



# GROWL

ESTABLISHED 1958

MARCH 2016

## ADOPTING OUT AGGRESSIVE DOGS

*By Teri Ann Oursler D.V.M*

I recently visited with a physician friend. He had just come from the hospital after sewing up the face of a 3-year old boy who was mauled by a dog. While I do not know the particulars of this case, it brought to mind my own work with some shelters and their desire to save every single dog and cat, regardless of their aggression towards people, regardless of the animal's physical and mental health.

What I really want to know is when did the safety of those adopting animals become less important than an aggressive pet? Why is finding a home for every animal, regardless of their temperament the most important thing? Some people assume that being alive equals quality of life. It's clear to me, as a veterinarian and dog-lover, that not only is this equation incorrect, but it also causes fear and anger to spread like a virus, amongst people and pets alike.

Back when I was still in clinical practice, I did a lot of free work for the local shelter, run by a group of well-meaning individuals. They worked with limited funds and it was staffed with mostly volunteer workers.

While we enjoyed a good relationship for most of

my practice life, it fell apart over one aggressive dog. I visited this dog in the shelter to give him his vaccinations.

As I reached down and touched him, he lunged at my face. As I jerked up and back, my employee pulled back on the leash and he came away with several mouthfuls of coat. And I do mean several mouthfuls: he did not just snap once, he bit continuously until he could no longer reach me. Through winter clothes, he left bruises on my breast.

Sadly, the shelter workers insisted that this dog could still be safely homed; they just had to be careful about who they adopted him out to.

It took several weeks and lawyers got involved, but I finally euthanized the dog. Even as I euthanized the dog, the shelter staff again told me they thought they could have found someone to take him. They just needed the 'right' home. I have to admit, I always wondered if 'the right home' was someone they did not like since they would be putting those people and their family in harm's way.

My relationship with that shelter was never the same and I never did do any dog work for them again. They only brought me cats and then, only those that were friendly.

To this day, I cannot imagine why this has been allowed to happen and continues to happen in shelters and rescues all over the world. And it happens often: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2013 (the last year for which statistics are available), there were 342,021 people with non-fatal dog bites treated at the emergency room. That's in addition to the 32 people who died that year from dog bites. From 2001 through 2013, the total number of people treated for dog bites is a mind-numbing 4.3 million.

That's millions of snapping teeth, terrified dogs, and damaged people (both physically and mentally).

Some shelters and rescues don't even conduct due diligence. They adopt out stray animals within a few days of being found, without behavioral evaluations, vaccinations, or altering. An egregious example was seen last November when a Tennessee man was killed by a dog three hours after he'd adopted it from a shelter. The man's wife and neighbor came in to what looked like the bloodiest of crime scenes, and the dog bit them. They ran outside, the dog followed. The dog was killed by police, and sent off to be tested for rabies. The dog

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# President's Message



Sharon Fremer

It's that time of year again. Our annual elections will be held in May. This year's nominating committee, chaired by Linda Hachtel ([linmarviz@msn.com](mailto:linmarviz@msn.com)) with members Fred Hachtel and Jeffrey Ball, is working to choose the upcoming slate of officers (President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary)

and board members. Please contact anyone on the committee to let them know if you are interested in a position. Members will be notified about the slate no less than two weeks before our April meeting and they will be announced in the April Growl. Nominations from the floor will be accepted only at the April general membership meeting. They may not

be made at the May meeting. Please refer to our Constitution and Bylaws for the rules about floor nominations. If you have questions please feel free to reach out to me. If I do not have an immediate answer I will get one for you as quickly as possible.

Our Match Show will be held on Saturday, June 4th, at Sunnybank in Wayne, NJ. Fred Hachtel is our match chairman and I am his assistant chair. We have not yet completed our judging panel; if you have a suggestion for a judge for one of the groups, please let Fred ([linmarviz@msn.com](mailto:linmarviz@msn.com)) or me ([teneo@mac.com](mailto:teneo@mac.com)). As always, we need volunteers for a variety of things the day of the show. We have a great time and everyone enjoys themselves. It's a great day for

all involved. Please contact Fred or me if you'd like to volunteer.

