



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com



MAY-JUNE 2016



LEXY

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 7



NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Lots going on these days—good things and things not so good. On the good side is our testing. Merrimack Valley has become a preferred chapter for many who want to test their dogs. We had a wonderful Spring Test and a very busy Fall Test that will be here before we know it. Thank you volunteers! We can't do a thing without you pitching in! You make things wonderful!

Another good thing is that we are taking the “next step” in our youth program, and are looking for people who will either serve as coordinator for the Merrimack Valley Youth Program or help the coordinator to ensure a happy and successful NAVHDA experience for those young people who want to learn about handling dogs and safe hunting. Yet another good thing is that the chapter is growing—not only in numbers, but in friendship as well. It is wonderful to see.

In the “not so good” category, we need defend ourselves as the “anti hunter” element takes steps to interfere and curtail our sport. The Bobcat issue that recently made headlines was just the beginning of a long-term assault on our sport. We have key people watching the happenings in Concord and will keep you informed as we defend our liberties from those who think they have a better idea of how the world should be.

Finally, I truly enjoy serving with you in the Merrimack Valley Chapter, and enjoy the friendships that we have forged. Before we know it, we will be at the water in July, testing again in August, following ‘The Invitational’ in September, and hunting together in October.

See you in the field!!

Carol T.



Needed: Youth Development Coordinator and Helpers

The Chapter would like to take the "next step" in building up our youth members. We need volunteers who will work under the direction of leadership to coordinate our annual youth events and interact with MV Chapter, the State, to handle applications for the youth events, to coordinate the event's meal and to help us stay "in contact" with interested youth members. We want to help them have a good experience in their NAVHDA journey.

Interested parties contact Dave Trahan directly. DavidT@onpointkennel.com



Carol Trahan

MV Chapter President



Joanna Korte

From the Test Secretary:

We had a busy Spring Test with 14 Natural Ability (NA) dogs, 2 UT (Utility) and 1 UPT (Utility Prep) dog.

Get ready for an even busier Fall Test! We will have a lot of dogs testing in the Fall. One test on Friday, a double test on Saturday and another double test on Sunday!

Yes, you heard that right. Another first for our Chapter. There are currently a couple of spots open for the Fall Test.

Also, don't be shy about getting onto the waiting list once the test is full, because things change and folks pull their dogs, so there is a good chance you could get into the Fall Test!

Is your dog ready for testing?

Happy training!

Joanna



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TO THE POINT:

“Incrementing”—a tactic of HSUS and the “antis”.



Inch by inch, issue by issue, using “politics of emotion”, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and the *anti-hunting crowd* is moving its agenda forward. Last year, they tried to curtail bear hunting in Maine. We—who were not Maine residents—stood and watched as our brothers and sisters in NAVHDA participated in the fight to keep Maine as “Maine” and not allow legislation regarding bear hunting that was ill-conceived and designed with an anti-hunting end-goal. Our brothers and sisters were successful.

This year, another attack was launched—this time in New Hampshire—using the Bobcat as its new posterchild. The NHF&G Commission voted 5-4 to approve a limited bobcat season. The anti-hunting effort against It was well done, and much effort and money was spent on their assault. (Remember those tear-jerking commercials on TV that asked you to reach into your wallet for a suffering puppy?) The result: The Bobcat season was turned down in legislature. The “out” for the state legislative branch was that the bobcat might be mistaken for a Canadian Lynx—which is an endangered species.

For Pete’s sake! Our scientists said that such a season was “do-able” and would be alright for the population. The season was only for 50 bobcats ...a fact that was carefully concealed in the political action selling points! Personally, I don’t think it’s time to have a bobcat season. I would have voted with the “4”. That said, if you listen carefully to the Humane Society sponsored video at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiaXXZZZ0z0>) , you

can quickly see that this “push” is NOT about the bobcat. It’s about changing our Fish and Game Dept, the F&G Commission, and the behavior of hunters and fishers.

First, they “cherry picked” individuals who would appear as having credentials on the screen. (Look carefully. You’ll see that they don’t.) Their testimonies are largely opinions. They even found a farmer who “sounds” NH. Second, you will hear that the F&G Commission needs to be changed. That’s their target—to change the commission and control everything “downstream”. Third, they speak of funds—both wasting funds and requiring more funds from the General Fund.

