



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com

WATER ISSUE 2016



Takin' Care of Business



DATE CORRECTION!!

The MVNAVHDA YOUTH DAY date is September 24th. The previous date conflicted with the International. See our flyer on page __ for details.



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



www.mvnavhda.com

July-Aug 2016

⇒ REMINDER— LUNCHES 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 4](#)





Chris Doherty (and Frit)

Chris Doherty
Director of training

From the Director Of Testing

Hi All,

We had a very successful clinic on August 23rd despite a very hot day. Utility water work was conducted at the dam and we ran a mock natural ability test at Sharps farm. The dogs along with the handlers received great training at both sites and hopefully will benefit from it in the upcoming fall test. We will be running another mock test on August 6th if anyone didn't get a chance to attend this past one. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped make the clinic run smooth. The work that they do is what makes our training days extremely productive. I also would like to thank Andrew Gallant for making two benches earlier this year. They have been placed in the second and third field at Sharps farm. Sometimes the wait to run a dog is long and having a place to sit for a bit is very welcoming.

The lunches at our training clinics this year have been prepared by Phil from the St. Andrews Masonic lodge. His lunches have been quite nice and are a great convenience for us. Unfortunately we are not getting a good head count beforehand and we may be wasting more than we need to. I am asking that everyone attending a clinic let me know if they intend to buy lunch at the same time that they send me their bird order.

Thanks,

From the Test Secretary

Hi Folks,

We are looking forward to the Fall Test on August 26, 27 and 28th, We have 5 tests being held over 3 days. That is the largest test I've seen for Merrimack Valley since I have held this position. It might be the largest test we've ever held. So, lots of handlers and their dogs, twice as many judges, and hopefully twice as many volunteers. Please let Bob Fee know if you can help us out that weekend.

Happy Training!

Joanna



Joanna Korte



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA



2016 Shotgun Raffle

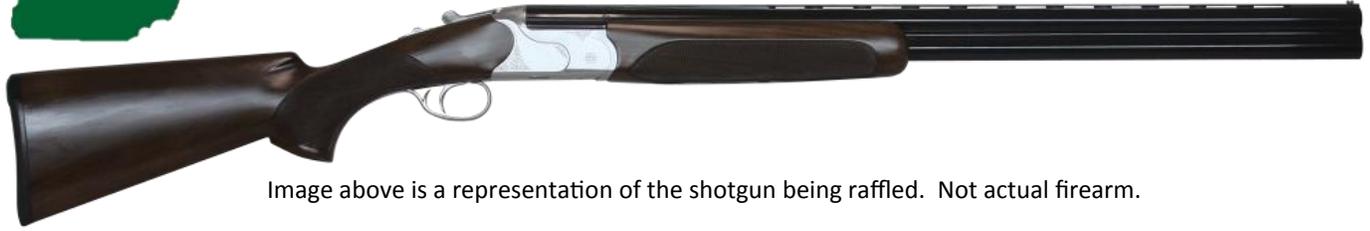


Image above is a representation of the shotgun being raffled. Not actual firearm.

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.

To The Point:

You've already seen much of the chapter news in the previous pages, but there's one thing that isn't present. The **NH Wildlife Federation**. The NHWF keeps its eye on the maneuverings in the state capital. More now than ever, we need to actively be engaged in the "wranglings" that go on at the state level. There is a not-so-subtle move to seize control of the NHF&G Board of Directors by placing non-hunters on the Board. (*Believe me when I say that the "antis" are long-range planners!*)

Remember : the control of government goes to those who show up! We need to get and stay in repeated contact with your elected official(s). Our reps cycle out about every three hunting seasons—and we all know how fast those go by! If you haven't joined the NHWF, please consider doing so. <http://www.nhwhf.org/> The greater the number of voices that they represent the greater the political weight in Concord. The time to get our feet wet is now.

