



# MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



[www.mvnavhda.com](http://www.mvnavhda.com)

## July—August 2014

Hi all,

We have had a very successful training season this year and it is all due to you the members. Without your help and involvement we never would have been able to help as many handlers, train as we have. Sometimes there are not enough jobs to go around, but just having people standing by helps tremendously. There are always a few little issues that require someone's help for just a minute or two, and it is nice to have a pool to draw from.

*Seeking to improve "training bird process"*

One issue that continues to occur at training days is how the training birds are dispensed. The way we have been doing business is that members place an order with me prior to training day, then they pay for their birds during training day sign in. When it's their dog's turn to run, the bird planters ask the handler what birds they bought and they plant them in the field. This arrangement has never fully worked out well. Sometimes members do not get the birds that they ordered and paid for, and sometimes there are leftover birds that were paid for and not used. We also have handlers that do not pre order birds. A few extra birds are always ordered, but between escapees and fatalities it doesn't leave many extra. I plan on addressing this issue with the chapter's board in the coming weeks, and I am looking to streamline the whole process.

Once the board approves of a system, I will post the new procedure on the club's website and in the newsletter. I am looking to implement the new procedures at the start of the 2015 training year.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the pre-test clinic at Sharp's farm at 0900 on Saturday the 16th. The dogs running in our 'fall test' will be first up in the running order and all others will be run at the end—time permitting.



Chris Doherty (and Frit)

Director of Training

Christopher Doherty

## TO THE POINT:

As I'm putting this edition of the newsletter together, I'm seeing the pleas for people to 'volunteer' ...to come "stand in the breach".

At the 2013 MV Fall Test, I got a peek at how essential each volunteer is on "testing weekend". When I first started attending chapter events, I felt that I couldn't be of any value as a volunteer because I didn't understand enough or have any "skills" that could be applied to testing. For the most part, THAT REMAINS PRETTY MUCH TRUE. However I learned that (with a little coaching) I could take up some of the simple tasks and free up the experienced, better-skilled, and knowledgeable people for the testing business. In other words, every skill level is essential. If you feel you know nothing, don't fret. You'll fit right in with the rest of us "newer" members. We know how to help in the kitchen, set up tables, acting as runners, the "new-bee-can-do" list is huge. There is room and there is real need!

I also gained confidence and understanding while helping in the last fall test. I won't turn into any great "dog man", but it's a heck of a lot of fun being appreciated while learning! After all, isn't that what we're here for?



*Den*

Editor

Members may contact Den at  
MVNAVHDA.editor@gmail.com



Missy Correia's "Sedge" practicing steadiness.

# L.L.Bean®



"MOLLY"



**Suzi Moore**  
Director of Testing

**ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!** We need volunteers for 3 days of testing—learn a lot, help those who will in turn help you or help those who have already helped you.

**ESSENTIAL!** Please come and volunteer.

Please contact Suzi Moore at [tracadie@comcast.net](mailto:tracadie@comcast.net) or phone at 978-491-7653

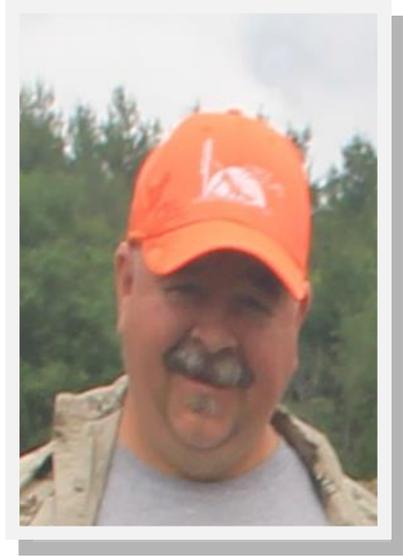


**Dear MVNAVHDA Members:**

A friendly reminder: *I am looking for donations for the lunch on the upcoming pre-test clinic on the 16th.* The Pre-test menu looks like Burgers and Hot Dogs. (I will have relish).