There is an amount that the general fund gives to NHF&G, but it still doesn’t cover all the expenses that are required of the Department by the State—Search and Rescue (SAR) and OHRV “policing” are two gigantic drains on the NHF&G budget. The HSUS talking points on this piece are severely misleading and designed to indicate that the electorate supports HSUS efforts. The bobcat is being used to advance their agenda.

They also highlight trophy hunting as being unnecessary. You can be sure that pheasants, ducks, geese, deer and other species will be incrementally included in their push to ban hunting.

What is the most *nefarious* about this assault is that they are organizing to block the control of the Fish and Game Commission. *Look for moves to install non-hunters and non-fishers on the Commission.* The assault was an incremental move, and it was successful. *It was a shot over the bow of the Hunting and Fishing Community that went largely unanswered.* This cannot continue!

It is *exceedingly* important for us as hunters and conservationists to be “engaged” in these issues, and personally write or call our state representatives. (Group emails and petitions go largely unheeded.) Unfortunately, a war of “politics by emotion” has been launched against us.

If we don’t become actively engaged in defending our hunting “rights”, we will lose them.

By the way, if you watch the video, that’s a Lynx at 10:05—not a bobcat.

Den mnavhda.editor@gmail.com

Newsy Notes: ~~(WE REALLY NEED A BETTER TITLE FOR THIS!—INVITING SUGGESTIONS)~~

- Free fishing day in NH—Saturday June 4
- Free fishing day in ME—Saturday & Sunday, June 4 & 5
- Free fishing day in VT —Saturday June 11 plus VT’s regular bass season opens June 11.
- Free fishing day in MA—Saturday and Sunday, June 4 & 5.
- Moose Lottery in Maine will be drawn at Kittery Trading Post June 11th, starting at 2:00pm.
- The NH F&G Department is asking for the public’s help in tracking wild turkey broods in NH this spring and summer. It’s easy to take part. If you observe groups of turkeys with young between now through August 31, 2016, report your sightings on Fish and Game’s web-based turkey brood survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016 Brood Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016_Brood_Survey) . To learn more about the survey, visit: www.wildnh.com/surveys/turkeybrood.html
- Vermont’s muzzleloader season antlerless deer hunting permit applications are now available on VT Fish & Wildlife’s website.
- Remind your non-hunting friends that a Hike Safe Card is a great insurance for NH Outdoors people.
- MassWildlife will be holding a **FREE** open house on **Saturday, June 4**, 10AM - 3PM, at its Field Headquarters (1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough) to celebrate its 150th anniversary. This family friendly event will feature kids' crafts, nature walks, interactive displays, live animals, plus cake and a BBQ lunch generously provided by the Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation. Bring your family, neighbors, and friends - all are welcome!

A Note From the Editor:

A huge “Thank you” to those who send in pictures and stories. We appreciate your efforts and are VERY grateful that you share your “finds”, your talents, and your insights with us. One of our goals for the newsletter is to help to increase the sense of “community” in the MV Chapter. You are helping that become a *vibrant* reality with each contribution, each comment, each “assist”.

I have to tell you, we were concerned about the length of the newsletter. Some said, keep it short, some said big is nice...keep it big, so we’re left to just go with the flow. If you have any comments, we’d love to hear them. We appreciate everyone’s feedback—especially when it’s dressed in kindness.

Thanks everyone for all you do to help us to provide one of the better newsletters in NAVHDA (*a little self-promotion there*).

Den mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com

PS: Check out Yankee member Nancy Anisfield’s new book at Ugly Dog Hunting. It’s called “SHOTWAD— besides the point”.

I’ve laughed my way through the first chapter already. So far, a riot!



A “visitor’s” first-time chukkar.



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA



2016 Shotgun Raffle

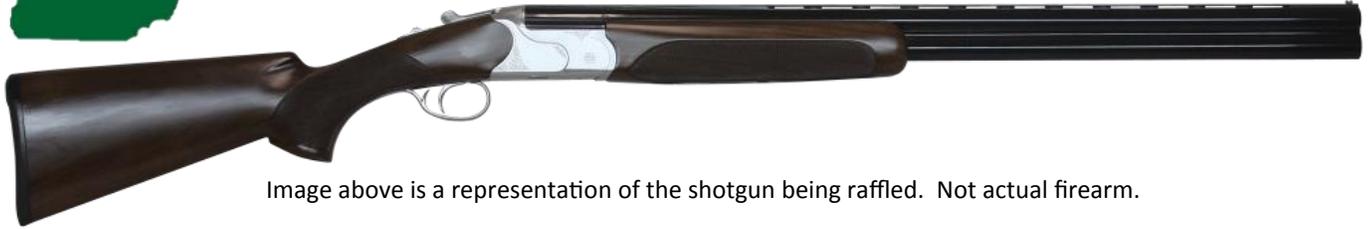


Image above is a representation of the shotgun being raffled. Not actual firearm.