In other "finds", the FALL TEST is racing towards us. Folks are tuning up for the big event. It's always a lot of fun (work, but still fun) at the tests. I think fondly on the times I was able to learn how to do a certain task and then help —using the new knowledge. If you've never helped in a test before, DO NOT FEAR! The easy way to learn is admit that you don't know. Dozens of people are eager to teach you and help you acquire the skills that you need to assist in the test. In reality, the things that you learn while helping out are things which give you an advantage as a trainer/handler. This is not just about dogs, it's about training the trainers, and giving others skills and tricks that can make us all better trainers for our dogs. AND WHO DOESN'T WANT THAT???. (*and the instruction is free!*)

YOUTH DAY is also coming towards us—Sept 24th. As I understand it, the event is already booked solid. That's wonderful! Hopefully, we'll soon be at a point where we can develop the experience and carrying capacity even more.

That little 28 gage shotgun is going to be raffled soon. Do you have your tickets? What a grouse gun it could be!

Of course there's NAVHDA's "Invitational Test" on Sept 15-18. If you haven't seen Scott Linden's Wingshooting USA episode of the 2015 Invitational, you are doing yourself a dis-service. The



Check it out on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3DVRReefWk> It's good, honest coverage, with some MV dogs and folks along the way.

HELDCA report is on page 7. We are the recipients of much work by members of our chapter. It would be wise to thank them for their silent service.

MOCK NA TEST news is on pages 8, 9, and 10. While the UT folks were sweating it out at the water site, NA candidates were practicing at Sharpe's Farm. See Terry Long's report and photos.

QUILLED! Doug Ross has some interesting thoughts about porcupine avoidance training. Apparently the Idaho SPCA was doing that as a fund-raiser. See his piece on page 11. Perhaps we should explore the idea further by contacting Idaho. Let us know what you think. For those of us hunting grouse in the deep woods, the rate of getting quilled increases exponentially. Food for thought.... Page 11.

Senator Kelly Ayotte dropped by during the June Test Day. We are sensitive to her tight schedule and appreciate the visit. I couldn't help but put "creative" captions under photos of her with Dave Trahan. You'll see them.

PHOTOS. We want to express deep appreciation to those who sent in photos. It was wonderful! Cheryl Cyr sent us a bunch as well as Amy Caswell and many others. Everyone, please don't stop! Members can't be in two places at once, and your pictures allow them to see things that were going on while they were off at another location. The photos are most helpful to "connect" us. (I know that I'm forgetting someone when I start listing names—for that I'm sorry. It's unintentional. I can only claim "senior status.")

Soon we'll stop "playing dog" and our efforts will be "for real."

We seem to live for the days of Autumn. I tell my wife that weather in New England is wonderful; Two marvelous periods of sunny, pleasant days separated by two periods of high humidity—one hot, one cold.

Waiting for the second marvelous period...

Den

mnavhda.editor@gmail.com

PS Don't forget to check out REGIONAL NEWS items on page 6. Den



REGIONAL NEWS ITEMS:

- **NH Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Fall Workshop** will be held September 9-11 at Rockywold/Deephaven Camps on Squam Lake in Holderness. Interested women may obtain registration forms at www.nhbow.com.
- **Maine:** Students and teachers from several schools across the state, in conjunction with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, are capturing and radio tagging great blue herons to learn more about herons and their habitats. <http://www.maine.gov/wordpress/insideifw/2016/06/08/ifw-students-to-capture-and-track-radio-tagged-heron/>
- **VT's Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons announced.** A printable copy of regs can be downloaded from the VT Fish & Wildlife Department. http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_73079/File/Hunt/waterfowl/Migratory_Waterfowl_laws.pdf
- **How many words can a dog remember?** Purina has introduced "DogSmarts, a ground breaking new podcast series. Each episode will provide a fascinating peek into the inner-workings of the canine mind. Topics include emotional intelligence, problem solving, memory, nutrition's impact and more. <http://www.slate.com/content/slate/articles/podcasts/purina/2016/05/dogsmarts.html?k=DEBF192F-7B69-11E5-912D-22000B5D9231&utm>
- **NH Baiting Rules Changed** for 2016-2017 Hunting seasons. New application deadlines and procedures in effect. Summaries can be found here: www.eregulations.com/newhampshire/hunting/general-hunting-regulations.
- **Vermont: Deer Age Report Available** on F&W Website <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/one.aspx?portalid=73163&pageid=1272263>
- **Maine: Biologists Seeking Information on Maine Bat Colonies.** (They haven't checked out my family tree!) The Maine Bat Colony Identification Program is asking for people to report bat colonies by filling out an online form at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/species/mammals/report-bat-colony.html>. Filling out the form is simple and quick, and the information goes directly to Maine's biologists.
- **Massachusetts:** Women In the Outdoors Event offers over 30 interactive seminars and activities for women aged 13+, including trap-shooting, wilderness survival, fishing, birdwatching, and more. July 30, Auburn MA <http://www.masswito.com/event-info.html>
- **Purina Pro Plan Sport bars** will no longer be produced, but for a limited time, our loyal fans can buy any 2 cases and get an additional 2 cases FREE at PurinaStore.com! Use coupon code PPBARJ3 before 7/31/2016. This is the bar for "fuel during activity in the field as well as nourishment after activity in the field. (I think this happened once before.....Editor)
- **NH Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Set:** The **Northern Zone** waterfowl season opens on October 4 and runs straight through December 2, 2016. The **Inland and Connecticut River Zone** waterfowl season opens on October 4 and runs through November 6; then reopens November 22 through December 17, 2016. The **Coastal Zone** waterfowl season opens on October 5 and runs through October 16; then reopens November 22, 2016 through January 8, 2017. See <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/documents/waterfowl-regs.pdf>
- **2016 State Lands Trappers Lottery Open.** www.huntnh.com/hunting/trapping-state-lands.html
- **Ossipee Lake Boat Ramp on the Pine River (Route 25) to Close for Upgrade August 1**
- **Maine To Help Massachusetts With Loon Restoration** <http://bit.ly/swanislandfieldday16>
- **Family Field Day on Swan Island in the Kennebec River- July 30:** Activities include fly fishing, archery, geocaching, orienteering, ATVs, trapping, air gun range, paddling, a working dog demonstration and more! All equipment and instruction will be provided. The cost to attend is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family. ("NAVHDA" is a sponsor)
- **The NH Dept. of Public Health has notified us of a public exposure of rabies in Tilton NH. Last Thursday a three year old child was bitten by a bat that tested positive for rabies. Two others have had close contact with the bat and all three are being treated.** For further information on rabies, contact the NH Public Health 271-4501 or NH Fish & Game Dept. 271-3421.
- **Maine:** An archery license is now required to hunt with archery equipment starting January 1, 2017. No exceptions.

Hopkinton-Everett Lake Dog Club Assoc.

HELDCA Delegate Update

On Saturday July 16th Dave Trahan, Terry Long and John Graf volunteered themselves and their tractors/bushhogs to mow the three fields at Sharpe's Farm. Steve Marcq, president of HELDCA met with the crew from MV-NAVHDA in the morning and asked that we "checkerboard cut" the 3rd field. Field 1 and 2 were fully mowed and the areas cut back last winter utilizing a "mini-brontosaurus" were trimmed back again using the tractors and rotary mowers. Some overheating diesel's and a broken shear pin did not deter the crew and were quickly fixed with only one trip to the local hardware store in Henniker! Kristine Pope provided lunch and a cooler of cold drinks/Gatorade for the crew. Terry Long also did some mowing along the road approaching the parking area. Many thanks to John Graf who trailered his tractor 1 ½ hours each way from Boxford, Mass; Terry, who trailered his tractor at least an hour each way, Kristine for donating the food; and to Dave for spelling tired operators and providing endless entertainment! A huge thankyou goes to them for donating their time and expensive resources!

