



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com

May-June 2015



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Carol Trahan, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Hi all,

Well, we had a great start of season. Already we've had a few clinics and our first test. As you will see, we had a great three-day test. Most of the dogs that tested were NA. We also had a couple of dogs test UT. (You will see in this month's newsletter some comments from members on how they had a great time.)

I want to thank a few people who put on these tests. Without them we would not be able to do it! First, our judging team for that weekend—Chip, Bob, Phil and Suzie—they spent lot of time in the field. A big hats off to our Test Secretary, Joanna who prepares all the documentation for the test and arranges the running order.

Bob Fee, our Test Director, for getting all the volunteers together for the test; to Jim Titus for a great spread of food for everyone to enjoy; and to all the volunteers who help out for the weekend. Last, but not least, to the handlers who came out to run their dogs for evaluation.

Summer has started and training is well on the way. We have several training clinics planned for this summer with our next one in only a few days. Our water clinic in July is the biggest one for the year and many people who attend from other chapters.

My husband, Dave, along with members of the youth committee are working hard on youth events for this year. Our chapter has one planned in September, so if you know of any kids, have them contact David. It's going to be great!

Carol T.

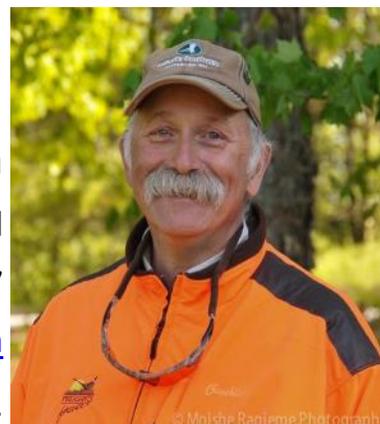
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHAPTER'S "YOUTH EVENT" IN SEPTEMBER, SEE PAGE ELEVEN OR CONTACT DAVID TRAHAN DIRECTLY AT:

David Trahan

191 Coffetown Road
Deerfield, NH 03037

davidt@onpointkennel.com

603-494-3802



A “THANK YOU” TO MVNAVHDA (RECEIVED BY CAROL TRAHAN)

“I wanted to offer a GIGANTIC thank you to everyone at MVNAVHDA. I don't know exactly who to send this note to, so you are the winner! Since showing up last fall at the pre-test clinic completely clueless with my Spinone Giuseppe in hand to our Saturday (slightly less clueless) NA test, you have all been so supportive and helpful and always had smiles on your faces. If you were laughing at us that's ok, because we were also laughing at ourselves. I may have a bird crazy hunting dog, but I have been completely out of my comfort zone. It was you folks who pushed us in the right direction (and pushed live and dead chukkars into my hands and car.) You gave us homework that we tried our best to complete. You gave us hope. You gave me a chance to not make a complete fool out of a talented dog. I know there's no award for most improved- but if there was, Giuseppe and I might get it. Thank you all for kindly putting up with us. We may have gotten a No Prize- score of 80, but it was the proudest No Prize you ever gave out. I had tears of pride in my eyes that day, and still do right now just thinking about it. Our NAVHDA experience was a complete success from our viewpoint due to the wonderful people of your chapter. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.”



Please feel free to send this message on to anyone at MVNAVHDA.
-Emily Knapp, Brandon Gordon and Giuseppe Plumb Bob

Editor's Note: Giuseppe Plumb Bob happens to be featured in the “cover picture” on this month's newsletter.



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF TESTING:

Dear Merrimack Valley membership,

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered and worked this past (spring test) weekend. I also thank those who volunteered to help out but did not have to because we already had enough help.

The tests went off without a hitch thanks to all your efforts.

Chip Bonde, the senior judge, was very impressed.

I applaud you and thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Fee
Director of Testing



BOB FEE

NOTICE FROM KATAHDIN GSP CLUB

PROVIDED BY CASSANDRA TOMPKINS

The Katahdin GSP club is hosting a GSPCA and AKC water test at the dike side of Sharpe's Farm on June 28th, with a training day on the 27th.

Although the title is for GSP's, all pointing breeds are welcome.

The rules regarding the test can be found at www.gspca.org, and the premium is at www.katahdingsp.org.

From the Test Secretary's desk:

Hello Everyone!

We had 21 dogs test at our Spring Test this year.

It was chilly Friday and Saturday, but warmed up on Sunday. "Thank you" to those who tested with us.

If you would like to test your dog in our Fall Test, to be held on August 28-30, please send in your test entry. You can enter the test electronically using PayPal and email. All of the details are on our website, at www.mvnavhda.com.

You can also send in your completed test entry and payment by regular mail.