Mike fixed the grill and it's ready to go. (Thanks Mike and Jess!)

Please contact me (Jim Titus) directly if you can donate something. JPhoto65@comcast.net



**Jim Titus**  
**Meals Coordinator**

ALSO:

There will be a **huge** need for help / donations in the fall test. The fall test seems to bring out the “social” in us.

Stay tuned, more to follow..... Ed.

**Do you people have MVNAVHDA-“Titus-burgers” ?????**





Joanna Korte  
Test Secretary

**A short note from the desk of the MV Test Secretary:**

We have three full days of testing for our MV Fall Test to be held Aug 29-31. If you would like to be on the waiting list, please send in a completed test entry form and test fee and I will let you know if a spot opens up.

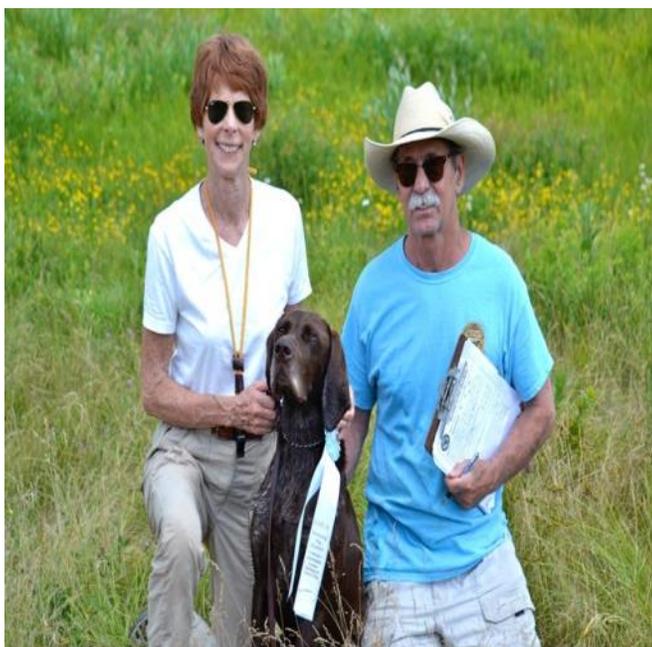
We will be needing volunteers to make this test run smoothly. Please volunteer with Suzi Moore, our MV Director of Testing. Thank you, Joanna

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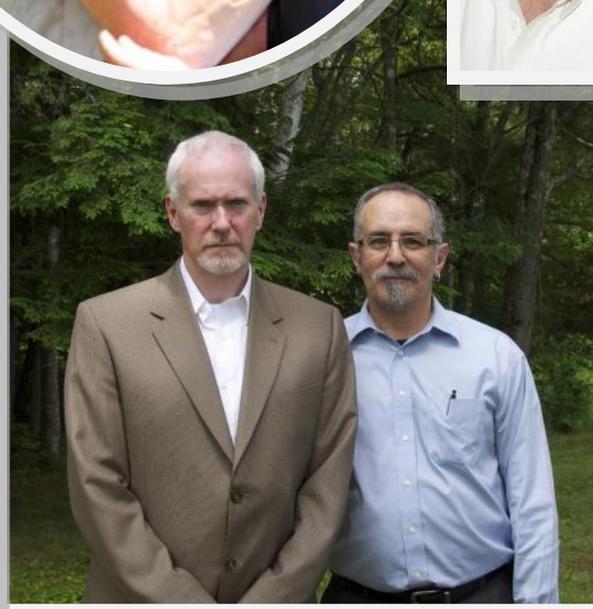
**GSPCA RDX (Retriever Dog Excellent) June 29th 2014 — Louise pleased as ‘Hawk’ joins ‘Spenser’ and only 2 other dogs in New England having GSPCA RDX title.**

Here are a couple of pictures of Louise Shaw and Grouse Point’s Hawk taken with Judges Tom White and Cassandra Thompkins as Hawk proudly sports his new ribbon.....or is that just the natural, regal look of a shorthair?

