



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com

MARCH-APRIL 2016



⇒ REMINDER— LUNCHESES AVAILABLE AT CLINICS/TRAINING DAYS! ⇐

Lunches will again be available at training days for \$8.00 per person. Children are free. Of course, those who prefer 'home cooking' may continue to bring their own lunch.

'As always', on Test Days lunches are provided as part of 'the programme'.

[2016 Merrimack Valley Chapter fund-raiser](#)
[A sweet little 28ga, single trigger, CZ Redhead "Premier" model O/U](#)
[For information, see page 5](#)



TO THE POINT:

It's great to be outside in the spring weather training with our dogs. Since good weather came early, we've been spending as much time as possible outside before the state bird arrives—the black fly.



Normally, we review articles and pictures that are sent in and ask ourselves, “Do we want to keep this for the ‘next issue’ so we’ll have some good material in case the members are busy and unable to send anything in to us later?” It’s comforting to have an article, photos, and such “in your pocket” as we go into the next newsletter. However, the items that were submitted this time around caused us to put them all in and ‘hope for good fortune’ in the next issue. There’s some good stuff in this “Spring Issue”.

Here are the highlights:

- Carol Trahan, chapter president, gave us a summary of the Annual Meeting discussions.
- Joanna Korte gave us the “sit-rep” (situation report) on both the spring and fall tests.
- Of course there’s the fund-raiser. I hefted the shotgun. It’s a nice little shotgun and SO worth a donation/ticket!
- Chris Pope gave us an update on the “HELDCA Clean-up Day”. The grounds are looking a lot better now.
- The NH WILD Day held at NHF&G headquarters was wonderful. More than 9,000 people came through this year and MV Navhda was able to be there, representing NAVHDA and teaching people about our “Versatiles”.
- The MV Training Day continued the “spirit” of NH Wild Day’s activities with many new faces and guests.
- Our “Newsy Notes” have interesting items. Check out the link to Maine’s slide show of Great Blue Herons!
- Terry Long addresses one of the best-kept secrets of NAVHDA while writing about his Small Munsterlanders.
- Doug Ross helps us reconnect with our roots by providing us with a link to the original, unedited “Road to Tinkhamtown” and follows up with a copy of “A dog named Cider”. Corey Ford’s writing at its best.
- We have a breeding announcement by Ben Merrill and a litter announcement regarding Bird Dogs Afield’s “Dena”. (She didn’t write it, she delivered the puppies.)
- And there’s more....

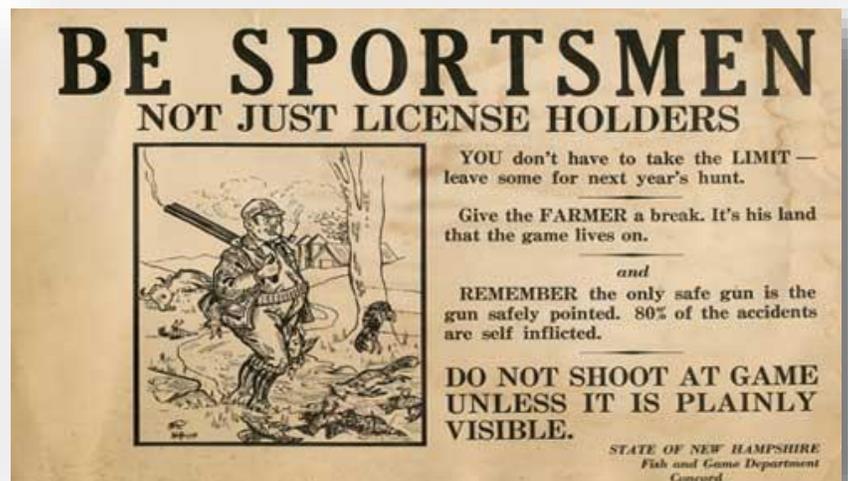
Assistant Editor Terry Long and I have been sitting down from time to time working up ideas to improve the newsletter. Training tips, breed info, member profiles, the ideas just keep coming with Terry, and I’m so very happy to hear them! We will carefully bring them into “the mix”. For anyone who would like to join us in building up the newsletter, please do. The door’s open, the light is always on and there’s room for more.....plus, we have the tools. (It’s easier than it looks—as long as you have ‘material’.)

Special thanks to all those who contributed articles, pictures, et al. Without you, this job would be impossible!

Den



This was copied from the NHF&G Website. I thought it represented an appropriate sentiment that we all share. —>



NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Our training and testing season has started out with a BANG!! Already we had two events: For the first, our (MV) chapter set up a booth at the New Hampshire Fish and Game's "WILD NH Day". Many members came to participate in the live demonstrations and to help sell tickets for our CZ shotgun raffle. Both were a great success. From all reports, we had more than nine thousand (9,000) people that came to enjoy the Wild NH Day. It was a tremendous crowd!

The Merrimack Valley Chapter put on two demonstrations to show the people what NAVHDA is all about. I want to thank the members who helped to sell tickets and all the members who came with their dogs to help with the demonstrations. Of course, the puppies were a big hit of the day—especially with NH Governor Hassen! When my husband presented the demos, the first thing he did was line up all the dogs that were there and asked the crowd if they could name the breeds. One of the most common questions was whether or not these were "purebred" breeds. We assured the crowd that they were. And talk about exposure! Each dog was touched and patted hundreds of times!