Continuing the volunteerism theme, I encourage every member to make a contribution to this club. If there is a committee you're interested in, please speak up and let me know. If there's a committee you would like to see formed, also please speak up and let me know... but be ready to put your money where your mouth is and help make it happen. This is YOUR club. We want it to be representative of our members and their interests. This will only happen if you use your voice and let us know what you want. If you prefer not to speak up at a meeting, use the phone or email (see my contact info above). I am eager to work with all of you to make Ramapo a leader among AKC clubs. This will happen faster, and with a lot more fun, if you are part of the efforts.

A quick brag about two of our show handling class students, both with Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. Liz Jamiolkowski and her male, Blue, took Best of Breed at Westminster in February. Kate Heller and her male, Dempsey, went Select Dog to Liz and Blue. This past weekend at the Saturday Rockland County Kennel Club show Kate and Dempsey took Best of Breed under highly respected Breeder Judge Gay Dunlap. Both these women and their dogs have worked hard to hone their presentation skills and it is wonderfully rewarding to know Ramapo Kennel Club played a role in their successes. Handling classes are held Tuesday nights from 6:45 to 7:30. We welcome everyone, beginners through advanced. Come by and get ready for the spring show season!

Sharon

## Ramapo Kennel Club Officers

### President

Sharon Fremer  
[teneo@mac.com](mailto:teneo@mac.com)

### Vice President

Amy Starost

### Treasurer

Ruth Henningsen

### Recording Secretary

Kim Luikert

### Corresponding Secretary

Tilly Grassa  
[tgcreative@aol.com](mailto:tgcreative@aol.com)

### Board of Directors

#### 2016

Melissa Ayer  
Gerrie Oliver  
Rose Radel

#### 2017

Elaine Barone  
Lorraine Fennemore  
Janis Hayes

### AKC Delegate

Jeffrey David Ball

# Minutes

## **RKC Member Meeting**

**February 10th 2016 American Legion Hall  
11 Oak Ave Pequannock, NJ 07440**

Sharon called the meeting to order at 8:15  
There was no program but the members enjoyed a few rounds of Bingo with the card money being donated to an organization to be determined at the March Board meeting. Members donated a nice assortment of gifts to the Bingo winners. Thank you to Joanne for organizing and bringing the Bingo equipment.

**Recording Secretary-** Lorraine Fennemore made a motion to accept the Minutes from January 13th and Rose Radel seconded — voted on and approved.

**Corresponding Secretary** -A letter from the 4-H club was read that stated they will be hosting a dog show and is asking for gift, the Board decided to send a \$250 donation. New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs sent a letter with an amendment to the slate that was sent in December. The AKC sent a letter regarding companion events.

**Treasurer-** Checking 16,278.34 balance.  
Money market \$34,862.28

**Membership-** The membership voted in Joan Kuhem into The Club.

**Obedience-** Enrollment very good so far.

**Awards-** Forms are here for people to take.

**Sunshine-** A donation was made to The Closter Ambulance Corp in memory of Ken Guile.

**NJFDC-** Jeffery Ball went into detail about the Bill that fortunately was tabled but not with ease. We as the dog fancy need to be more pro-active and inform senators by sending letters and emails. Lobby day will be rescheduled.

**AKC delegate-** meeting is in March in Newark, they will be voting for three positions that seven people are running for. If you have any input on who Jeffrey

should vote for please contact him. Lee Arnold is doing well and looking good, he sends his best to the Club.

**Point show-** Saw Mill KC has approached us to join our upcoming show for Friday and possibly Thursday. The Board decided to invite Saw Mill KC to join our show site on Friday and possibly Thursday. Future years to be evaluated after 2016 show. Advertising in Dog News about the change in the show. Judges hospitality still needs a chair, please see Melissa for more information.