Louise: *“All that training we have done for the Invitational has come in handy!”*



SOME PICTURES FROM CHRIS BROWN AND LOU GAGNON'S ELMCROFT WEDDING





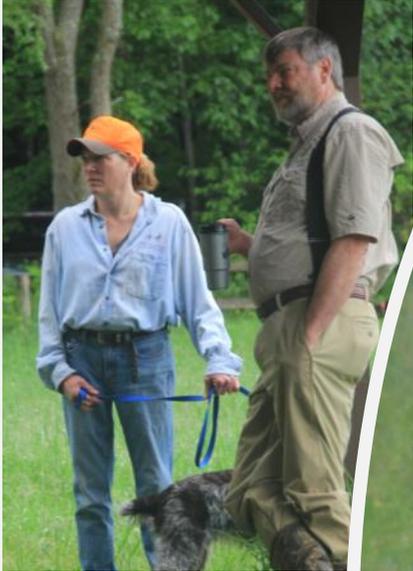


**Congratulations and best wishes from your friends at MV NAVHDA!**

**TRAINING DAY – JUNE 14TH**  
**A GREAT DAY & HAPPY PEOPLE**



Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday to You







**Bird Dogs**  
**AFIELD**  
*with Paul Fulley*



Coming in for lunch.



Helping set up lunch. Merrimack Valley Chapter has a great 'volunteering spirit'. Many hands get the job done!



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**GSP LITTER ANNOUNCEMENT—A FEW PUPPIES LEFT**

**VC Wild Sky's Shining Star ("Corey")**

owned by Casey Matthews

NA Prize 1, Utility Test Prize 1, Invitational Pass

X

**Chasers Gonna Get It Von Yard**

Owned by Alan Burkhart

NA Prize 1, UT Prize 1

For more information, contact Casey Matthews

603-664-9608 (Please call after 6pm)

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Here's Hunter and Zachary Bouck in their "chariot" at Sharpe's Farm.

If you want to see them as newborns, go to April 2013 newsletter. The boys are growing and active. It's great that at such an early age, they help mom support dad's MVNAVHDA involvement! Well done lads!



# More Memories of 2014 (July) "Water Day"



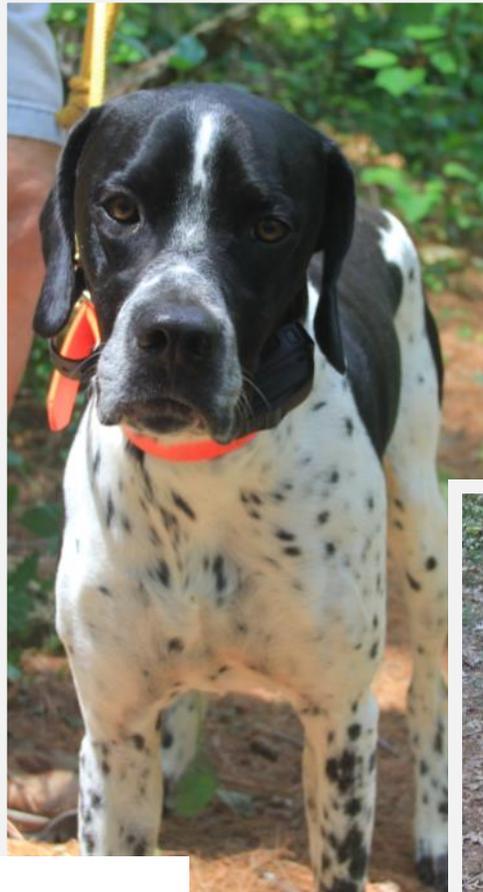
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Available at chapter training/test events

See Jerry Roy: [jerry.roy@us.army.mil](mailto:jerry.roy@us.army.mil)



Has DK German Shorthair pups —two males and two females. Both parents are VC titled dogs and work in the north country guiding for woodcock and grouse. Interested? Contact Dave at [davidt@onpointkennel.com](mailto:davidt@onpointkennel.com) 8/4/14



## THE FLUES



Hunting buddies are rare--mentors even more so. The gentleman who introduced me to bird hunting, Frank Shaw, passed away a few years ago and I still miss him. He was brilliant and a bit of a loose cannon at times, but the waitresses loved him--especially when he tipped them generously using two dollar bills. In his second career, he was in charge of a small USPS post office and people would drive an extra couple of miles just to do business with him. He was a people person. It seemed as if everyone knew and loved him.