The fall test is not yet full, so enter your dog now.

Thanks and have a great summer training!

Joanna



Joanna Korte



MUSICIAN's DOG

**BE 'PROPERLY
ACCESSORIZED'!**

Chapter pins, stickers, shirts and other items are for sale.

Contact Jerry Roy

Info and more at

mvnavhda.com



Chris Doherty with "Frit"

Hi all,

Our new bird handling/dispensing procedure is working and I will adjust it as needed. My goal is to keep the training day as stress-less and smooth running as possible.

For the first time we will be having a two day training weekend. Saturday the 13th will be a regular training clinic for all members starting at 0900 and Sunday the 14th is training for the upcoming Invitational. This training will be strictly for those going to the Invitational and who have signed up with

Dave Trahan.

Our next training day is the Water Clinic on July the 25th. Please remember to bring a chair, some sort of shade, sunscreen and bug repellent. The sun by the water can be brutal and the mosquitos at the blind side are ferocious.

Looking forward to seeing you all again,

Chris Doherty

MVNAVHDA Director of training

(Recycled) ANNOUNCEMENT:

REGARDING "MEALS" IN 2015

The Board is looking for someone to help coordinate meals. In 2015, Jim Titus will continue to coordinate the *Spring and Fall Test meals ONLY*. However, in the absence of someone else who can help with meals, the chapter decided to go "BYOL"—"bring your own lunch"—for training clinics, water day, etc. If someone steps up to fill the gap, the Board will review this decision.

For the foreseeable future, ***the only meals that will be "provided" will be at the Spring and Fall tests.*** Chapter Members are urged to plan accordingly and "BYOL".

Remember to bring plenty of water for your dog.!



To the Point:

“If you don’t know where you want to go, it doesn’t matter what direction you take.” Anon

We know where we want to go! We see the newsletter as an item to help members stay “connected” with “chapter related” issues. Perhaps more importantly we see it as a place where we can all come together—even if it is electronically—and share. It’s our hope that this publication will remain “inclusive” and allow everyone share the chapter sense of community and purpose...and everyone to have a “voice”.

Despite the many differences that make us each unique, we share common interests and joys. In that spirit, I thank all those who have offered us suggestions and coached us here and there along the way. I hope you’ll keep that sort of thing coming! On the other hand, the things that make us unique provide great “fodder” for articles, stories and other offerings. For instance, this month Rob Marcotte shared a nice piece on his Browning—well, not his any more— and Emily Knapp shared a very kind “thank you” for the support that she, Brandon and Giuseppe received as they worked on the “Natural Ability”. Members sent in photos, and a special thanks to Moishe Ragieme for sharing his photo-talents. All of these things come together to give us a “view” of the Merrimack Valley Chapter—which is unique in its own right, and I’m pleased to be sharing it

with you. Thanks to all who contribute, and please, keep it coming. You are the newsletter’s “life-blood”!



Dennis Swett, Editor

Den

Please send ideas, comments, pictures, items for sale and articles to:

mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com

ANOTHER GREAT IDEA



No more spilled water bowls! We’ve been walking by these water bowls at nearly every training clinic and test. It’s time to recognize a great idea! Using a Bundt pan with the tie-out stake through the middle really makes it!

We don’t know who first thought of it, but it’s brilliant.

[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

IS LOCATED AT

MVNAVHDA.COM

IT IS THE REPOSITORY FOR

UP-TO-DATE

INFORMATION

FIRST TRAINING CLINIC OF 2015—APRIL 25TH

It wasn't as cold as last year, but it was raw just the same. Perhaps we should just anticipate the "rawness" on the first training day. Merrimack Valley Chapter had a good showing with over 26 dogs and their handlers taking the field. Chris Doherty and



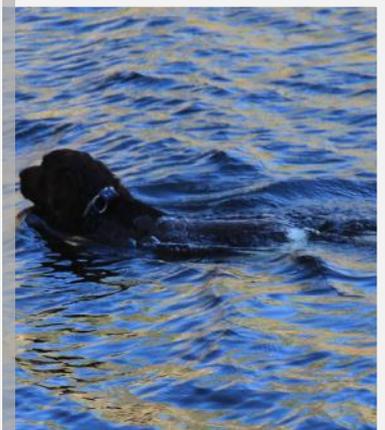
friends did a great job of "marshalling" the activities. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Natural ability people kept the first and second fields quite busy with searches, tracking and basic skills. UT dogs kept the back field in full operation. The NA pups did a little water work in the usual place. The UT water site wasn't used that day.

There were the silent soldiers too. Some were helping every-one get registered. Strong hearts sitting in the morning cold as cheerful as if it were June!