Our second event was on the following Sunday. We held our first training day for the season. We had nearly forty dogs from NA to UPT

to UT. We had a little hiccup with the birds, but all members were able to work their dogs. People were willing to give up an ordered bird so another person who needed a bird could work their dog. What great team work! Thanks to all the workers and trainers to make our first training day a winner! Sunday was also our first day with our new food coordinator. This also was a welcomed addition to our training day. I know I enjoyed my lunch!

Also, as a result of our presence at the Fish and Game "WILD NH Day", we had many people show at the training day to see what an actual event was like. We were able to recruit new members and teach them a little bit about dog training.

I would like to thank this wonderful chapter for sending me to this year's NAVHDA annual meeting in Sioux Falls, ND as the MV delegate. There were many discussions on the use of "rubber ducks" during testing. The delegates agreed that the use of the Dokken ducks is not an ideal replacement for real ducks but they understood that under the circumstances, the Executive Committee made the right decision. Many of the members expressed the same concern as MV members did: If we can't use the Dokkens and live ducks are banned from testing, there would be no test. The Invitational was a topic of lengthy discussions.

Suggestions were made which the Executive Committee will be exploring.

Merrimack Valley gave a gift card to "Scheels All Sports" at the Annual meeting for Saturday night's banquet.

Carol T.



Carol Trahan

MV Chapter President



Joanna Korte
Test Secretary

FROM THE TEST SECRETARY:

The Spring Test will be a two-day test, held on Saturday May 28 and Sunday May 29. *The Spring Test has a few openings left.*

The Fall Test will be a three-day test (held on August 26, 27, 28) with a double test on the Saturday. *The fall Test is completely full and we have a "wait list".*

Thanks to those who have signed up to test with the Merrimack Valley Chapter!

Good Luck to everyone testing this year!

Joanna

FROM THE EDITOR—LUNCH PROGRAM:

Please note: Starting immediately, when Chris asks for our training clinic "bird order" he will also ask us for a "head count" on how many in your party will have the lunch that the chapter provides on that day. This will help us be more efficient in our planning and avoid unnecessary waste. Thanks!

FOR THOSE WHO WILL TEST FOR 'NATURAL ABILITY' THIS FALL:

On July 23 Terry Long will provide a training NA "Mock Test" at the Sharpe's Farm site. (The other dogs will be at the "Water Site" by the dike.) Terry is planning on ordering two birds (chukar) and a pheasant for those who are interested. The cost will be \$40 plus the other normal club fees.

A NAVHDA judge has been invited to help with this training activity.

Contact Terry T. Long if you are interested in participating.





MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA



2016 Shotgun Raffle

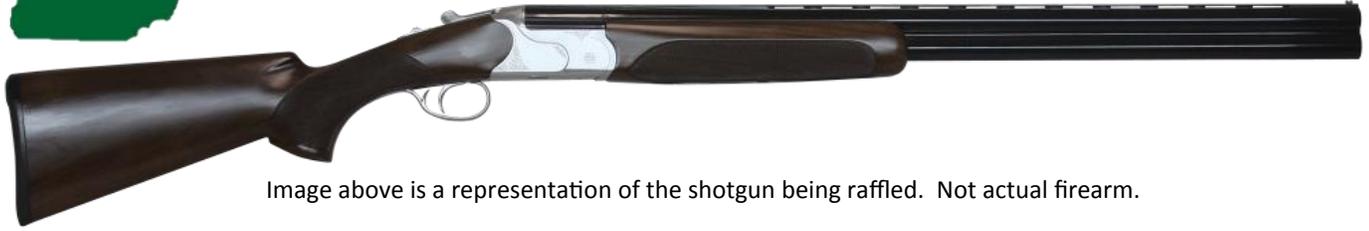


Image above is a representation of the shotgun being raffled. Not actual firearm.

CZ “Redhead Premier” O/U 28 ga Shotgun!

Silver Satin Chrome Receiver; Single Trigger; Turkish Walnut Stock;
28” Vent Rib Barrels; New Gun! with 5-Choke Tube Set;

“The flagship of CZ’s line of over/under shotguns, the tried-and-true Redhead has the NEW 1-piece CNCed receiver, laser-cut checkering, solid mid-ribs, pistol grip and a classy white bead. The Redhead Premier is a true all-purpose shotgun, it’s just as comfortable to shoot at a sporting clays event as it is when chasing chukar in the mountains. With a silver receiver and extractor, the Redhead Premier is packed with features that can’t be found on another shotgun in its price range”. –CZ.

Each \$10 donation gets a ticket

(500 tickets available)

Winner Gets Choice of Shotgun OR \$1,000 CASH!

Please Note: To choose the gun you must be a legal citizen and resident of the United States and be able to legally purchase this firearm within the state in which you reside.

Winning ticket to be drawn at the Merrimack Valley Fall Test

(August, 2016)

All Proceeds go to the Merrimack Valley Navhda Chapter

For Tickets, please send a self-addressed and stamped return envelope with your check in donation-- made payable to:

“MV NAVHDA”

Send your donation check and stamped return envelope to:

PAUL BRUK

4 Rasmussen Circle

Andover, MA 01810

Note: Tickets may also be obtained at all MV training and testing events.

