

FLAT-COAT FILES

Newsletter of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club

Summer-Fall 2017

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Patricia Temple's puppy Dillon

President's Message

I want to apologize to the membership for publishing our Fall newsletter a bit late. **Ruth Sumner**, our editor, gratefully is fine but recently had some health issues. I encouraged her to take it easy which she has.

Much has happened since our last newsletter. The summer was busy with all the frenetic activities that NE people do with their dogs: shows, hunt tests, field trials, training, hiking, swimming and laughing at their antics.

The End of Summer Gala was well attended at the Thompson Rod and Gun Club: highlights were a Music Trivia led by **Neal Goodwin** and a Scurry by **Sally Bridges**. The pot luck was tasty as ever. The Board just decided that we should do it again. Save the date: **September 8, 2018!**

We jointly held a WC/X with the **Yankee Golden Retriever Club** in great weather but high cover at West Thompson on October 7th.

By now many of you will have gone to the Supported Entry on **November 25th**. There are 58 entries, the highest entry for the day! Sweeps start at 8 AM and Breed starts at 9:15 AM in Ring 4.

The Board of Directors met and we have entertained many old and new ideas. The Annual Meeting will be held at Tails-U-Win, Manchester, CT on **March 17th**. Watch for those eblasts as we talked about an obedience workshop, an upland field training, novice/junior show handlers training event and possible walkabouts/potluck events closer to your home. **Stay tuned.**

Sally Young, President

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Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting—March 17th at Tails-U-Win, Manchester, CT

End of Summer Gala—Sept. 8, 2018, Thompson Rod and Gun Club

WC/WCX— Oct. 6, 2018, West Thompson Dam, N.Grosvenordale, CT

Web

Check out our website (NEFCRC.org) for results, forms, events, and photos.

Webmaster **Kristen Sobanski** can be contacted at percussion98@juno.com

Address Changes

Please direct all address, e-mail, and phone changes to **Susan Klein** at sklein1@capecod.net.

Newsletter Deadline

Anytime!

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Save the Date!

March 17, 2018



Our Annual Meeting

Our featured **raffle** prize will be an original Kathi Leonhardt pastel portrait of your dog taken from the favorite photo that you submit to her. You can see below what she is able to do with her pastels! The lucky winner will have a treasure. We are very fortunate to have such a generous and talented member willing to donate her art.

Tickets will be available soon for purchase through Sally Nettleton-Smilas as well as at the meeting.





The designated go-to person for raffle ticket sales is Sally Nettleton-Smilas.
The deadline for mail orders is March 1, 2018. Tickets will also be available in person at the meeting on March 17, 2018.

Ticket prices are as follows —

\$5 for one ticket

\$20 for five tickets

\$100 for 30 tickets

Buy more, save more with more chance of success!!



Sally's contact information:

Address: P.O. Box 99

Haddam, CT 06438

Phone: (860) 3445-2995

snettleton.smilas@gmail.com



Our Annual meeting is a great place to meet, talk, get acquainted/reacquainted, laugh, describe our favorite FCR antics, compare notes, and most of all have fun. Watch for e-blasts with more information as plans develop.

Some possible topics for 2018 may include an obedience workshop, an upland field training seminar, novice and junior show handlers training events and possible walkabouts/potluck events at various locations closer to your homes. Be there to discuss these ideas and more.

Don't forget our fabulous potluck lunch. It has become widely accepted that our potluck lunches are the **best!** Bring a favorite dish of your choice to share. Then sample the fantastic array that blossoms on our table.

Speaking of raffles . . . we will also be having our regular, traditional raffle so please bring along a donation to that fun event!

Remember both raffles! The more people who participate, the more fun for us all.



End of Summer Fun Day



The end of summer brought a day of fun for members of the NEFCRC and their faithful companions on the grounds of the Thompson Rod and Gun Club on September 10, 2017.. The days' events, grounds and ponds along with cooperative weather contributed to a great day.

A few youngsters got their paws wet with practice swimming while others honed their water retrieving skills. Sally Bridges hosted the Scurry to determine the fastest Flat Coat in the Northeast. The title and rosette went to Gary McManus and Terry Drew's Zuzu. Cousin Ditto captured the title for the Veterans.

There were seven new Trick Dog titles awarded with Nancy Triou as evaluator. Nancy charged a discounted rate of \$10 for those members that attended. Congratulations to all the new TKN's!