CZ "Redhead Premier" O/U 28 ga Shotgun!

Silver Satin Chrome Receiver; Single Trigger; Turkish Walnut Stock;
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"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.

NH Wildlife Federation Updates



Preserve, Protect, & Conserve Wildlife Habitat and Resources

Earlier this week a special meeting was arranged by the NHWF including key individuals involved in representing the Federation at the state level in the past, legislators, members of the F&G Commission, Director Normandeau and Federation board and delegates. The meeting was help to discuss the recent events at the legislative level and specifically threats from some anti-hunting groups and members of the legislature to change the make-up of or outright dismissal of the F&G Commission.

For the most part the discussion was positive and several issues with the sportsmen's communication with the legislators and the fundamental issue that numbers of people at a hearing and/or personally contacting legislators is critical to the sporting communities future efforts to fight off the *anti-hunting sponsored legislation that is certainly coming*. The NHWF voted to support the F&G Commission as it is.

Several ways that the Federation could support the sportsmen and women of the state were identified, most revolved around the Federation becoming the communication conduit between sportsmen, F&G, and the legislature. A number of initiatives were identified, in the short term the Federation will work to improve the communication with sportsmen through email and social media. In addition, they will work on contacting clubs that are not affiliated or affiliated and inactive to inform them directly of the impending threats and the need for everyone to mobilize when the time comes.

Secondarily, the Federation is looking to hire a full time person to coordinate efforts and possibly represent the Federation at the Statehouse. To that end they will be looking to gather funds, initially through increased membership but several other avenues are being explored.

In order to facilitate communication, the Federation has asked the clubs to allow them to use their social media feeds and/or email lists. In the past the Association has been very protective of the member's emails. The consensus of the BOD was that we will have the Federation send emails to the President, Secretary or myself and we will forward them to our members.

I would encourage our members to check the Federation website <http://www.nhwhf.org/> and visit their Facebook page to stay abreast of current events.

Mr. Terry T. Long is following this matter. You may contact him at longdrivered@yahoo.com.

From the land of great ideas!



A do-it-yourself project to make canvas bags obsolete! Water resistant bags that can be placed in wet grass, mud and sand. Those pesky little “short” hairs don’t get into the weave either! (Great idea by Nancy Roy!)



ABOUT TRAVELING WITH DOGS

Chris Pope

It used to be that travelling overnight with dogs generated much stress. The planning was stressful. Packing for them was stressful. Knowing where to stay, when to feed, how often to stop, do we sneak them into the hotel/motel? Will they poop in the hotel lobby? Stress led to the dogs being stressed. Just like kids. Well stressed parents are as contagious to their dogs as they are to their kids so here are a few things we (my wife and hunting partners) have done to minimize the stress and actually make travelling with dogs fun. I will qualify this by saying I am no travel expert. It is just that I have made some mistakes along the way and have figured out a few ways to stream line things. Likely, you have better ways of making travel with dogs smooth.

In the first two years of "Gunny's (our Griff) life he travelled over 10,000 miles by road through 32 states and 2 Canadian provinces. He stayed in hotels, motels, friends and relatives homes, RV's, hunting camps and other disreputable places. His buddy, an 8 year old non-hunting female Labrador, has travelled almost as much. Now, to be clear, these are not kennel dogs. Yes they sleep on the bed, or if it is a really small bed, I sleep on the floor and they sleep on the bed next to my wife. I know folks that pull up to the hotel and leave the dogs in the kennel in the truck. That is perfectly fine and normal as long as they are safe. We just are not that sensible and only travel with two dogs so this is how we do it.