DOG LOVERS “PITCH IN” TO GET SHARPS FARM READY FOR 2016 – REPORT BY CHRIS POPE

Eight gracious members of MV-NAVHDA volunteered their Saturday along with members of the other HELDCA dog clubs at the Sharpe’s farm “spring clean-up day” on April 2nd. Some passing showers kept us from overheating as we cleared brush, repaired the snow fence, opened trails, removed blow downs and told dog stories as we worked!

A major portion of the effort involved raking the woody debris and loading the chips into four-wheeler wagons (thank you Phil Thayer for bringing his ATV and trailer and saw) and a truck (thank you Larry Cooper for bringing his mini-mog) from this winter’s “edge clearing operation” completed in February. Recall at our annual meeting in January, we voted to appropriate funds to pay our share of the project. When you arrive at our first training day (in 2 weeks!) you will notice that much of field 2 and three have been reclaimed and the “island” at the back of field 1 got quite a haircut! It was great to meet two of our new members and see some old friends as well...again, many, many thanks for giving us your Saturday.

Chris Pope, Delegate-at-Large



JUST IN : (Friday, April 22) — Hopkinton-Everett Lake Dog Club Association

Chris Pope received an email by way of Steve Marcq (the President of HELDCA). It was from Jenn Samela who is with the Army Corps of Engineers (the owning and governing body of Sharp’s Farm).

She wrote: “I was able to get over to Sharpe’s and walk with my three pups this past week. Everything looks good! Nice job!” She also expressed her thanks for the work done by the volunteers who came out on our “HELDCA clean-up day”. We pass these comments and thoughts along to the membership.

Thank you MV Chapter for your engagement and follow-through!



THEY CAME IN DROVES TO “NH WILD DAY”

The tide of people that surged through Merrimack Valley Chapter’s area at NH WILD Day brought wide-eyed children, inquisitive adults (“What breed is that?” ...“Is it a cross-breed?” ...“Oh, really?”) and a wonderful opportunity for the NAVHDA people to explain their dogs and the purposes of NAVHDA. Children swarmed to our canines. It would be safe to say that some dogs were patted thousands of times! (Neither dogs nor children complained.)



New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassen stopped by and was genuinely interested in the chapter and what it does. She was visibly pleased when we explained the NAVHDA youth hunt. However, all the bells and whistles went off when the star attractions made their presence known. You guessed it—the PUPPIES!!!!

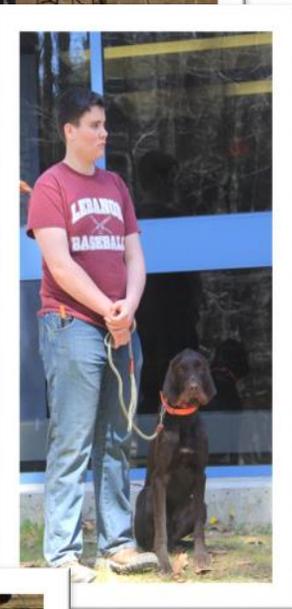


Who wants to sort this out!

Setting Up at NHF&G’s “NH WILD Day”



Demo: “Hold and Carry”



