

# ROCK RAMBLER RIDGE WINTER 2021



A NEW  
ERA FOR  
ROCK RIDGE

It's been 3 years,  
and we've missed you.

The Rambler is back!

Visit [RockRidgeLake.org](http://RockRidgeLake.org) to  
join the neighborhood.

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Rock Ridge Community Club  
55 Entrance Way | Denville, NJ 07834

# A Letter from the President of the RRCC

Dear Rock Ridgers,

I want to offer a huge thank you to all of you who have supported Rock Ridge during these trying times. This has been generously demonstrated through your donations, volunteering, and attending the events we have been able to have.

I, and so many of you, love RRCC and want to see it succeed for generations to come!

Here are some highlights of recent RRCC changes:

- We reviewed our contracts and various operating expenses and reduced monthly costs, saving us nearly one family membership per month in expenses.
- Got the QFarm up and running.
- Changed our tv and wifi services to reduce costs.
- Implemented new inventory control and point of sale systems to manage the bar more efficiently.
- Facilitated several great fundraisers, like the Turkey Trot, Christmas Tree sale, Brick Fundraiser (still open)
- The executive board has been diligently focused on keeping our community safe, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

I hope you and your families stay safe, healthy, and Rock Ridge Strong!

Sincerely,  
Laura Shally  
President  
Rock Ridge Community Club  
President@rockridgelake.org



## Moving Forward with QFARM

### RRCC NJ Farm Assessment

*Program Update*  
by Patrick Gahagan

Shortly after the establishment of the current board contact was re-established with both Estling Lake and their Consulting Forester, Doug Tavella. After hearing from Estling about QFARM at a November board meeting, the board unanimously decided to pursue QFarm status for RRCC.

One of the main requirements for NJ Farm Assessment is to show farm utilization for 2 years before filing for QFARM property status. To establish farm utilization, wood products like firewood and other value added wood products (sweedish candles, mushroom logs) from Brian Cunningham were sold. In 2020 about \$540 was sold, meeting the QFARM income requirement.

The 2nd procedure for establishing farm uti-

lization is to develop and implement a forest management plan created by a licensed NJ Consulting Forester. Members of the board worked with Mr. Tavella to develop the plan. It was completed and delivered to the township assessor on December 26th. Board members were able to work with Mr. Tavella to get the plan at a reduced cost.

The plan itself was created after a field inventory of RRCC forests. Volume calculations indicate that RRCC has around 7 years of firewood from storm fallen or standing dead trees. Other than possibly having to deal with infested Ash trees, there will be no need to cut down healthy trees to meet QFARM income requirements. Our forest is considered very mature and it is expected that storm damage will continue to generate new firewood and other wood products for many years to come.

Other notable parts of the plan include activities that improve wildlife habitat like creating brush piles for birds, and the eventual creation of a hiking trail circling the lake. While not prescribed specifically in the plan, new trees have been and will continue to be planted around the property.

So far members have harvested about 3 cords of firewood from the property. Some has been bagged in RRCC labeled firewood bags and can be purchased for \$10 dollars a bag. Bags are large and contain 9-10 pieces. Email [pgahagan@rockridgelake.org](mailto:pgahagan@rockridgelake.org) to purchase.

RRCC has done everything required so 2020 qualifies as year 1 of the 2 year qualifying period. 2021 is year 2 and we will file this August for the property class change to QFARM. 2022 is when most of RRCC land changes from commercial to farm assessment rates and the property taxes are reduced (estimated around \$17k in savings\*). Less than a year from now.

\* Pending a discussion with the tax assessor to get the exact number, could be marginally more or less.



## The Lake Activities Committee Update

by Andrea Lacey

### AHOY LAKE LOVERS!

The LAC is excited to announce the calendar is packed with events for members of all ages. The LAC also regrets to announce we are unable to hold any events because of the state's COVID-19 restrictions. As a community we are still hunkering down and staying safe by only spending time with those in our household. The limits on gatherings do not allow us to hold any events this month, but we are working on some virtual options for you as well as preparing for vaccinations, warmer weather, and fewer restrictions.

We have wonderful winter events such as the beloved Winterfest, a Valentine's day wine tasting, kids movie nights, kids sports nights, Superbowl Party/Chili Cook Off, St. Patrick's day Party, and ensign the cold season with a Recipe Swap.