After a delicious pot luck lunch Neal Goodwin led a rousing game of Name That Tune. Participants needed to be of a certain age for many of the songs and a good time was had by all. Old and new members got acquainted,



Gary McManus with Zuzu, Fastest Flat Coat in the Northeast

Zuzu's cousin Ditto won the fastest Veteran ribbon for Sally Bridges.



Specialty Brag

Nancy Triou Ella, Lucas and I had a great time at the Specialty! I took Ella out of retirement and I am so proud of her accomplishments. She qualified in agility, Rally Excellent, and Veteran's obedience to earn her "Hat Trick" award. Then, to top it off, she won her 9-11 Veteran Bitch class. Lucas had a great week too. He earned his NA and NAJ titles and also qualified in Rally Novice. It was a wonderful week! Thanks to all of the people who worked so hard to make it such a memorable Specialty.



Member Brags

Joe Juza and Granite were quite a team this summer! He just turned two years old (Granite, not Joe!)

Novice Obedience
(all first place finishes)

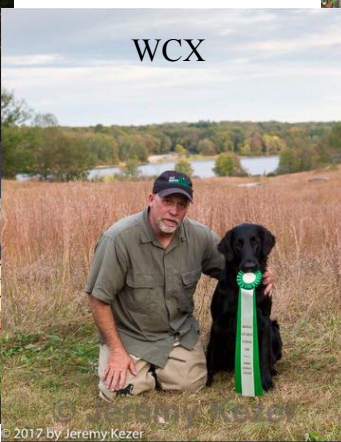


Dock Diving



**They're a Team
on a roll!**

Junior Hunt Test Title



First Senior Leg!

Training —

We started our field season with an all level training day at West Thompson Dam the day before our Annual meeting at the end of April with Bunny Millikin. We did have a pretty busy season, thanks to Chris McCluer, Susan Klein, Joe Juza, and Annie Catterson. We held 6 training sessions for all level dogs on Tuesdays at Buck Shope's property in Templeton, MA. Sally Bridges and Priscilla Johnson held three Novice sessions there which were also well attended. Becky Whitmeyer hosted two days of training on her property in NH. On July 1 & 2 we had a Flyer Day in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Retriever Club in Cabot, VT.

PEANUTS



Luckily Flat-coats aren't beagles!



NEFCRC WC/WCX - October 7, 2017 at West Thompson Dam



Bunny Millikin and Sally Bridges co-chaired the committee which held a WC/X at West Thompson Dam with our great friends in the Yankee Golden Retriever Club on October 7, 2017.



Again we had perfect weather for such a joint venture and terrific judges; our own Joe Martin and Yankee Golden's Andrea Fisher. Joe and Marcia Martin have had Flat-coated Retrievers and been NEFCRC members for many years. Andrea Fisher has been a Golden Retriever owner and handler for an equally long time. Both Joe and Andrea are currently AKC certified Hunt Test judges. We were lucky to have them both come judge for us.



We had 25 WCX entries with 7 FCRs qualifying, two were new qualifiers: Joe Juza's Granite and Susan Klein's Onyx! We had 17 WC entries and only two qualifiers, both of whom were Golden Retrievers. The cover was really pretty high for young dogs but the day culminated in a fabulous BBQ put on by our Yankee Golden friends. Thanks go to the WC/X committee and many eager workers from both clubs.

Great action photos are available to view and/or to purchase at our official photographer's website —JeremyKezer.com
Ours is the second event listed on the left.



NEFCRC WC/WCX - October 7, 2017 at West Thompson Dam (cont.)



Killyglass Cash Carry “Carrie” is waiting patiently for her turn to run. However, there are two equally patient FCRs in the white vehicle beyond Carrie . . . a liver and a black. **Quiz time — What are their names and who is the owner? Please respond to Ruth and the answer will be announced later.**



Jeannine Vieten provided delicious lunches again for the judges and all the workers. Her lunches are always packed with goodies and served with a smile.



NEFCRC WC/WCX - October 7, 2017 at West Thompson Dam (cont.)



The fog and damp settled in at the end of the day. That was good timing since it insisted on showing up!

We're looking forward to an even better event next year. It will be held at West Thompson Dam again on October 6, 2018.

See you there!



2017 NEFCRC Supported Entry

Our Supported Entry took place on Nov. 25 and 26 at West Springfield. Saturday was conformation and on Sunday, obedience, rally and agility were run.



The fun always starts and ends with our NEFCRC friends.

The first step is getting our pups spiffed up — some require extra hands to stop the wiggling. The 8 am ring time didn't help but “real” help is always offered and highly valued. Lisa Foley appreciated Sophie Brock's distraction. The tails never stop wagging. Visiting with friends is a special bonus.