**Match Show-** Is Saturday, June 4th at Sunnybank. See Fred if you have any requests.

**Nominating committee-** The nominating committee has been approved: Linda Hachtel chair, Fred Hachtel member, Jeffrey Ball board member, Phyllis Lasser and Cindy McMillan as alternates.

**Guests-** Robyn Haskin friends of Gerrie Oliver and Kim Luikert.

**Refreshments-** Amy Starost and Anne Hulsizer will bring to the March meeting. Business cards are available for any member.

Gerrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 Ruth Henningsen seconded— voted on and approved.

*Respectfully submitted by-*  
*Kim Luikert*  
*February 15 2016*

## Adopting out aggressive dogs, *continued from page 1*

was sent for rabies testing because his behavior was so crazy. I don't know how this case is turning out because the county's health department isn't allowed to comment on it.

In another case, an animal behavior specialist who temperament tested a dog told the shelter that the dog, who had been returned twice for aggression, should not be adopted; and when he was adopted

### What to look for to protect yourself

How do you protect yourself, at least a little, from selecting an aggressive dog and all the heartache associated with it? While you may have a home with no children (or men or women), remember that you need to keep passersby safe, as well as neighbors, delivery people, and your visitors. You do not want to hear that the wind blew open your gate and your new dog mauled the little old lady next door while she was getting her newspaper, or chased a bike-riding child down the road.

There are some key phrases I look for when I am reading about an animal available for adoption. All of these phrases mean the same thing to me: "Please take this dog, even though we know he is dangerous."

1. Not good with kids.
2. Needs to be in a home with only women (or men).
3. Needs some training
4. Needs to live with an experienced dog owner.
5. Needs a quiet home.
6. Needs to live on a large farm.

It is your job to ask key questions. After all, you expect to adopt a dog or cat that is not going to cause you or your family members harm, either physically or emotionally. You expect to adopt an animal that gives you joy, does not leave you living in fear in your own home.

1. How many homes has this dog been in?
2. Why was this animal relinquished?
3. Has this animal bitten anyone?
4. Is this a pet you would adopt out to someone in your family?

Why or why not?

5. Ask to talk to the prior owners.
6. Ask to talk to the prior veterinarian.
7. Ask around to see if the shelter/rescue has a history of adopting out aggressive animals. Ask your vet; ask your neighbor; ask the local animal control officer.
8. Ask to see how the dog acts around men/women/kids, without the handler, although the way they act at the shelter may not be how they act at your home.

out, he bit a child in the face three days later. The family sued the shelter (what a surprise):

"I advised that he would not be a suitable candidate for adoption," the specialist said. "The director told me they would look for a suitable placement, and I very specifically stated he could in no way ever be adopted to a family with children or men."

I can just see the lawsuit: "We think this dog's life is more important than people's safety, your honor. He's just letting us know that he's not in the right home yet. We'll keep trying. The families can pay for their medical treatment because we can't afford it. I am sure the boy can get enough psychiatric care to get him past this fear of dogs."

This lack of evaluation is not limited to shelters. Many rescues operate under the delusion that every animal deserves to be placed in a home, no matter what his behavior is like. Some well-meaning zealots think that any aggressive pet should be adopted out and have a chance. They are thinking of the animal and their placement success rate, not of people who would be afraid of an aggressive animal. Since when is it okay to live with an animal you're afraid of?

The other side of this coin is that every time an aggressive dog or cat is accepted into a rescue or a shelter, they take up space and resources – medical, financial – that can be used for more than one even-tempered pet that needs assistance. In general, finding a home for an aggressive animal takes more than twice the time of an animal who is even-tempered. How many adoptable, even-tempered pets are euthanized because there is no space or funds for them? Why is so much attention given to pets that cannot be safely adopted? Any pet whose aggression is increasing is an unhappy, fearful pet. His quality of life is circling the drain. Being alive is not what matters most; it's the quality of that life.