The friendship and new introductions flowed as the Merrimack Valley chapter kicked off the 2015 training season. Here are a few glimpses of the first training day of 2015."Enjoy!"





**FIRST TRAINING CLINIC
APRIL 25, 2015
SHARPE'S FARM**







One-day Youth Upland



Sponsored by the
Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA

(North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association)

September 19th, 2015

This event will begin with a demo on “How to train an upland dog for hunting” along with a demonstration of “correct dog handling” and the “proper positioning of hunters in the field”.

Following the demonstrations with upland hunting dogs, New Hampshire Fish and Game personnel will give a short presentation about hunting game birds.

With adult supervision, each youth participant will hunt over a trained dog in the upland field.

The goals of the day will be (1) to introduce the youth to hunting over a trained “bird dog” and (2) to introduce them to the instruction and assistance that they can get from NAVHDA.

The event is limited to ten (10) youth--age 13 years and older.

There is no charge. Lunch is provided Start time 8:00 am Goes until ‘done’
Location is to be determined.

Written, parental permission is required.

Entries must be received by August 1, 2015 and will be handled on a “*first come, first served*” basis.

Contact person/
Send application to:

David A Trahan
101 Coffeetown Rd
Deerfield NH 0303
603-494-3802

davidt@onpointkennel.com

Applicant name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Applicant address: _____

Applicant phone number: _____ Emergency phone number: _____

Parental Authorization: *I understand that my son/daughter will be interacting with dogs in an outdoors hunting environment. I also understand that he/she will be handling firearms under adult supervision. Below is my written permission for my son/daughter to participate in this event.*

Parent's name (Printed)

Parent's signature

Date of signature

Parent's phone number

PRE-TEST CLINIC

The pre-test clinic was a busy time as members—new and old—prepared for the spring test. Here are a few pictures taken on May 2nd.





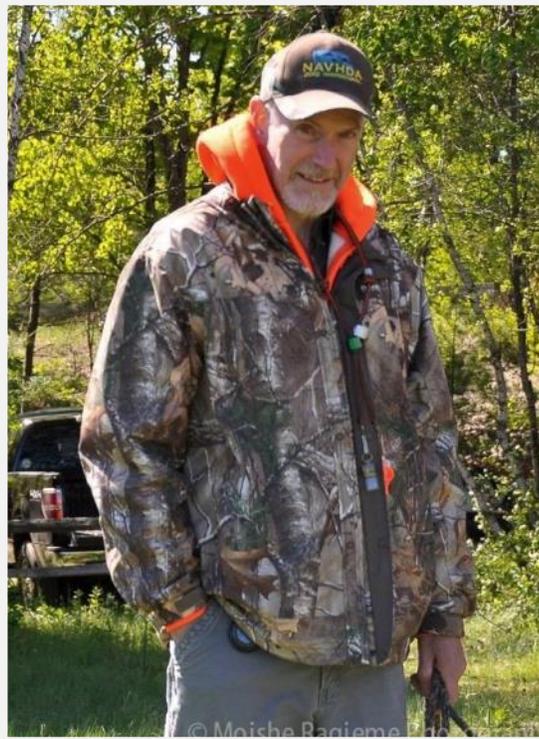
What *should* this caption be?



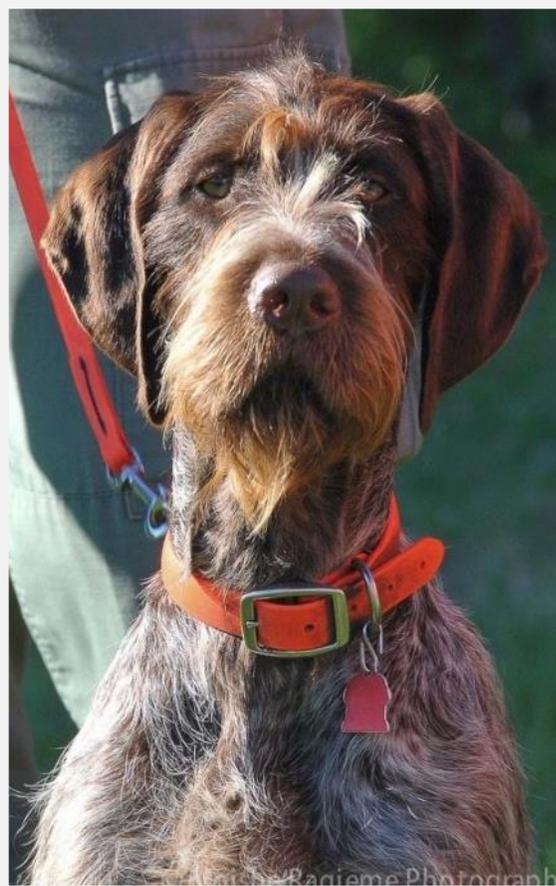
'Gutt' Dog



I wasn't at the Spring Test, but it looks like it was a great time! Photos courtesy of Moishe Ragieme. Thanks Moishe! Den



Dave, *this* is how I point birds!



