications skills and love RRs come volunteer for a year.

Bonnie Johnson

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

President: Bonnie Johnson	<a href="mailto:shabanirr@comcast.net">shabanirr@comcast.net</a>
Vice President: Barbara Ferguson	<a href="mailto:sahibu@comcast.net">sahibu@comcast.net</a>
Secretary: Helen McCune (interim)	<a href="mailto:kanzih@comcast.net">kanzih@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer: Alan Fraser	<a href="mailto:fraser6966@verizon.net">fraser6966@verizon.net</a>
Director: Meghan Terwilliger	<a href="mailto:mterwill@gmail.com">mterwill@gmail.com</a>
Director: Nikki Newton	<a href="mailto:nikknewton@gmail.com">nikknewton@gmail.com</a>

## Meeting Minutes

New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Boxboro Regency, Boxboro, MA  
Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

NERRC President Bonnie Johnson convened the meeting at 11:28am.

The Secretary took attendance via roll call:

Bonnie Johnson	Present
Barbara Ferguson	Present
Alan Fraser	Present
Linda Hothan	Present
Helen McCune	Present
Nikki Newton	Present
Meghan Terwilliger	Absent
Quorum present	Several NERRC members attended the meeting

## Minutes:

Helen McCune moved, Nikki Newton seconded, to waive the reading of the August 5<sup>th</sup> minutes of the last Board meeting, which had been approved by the Board via email vote. Unanimously approved.

**Secretary's Report Linda Hothan**

Mail:

- ASFA newsletter
- AKC approval of Lure Coursing Events for October 27+28
- AKC PAC fundraiser
- Resignation of Anita Craven as ByLaws Chair
- MASSFed membership renewals: Club and Associate
- AKC Humane Fund

Motions made since the last Board meeting 8/5/2018:

- To reschedule the Holiday Party from 11/18 to 11/11
- To approve for membership Leisha Morneau and Jordan Hitchcock, James Campbell, and Deborah Cabral; in addition, the application of Nathan ('Nate') King, husband of member Rachel Reams, constitutes a change in membership status from voting single to voting family.
- Consensus to not charge for the cost of a 4 year old at the Holiday Party

Missing Files

- Alan Fraser provided a 2013 membership list with then-addresses of prior Secretaries; Linda will use this to following-up to obtain Club records
- An email was sent to a former Secretary which contained a paragraph written by the Board 8/5/2018; no response was received.

Election

The NERRC membership had until October 15<sup>th</sup> to 'file a petition' to run for one of the elective offices (President, Treasurer, 2 Directors). No such 'challenges' were received. Therefore congratulations to incumbents:

<b>Bonnie Johnson</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Alan Fraser</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Nikki Newton</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Meghan Terwilliger</b>	<b>Director</b>

for winning re-election!

**Treasurer's Report Alan Fraser**

Written report submitted for 9/1/2018 – 10/31/2018; see attached.

- No question raised about the fiscal report.
- It was noted that a debit card for the Club was not being actively pursued at this time.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Supported Show Barbara Ferguson**

Written report submitted: NERRC's 3rd Regional Specialty was another huge success! We had our largest entry yet, were able to award 5 point major wins in the classes of both dogs and bitches and major wins for Select Dog and Select Bitch. The Raffle and Silent Auction raised \$1086.00 for Ridgeback Rescue and the Trophy Fund.

Of course we were invited back next year by the South Shore Kennel Club. The unfortunate part is Dedham Pottery has closed its doors so you all have one more opportunity to win a beautiful one of a kind, hand painted trophy in 2019.

We had another unfortunate issue arise when Club President Bonnie Johnson and I received an email from the President of RRCUS, Denise Eberhard stating that our parent club would no longer continue to support our hard work and would not approve next years Regional Specialty. When we asked why, as we have never had any issues or problems and have followed RRCUS Policy and Procedures which have not changed the answer we received did not provide us with any reason other than "because we said". RRCUS requires 8 months notification so they left us with 5 months to become an AKC Licensed Club something that normally would take much longer.

I contacted AKC Club Relations and after hearing what was happening said they would work with us and "fast-track" our application. I am pleased to announce that we have been approved to hold a Conformation A Match which will take place December 16th at Sirius Fun Dog Training, 88 Camelot Dr. Unit 44, Plymouth, MA. 02360 at 10am. Open to non- champion Rhodesian Ridgebacks only. The entry fee is \$10.00 per dog. Jim Shea will be judging the entries in the following classes:

6-9 Puppy, 9-12 Puppy

American Bred, 12mo-18mo, Novice, Open

Best Puppy

Best Opposite Puppy

Best Adult

Best Opposite Adult

Best in Match

There will not be any points awarded however each participant will receive a freeze dried beef trachea and the 1st-5th place winners will be awarded a ribbon. Best Puppy, Best Opposite Puppy, Best Adult, Best Opposite Adult and Best in Match will each receive a Rosette.

I want to give a special “Thank you” to Bonnie Johnson, Helen McCune and Patti Clark who joined the Show Committee for all their help and expertise!