It is up to you to look carefully and ask questions; realize that the ads with all of the cute pictures are there to tug at your heartstrings, not engage your logic. Find and use the logical part of your brain.

In addition, it is important to know that there is a honeymoon period for adopted pets when they are on their best behavior. As they become more comfortable in your home, their behavior will change. It's like the difference between the first few dates and two years of marriage: the true temperament appears. Most pets become more relaxed and happy, while a few revert to the nasty behaviors that got them to the shelter in the first place. If this happens, please don't pass the problem on to someone else; don't pass on the heart ache or the danger. Deal with it. Get a medical workup and if there are no physical issues, find a veterinary behaviorist. Whatever you do, do NOT look for someone else to place in danger.

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# RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPLICATION

CALENDAR YEAR JAN. 1, 2015 THROUGH DEC. 31, 2015

Reg. Name of Dog \_\_\_\_\_

Dog \_\_\_\_\_ Bitch \_\_\_\_\_

AKC# \_\_\_\_\_ Breed/Variety \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder \_\_\_\_\_

Owned by member(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Bred by Member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Handled by Member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Indicate name of RKC Member who is to receive the award.

## CATEGORY

### HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BIS (All Breed) Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

BIS (Specialty) Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

High in Trial Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Best in Field Trial Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

Conformation Champion Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Champion Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bronze, Silver, Gold Gr CH Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Obedience Trial Champion Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Field Trial Champion Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### OBEDIENCE DEGREE AWARDS

BN, PCD, CD, GN, PCDX, CDX, GO, PUTD, UD, UDX, VER, TD, TDX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, OM, OGM

### TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_ Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER AKC TITLES (Herding, Field, Agility Therapy dog etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Show \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Photocopies of all AKC Titles must be sent with entry. No awards will be given without photocopies. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Non-AKC Titles will only count towards the breeders' award and certificates of achievement. Temperament testing is a Non-AKC Title.

## RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION, continued

### Non-Regular Awards and Requirements

Additional Awards (S.T.A.R., CGC, CGCA, WORLD CYNO SPORT, TT, or parent club titles etc.), applicable for Certificate of Achievement only)

_____ Show _____	Date _____	Country _____
_____ Show _____	Date _____	Country _____
_____ Show _____	Date _____	Country _____
_____ Show _____	Date _____	Country _____
_____ Show _____	Date _____	Country _____

### AENNCHEN ANTONELLI / GILMA BLAUVELT - MOSS BREEDERS AWARD

1. Presented to a club member who is the breeder of record of dogs winning the most titles in each calendar year. Dogs do not need to be owned by the club member. It is the total number of titles won which determines the winner, not the number of individual dogs.
2. Any recognized titles shall be included, ie Champion, Obedience, Field, Working Dog, etc.
3. Titles may be won in any country of the world.

### LEE ABRAHAM AWARD FOR BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Presented to the owner of the bitch who:

1. Produced the most champions (bred by owner from one bitch only) during the calendar year.
2. Only American Kennel Club Championships to count.

### MILLIE MC CABE AWARD FOR STUD DOG OF THE YEAR

Presented to the owner of the Stud Dog who:

1. Produced the most "Champions" during the calendar year.
2. Only American Kennel Club Championships to count.

### WILLIAM AND RUBY KLEINMANN'S MEMORIAL AWARD

This Award is figured from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. This award will be based on the greatest number of dogs defeated in breed competition (up to and including Best in Show) by a single dog handled by its Owner. Dogs owned or co-owned by a Professional handler are excluded. If the dog is owned and handled by more than one member (neither of which is a Professional handler), both members will share the award equally.

### LESLEE VALENTE MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR EXCELLENCE IN OBEDIENCE

This award is given to a member who handled the dog with the highest average scores in AKC Novice A or B from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. Minimum of three scores required. Shows and scores must be provided. Winner is to retain custody of the award for the year.