As the ground thaws and the ice melts, we will make way for some classic spring time activities such as (but not limited to) the Bunny Brunch kicking off the spring season, kids nerf gun battle, Spring- has- Sprung Adult Cocktail Party, concerts on the deck, kids kickball/adult keg ball at the field, and ending the season with Opening Day.

When the longest days are upon us we will really pack the LAC calendar which everything from Opening Summerfest, to the Family Campout, to RRCC Regatta with the popular cardboard boat races, JAWS movie night where we watch from the lake, adult game night on the beach, the Luau, and of course and endless summer party. For the autumn, there are rumors of a "harvest festival" among our newly-minted RRCC Forestry Crew, complete with lumberjack games.

Don't despair we are planning and prepping for brighter days ahead. Till then we are working on our summer "bods" by challenging each other and ourselves in RRCCs Boulders to Pebbles competition.



## Updates from the Bar Fishing Club

by Joe Giordano

The Bar is growing up! Over the past few months, technological upgrades in the Clubhouse resulted in some major changes at the bar. The Internet was upgraded to high-speed wifi that allowed us to switch to streaming television. The range of the wifi is expanding too, finally (and reliably) reaching the TikiBar.

With the expanded wifi, we moved to the Square POS system, which allows payments anywhere on the property. We also tackled the cash flow issues at the bar through inventory tracking measures. We know what sells, what doesn't sell, and keep the inventory fresh while minimizing loss. Since October, the Bar has made over \$2000 in profit despite lockdowns due to COVID-19.

We also expanded our craft beer selection and rotate our beer selection on a seasonal basis. Our future plans include potential collaborations with Denville's Fort Nonsense Brewery, a refreshed and updated wine selection, and more drinks for kids.

Stay tuned!

## Kindess Day Fundraiser

by Geri Mooney

The Rock Ridge Community came together for #kindnessday, with their generous donations, and we were able to purchase an Amazon gift card totaling \$750 for the young men at St Peters Orphanage.

It is shaping up to be a great year of fishing at Rock Ridge! It's looking like we will be stocking the lake again this year.

Be on the look out for upcoming fishing events this Spring.

If you have any questions please reach out to: Jim Prunty  
jfrunty@gmail.com

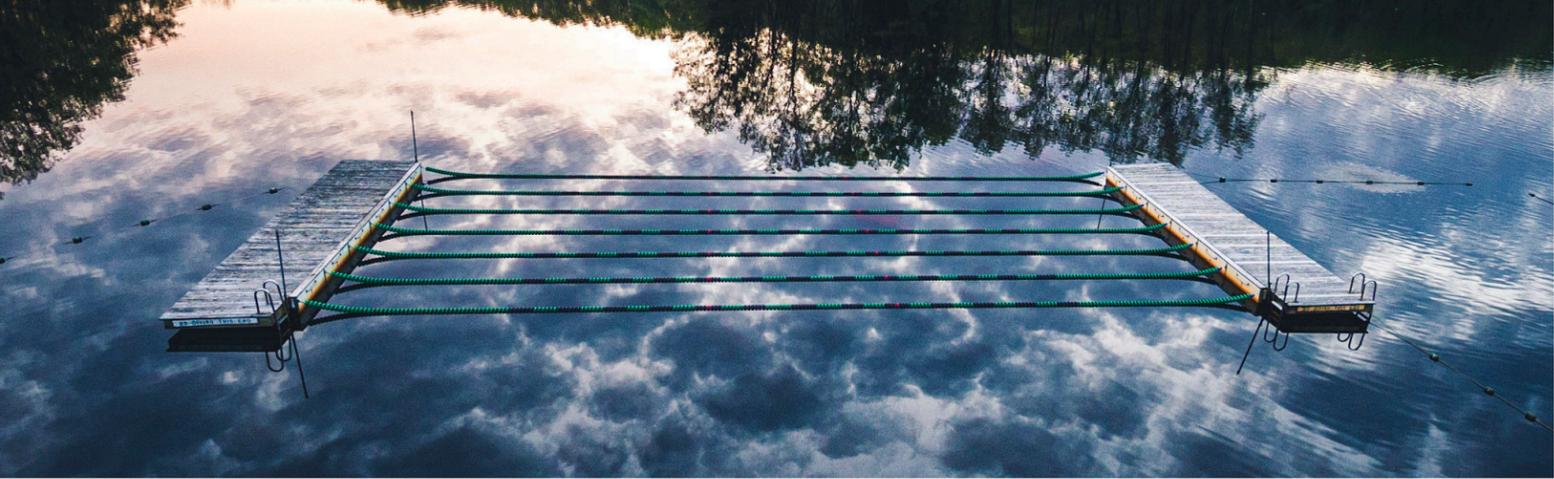
Chris Mahoney  
christopherjmahoney@gmail.com

## HUB Lakes Darts

The Rock Ridge Dart team is coming off a strong season, taking home 2nd place in the league championship after a heart breaking loss to Cedar Lake.