**Lure Coursing      Nikki Newton**

No written report submitted    Nikki noted that the Saturday lure coursing event (Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>) was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Sunday lure coursing event had about 30 dogs participating. The field was great. The owners opened the welcome center for us. This venue has great possibilities for future events including a training date in the Spring 2019; we would need to find a Hunt Master.

Mary Wickwire, a NERRC Charter Member, noted there were a lot of ‘unused’ farmers fields near where she lives, and she offered to look for possible venues of 10 acres or more.

**MassFed      Jean Gamble**

Written report submitted, nothing to report, includes applications for membership for Clubs and Associate members, as well as the Annual Meeting Minutes of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 included here:

**Annual Meeting Minutes--October 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Virginia Rowland at 6:50PM at the Yangtze River restaurant in Littleton, MA. In attendance were: Gail Berger, Baystate Bullmastiff Club Member; Nancy Conner, Irish Setter Club of NE Member; Bonnie Chandler, Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club Delegate/MassFed Board Member; Lowry Heussler, Speaker; Christine Johnston, CDTC Alternate, Ira Kaplan, Baystate Bulmastiff Club Member; Rebecca Leonard, Charles River DTC Delegate/MassFed Treasurer; Anita Migday, Greater Lowell KC Delegate; Stacey Ober, AKC New England Staff; Virginia Rowland, MassFed President/Ladies’ Dog Club Delegate; Julie Rembrandt Seeley, Wachusett KC Delegate/MassFed Corresponding Secretary; John Seeley, Associate Member/Board Member; Holly Sheltry, North Shore KC/MassFed Board Member; Angel Smith, Wachusett KC Member; Anne Testoni, CDTC Delegate; Luanne Witt, Irish Setter Club of NE Delegate.

**Minutes of last meeting** -- No minutes to review or approve.

**Report of President** -- No update provided.

**Report of Secretary**—There were 12 alerts sent to MassFed Delegates, Alternates and Associate members by email regarding updates on 36 pieces of legislation. On 7/20/18, a thank you letter went to the Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club for their \$400 donation. On 9/10/18, a thank you letter went to the Charles River Dog Training Club for their \$100

donation. On 10/02/18, the notice/reservation form for the 10/25/18 Annual Meeting was emailed to all MassFed Delegates, Alternates and Associate Members.

**Report of Treasurer—10/26/17-10/25/18**

Starting Balance \$13,885.34  
Income           \$ 3,720.00  
Expenses       \$ 5,160.24  
Ending Balance \$12,445.10

John Seeley moved and Julie Rembrandt Seeley seconded, to place the Treasurer’s report on file. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report of Committees:**

-- **Legislation** -- No new activity as the House is not in session with the election coming up November 6. A summary of the “PAWS II” legislation (SB 2626) that was signed into law on August 9, 2018 that passed both chambers unanimously was distributed to all present. This summary was prepared by the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

-- AKC--Stacey Ober, AKC’s new Legislative Liaison for New England, attended the meeting and distributed a fact sheet titled, “Ideas for Identifying and Supporting Dog-Friendly Candidates”.

**Election of Officers and Board:** The Secretary will cast one vote for the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee (Rebecca Leonard, Chair and members Susan Craighead and Anne Testoni):

- President: Ms. Virginia Rowland
- Vice President: Dr. Anne Testoni
- Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Julie Rembrandt Seeley
- Recording Secretary: John W. Seeley
- Treasurer: Ms. Rebecca Leonard
- Board Members: Mrs. Bonnie Chandler, Dr. Christine Johnston, Mr. John Kenney, Ms. Holly Sheltry, Ms. Luanne Witt

There was no Unfinished or New Business brought up for discussion. Rebecca Leonard moved and Holly Sheltry seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:04PM.

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Lowry Heussler. “Legal & Scientific Aspects of Working Dogs”. Also included was an update and request for funding for the Working Dog Project with the goal to map the canine genome and identify the genetic foundation for success in a working dog. This update was provided by Dr. Anita Migday.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John W. Seeley, Recording Secretary

**Historian; Cathy Ford** No written report submitted

**Membership Care; Trish Hamilton** No written report submitted

**Rescue; Cheryl Fraser** No written report submitted

**The Ridgeline; Evelyn Strawn**

Evelyn reported that NERRC's newsletter, *The Ridgeline*, is intended for quarterly mailout to the membership for 2019. Evelyn also noted that Suzanne Cooney was no longer working on *The Ridgeline*.

**Ways and Means; Rachel Reams** No written report submitted

**ByLaws; Open**

**Policy and Procedure; Open**

Alan Fraser suggested that Cheryl Fraser be contacted for her suggestions

**Social Media; Meghan Terwilliger**

Written report submitted. Nothing to report.

**Website; Cheryl Fraser and Meghan Terwilliger**

Written report submitted. Nothing to report.

**Regional Columnist; Open**

It was suggested that the General Membership be contacted for volunteers

**Membership**

NERRC has 4 applications for membership: Bernadette Douzanis, Amy Mullin, and Brenton and Whitney Pulsifer. Their names were just printed in recent *The Ridgeline*, and after 30 days the Board and vote on their memberships.