The Sweepstakes judge was [Ms. Alessandra R. Folz](#) and the Breed judge was [Ms. Kathryn Leonhardt](#).

Breed Results:

Sweeps

Best in Puppy Sweeps:
Athercroft Lettice Romaine Calm
Vicky Nickerson, Dee Turkelson, and Ruth Marsh
Best Of Op Puppy Sweeps:
CH Bristol's Karibbean Queen of Calypso
Nanci Hanover
Best Veteran in Sweeps:
GCH Vahala's Tiny Dancer
Kurt Anderson and Marla Doheny
Best of Opposite Veteran Sweeps:
Slipstream Sailed The Ocean Blue RE JH
Jenn Tower

Kristen Sobanski did her usual outstanding job with the trophies for the winners! Thanks again Kristen!

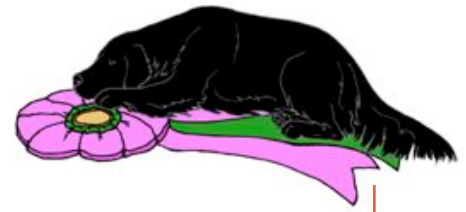
Following the judging a pot luck lunch was held with many members of the club in attendance. Everything was delicious. Thanks to all who brought items to share!

Breed

Winners Dog/Best of Winners: 5pt major
Bertschire Black Bird TKN
Beth Brock and Andrea Holsinger
Reserve Winners Dog:
Huntlane Blue Note Legacy BN TD RN NA NAJ
CGC
Nancy and Ken Triou
Winners Bitch: 5pt major
Blackfriar Lexi Pearl VP CGCA
Cindy and Eric Sengberger
Reserve winners Bitch:
Alidar Hi Times RA JH MXP MJP OFF DS CGC
WC
Robert Spetla, Janet Olsen, and Suzanne Mathison
Best of Breed:
GCH Beachcliff Seminole Wind
Ann McCall, Lisa Weis, and Deborah Edwards

Best of Op/BOBOH:
CH K'Mander Little Buster Brown
Kurt Anderson and Marla Doheny
Select Dog:
GCHS Fishercreeks Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh RN CD CGCA
Jill Kuchinos, Theresa Kuchinos, and Barry Harrison
Select Bitch:
CH Breezy Hill's keeping A Buzz
Susan Stillwell
Best of Breed Veteran:
GCH Altair Dancing In The Dark
Neal Goodwin

NEFCRC Supported Entry (cont.)



Kathi Leonhardt, our judge, wrote these comments about our Supported entry and those who worked so hard to put it on. High praise!

“Home again, from Massachusetts and judging the NEFCRC supported entry. It was a fabulous experience judging 58 FCRs and 74 four to six month puppies - and Best in Show pup! The NEFCRC folks were so warm and accommodating and it was a pleasure going over all their wonderful furkids.

Huge thank you's go out to Kristen Sobanski, Sally Young, Sue Stilwell, Sue Klein and all the board and membership of this great club. Thank you, to everyone who trusted me with judging this so well-received entry. I also would like to thank AKC Rep Patty Proctor for being there to make sure everything went well with such a large entry.”

Supported Entry Sunday's venue

“The Biggest Show on Dirt” - agility, rally, obedience



Photo by Joe Juza

Photo by Joe Juza



King on his throne!



Theresa Kuchinos giving and receiving love

Ezzy's Skipper

By Henry F. Stocek, Jr.

Martha named Ezmarelda back when she and Jimmy used to come up to Vermont a lot. I shortened it to Ezzy, and though no need to call her anything; frequent rendezvous near our house established her as a regular visitor. Scarfing black oil seed and corn for blue jays, I guess, are in sync with her gypsy habits. Out in the woods, a dozen and a half of her ungulate relatives, does and yearlings, yard up for winter. They cut paths to the homely pine outside the kitchen window where I keep the roots cleared for avian flocks to feed. But wrapped in winter coats, shadowy whitetails drift in at sunset like dancers in mufti, melting away and reappearing in gathering Arctic gloom and cracking cold. This puzzles the real lords of our manor—Huckleberry and Elsa who see no good in any of this.

“Why do they have to be here, anyway?” A question often asked by our Flat Coats to which I sermonize: “Now, now, it is not easy for outdoor creatures with no warm house like yours. And remember Ezzy! Unwelcome among her race—how would *you* like to be a pariah like her?” Tufts of Ezzy’s coat from compadre’s hoof strikes bear witness to this.