We are looking for team members. Please reach out to Jim Prunty or Russ Kaldy if you're interested in playing!

Jim Prunty  
jfrunty@gmail.com



# HUB Lake Sports

by Andrew Schutt

RRCC is a member of HUB Lakes Sport League. For over 6 decades, local lakes communities have enjoyed friendly competition in a variety of sports.

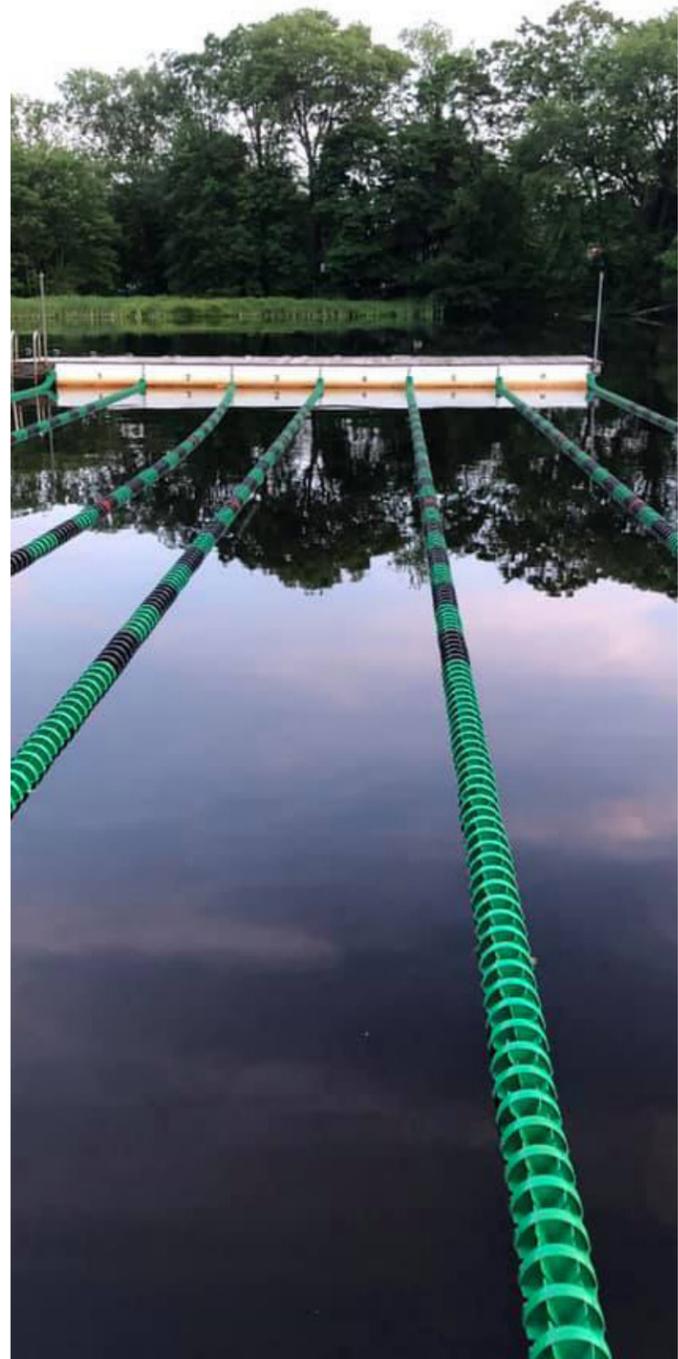
Current participants of HUB Lakes include RockRidge Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Estling Lake, Indian Lake, Lake Intervale, Mountain Lakes, Lake Parsippany, Cedar Lake, Rainbow Lakes, Lake Telemark, Lake Valhalla, and White Meadow Lake. HUB Lake sports include Bowling, Darts, Diving, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Men's Horseshoes, Women's Horseshoes, Men's Softball, Women's Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Track, Men's Volleyball, and Women's Volleyball

Full members of RRCC are eligible to participate. There are some restrictions for our Associate members. Participation in HUB lakes sports are bound by eligibility requirements and by-laws of HUB Lakes as well as RRCC bi-laws and rules. Currently, RRCC competes in the following sports.