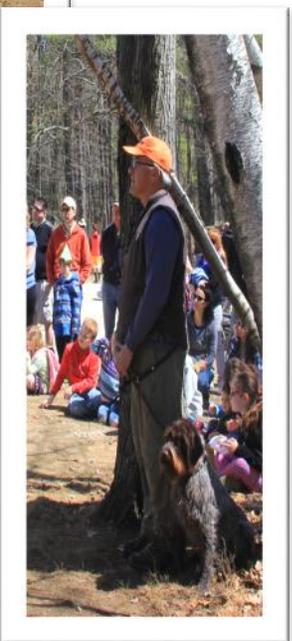
Noah and his Pudelpointer



Small Munsterlanders



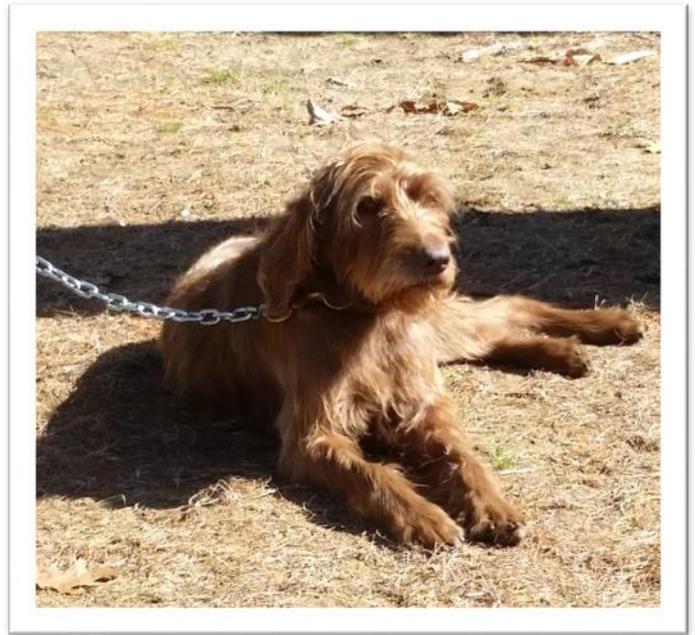
Braque Francais



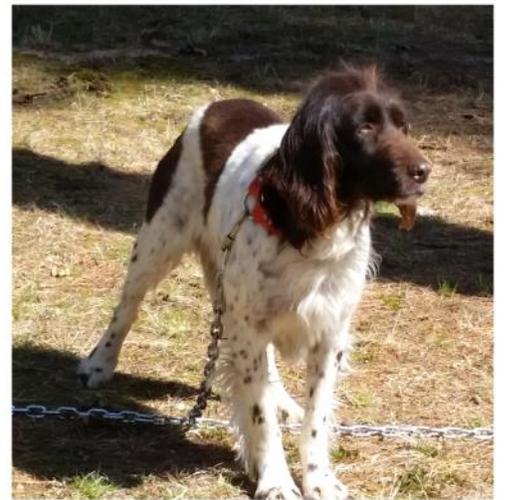
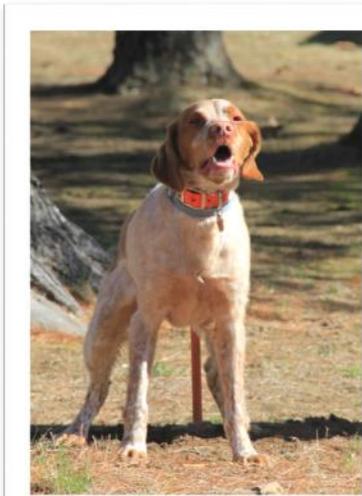
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Terry G. Long meets a Drentsche Patrijshond
("DRINSE-ah Puh-TRISE-hoon" = Dutch Partridge Dog)



They HAD to put me right next to the Falcons!!!



There's a dog in there somewhere!



Next year will be even *more* fun!



NAVHDA Demonstration

April (First) Training Day— Sharp's Farm

On the day following the NH WILD Day event at NH Fish & Game Headquarters, Merrimack Valley Chapter held its first training clinic of the year. Several people who attended our demonstrations and display at the NH WILD Day showed up at the training day for the purpose of learning more about NAVHDA. They were most welcome!



Table Training with NA Dogs



There were lots of puppies



Brace for Action

The chapter members “shined” when they seized opportunities to help one another that day. Apparently, the bird order was “short” and we didn’t have enough birds—despite having ordered the proper amount. Members cut back on their “bird count” so that everyone had a chance to train on a bird. It is so wonderful to see the generosity and kindness of the Merrimack Valley Chapter demonstrated is such a real and tangible way! As President Carol Trahan said, “Great team work!”





*Happy
Dog*



"I've been workin' on the chain gang".....



Steady



Sent from Ben Merrill:

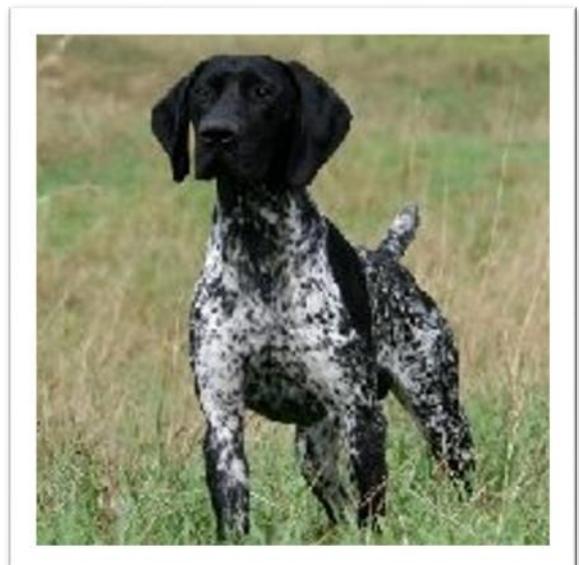
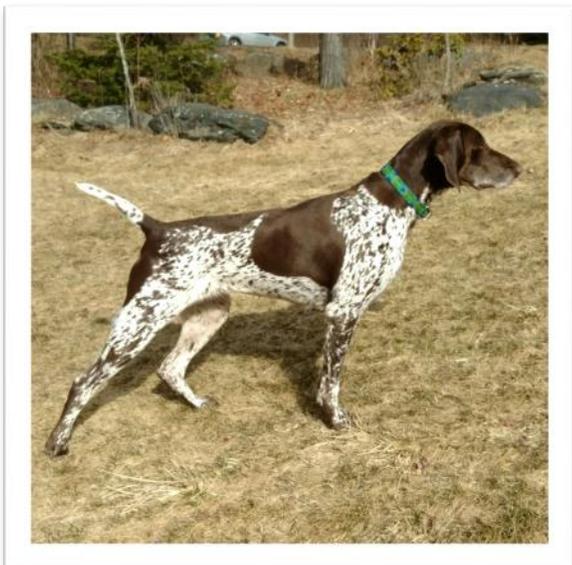


April says "Hey Boulder, my squirrel is bigger than yours."

Breeding Announcement

VC Mon Yough River's April to INT CH, VC Sharp Shooters Man In Black Cash.. I have 8 of these puppies spoken for already but all these puppies are going to PA and WI. I would love to have some of these pups stay in the area and maybe even our club. Call me if you are ready for a new NAVHDA puppy project!