Compassion I strive to instill remains thin. If we forget to look before we open the door, Huckleberry and Elsa race out, and sometimes surprise four-legged opportunists. Our Flat Coats love to abuse and hurl threats, never missing a chance to scold. “Get away! Stay away!” they bluster. I refuse to include, here, any off-color epithets they invent so as to protect their good names. My wife says they only repeat things they have heard me say, but I admit nothing.

Ezzy’s face is “black,” a discoloration from nose to eyes. By this, she is identifiable with the herd, as well as on solitary visits. When Huckleberry chases her, he knows it is pure ritual. She effortlessly outdistances him. She has appeared with similarly scrawny does. Ungulate politics require hierarchies be maintained; prejudices embraced. Smaller, barren does, I think, are low in this way.

Before we put in the pond, Ezzy crossed the road for water where I saw her get hit. Tires screeched and smoked, but Ezzy was thumped to the pavement. “Cruel world,” I growled even as she sprang up and ran off. “Scorned, unloved, and then this!” I deemed her a goner, dying in the woods, but before the season ended, her face reappeared under the homely pine. The real surprise came this spring. It should have been obvious by her belly, but most deer have round bellies when fresh foliage pops. It escaped me that peripatetic bucks “take care” of does in established territories. Had skinny Ezzy caught the eye of the local roving stud muffin?

I opened the door before I saw them under the tree. Huckleberry barreled past me just as I realized—a fawn, spots like dappled sunlight, watching his mother demonstrate the wonder of stealing bird feed. Ezzy had a skipper! “Oh, God! Another tragedy and it’s my fault!”

I could not stop Huckleberry. Ezzy could not stop her baby, and like a deer in old Fanghorn Forrest, he turned and “flew,” his feet hardly touching the ground. Ezzy followed, with Huckleberry last. The reason for terror—how far would he go? The woods in new greenery swallowed the skipper, his mother, and halted Huckleberry. “There, Dad! ‘Got rid of that bunch for you.” He shook himself as if a job had been well done, and hung out a red tongue. “Good boy,” I lied. “Do your business, and get in here!”



Field Season 2018

As you can imagine, planning is well underway for our 2018 training season. Locations, dates, leaders, goals are all being discussed. Our flatcoats would like to start yesterday but we will wait for warmer weather . . . they like to train in the snow and glide down hillsides on their stomachs.

Special Field Announcement

We have recently been given a large generous donation to the Jim Greene Fund from Jim and Kay Greene's son Wesley on behalf of himself and his three sons, Kyle, Christopher, and James. He has fond memories of time spent with his father Jim hunting and training with their flat-coats. He wants to support our efforts to continue to build the field talents of our dogs. He also said, "If you ever need help with a test, feel free to contact me. I'd be happy to help."

We extend our sincere thanks to Wesley and the Greene family for their continued support of NEFCRC field endeavors.



Wesley and Kay Greene getting a "puppy fix" with Sally Young's Killyglass pup

Planning vs Reality

Lisa Foley shared this cartoon depiction of training a dog. Despite many attempts, she could not establish the source. She is sharing it here because it seems like a universal truth about all training, animal or human!

Thank you, Lisa!



Winter Walkabouts

In 2015 , in spite of one of the snowiest and coldest winters on record, NEFCRC members enjoyed two Pot Luck Lunches and Walkabouts together, one in Burlington, VT and the other at Ann Cady's in Avon, NY. The others had to be cancelled due to weather. The two that didn't were so enjoyable that we've decided to try again. This year the weather will cooperate and members that don't see each other at meetings and shows can get reacquainted or newly acquainted.

Sally Young and Tina Mohr are planning a Winter pot luck and Walkabout at Sally's house in Burlington and a walk with the dogs, weather permitting at the Burlington Country Club. We're planning to invite NEFCRC members and random other local FCR owners for Saturday, January 13th.

Ann Cady of Avon, NY is willing to host a similar event in the Rochester, NY area with Ingrid Sarelius. Two years ago we had a fine turn out with members of our club in that area. TBA date

Lisa Foley is also willing to host a pot luck in the Warwick, RI area this winter. She's researching an area for the walkabout which might need to be on lead. TBA date.

Sherry Walker is also planning a walkabout in her area near Needham, MA southwest of Boston. She will be reaching out to people northwest and west of Needham. Lisa will be looking for people north and west of Providence.

If anyone else in the club is willing to host such an event for members and nonmembers, please don't hesitate to call or email me, Sally Young. These are fun, warm gatherings with little mess and fuss in the cold dark of winter!

Happy New Year!