If you are interested in joining one of our teams, please see the contact list below.

Questions for eligibility or more detail on the individual sports can be directed to our HUB lakes coordinator Andrew Schutt at:

andrewschutt@gmail.com



# Historian's Corner

by Erika Herman

When my husband Karl and I stumbled upon Rock Ridge Lake at an open house 19 years ago, we were instantly enchanted and within the week we had bought our house on West Glen Road. We remember the old club house from 1925 fondly, and when the many items that had collected for decades had to be temporarily moved, I went through a good deal of it and was fascinated by the colorful history Rock Ridge's members had made - and that we continue to make! In this first offering, I thought I would share a bit about some of the earliest history of how Rock Ridge was founded...

The Cook family (of Cook's Pond fame) was one of the first to settle in Denville, tracing back to 1772. In the 1800's, Peter F. Cook recalled traipsing through the swampy area that is now Rock Ridge Lake to retrieve his grandfather's cattle that roamed the region. Just prior to selling Rock Ridge on May 2, 1907, a wooden dam was built from timber cut here and a lake was formed.



Cook Family in 1902  
Boy sitting on porch is Peter F. Cook II  
Along side—his father, Sidney F. Cook

Soon after, developers were looking for property in Upper Jersey to entice city dwellers to escape the smog and heat and come and enjoy the fresh air in the summer. These entrepreneurs were heard to have said when walking all over the property, "My, but surely this is a rocky ridge" and so our lake was named. Before structures began to be built soon after, it has been said that members of a Methodist Chautauqua (an adult education and social movement highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries) set up camps on the rocky hills surrounding the lake - and some of us on West Glen Road have even found remnants of tent sites from more than 100 ago!

I look forward to sharing many more fun historical facts with you in future Ramblers ~ E.H.



## Historian's Corner Dedication

This column (and all of my future offerings) is dedicated to long time Rock Ridge historian, Bob Illig, (1932-2017). He co-authored Rock Ridge Remembered; he then co-authored Patriots of Denville and The Civil War and Denville which told stories of Denville war veterans. He also completed many other projects and books as a Historian including researching all the cemeteries in Denville, Rockaway, and Boonton, Garfield Grammar School, Central High School, and the Newark Police Dept. One of the original RRCC swim team members back in the early 50's, Bob was a U.S. Navy veteran and passionate pre-servier of so many documents and items that would likely have been lost if it were not for his interest and care. I know that he would be so pleased to hear that the Rambler is back! After Bob's passing, at his request the last time I spoke with him, our son Zach played Taps on his trumpet over Rock Ridge Lake- may Bob rest in peace.

# 2021 Summer Lifeguard Jobs at Rock Ridge Community Club

If you are interested in lifeguarding this summer, complete the application and return it to:

Megan Keown  
[meg.keown@gmail.com](mailto:meg.keown@gmail.com)

### Lifeguard requirements are:

16 years of age, CPR, Lifeguard and Waterfront certification,  
Working papers are required under 18 years old

**Application due** March 29, 2021

**Interviews begin** March 30, 2021

**Lifeguard mandatory meeting** April 30, 2021

## Calling All Rock Ridge Junior Groundskeepers!

Looking for a way to do your part at Rock Ridge? Maybe community service hours? Or do you just want to be outside this summer...

Join our junior groundskeeper crew.

### Responsibilities Include:

- Raking the lake
- Cleaning up leftover trash
- Keeping our beautiful lake clean

Although this is a community service position, your efforts this upcoming summer will allow you to be entered in a junior groundskeeper raffle at the end of the season.

**If you are interested, please reach out to Megan Keown by March 29th.**

## Rock Ridge Lifeguard 2021

### APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security# \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Available Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you a Certified Lifeguard? Yes - No

2. Do you have waterfront Certification? Yes - No Date completing it \_\_\_\_\_

3. If not, when do you plan to have your certification/recertification? \_\_\_\_\_

4. I would like to work:

Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_ Weekday \_\_\_\_ Weekends \_\_\_\_ Swim Meets (generally Monday nights)

\_\_\_\_ 5 days per week \_\_\_\_ 3 days per week \_\_\_\_ Weekends only \_\_\_\_ Per Diem (fill in)

5. Are you available to work until Labor Day - Yes - No College start date \_\_\_\_\_

6. What date(s) will you not be available this summer? Please explain: (example: sports, college, other) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please email your application to: [Megan Keown](mailto:Megan.Keown@rrcc.org) or drop it off at 33 Whaleback Waddy by March 29, 2021.