\*\*\*\*\*NEW AWARD THIS YEAR\*\*\*\*\*

### RALLY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This award is presented to the RKC member who has achieved the AKC Rally Advanced/Excellent title. To earn this title, the dog must have completed the requirements for the Rally Excellent title and received qualifying scores in both Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B at 10 separate trials.

## **RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION, continued**

### **RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

The following rules govern the choice of the recipient of this award each year.

1. This award is presented to the RKC member who has provided dedicated service to the club and the sport of purebred dogs.
2. Award is given to a club member who has received the most letters of recommendation by the membership.
3. In the event of a tie the recipient shall be chosen by the Board of Directors from those individuals recommended by letters from the membership.
4. To be presented at the June Awards Dinner. Recipient only may be told to insure their being present.

### **AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

1. This award celebrates those individuals who deserve special recognition for having made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embody the AKC code of sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. The award is given to a club member who has been nominated and approved by the majority of the board of directors and officers **PRIOR** to the May meeting and shall be presented at the June awards dinner. The awards chair will be notified by April 15th. The recipient only may be notified by the awards chair to insure their being present.

### **Eligibility for Ramapo Kennel Club Awards**

In order to apply and receive any Achievement Awards MEMBERS must fulfill at least two of the following:

1. Work the Point Show.
2. Work the Match Show.
3. Attend two (2) Club Meetings
4. Work at Obedience and/or Show Handling Classes
5. Work on a Club Committee.
6. Participate in a Public Education Demonstration through the Club
7. Participate in a Pet Therapy Session through the Club.

(Life Members or members living more than 60 miles from show functions are exempt)

**In addition**, to give recognition to a greater number of members, Achievement Awards will be limited to three (3) consecutive wins by a member.

**All award entries must be received by APRIL 15th, 2016 with photocopies of Wins and Titles to:**

**ELAINE BARONE  
10 BIRCH ROAD**

**KINNELON, NJ 07405-2505**

**E-mail [elaineb.bowow@juno.com](mailto:elaineb.bowow@juno.com)**

YOU MAY E-MAIL YOUR LETTERS FOR THE "GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD"

Feel free to e-mail me your awards ONLY if you can scan the forms and certificates required.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from all of you.

# Braggs

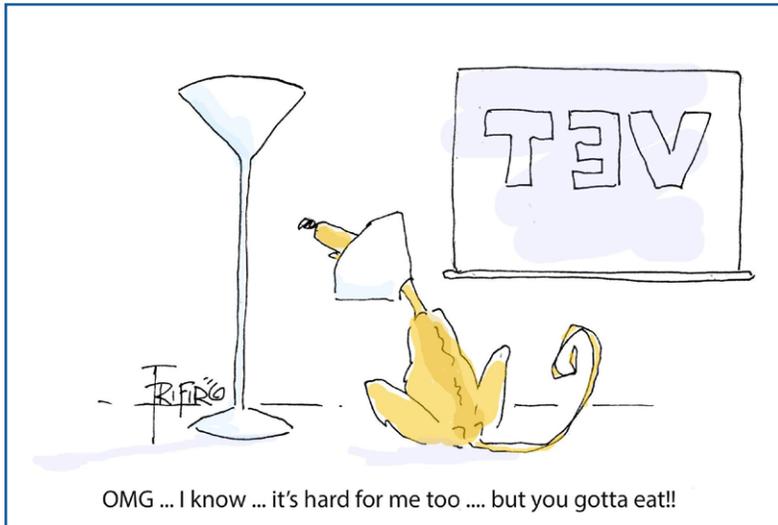


GCH Tam-Boer 'nTarlyn Silver Diamond of Karefor MLD, owned by Lena Tamboer, won an Award of Merit ant Westminster KC. He is a multiple Specialty BOB winner and won BOV at Morris and Essex.