Thanks, Ben Merrill 412-600-9813



Newsy Notes: **(WE REALLY NEED A BETTER TITLE FOR THIS!—INVITING INPUT FOLKS.)**

- **CONCORD, NH** -- The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), partnering with the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG), has been awarded \$1 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program to help acquire and protect the 1,114-acre Harveys' Kennard Hill Forest in Epping and Nottingham, N.H.
 - **CONCORD, NH**—NH Fish and Game moose biologist Kristine Rines reports that 45 additional moose were collared this January – 36 calves and 9 cows. The current moose mortality study in northern New Hampshire began in 2014 and will continue for a total of six years. www.wildnh.com/wildlife/moose-study.html
 - **AUGUSTA, Maine** -- The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife wants to hear your ideas and opinions about Maine's most popular wildlife and fish species. For further information about the research study, please contact Nate Webb, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, at nathan.webb@maine.gov.
 - Westminster 2016 Show: A German Shorthaired Pointer, "CJ" won best in show. <http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2016/results/bis/>
 - **BRISTOL, N.H.** – Beginning early on Monday, February 29, the public boat access facility to Newfound Lake at Wellington State Park in Bristol, NH will be closed to accommodate deicing protection of the dock pilings at the ramp. The deicing procedure is preparation for a project this spring to upgrade the dock piling anchor system so that in future years deicing will not be necessary. The piling upgrade project will take about a month and is planned for a period in April and May with open water to accommodate the placement of a work barge. During the project the ramp will be in the work area. There will be no opportunity to launch or retrieve boats during this time period.
 - **CONCORD, N.H.** -- The NH Fish and Game Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program is hosting workshops to inspire residents to learn more about the recently updated Wildlife Action Plan, a 10-year blueprint for conserving nongame wildlife throughout the state. Participants will learn how to use the plan to promote conservation efforts. To register, visit www.wildnh.com/wildlife/wap-events.html. Learn more about the Wildlife Action Plan at: www.wildnh.com/wildlife/wap.html.
 - **Washington DC** — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to establish the "**Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge**" (NWR) in parts of *New England and eastern New York* to conserve and improve habitat for shrubland and young forest dependent wildlife, such as New England cottontail, American woodcock, and migrating songbirds. The Service would work to acquire via fee purchase or conservation easement from willing sellers and donations approximately 15,000 acres; this land would be actively managed as shrubland and young forest to benefit more than 65 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and other wildlife of high conservation need as a result of inadequate shrub and young forest habitat and a maturing forest landscape in the region. Establishment and management of the Great Thicket NWR would complement wildlife management efforts by state forest and wildlife agencies and conservation organizations, such as Ruffed Grouse Society. See maps - <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/refuges/planning/lpp/focusareamaps.html>.
- ⇒ ***The Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society support the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to establish the Great Thicket NWR.***
- Maine IF&W has posted a very nice slideshow on the Blue Heron. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrRv7HTp06k>
 - Vermont's Steelhead (Sea run rainbows) run is underway. They can be observed leaping falls at several places in Vermont. See webpage <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=73163&pageId=3485461> .
 - Deadline for Maine Moose Lottery (applications) is May 16. <https://www5.informe.org/online/moose/>
 - NH Moose hunt lottery applications for 2016 must be postmarked or submitted online by midnight Eastern Time on **May 27, 2016**, or delivered to the Licensing office at Fish and Game headquarters in Concord before 4:00 p.m. that day.
 - New Hampshire Fish and Game conducts an annual grouse wing and tail survey throughout the state to help gain critical information about ruffed grouse in New Hampshire. *Hunter participation is key to this effort* -- we need your help! <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/surveys/ruffed-grouse.html> All those who turn in completed and useable grouse study survey packets will be entered into a drawing for a quality shotgun donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society.



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

New Hampshire

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN



2015 REVISED EDITION

Learn more about the Wildlife Action Plan at: www.wildnh.com/wildlife/wap.html.

NAVHDA is so much more.

Terry T. Long

The purpose of NAVHDA "is to foster, promote, and improve the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs on both land and water; and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs."



NAVHDA is so much more.

Many people drop out of testing after the NA Test, please don't do this, your dogs are capable of doing so much more.

While walking back from a blood tracking training session this morning, I slapped my left leg and immediately VC Seeker came to a heel. I commented to Dave that it is so nice to have a finished dog.

For years I was a weekend hunter, frustrated with my dogs running off, flushing birds, pulling on the leash and not coming when called. Sound familiar?

I decided right then that when I retired I was going to have a well-trained hunting dog.

The first thing in 2008 when I retired I was going to get another Small Munsterlander. (I already had two) A friend recommended that I see Dave Trahan at "On Point Kennel" to help me with training of Nara our 3rd SM. Dave recommended that I should join the local NAVHDA chapter and test Nara in the NA test. Little did I know that this was the beginning of an eight year journey. I found training for a test gave me an organized approach to training my dog. Nara got a prize 1 in NA. I continued training for the next 2 years running Nara in the UPT prize 3 and the UT prize 2.

By this time my 2 older dogs were getting too old to hunt, and I figured it



The retrieved fish

was time to get another pup.

Side note, I sent 15 year old Jake, my first SM, to retrieve a pheasant I dropped on a river bank and he came back with a dead fish. He had the beginning of doggy dementia.