Left: Norman Dean wake service kayak in memory of Claire and her kayak trips; Middle: Clifford & Bernice Holden (Claire's parents) gravestone; Right: Winslow & Emily Doolittle (Claire Mother's parents) gravestone

## In Loving Memory of Claire Lynne Murray (Holden) 7/11/1960 - 8/18/2020

On the morning of August 18th, Claire Lynne Murray (Holden) passed unexpectedly during a brief hospitalized illness. As we grieved the loss of our beloved mother and wife, we witnessed the incredible generosity and kindness of the Rock Ridge Lake Community. We are so thankful for everyone who was there to stand with us, help us, bring food, send flowers, and contribute money to make RRCC a better place for everyone in Claire's memory. With your help, we were able to celebrate Claire with a beautiful wake at Norman Dean's Funeral Home in Denville which was filled with displays of the things she liked most alongside your pictures, messages, and flowers.

The next day, we asked you all to join us outside the clubhouse for a community memorial to reminisce, eat, and remember. We were warmed by how many of you were able to make it or support us from a distance if the pandemic limited your ability to attend, we understand. We are thankful for everyone who continues to remember Claire everyday.

Claire loved this bench located where West Glen first meets the lake and would often enjoy taking pictures of it. Here is one from each season.



Rock Ridge was Claire's favorite place. In the recent summers, she would walk daily to the beach on the path along edgewater drive and across the bridge, carrying her beach chair and beach bag. She could often

be found digging her bare feet into the sand in the sun, enjoying the beach. She would then jump in the lake to cool off and splash around with the kids. She often swam around the island or to the point. She loved the beach so much that she never wanted to leave, and we often ordered pizza to be delivered so we wouldn't have to leave. Claire was a strong role model for her 3 kids. She often volunteered at the lake during swim meets, or ran events, such as the family campout.

In high school, Claire participated in the Marching Band at Morris Knolls High School. She played swing trombone, and many people said she was pretty good at it. She also swam on the swim team.

There have been a few different fundraisers in memory of Claire, one led by our own Eileen Dugan. With that, we were able to donate 3 adirondack chairs in Claire's memory placed along the beach with etched memorial plates and Rock Ridge Lake engravings. They are rated to last ten years outside and we hope for them to be long-time residents on the beach, reminding us of how much Claire loved sunbathing on the beach. Thank you to anyone who contributed to these funds!

In the spirit of Claire, who loved log cabins and everything wood, we are also in the process of making 2 benches out of fallen logs around Rock Ridge. We plan to give these a home in two places along the point, reminding us of

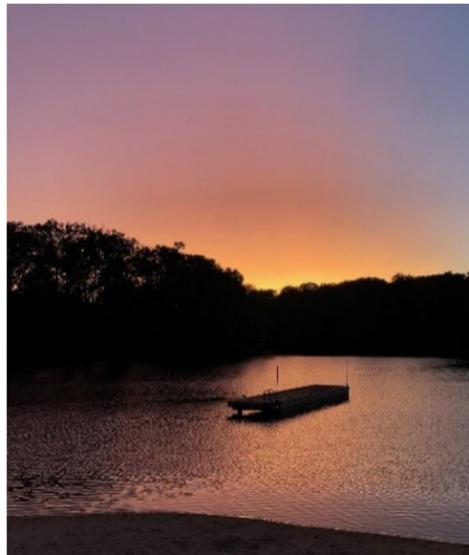
how much Claire loved her nature walks to the old beach and enjoying the point and island.

With the remaining funds, we have plans to make Claire's favorite place better for everyone else by contributing to resurfacing the docks in the lasting memory of a woman who swam on the RRCC swim team her entire life. She swam even when clearly pregnant with each of us, swimming butterfly in 18 & over relays and diving in with her signature bellyflop.



Some may notice painted rocks that have popped up around the lake in loving memory of Claire placed by friends and family. We call them the 'Claire' rocks.