2015
SPRING
TEST

SPRING

TEST

(Cont'd)



It takes everyone pitching in to pull of a good test!





SPRING
TEST
(Cont'd)

Where? It all looks the same down here!



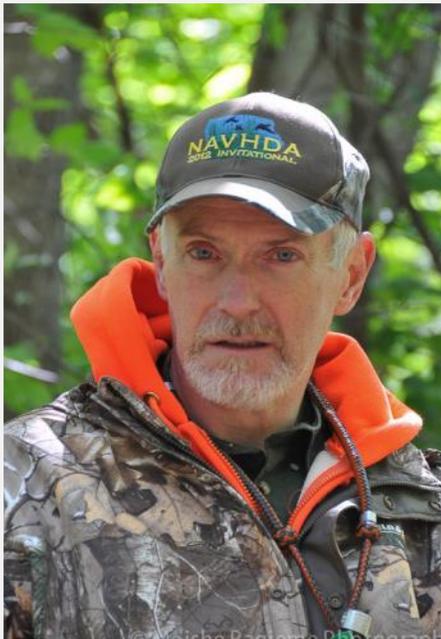
MORE "MVNAVHDA MOMENTS" CAPTURED BY MOISHE RAGIEME.

THANKS MOISHE!



EVEN MORE IMAGES OF "MVNAVHDA MOMENTS" SHARED BY MOISHE RAGIEME.

THANKS AGAIN ! ED.



THE BELGIAN BROWNING



Rob Marcotte with Griff the Browning

Thirty some odd years ago I got really serious about bird hunting. As a teenage squirrel hunter I was often surprised by the flush of a pa'tridge while stalking grey squirrels. They usually flushed behind me, scaring the crap out of me. They never seemed to take my dad by surprise. We would be walking down an old logging road, he with his single shot, exposed hammer 20 gauge Sears Roebuck cradled in his arms. A pa'tridge would sometimes flush and he would shoot it. Then it was up to me to find the bird. I made up my mind that someday I would have a bird dog and a double barrel shotgun

Fast forward a few years and I have my own place and need a bird dog. I found a book that described all the bird dog breeds. I read the book several times and decided a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon would best fit my style of hunting. That was too bad as back in the 70's WPG's were very hard to find. Young people find this hard to believe when I tell them, but there were no personal computers

back then, let alone the internet. So I settled on my second choice and bought a Brittany from Ron Stevenson of Hopkinton, NH. That was the beginning of a great friendship and a love of Brittanys.

Now I needed a really good bird gun. I read everything I could on bird hunting but just couldn't afford a Parker or a Purdy. I decided I would keep my eye out for a Browning Superposed Superlight. One of my buddies told me that Old Walt from our gun club had some sort of a Browning. At the next club meeting I asked Old Walt about his gun. He said it was a Belgian Browning, Superposed, Superlight 12 gauge with English grip. I asked he would sell it to me. He just laughed. It became a running joke with us. Every time I'd see him I'd say, "Ready to sell that old club yet?" He would always just laugh.

I went to the club range one day and Old Walt was there with his son trying to shoot trap. I had heard that he had cancer but hadn't seen him for a while. It was painful to watch. His son would release the clay pigeon and it would sail out of range long before Walt could get the gun on it and fire. Here was a man who rarely missed a clay bird. Walt had his back to me and I got back in my car and left, not wanting him to feel embarrassed.

A few days later I got a phone call. "Robby, this is Walt. I'm dying. Got a few weeks left. If you still want that gun bring \$XXXX. " Then he hung up. \$XXXX was a huge amount of money back then for a guy just out of the service and finishing up college while working nights as a high school janitor. I went to the bank and just about cleaned out my account and headed over to Walt's. When I got there we went into his gun room. Every gun had a price tag on it so his wife would know what to sell them for. His wife came home as he was handing me the Browning. She just fell apart. Kept telling him not to give up, not to sell his guns. He told her it was no use, there was no

more fight left in him and he wanted that gun to go to a real bird hunter.

I have no idea how many grouse and woodcock I have taken with that gun. I had it bored out to cylinder and skeet and was deadly with it. Alas, that was 35 years ago when I was young and FAST! Thirty-five years, a shoulder surgery and degenerative arthritis have really slowed me down. Now, by the time I get that gun to my shoulder the bird is beyond those open patterns.