Planning goes a long way towards reducing problems. Actually, we prefer having a somewhat loose travel schedule in case we are slowed by traffic or cover more ground than expected. Other folks prefer to know exactly where they will stay each night. We prefer to drive in daylight so, depending on the time of year, that generally means we are on the road 8-10 hours. Know that 8 hours of on the road time might actually mean 7 hours of driving time depending on length of stops. On multiple day trips, say pheasant hunting out west, where there are multiple days on the road, we try to make the first day the longest driving day and then additional days successively shorter.

Prior to departure, download an emergency vet app on your cell phone. This minimizes the panic in trying to locate the closest emergency 24-hour vet. We use inyourarea.net which is not perfect by any means but by entering the zip code of where you are you should be able to locate the nearest vet hospital. We have not used it much, thankfully, and there may be better apps available.

On the subject of apps, we also use the AAA app which does very well with directions and can also be used for pet-friendly hotels (more on that later), and roadside assistance. GasBuddy is the other app we rely on which is an excellent app for finding

the cheapest and closest gas and diesel rates while you travel. If you travel in an RV I recommend using Allstays as a guide for nearby RV parks. This app provides good descriptions, contact info and campground/RV park ratings.



You might even need stitches in Eureka, SD...not a bad idea to download an emergency vet app such as "inyourarea.net"— check reviews of these apps and practice plugging in your hunting locations before you depart.

Some dogs travel well, others do not. We have found that significant dog exercise the day prior to travel reduces some of the anxiety and they may be calmer over the next couple of days when they won't get as much exercise. Having the dog(s) travel as pups conditions them to accept being on the road and in hotels or campgrounds. A friend and I drove our 13 week old Griff home to NH from Montana. I expected long sleepless nights with a pup who missed his real mommy. But the breeder had made a point to give the pup frequent rides in his truck in a crate. The ride home was flawless. My buddy took a separate room to make sure at least one of us would be awake enough to drive the next day. It ended up not being necessary as Gunny slept very well the first night in his crate next to the bed. The second night he got lonely and started to fuss at about 3 AM. After taking him out for a pee he was allowed to cuddle with his new papa for the rest of the night. I know... many of you a rolling your eyes right now, but we both slept

and the other guests in the hotel never heard a thing.

While I have not researched this I believe that crated dogs are much safer in a vehicle than un-crated dogs. Either way a crash is very bad news. As a firefighter/paramedic for many years I can say anecdotally that unrestrained dogs can make out as bad as unrestrained drivers. However, I have not seen any data to support this. The bottom line is drive defensively! Don't speed-get there safely.

Plan dog pee breaks around human breaks and fuel stops. I am not in favor of utilizing pet areas at rest stops. Again, while I have no data or research to support this, I do find pet areas pretty disgusting and potentially a good way to pass on illness and parasites. There are two other options. Rest areas are handy because being able to fuel up the vehicle and handle human/dog bio-needs all in one place saves time. If this is the way you do it, I would consider not using the pet area but rather walk your dog on leash and find your way out of the rest area usually through the service area for rest stop employees. In some places there are pedestrian gates that lead to a parking lot that local employees use and access from secondary roads rather than the interstate you are travelling on. I have found plenty of unpopulated areas that are nice to walk the dog. Outside of the designated pet area there is less concern about garbage, animal waste and other "grossities" in the rest areas off interstates.

Many folks hate rest areas and prefer to exit the interstates where cheaper gas can be found (don't forget the GasBuddy app) and more rural areas to walk the dogs. Remember that even in rural areas it is a good idea to pick up after your hunting dog. We keep poop bags in the door pockets on both sides of the vehicle and always have them in our pockets while travelling. It's embarrassing to be caught in a public place when Duke decides to do his business and all you have is your wife's scarf to pick it up.

By early afternoon it is a good idea for the navigator (person not driving) to begin figuring out that day's ending destination. We like to end the day's drive in smaller towns not in or near cities (hotels are more expensive and tend to be much grungier for the price than hotels in less populated areas) and preferably beyond any large cities. For example, when we drive to South Dakota, we leave NH at 6AM. By 5 or 6 PM, we can usually be in Milan, Ohio. While that makes for a long first day on the road it gets us west of Cleveland. The next morning as we continue west, the inbound commuter traffic is travelling east into Cleveland so we don't get caught in rush hour. Another bonus is it tends to put us in the Chicago area in the middle of the next day so we avoid rush hour traffic there as well.