Chris Pope— HELDCA Rep



Thanks to Chris and Terry for giving us the coverage that we so dearly lacked on the valiant efforts of our people to maintain the training grounds. ..Ed.

(In the mouths of two or more witnesses....)

Upkeep at Sharpe's Farm

Every year after July 15th members of the MV chapter load up their tractors and head to Sharpe's farm for a day of mowing. This year Chris Pope, John Graff, and Terry Long brought their tractors for the event. Dave Trahan also came to lend a hand.



A special thanks to Chris Pope for bringing drinks and a super special thanks to Chris's wife Kris for bring subway subs and chips for lunch!

All was done by 4:30 -ish, no bee stings and only minor tractor damage.

Terry Long



Mock NA Test Helpful

While the UT and Invitational Dogs were sweating at the water site, eight Natural Ability (NA) dogs were at Sharpe's Farm participating in a Mock NA Test. Remembering how daunting the NA field was the first time, I offered to organize a Mock NA test on the day of the water clinic for those who were being tested in the chapter's fall test.



Seven first time handlers and I took advantage of the mock test. Our Senior Judge Paul Jensen and our apprentice judge Chris Doherty made the testing experience a true learning experience, taking time with each person and dog for individual instruction.

Tracking seemed to be the Achilles heel for most of the dogs. For those who are testing in fall, keep this in mind. Please don't yank your dog from the test if you feel he won't pass. Your dog may surprise you!

My final word of advice: No matter what, go and have a good time at the test! Remember the pre-Test on Saturday, August 6th. Special thanks go to Senior Judge Paul Jensen, Apprentice Judge Chris Doherty, Gunner Nark Schnubel, Bird Planters John Graff and Greg Hill. And of course, a hearty "thank you" to all who participated and helped to make this mock test a success.

Terry Long

Pictures from the Mock NA Test sent in by Terry Long



More Pictures from the Mock NA Test sent by Terry Long.



Information from Doug Ross

Folks-

The Kittery Trading Post sponsors various seminars—I just contacted them via their website and suggested training to have dogs avoid porcupines. Below are my comments to the KTP:

“Porcupines are a common threat for most dogs, particularly for hunting dogs that routinely frequent wooded areas of Maine and NH. Some sporting goods stores in venomous snake areas of the US hold seminars for training your dog to avoid rattlesnakes.

Suggest KTP determine if there is interest in having a trainer be made available to train dogs to avoid contact with a porcupine. My hunting partners and I have had to remove quills from our dogs and in some cases have incurred significant expense in having an emergency vet clinic remove the quills. Thus, I believe that this training will be well received by your customers, particularly in light of the spike in the porcupine population this year. (The training is simple—have a porcupine or porcupine scent, and the trainer shocks the dog when the dog alerts to the scent or the porcupine—usually one shock administered by the trainer, is enough to convince the dog to avoid porcupines.)”

Some of you may wish to contact a local sporting goods store to see if they are interested in sponsoring similar training. (At least one southern Bass Pro Shop offers a training seminar for poisonous snakes.) Thus sporting goods stores/shooting preserves/hunting dog clubs in your area (such as LLBean, Bass Pro Shop, Cabela’s, NAVHDA) may consider such a seminar if porcupines are a threat in your area.

I have removed quills from my setter on 2 occasions in the past year. The most recent involved over a hundred quills in his mouth/lips/gums/tongue/front legs and face. My young Weim retrieved a baby porcupine a couple years ago—resulting in both me and the dog getting quilled. Fortunately I was able to remove the quills with a Leatherman. Otherwise, the local emergency vet clinic would have charged me \$800-\$1000 (Removing quills can result in your dog going into shock: I was fortunate that my Setter and Weim allowed me to remove the quills—however another of my dogs, a Beagle had to be taken to a vet as he would have gone into shock. He could not tolerate the pain of quill removal and had over a hundred quills in his mouth and face. (A porcupine has

about 30,000 quills, and absent avoidance training, some dogs, such as my setter and late beagle will continue attacking them during each encounter, despite past experience and the inevitable outcome.)