A couple of years ago at a chapter event a few us were talking shotguns. When I mentioned my Browning, one person told me to let him know if I ever wanted to sell it. Of course I forgot his name so I asked Den if he could put something in the newsletter. He relayed the message via a chapter e-mailing. I didn't get a response to the e-mail. At the April training clinic a chapter member asked about the shotgun. Seems that she has the same gun in 20 gauge. She said she wasn't interested in buying it but would like to see it. At this year's spring test I brought the gun. I warned them that it was field worn and not in the great condition as her 20. I also said I realized that they weren't interested in buying it but just wanted to look at it. She and her husband had been looking for a nice light 12 gauge for her. They looked it all over and she put it to her shoulder. The stock would have to be modified like her 20 had been. They checked the barrels and figured there was enough metal left to install choke tubes.

Husband: "How much do you want?"

Rob: "\$XXXX"

Wife: "I have my checkbook"

Husband: "I think you should write Rob a check"

That was it. Just like 35 years ago. No haggling over price. Just bird hunters knowing the value of a good shotgun.

As we were walking to her vehicle I told her I was glad the shotgun was going to people who would really appreciate it for what it is. She said ,” these guns just don’t come along, and don’t I have just the NICEST husband?”

Oh,and now I *do* have a couple of Wirehaired Pointing Griffons!!!!



Rob Marcotte enjoying a moment with one of his Griffons.

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NAVHDA ANNUAL MEETING 2016

JANUARY 28-31, 2016

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www.uglydoghunting.com

2014 PURINA SPORTING DOG SUMMIT & "PERIODIZATION"

Dennis Swett

"Trainers and handlers from across several sporting segments were invited to the Sporting Dog Summit at Purina's Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri to learn from experts on how to develop a competitive advantage," said Bob West in an article in the June/July issue of Gun Dog Magazine. Several scientists and top veterinarians made presentations and later answered questions as a "panel".

The main topic was a new training regimen that builds muscles and red blood cells and ultimately increases cardiac output in sporting dogs. The regimen was called "Periodization". (The article in Bob West's "Notes from the Field" column is on pages 28-29. The article gives a quick overview, but the bad news is that all the summary information couldn't be included there.



The good news is, by request you can receive an electronic file containing the full-color 52-page book, *Achieving a Performance Edge*, compliments of Nestle Purina.

Mr. West pointed us to good information. He wrote, "To request an electronic file of this 52-page book, send an email to PurinasportingDog@purina.nestle.com. Please be sure to include your name, and allow up to one week to receive the publication by email." (Just click on the link above to get started.)

He also wrote, "For the overall safety and well-being of your dog, I encourage you to take advantage of Purina's offer. Whether your dog is an extreme athlete or casual hunting companion, you will benefit from this information." (Italics are mine)

I sent an email to Purina and within a couple days, received a return email with an attached zip-file from Barbara Fawver at Nestle Purina Petcare . I clicked on the zip-file and voila! There was the e-book filled with the research results . #



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**Recent photo from Mass Military Reservation/
Otis/Camp Edwards on the Cape ... Sent in by
Tony Ferragamo**

"Why did the woodcock cross the street?"



HANDLERS' CLINIC May 16-17 @ Sharpe's Farm

Merrimack Valley Chapter sponsored a "Handler's Clinic" on Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17th. Attendees coughed up the entrance fee to attend the clinic and learn what to look for— or rather what the judges are looking for—from dogs and their handlers during a NAVHDA test. A great deal of information was shared at these clinics and handlers typically walk away with a much better understanding that makes them better handlers.

To learn more about Handlers' Clinics go to navhda.org/testing/holding-handler-clinic.

Below are pictures from one of the attendees.



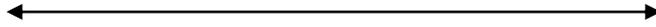
MV Chapter Gunners continuously strive to improve their skills. Here, we noticed that one of our gunners has apparently taken this to a higher level. One shot, one kill.

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:MVNAVHDA CLASSIFIEDS:

If you have an item to sell—or are wanting to buy, send your “listing” to mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com. We will advertise it in the newsletter for you.

(Of course, we reserve the right to refuse to publish something we consider inappropriate for this venue.)



CANOE FOR SALE

13 foot Mansfield canoe. Weighs about 50 lbs. No leaks.

Made by the Stowe Canoe & Snowshoe Company. \$700

Contact Rob Marcotte hermitrob@fairpoint.net (Dog and chain saw not included)



MVNAVHDA Officers/Directors/Staff

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VACANT	Meals Coordinator	VACANT

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