## Mickey Mick at Two Rivers RE,THD,CGC,CD-C

completed his Rally Excellent title on Jan 17th at K-9 Dog Training Club of Essex County and his CD-C title with a 197.5 and first place in the Companion Dog Sports Program on Feb 13.

Mickey is owned by Elaine Barone & co-owned by Ruth Henningsen and is handled by Ruth even though he lives with Elaine.



## TROPHY SPONSORS NEEDED!

For the upcoming point show. Breed and Group trophies and rosettes. Contact Kim Luikert at [kim.luikert@gmail.com](mailto:kim.luikert@gmail.com), or see her at the next meeting.

## RKC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DEADLINE APRIL 15TH!

*Attention Members!*

The RKC Achievement Award Nomination Application forms are on pages 5-7. Please remember to apply for your achievement awards each year. There are many categories in which you may qualify. Please check the website [Ramapokennelclub.com](http://Ramapokennelclub.com) for the complete list of categories. Descriptions and requirements for Special Club awards are also listed in the front portion of your Roster. Applications due by April 15, 2016.

## RKC Show Handling Schedule - 2016

### TUESDAY EVENINGS

6:45 - 7:30

Drop-in classes: \$12.00 per dog,  
OR 6 classes for \$60.00

No classes July and August

Mar. 1, 22  
Apr. 5, 26  
May 3, 24  
June 14

FMI: Linda Hachtel  
973-697-4337  
or Sharon Fremer  
201-665-2565, teneo@mac.com



TILLY GRASSA

## RKC Training Class Schedule - 2016

### TUESDAY RALLY CLASSES

7:30 - 8:15 RALLY ADV/EXC.

8:30 - 9:15 RALLY NOVICE

(Basic obedience skills required)

#### Session 3

Mar. 1, 15, 22, 29

Apr. 5

#### Session 4

Apr. 19, 26

May 3, 17, 24, 31

June 14

Puppy Kindergarten 6:30-7:15

Beginner Obedience 7:30-8:15

Advanced Beginner 8:30-9:15

#### Session 3

Feb. 17, 24

Mar. 2, 16, 23, 30

Apr. 6

#### Session 4

Apr. 20, 27

May 4, 18, 25

June 1, 15

Feb. 9 CGC/THERAPY testing  
(there is a fee for testing)

June 22 CGC/THERAPY testing  
(there is a fee for testing)

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

FOR CLASS INFORMATION AND TIMES  
CONTACT:

RUTH HENNINGSSEN 973-697-9456 or  
email at: RUTHH.SNODOG@JUNO.COM  
OR JOANNE SILVER 201-891-5090  
JOANNE SILVER1937@YAHOO.COM

Class registration form available on the  
website:  
[ramapokennelclub.com/RKCClasses](http://ramapokennelclub.com/RKCClasses)

## Got Stuff?

Send your news, brags, suggestions, comments and photos to Tilly Grassa, [tgcreative@aol.com](mailto:tgcreative@aol.com). Remember the *Growl* comes out about a week before each monthly meeting. Check the calendar on the last page for submission deadlines. The *Growl* is by and for the members so I need your help to make it interesting.



# GROWL

Published by the Ramapo Kennel Club  
7 Morgan Court  
Wayne, NJ 07470

#### Designer/Editor/Photographer:

Tilly Grassa  
[tgcreative@aol.com](mailto:tgcreative@aol.com)  
973-633-5254

# Dates to remember:

All membership meetings are held at

**American Legion Post 450  
11 Oak Ave.  
Pequannock, NJ 07440 at 8:00 PM  
(unless otherwise noted)**

<b>Wednesday, March 9</b>	RKC Member Meeting, 8PM. Board meeting at 7:15 Program: TBA
<b>Wednesday, April 13</b>	RKC Member Meeting, 8PM. Board meeting at 7:15 Program: TBA
<b>Wednesday, May 11</b>	RKC Member Meeting, 8PM. Board meeting at 7:15 Program: TBA



# GROWL

11 Pershing Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**