THE FOLLOWING AD WAS POSTED BY IDAHO HUMANE SOCIETY

<https://idahohumane.org/get-involved/annual-events--promotions/rattlesnake-avoidance/>

About Porcupine Avoidance Training

Porcupine aversion training for dogs has been shown to be safe and effective in helping prevent dogs getting quilled. Animal Behaviorist suggests that every dog can be trained to avoid being struck by a porcupine with quills. ICFI/IHS confirms that both the dogs and porcupines will be humanely treated during the training process. (Porcupines used during the porcupine avoidance training are all from Idaho and captured and released in the same location they are found.)

Upland bird hunters and outdoor people can expose their dogs to a variety of wildlife. Not only may porcupines be found, but rattlesnakes as well.

Being knowledgeable about porcupine ecology, behavior and avoidance is the best method for preventing your dog from getting quilled.

Fees

The class is \$30 per dog



All proceeds from the event will benefit the Idaho Chukar Foundation and Idaho Humane Society, both 501c3 non-profit organizations.

For more information, call Drew Wahlin at (208) 608-0833 or email idahochukarfoundation@hotmail.com.



Dave Trahan too this picture of the dogs checking out a tree which had just crashed at the entrance gate to the water training area. Moments ago, there were cars where the tree is now. The dogs are impressed. (A violent storm erupted just minutes after the training was concluded.) Providence.

There was lots going on during the Water Day (Water Daze)—swimming, retrieving, killing bugs, and HEAT!! ...Oh boy, the heat!

We'll have more photos later. The Editor had to leave town (go out of town) after the 25th, so we'll pick up "water day" photos in the next newsletter.

Contributors, please continue to submit. Your efforts are soooo appreciated!

In the meantime, please enjoy the wonderful photos and stories that we have been given.

They are gifts to us all !!

Gallery of Cheryl Cyr's photos—1 (June Training Day)



Gallery of Cheryl Cyr's photos—2



Gallery of Cheryl Cyr's photos—3





Left to right: Joanna Korte, MVNAVHDA President Carol Trahan, NAVHDA President David Trahan and Senator Kelly Ayotte.

NH Senator Kelly Ayotte visited Sharpe's Farm during the June training clinic to learn more about what NAVHDA was all about. There were a few photo-ops and a significant discussion with MVNAVHDA folks about the Youth Program. She couldn't stay long, but there was time for "show and tell".

Love the "shotgun" look Joanna! Awesome!



**Senator Ayotte
tries her hand at
handling some of
the dogs.**

Whoa ! Whoa!!





*"Oh my gosh! Did he **REALLY** say that ???"*



(Overheard:) "The hunter doesn't point the dog son, the dog points on his own."