Claire was the daughter of Clifford Holden and Bernice (Doolittle) Holden and later a step daughter to Fran Weaver-Holden. She was sister to Beth Anne Jelinek, who lives nearby in New Jersey, and Karen Tincher, who lives in Pleasanton, CA. Claire's brother Mark John Holden passed away soon after her on September 22 and is resting with Claire at The First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway. Her husband John Francis Murray, daughter Cara Ann Murray, and son John Daniel Murray live in her lifelong home on West Glen. Her daughter Amanda Lynne Hatke lives in Williamsburg, Virginia with her husband Dave Hatke. Claire's cat Emmy can be found wandering the premises and greeting visitors to the driveway.



Left: Amanda, Cara, John F, Claire, John D. Murray; Middle: Rock Ridge Dock at Sunset (taken by Claire); Right: Claire Middle School Picture (13/14 years old)



Left Picture: John F. Murray, Claire Lynne (Holden) Murray, Cara Ann Murray, Amanda Lynne (Murray) Hatke (John wasn't born yet, sorry John)



Beth Anne Jelinek, Mark John Holden, Claire Lynne Murray, Karen Leigh Tincher



Holden Family Home-1960s - Winslow Howard Doolittle, Bernice Edith (Doolittle) Holden (MOTHER), Clifford Arthur Holden (FATHER), Mark John Holden; Beth Anne (Holden) Jelinek, Claire Lynne (Holden) Murray, Karen Leigh (Holden) Tincher, Emily (Kelm) Doolittle



- The Murrays

# Membership Update

by Christy Montana

Hello Rock Ridge Members!

On behalf of the RRCC Board, I would like to welcome you to the RRCC 2020- 2021 season.

Despite COVID-19, our community has stayed strong. In fact, our membership numbers are up. We have exceeded our membership numbers from last year and we are growing fast. We are over 140 strong!

A huge thank you to all our members who have rejoined us this year. Thank you for paying on time. This community would not be the same without your support! A special welcome goes out to the record number of new members who have joined us this season. We are excited that you decided to join our family.

Not a member yet? Don't miss out. There is still time to join.

Membership information and applications can be found on our website. Online payments and payment plans are still available. If you prefer to send in your payment, please attach an application and send your payment to:

RRCC  
c/o Christy Montana  
31 Summit Dr  
Denville, NJ 07834

Please feel free to contact us at [membership@rockridgelake.org](mailto:membership@rockridgelake.org) for more information or if you have any questions.

See you around the lake!



# Commemorative Brick Fundraiser

by Michelle Danish

Buy an engraved brick or bench and leave a legacy at Rock Ridge!

Honor a loved one or friend with an engraved brick/bench that will be proudly displayed at our beautiful Rock Ridge lake for many years to come!

You can be a permanent part of Rock Ridge Community Club while honoring your family, someone special, pet, or your business/organization. The bricks will be used to create a special patio area that will be enjoyed by all of our members.

This is a great opportunity to show your ongoing support for our beautiful Rock Ridge Community Club!

<https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/rockridgelake>



## Swim Team Update

*by Michelle Danish, Andrea Callahan,  
Mary Fazio, Dave Joyal and Bethany Wolf*

With mixed emotions, Coach Pat Collins informed us that he will not be able to be our head swimming coach this season due to his expanded YMCA Aquatic Director role. We are so happy for Coach Pat and will miss his love of swimming that he brought to Rock Ridge for many years. He promises to stop by the lake often. Coach Pat is not leaving our dock empty! He introduced us to Eric Bang who has accepted the position of Rock Ridge Swim Team Head Coach. Eric has coaching experience at Randolph YMCA and Roxbury Racers and has a lot of Rock Ridge references. We are very excited to have Eric join our swim team family!

Hub Lakes has confirmed that they anticipate a season which will include weekly meets and the championship meet the last weekend in July.

The swim team committee has kicked off this season's planning, which will include daily practices, team fun nights, dinner on the beach, and new spiritwear. The Rock Ridge swim team is an inexpensive way to improve your child's swimming ability, have fun, exercise, increase confidence, create new friendships and connect with our awesome lake community! Swim team and lessons registration will be available in April. We can't wait to see you on the beach and in the water!

## RRCC MEMBER BUSINESS/SERVICES

Members In Good Standing can have their logos featured in The Rambler for free! Send your logo to [mkeown@rockridgelake.org](mailto:mkeown@rockridgelake.org) if you'd like to be featured in our spring issue!





**Laura Shally**

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**Matt Keown**

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**Steve Sherwood**

*Treasurer*

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**Christy Montana**

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