Several web sites and apps are good for finding pet friendly hotels. Simply googling "pet friendly hotels in [TOWN NAME]" will give you appropriate hotel results. Here is where it gets a bit tricky. There are many on-line companies that book hotels. I try to avoid them because overseas connections and foreign dialects on a cell phone in the car make it very hard to understand what the booking agent is saying. Rather, I simply use the listing on the web site to write down 4 or 5 possible hotels that are pet friendly AND have at least a 3 star rating and preferably 4.



If "Duke" gets on the furniture at home it will be nearly impossible to keep him off the couch at the pet-friendly Pittsburg rental – we bring our own couch covers.

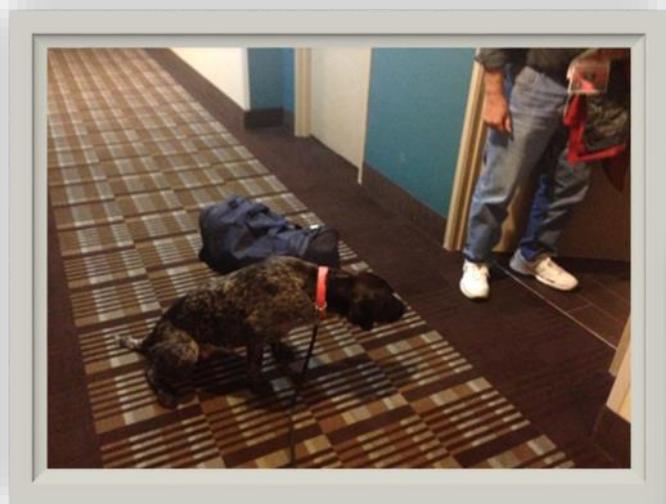
While I am willing to handle Spartan conditions I draw the line at clean bathrooms, clean sheets and **NO** bugs. A three star rating it can be iffy. 4 stars you are generally good. To be safe, once you check in always ask the clerk at the front desk to check the room first before committing to it. If you are the fussy type- go five stars and expect to pay a little more.

Once the navigator has identified 3-5 hotel/motels with at least a 3 rating (preferably 4), look up that hotel's specific website and call the hotel front desk. Some chains such as Marriot may only use their own international booking number. Just try to keep third party booking agents out of it for the moment. When I reach the front desk I say, "Good afternoon I am travelling through your area and would like to check availability and rates for a room for tonight for 2 adults and 2 dogs." Generally you are able to negotiate the rate down through use of AAA rates or simply the willingness of the front desk person to fill

the rooms. If there is a big event in the area availability may be tight and the same goes for holiday weekends. In those cases book ahead of time.

Then match the quoted rate over the phone with the published rates you saw on the internet or hotel booking site that you used. The same room may be cheaper on the booking site or as quoted by the hotel desk clerk. I have actually booked a room with Travelocity for a hotel while sitting in that hotel's lobby and received a cheaper rate than I could get from the clerk who was standing 20 feet away.

Once you have checked in and inspected the room it is time to get the dogs out of the car. I like to identify safe areas to walk the dogs. We sometimes pick hotels that are next to open spaces (plug in address on google earth or maps). After a walk, we unpack and then bring the dogs in on tight leashes. Remember that pet friendly hotels have other pets besides yours and other travelers frequently do not pay attention to pet manners as much as you do.



Manners/obedience count while on the road and in hotels

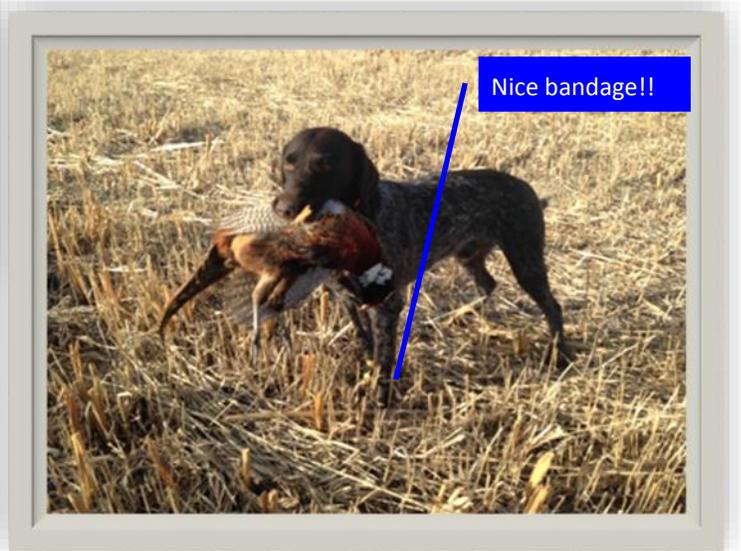
The hotel is a perfect place to work on heeling. Before going through a stair tower or elevator door always tell the dog to stay while you peak around the corner and down the hall to see if there is another dog on leash approaching. The same is true when exiting the hotel room—pause the dog inside, look out into the hall to see the coast is clear before proceeding. These are all good hotel habits to get into and are also good obedience training.