More Pictures from Training Day



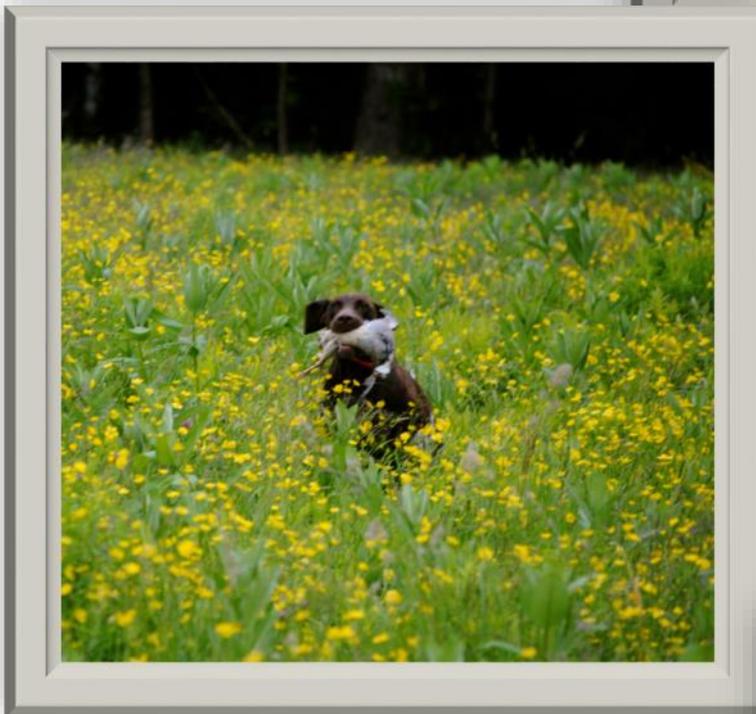
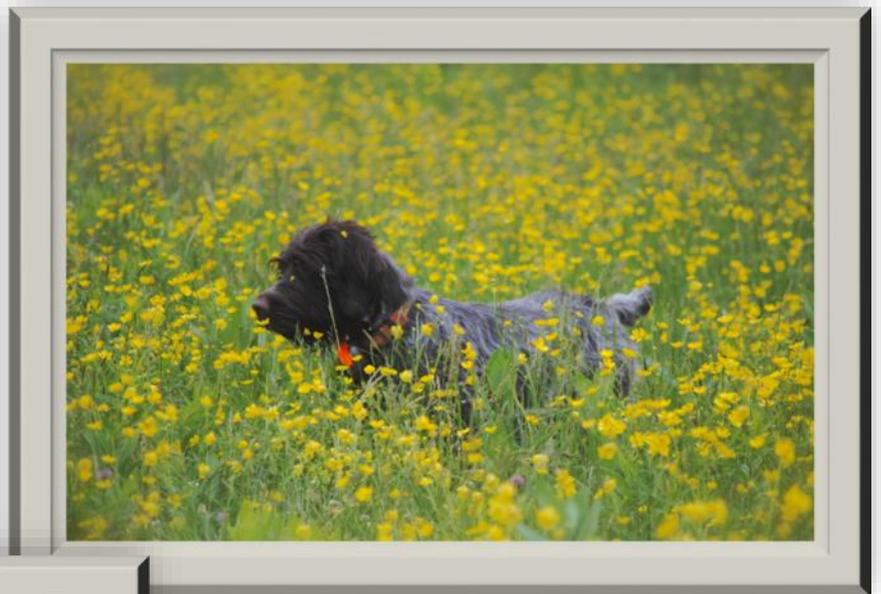
Sent in by Amy Caswell — Happy Griff photos! (June 3rd Training Day!)



More photos from Amy Caswell—June Training Day



Just Chillin'



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Chance, “The Professor”, takes his hunting seriously.



After the hunt: Gathering around the camp wood stove in Clarksville, NH



Moxie locks up on a quail.

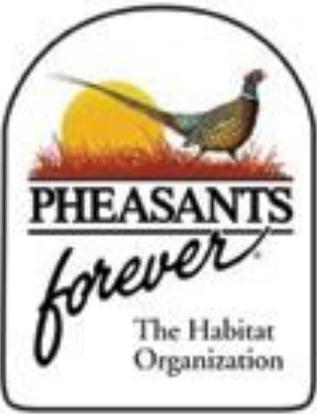


Photos from Doug Ross, Newington



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Thanks to our corporate sponsors and conservation partners!





("Oh nooo!....I've heard this joke a thousand times!")

(Think: *"inner peace"....."inner peace."*)

Last but certainly not least, We express sincere gratitude to Senator Ayotte for dropping by. Thanks for visiting with us and allowing us to share our feelings, our thoughts and our expectations. We are a very diverse group and we appreciate you for taking valuable time to be with us.!