My 2nd SM Tory was hit by a car when she was 6 months old and sustained multiple fractures and a dislocated hip. Needless to say she was one of my best hunters, but could only hunt for short periods of time.

A person once told me that when you have 3 dogs one more wouldn't change a thing, that we wouldn't even notice a difference. I found out later that this was a bunch of BS. Lol.

Along came Seeker to the family making dog #4! Boy, was our world changed. He was so full of energy and eager to learn. So it was back to training and testing for another 3 years. When I heard that he got a Prize 1 in UT, I couldn't believe my ears! Going to the Invitational was not even on my mind especially when I looked at the test requirements, " they have to do what! " were my thoughts. *Again, your dog is capable of so much more than you could ever imagine.*

Encouraged by MVNAVHDA friends, they convinced me to try the Invitational. I was not expecting much, but was going for the experience. The weather was very cold and windy, but Seeker did



what I thought was the impossible, he Passed!
Hearing the word **PASSED** in Sept, 2014 would leave a huge hole in my life. Not training every week with the same people was no longer a part of my daily routine..

This is when I realized that NAVHDA was more than a dog training club. Oh! I have finished dogs but missing in my life are the friendships, comradery, challenges, and goals that were so much a part of life for the last 7 years. Oh! I see my friends at Chapter trainings and testing, but not on a regular basis.



Well! This Spring I got a SM pup. "Fenna" is full of energy and is willing to go. Training has started. It feels great to get back in the groove.

I almost forgot the joy of having a puppy. It is a good thing they are cute!

Terry T Long is a member of Merrimack Valley Chapter, and the Small Munsterlander Club of North America. He serves as an assistant editor of the Chapter Newsletter. When Terry is not busy training, Fenna lets him share the couch.





Beginner Jessica and Pro Carol with another activity for our versatile hunting dogs

Spenser is looking over and thinking: "Why do I have to pull alone? I need a bigger brother!!!" Ed.



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 Making it easier for dogs to learn.

Folks-

Some stories are worth re-visiting. For those of you who have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed hunting over a great dog, and those of you who do not quite understand why men and women hunt, click on the below link. This 1969 Field and Stream story by Corey Ford captures the essence of the relationship between hunters and our 4 legged companions; and why the Fall is our favorite season. (Below the link is my current pack of great companions.) - Doug Ross

[http://www.fieldandstream.com/articles/hunting/2010/04/fs-classic-original-unedited-manuscript-corey-fords-road-tinkhamtown?page=0%](http://www.fieldandstream.com/articles/hunting/2010/04/fs-classic-original-unedited-manuscript-corey-fords-road-tinkhamtown?page=0%2F)

Chance



Folks-

Many of you enjoyed Corey Ford's Road to Tinkhamtown. If you have a few minutes, you'll likely smile when you read about Cider. The lead -in paragraphs are from a friend who met Cory Ford during his time at Dartmouth College, where Ford was a Professor. (Kota shares many of Cider's idiosyncracies - perhaps it's an English Setter thing.)

Cider is the same dog as mentioned in "The Road to **Tinkhamtown**" The puppy was named Tober and was Prof Ford's last setter. Cider and Tober were from Earl Twombly's Coronation Kennels in VT, now in business over ninety years. Not a surprise, there have been other dogs named Cider and Tober from that kennel.

The reference to the dog's single raised eyebrow is Prof Ford poking fun at himself. He raised one eyebrow when involved in his role as a humorous raconteur, when challenging a student in a gently sarcastic manner and when making an important point.

Most people may not realize that, as an Air Force colonel, he worked with General William Donovan during the formation of the OSS, predecessor to the CIA. Even fewer realize that he worked with DOD to establish a land conservation program around military bases.

Here is "A Dog Named Cider".....

When a friend tells me he can't play golf tomorrow because his wife wants him to stay home, I don't jeer and make snide remarks about apron strings. I reply ruefully, "I know how it is. I have a dog "

We met for the first time when he was five months old. I had stopped off at a kennel to pick out a puppy (or so I thought) and found myself subjected to the intense scrutiny of six young English Setters in a pen. Five stood with their front paws against the wire, barking and panting. The sixth sat on his haunches and regarded me solemnly until he caught my eye. Evidently he made up his mind that he wanted me, for he thrust a forefoot through the mesh and reached towards me. We belonged to each other from then on.

It was clear at the outset that he had a mind of his own. That night I put him in an outdoor run set away from the house and surrounded by an eight-foot fence. Some time in the wee hours I was woken up by a soulful wail directly under my bedroom window. I have no idea how he climbed out of the run; still less how he knew which window was mine. Sleepily I stumbled downstairs to let him in. He'd never seen a flight of stairs before, but he trotted up them confidently beside me, looked over my bedroom, and selected an overstuffed chair in which he slept every night the rest of his life.

A Portrait of an English Setter I named him Cider .. it suggested a sparkling Autumn, the time of year I like best .. and I bought a book on housebreaking and obedience training. I never had to use it. He came from a long line of English gentlemen, and good manners were born with him. His only fault, which he never outgrew, was the habit of pawing a rug into a rumpled heap to make a softer bed. After several futile attempts to dissuade him, I found that it was less trouble to straighten the rug afterwards. Once I had made this simple discovery, the whole training problem was solved. All I needed was to determine in advance what he wanted to do, and then tell him to do it. We got along famously.