**Unfinished Business**

- RRCUS Bootcamp education seminar
- Ways and Means inventory
- Special Meeting of the NERRC Board of Directors will be held: Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Helen McCunes house at 11:00am to discuss/review changes/updates

to the NERRC ByLaws. Linda Hothan noted that, due to personal business, she would not be available to work on the ByLaws.

· Debit Card

### **New Business**

Alan Fraser suggested that reports, when read, should be attached to the minutes for all to see.

### **Adjournment**

**Linda G. Hothan**

### **Motions since the last meeting 11/11/18:**

On Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Helen moved to accept the new list of trophies that now includes stud dog, brood bitch, best junior and custom rosettes so Barbara can send it out for sponsorship.

Alan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

On Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Barbara moved to appoint Cheryl Fraser as the head of Policy and Procedures. Meghan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Helen moved to accept the amended meeting minutes from 11/11/18. Barbara seconded the motion. 6 Yes votes were received, this motion PASSED.

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, Helen moved to approve the following for NERRC membership:

Bernadette Douzanis

Amy Mullin

Brenton & Whitney Pulsifer

Barbara seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, Bonnie moved to have Helen McCune serve as interim Secretary following Linda Hothan's resignation. Barbara seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, Bonnie moved to accept Linda Hothan's resignation as secretary. Barbara Ferguson seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

### **Fun Match**





Last year approximately 1 month before our 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Specialty, the new RRCUS BOD sent an email stating they had decided that they would not approve any further Regional Specialty applications due to “discrepancies with another club”.

They had even discussed pulling our previously approved application for our 2018 Regional Specialty! To be able to hold AKC Point Awarding Conformation Shows we needed to become a licensed club and we needed to do so within the next 4 months in order to be approved to hold our 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Specialty September 14, 2019. I contacted AKC explaining our dilemma and was told that because of our experience they would work to fast track our application. Thankfully with the help of Patti Clark, Bonnie Johnson and Helen McCune we were able to get the required paperwork together and send in our application for licensing.

Our application was accepted and we were given permission to hold an A Match to prove we were able to successfully hold a point awarding conformation show.

December 16, 2018 we held our A Match at Sirius Fun Dog Training in Plymouth, Ma. We had 13 Ridgebacks entered.

## **Results**

### **Judge Jim Shea**

**Best of Breed Puppy - Shabani's Ringwraith owner Rebecca & Marie Fitzpatrick**

**Best Opposite Puppy - Shabani's Lily Belle owner Deborah Cabral**

**Best of Breed Adult - Shabani's Love at First Sight, owner Lydia Mathger handled by Junior Handler Mia**

**Best of Opposite Adult- Kuluta's Barada Nikto, owner Rachel Reams & Nathan King**

**Best in Match Shabani's Love at First Sight Handled by Mia**

Thank You to Judge Jim Shea for his excellent judging, Helen McCune for all her help with AKC paperwork-not an easy task! Thanks to Nathan King for getting the printer and laptop communicating, Rachel Reams for keeping the ring organized, Evelyn Strawn for setting up the snacks & yummy hot cider, photographer Alan Fraser! Big Thank you to all the people who took the time and entered their dogs. We could not have done it without you! It takes a village!

After crossing all the T' s and dotting the I's the paperwork was sent in to AKC and January 9<sup>th</sup> I received and email from AKC:

**This note is to advise you that the results for New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club's sanctioned Plan A only match that was held on December 16, 2018 at Sirius Dog Training located at 88 Camelot Drive, Plymouth, MA 02360 (13 dogs entered) are qualifying. New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club is now officially licensed for Conformation.**

**Anne Fitton**

**Club Affiliation Analyst**



It's wonderful to see a new junior handler in our club! Pictured above is Shabani's Love at First Sight being shown by Amelia (Mia) Mathger Jones!

The New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
Presents  
"Waiting for Spring Event"  
AKC Canine Good Citizen Test

The Canine Good Citizen Program teaches good manners to dogs and responsible dog ownership to their owners. The 10-step CGC test is a non-competitive test for all dogs, including purebreds and mixed breeds. It is a prerequisite for many therapy dog groups and some homeowner's insurance companies, such as Geico, encourage CGC testing. There are also an increasing number of apartments and condos that require resident dogs to pass the CGC.

Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00

Cost: \$25.00 NERRC Members  
\$30.00 Non-Members

Sirius Fun Dog Training  
88 Camelot Drive  
Plymouth, MA 02360

To sign up please contact  
Barbara Ferguson  
508-477-2063  
sahibu@comcast.net

CGC  
Test Items

- Accepting a friendly stranger
- Sitting politely for petting
- Appearance and grooming
- Out for a walk (on a loose leash)
- Walking through a crowd
- Sit & down on cue. Stay in place
- Come when called
- Reaction to another dog
- Reaction to distraction
- Supervised separation

## First Reads

Eddie Aldort

Belmont, MA

Associate

Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

## Up Coming Events

February 17 -- Canine Good Citizens Test

August 4 -- Annual Meeting and Ridgeback Picnic

October 26 & 27 -- Lure Coursing

November 17 -- Holiday Party