

NWRRRC Member Profile: Lorraine Pedersen, Member since 1991
Submitted for the January 2023 Newsletter

Lorraine is a longtime member of NWRRRC, is active in a number of dog sports, training and events with her current Ridgeback ZaK, GCh Ch UCD Jesmyster Exactly Right Kito, HIC, CGC, BN, CD, AKC Achiever Dog, TKN, RE, TT, ACT1, ACT1J, BCAT, NAJ, NA. She is an obedience instructor at French Creek Pet Resort in Snohomish, WA. Lorraine has done a ton of work for the Club and is currently on the Newsletter and Rescue committees. She is active with Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc, Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue, and volunteers at Helping Our Miniature Equines. Lorraine has earned titles in obedience, conformation, rally, agility, coursing, Fast CAT - the list goes on! Last month, I sent Lorraine some interview questions and below is a recap.

Growing up: My parents wouldn't let us have dogs when we were growing up, so I got my first dog as a gift when I was 18 and no longer living at home. My first purebred dog was a Sheltie I named Travis. Though I trained him, I never competed with him. I moved to Washington from California in 1981 and brought Travis with me. I lost Travis to cancer in 1989; he was 11 years old.

Ridgebacks: I had met a Ridgeback when I was in high school and was impressed with that dog, so when I lost Travis, I started hunting for a Ridgeback breeder. At that time, RR's were not easy to find! I remember going to the local pet store where I bought my aquarium stuff, and the employee there had a booklet with breeders' names of different breeds; in a roundabout way, I ended up contacting Nancy Williams.



My first RR, Kito (Swahili for "Gem"), was born in September, 1990 and I brought him home on Thanksgiving weekend of that year. Nancy led me to the NWRRRC and I have been a member since the early 90's, and joined RRCUS soon after.

Kito was the first dog I competed with and he eventually became UCD K-D Hill Jewel of Zimbabwe, CD, CGC, TT.

When Kito was a year old, I agreed to take a dog from a co-worker sight unseen, a collie mix named Hannah, to keep Kito company while I was gone. They became fast friends. (This is also when I got involved in dog rescue, in which I remain involved to this day. But that's a whole other story!) Kito died at 12 ½, and soon after that, I got my first greyhound, retired track dog, Woody.

I got my second RR in 2004 from Debbie Brower and Kitty Tominey. I named him Kamili, which is Swahli for “Flawless” and he was my first conformation show dog. I co-owned him with Avril Hall (now Hall-Mahil), who owned Kamili’s sire, Bigs.

Though I tried showing him in conformation, I could not get far; as agreed, Avril showed him in Canada, and I hired Georgia Hymmen to show him in the US.

I did all his training and competed with him in various activities, and he eventually became American and Canadian Ch Beaubijou’s Kito of Armagh, HIC, CGC, JC, TT, CD. We had two legs on his RN when he unexpectedly passed away at 10 ½.



Owner-handling with “Zak”: My current RR, Zak, came to me in July, 2015. Zak is short for “Zakia”, which is Swahili for “intelligent” and this really fits him! I have earned more titles on Zak than on any of my other dogs – maybe as many as all of them put together! He loves to learn and work and he learns fast. He has been exclusively owner-handled in everything, and is currently GCh Ch UCD Jesmyster Exactly Right Kito, HIC, CGC, BN, CD, AKC Achiever Dog, TKN, RE, TT, ACT1, ACT1J, BCAT, NAJ, NA. We are actively training at the Open/Utility levels and in Agility. Once he gets his Open Agility title (either in Jumpers or Standard), we will be eligible for our RRCUS Versatility certificate. I have been working towards that for years – like everyone else, we lost a lot of training and competition time because of COVID, but nothing will stop us!



Above are images of Lorraine and her dog Zak, GCh Ch UCD Jesmyster Exactly Right Kito, HIC, CGC, BN, CD, AKC Achiever Dog, TKN, RE, TT, ACT1, ACT1J, BCAT, NAJ, NA

Zak, Covid, and Becoming a trainer! It is due to Zak that I am now an obedience instructor. When Zak was 4, I learned about Agility classes at French Creek Pet Resort and got us signed up. I had not been going there long when I was asked if I wanted to teach Obedience there, but I did not think I was ready for that, so I declined. But a year or so later, while we were still in “Mask Mode”, I took the plunge and got courses planned and set up. I based what I was going to teach on stuff I had learned from previous instructors and some of my own stuff tossed in. I started my first course of Foundation Obedience and Manners at French Creek on October 28, 2020. Since then, I have expanded to three courses of Foundation taught each week, and have added a Novice Competition class, called Moving Forward: Improving Obedience, and I do private sessions as well. I will be expanding on that in the coming year of 2023, collaborating with another instructor at French Creek in Canine Good Citizen practices and tests – I plan on getting certified as a CGC Evaluator early next year. Also, since I have so much invested in training – I have started my own business, named [Rowdy Red Dog Training, LLC](#). I am very excited about being a small business owner and an entrepreneur! Truly a new career for me!

Life and Training with Ridgebacks: As with many of us, I cannot imagine not having an RR. I find it most amusing that many of the traits that non-RR people don’t like in the breed – independence, stubbornness, prey drive – are all the things I love about the breed. I am also very glad the training methods have changed so much from when I was training Kito: at that time, “training” was punitive and definitely not motivational. Motivational training has truly revolutionized training and made it possible to get so much more out of your dog, with much more enjoyment on both sides.

The bond that comes from training and working with your dog is amazing and I have learned SO MUCH about dogs from training. And from rescue! I hope that I impart to my students my passion for dogs and training. The sky is the limit with what you can do with Ridgebacks (minus cold water retrieving!) and if you and/or your dog don’t like one activity, try another – there are plenty to choose from!