Somehow I never thought of Cider as a dog, and I doubt that he considered me a master. Ours was a mutual partnership, like marriage. The leash in my hand attached me to him as much as it attached him to me. We could not converse, but that didn't matter; he read my thoughts, and I in turn nearly always knew what he was thinking. From the start there was a sort of telepathy between us. He never barked to wake me up, but sat beside my bed and stared at me patiently until I opened my eyes. In the woods, we could locate each other without calling.

He had one object in life .. to make sure that I took him wherever we went. When he caught me packing a suitcase, he would droop his ears and gaze at me with an expression of utter melancholy, accented by one elevated eyebrow, which

gave him a look designed to melt the hardest heart. If that failed, he would curl up in his chair with his back to me and refuse to come downstairs to see me off. This would so prey on my mind that I sometimes cut my trip short. And since even a brief absence upset him, I found myself cancelling social engagements. But if Cider was possessive, it was as much my doing as his. For I am a bachelor, and to a single man a dog is a substitute for wife and children.

Even as a pup Cider had great pride, and a natural British reserve about displaying emotion. Not once in his life did he lick my hand. When I patted him, he showed his appreciation by dry-swallowing several times, or stretching out his legs and spreading his toes in obvious contentment. If something vexed him, his only protest was a quick, false yawn, a device that I've tried to emulate. Not only is it safer to yawn than to make a remark which might be regretted later, but there's no better way to insult the other party.

Cider grew more dignified as he matured. The lanky legs feathered out, the chest deepened, the tail became a waving silver plume. His majestic head and sagging jowls suggested a Supreme Court judge. I would no more have dreamt of tumbling him playfully onto his back and scratching his belly than I could imagine myself tickling the stomach of a Chief Justice.

Cider looked on toys and games with lofty scorn. If I rolled a tennis ball across the floor to him, he'd open his red, rheumy eyes and watch it disappear under the sofa .. and then close them again while I got down on hands and knees to fish it out. On the other hand, he had his own idea of fun, and would study a caterpillar by the hour, his brow furrowed in deep concentration.

I was never sure when he was pulling my leg, for his sober face betrayed no sign of amusement. Once, in his awkward puppy days, he overturned a patio table, shattering two whisky glasses and a china ashtray. Immediately he let out a shriek of anguish and started hopping around on three legs, while I ignored the damage he had caused and bent over him solicitously to ease his pain. It was not until he spotted a squirrel on the lawn, and took after it with all four legs functioning perfectly, that I realised how completely I had been taken in.

The older Cider grew, the more we depended on each other. He would not go upstairs without me. If I entertained guests past his bedtime, he would flop down heavily in the centre of the living room and sigh, like an impatient wife trying to signal her husband to say good night and come to bed. Like an old married couple, we had adjusted to each other, our likes and dislikes were similar, we had the same diseases (we were both subject to sinus trouble) and took the same antihistamine tablets. Several people remarked that I was actually getting to look like Cider; the one elevated eyebrow, the sagging jowls, the red, rheumy eyes.

I bred Cider, very late in life, to an obliging female recommended by the kennelman. I was far more excited about the affair than Cider was, and couldn't wait to see the puppies when they were born. One ball of fluff sat in the palm of my hand and yawned, and I promptly marked him for mine. As soon as he was weaned I brought him home, but Cider would have no part of his son and resented him as a rival for my affection. He was so heartbroken that I had to take the pup back to the kennel and leave him, to be kept for me.

Cider was aging fast. They say that each year in a dog's life is equal to seven in a man's, and time ticks off more rapidly than we realise. It seemed only yesterday that he was a gangling puppy trotting at my side; then overnight he was a companion my own age; now suddenly his years were half again mine, as he became a venerable gentleman somewhere in his 90's.

He grew increasingly feeble. Then came the night when his legs collapsed. I had to carry him upstairs in my arms and place him in his overstuffed chair. In the morning he lay in a coma, though the tip of his tail twitched once or twice when I spoke to him. I kissed him for the first and last time.

A friend wrote me later: 'They ask so little, and they give so much'.

I was resolved not to have another dog. I decided to take a trip. There was nothing to prevent it now. I was free at last, I reminded myself .. free to pack my bag and go on a fishing trip.