One fall day, when Frank and I were at a gun shop in Whitefield, NH, the owner handed me a double barreled shotgun and said, "You're a 'double guy', how would you like this one? I'll give you a good price." He handed me a shotgun with about a four inch wooden extension built onto the butt. (He said that it belonged to a *very* tall gentleman.) I already owned doubles in 12, 20 and 28 gauge. I was wrestling with whether or not I really wanted a '16'-- "After all." I reasoned, "today's twenty will do basically the same job as the sixteen". I brought it up towards my shoulder and

the butt slammed into my armpit. I was thinking, "I don't know...."

After a few moments of what must have been *extreme* patience on his part, Frank said, "Let me see that." I said something like, "Okay." and handed him the shotgun. He turned to the store owner and said "I'll take it." Just like that, my buddy bought the shotgun out from underneath me.

He made it into a little project. He cut off the wood extension off the butt stock and replaced the Ithaca recoil pad. Where there was a large chip in the butt stock, he took the dust from his 'surgery' and made a "resin" paste and filled in the stock. In general, he cleaned up the gun and made it usable. Occasionally, he took it out of the cabinet and hunted with it. He and I had a running "joke" about how he got 'tired of me trying to make up my mind', so he bought it. I acted like it bothered me.

Time went on and a while ago, he came down with cancer. The VA doctors couldn't do anything to stop it. After a stay at the VA Hospital in Boston, he made his way home to prepare for his own trip across the "rainbow bridge".

As I sat by his recliner and we recounted our many little adventures, I had

the chance to tell him "Thanks". It was then that he told me that he was leaving me the Ithaca "Flues". I said, "Geez Frank, I didn't want it that way, I'd rather go hunting with you and *you* use it." "I know" he said, "but that's not in the cards 'Bud'."

He passed away amongst friends and family. He was cremated, and his ashes were placed in a small locker. I had to chortle--a US Army veteran and a retired postmaster was buried in a VA cemetery in what looked like a post-office box-- it seemed somewhat like poetic justice.

So now I possess the 16 gauge Ithaca Flues. It was manufactured in 1911, and fits me unusually well. So much in fact, that I wonder if Frank wasn't setting it up for me all those days. The story and flood of memories are worth more to me than the gun itself--especially as I wonder, "Who will watch over it when 'my time' comes?"