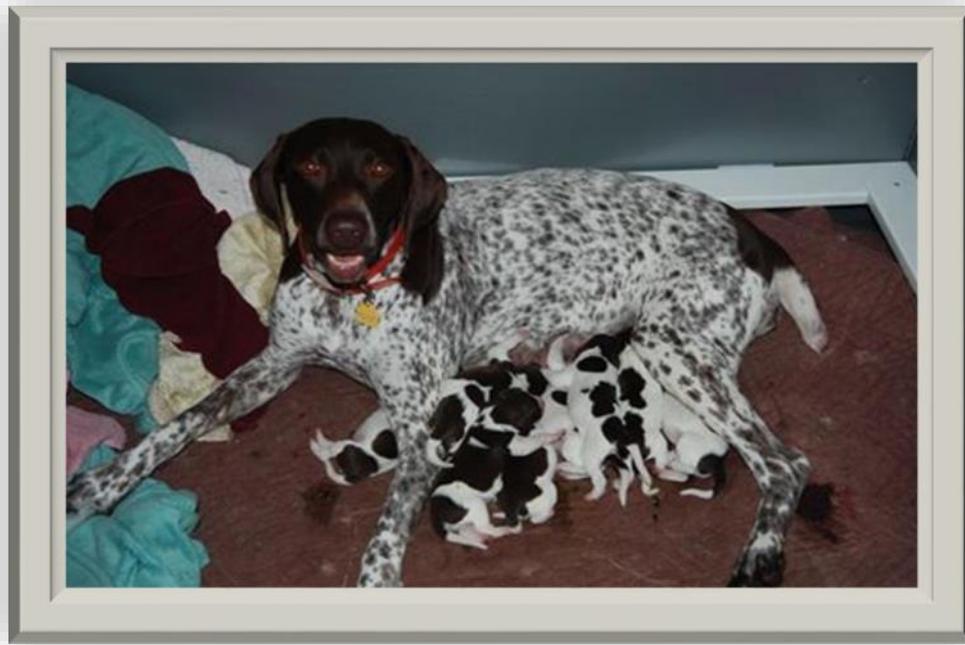
The pup was in a wire pen, sitting on his haunches. His young body had not filled out yet, but the markings were identical, even to the cocked eyebrow. He looked at me steadily until our eyes met, and then thrust a forepaw through the mesh and reached towards me. It was as though his father, by some transcendent effort, had given himself back to me so I would not be alone.



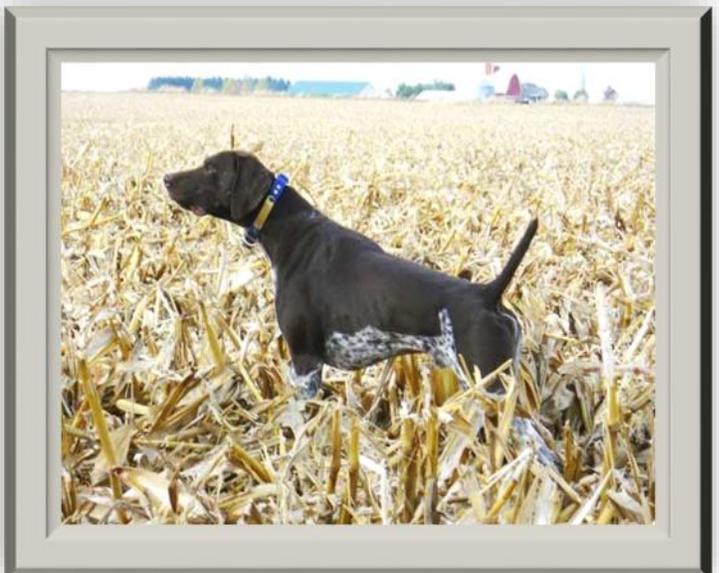
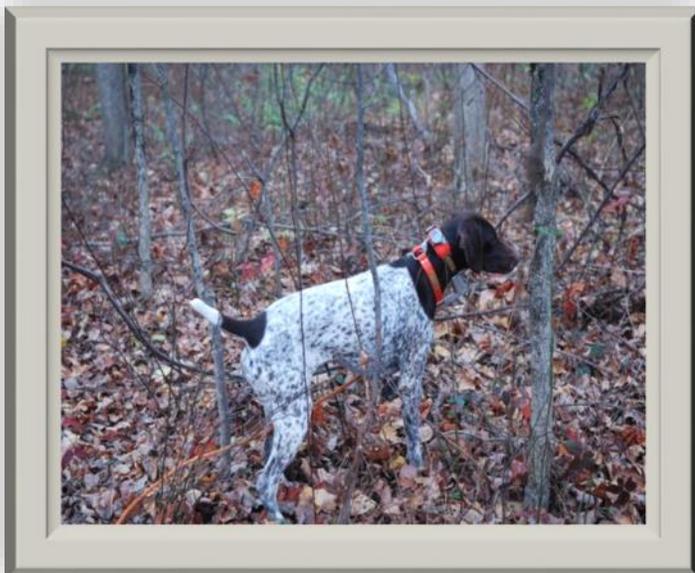
Kota

Litter Announcement

Highly Desirable German Shorthaired Pointer Puppies



A well planned breeding between Top Gun Prince William (Will) and Skypoint's Yarmouth Winters Dream (Dena). The sire, Will, is from one of the top German shorthair kennels in the country, Top Gun Kennels in Iowa. They're known for producing outstanding shooting dogs as well as excellent NAVHDA/AKC testing dogs. The dam, Dena, is an outstanding hunting dog. She has an excellent search pattern, carries her head high during search and on point. She's broke to the flush and the shot and retrieves nicely to hand. Puppies were whelped April 6th. There are eight puppies in this litter. As of April 22, three puppies are still available and all females. Contact Susan Fuller or Paul Fuller at 603-659-7871 or susan.fuller@comcast.net



Doug Ross also sent these pictures in from Newington.

Thanks Doug!

Although she takes her hunting assignments very seriously, 18 month old Jetta (Indaba's Persuasion), likes to roll around in the grass and unwind after a successful hunt.

Chance (Indaba's Winds of Change) appears to be a little unsettled, perhaps anticipating a sarcastic comment from a curious Kota who is checking out Chance's birthday party cap.

"Life has no blessing like a prudent friend." - Euripides



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