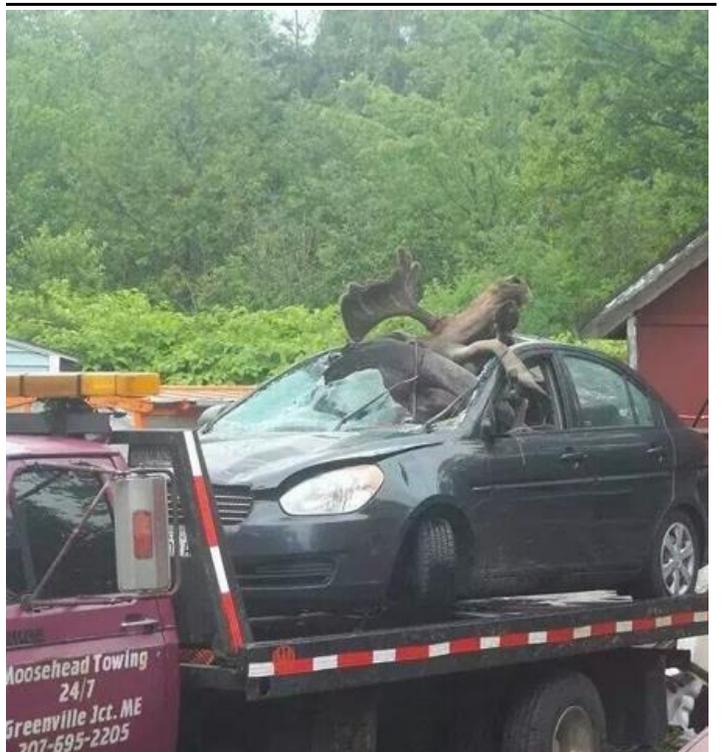


For now, I'm satisfied to bask in the reveries of colorful autumns and let the feelings wash over me like the warm waves of the South Pacific .

### Dennis Swett



Be careful when traveling to secret coverts. Moose are hard to see near the roads—especially at night. Don't let your October trips to grouse country end up like this. Remarkably, the man who was driving escaped with minor injuries. Not usually so!





Carol Trahan, President

## **AWOL— WELL, NOT REALLY.**

At the time of publication, Carol is in Alaska with her husband David and friends doing some fishing and hunting ptarmigan. We wish them a great time and are *exceedingly* envious! We'll be looking for a lot of tales when she returns. Till then, we're wishing her "tight lines" and great dog work!!



## **MVNAVHDA TIPS WORTH SHARING**

Those of us who have the slider windows in our truck caps have experienced this: We try to open or close the window using the friction from our hand on the glass and 'FIPP, the hand slips...OR, we have to crawl inside the cap to grip the metal piece at the edge of the glass to open and close it.

A great solution is "handles" for bathroom mirrors. They come in different sizes and shapes, and can be purchased at just about any glass company. I prefer the "near flush" ones.

**They attach by their adhesive backing.**

**Mine weathered the winter very nicely, and remain well attached.**

**Now the windows can easily be slid open and closed while I'm standing beside the cap.**



**Let's hear from you! What have you discovered?**

If you have any small ideas that make life a bit better, please forward them to [MVNAVHDA.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:MVNAVHDA.Editor@gmail.com)

## MVNAVHDA OFFICERS & STAFF

Member	CHAPTER OFFICERS / TERM	Email
Carol Trahan	President 2012-2015	<a href="mailto:carolt@onpointkennel.com">carolt@onpointkennel.com</a>
Moishe Ragieme	Vice President 2014-2017	<a href="mailto:mragieme@aol.com">mragieme@aol.com</a>
Gus Gouzoules	Treasurer 2014-2017	<a href="mailto:baysiderun@myfairpoint.net">baysiderun@myfairpoint.net</a>
Paul Bruk	Secretary 2012-2015	<a href="mailto:pbruk@comcast.net">pbruk@comcast.net</a>
Suzi Moore	Director of Testing 2013-2015	<a href="mailto:tracadie@comcast.net">tracadie@comcast.net</a>
David Trahan	Director of Judging 2013-2015	<a href="mailto:davidt@onpointkennel.com">davidt@onpointkennel.com</a>
Joanna Korte	Test Secretary 2013-2015	<a href="mailto:joannakorte@gmail.com">joannakorte@gmail.com</a>
Chris Doherty	Director of Training 2014-2016	<a href="mailto:landlubber30@icloud.com">landlubber30@icloud.com</a>
Casey Matthews	Director of Gunners 2014-2016	<a href="mailto:CamTile@AOL.com">CamTile@AOL.com</a>
Member	APPOINTED CHAPTER POSITIONS	Email
Terry T. Long	Delegate At Large 2014-2016	<a href="mailto:longdrivered@yahoo.com">longdrivered@yahoo.com</a>
Jessica Barker	Membership	<a href="mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com">mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com</a>
Mike Trull	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mvnavhda.com">webmaster@mvnavhda.com</a>
Dennis Swett	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com">mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com</a>
Jerry Roy	Merchandise Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Jerry.Roy@us.army.mil">Jerry.Roy@us.army.mil</a>
Jim Titus	Meals Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jtphoto65@comcast.net">jtphoto65@comcast.net</a>

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