When you arrive at the room with the pet let him off leash and follow her around the room as she sniffs and checks things out.

Duke will identify every exact location that other dogs have left scent and people have dropped food. It is a reminder that even clean hotels are not that clean. Monitor your dog's inspection process closely and prepare to correct him if he even thinks about marking his new territory. I have been told it is impossible to prevent dogs from doing this. I disagree. Our rule is that if it is a man-made object then it is off limits. Begin when he's a pup and pay attention. It is a matter of paying attention and scolding him if he breaks the rules. Next we water and feed the dogs to help settle them in their new home. Some like to kennel their dogs inside and I agree with that but it is more stuff to lug inside.

We always considered travelling with dogs a huge undertaking but with some planning it can really be easy. People who travel are frequently "amped up" and in a hurry. Lower the expectations, relax and don't try to cover too much ground. Enjoy the adventure, expect some wrong turns, bad map reading, nasty traffic and the occasional flat tire. Always remember—you could be on your way to work! Rather you are about to collect some great memories. So stay positive and have fun. Take time to chat with other travelers. As with other articles,

These tips are just our way of travelling and I am certain others have even better ideas. I sure would like to hear them.

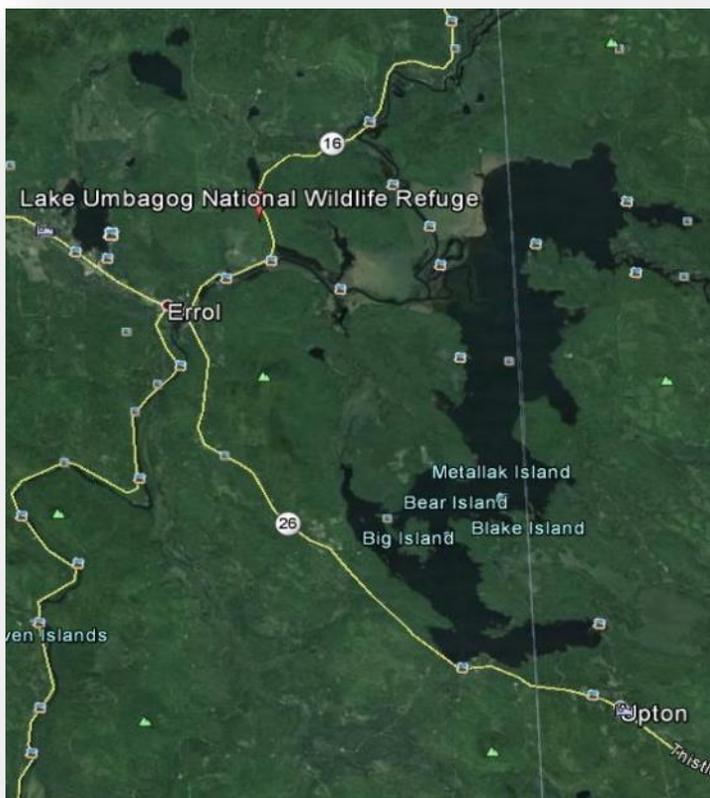


With a little planning even a cut foot won't be a disaster with a little advanced planning.

Chris Pope is a "delegate-at-large" for the Merrimack Valley Chapter. When he isn't representing the chapter at HELDCA meetings, he is traveling to new hunting sites somewhere between New England and the Rockies.

LAKE UMBAGOG NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESERVE (NWR) — “The undiscovered country?”

Lake Umbagog (*pronounced Um-BAY-gog*) straddles the New Hampshire-Maine border between the towns of Errol, NH and Upton, ME. It is about 8 miles long and has about 8,000 acres of water with an average depth of only 15 feet. The Lake Umbagog NWR includes one of the largest inland freshwater wetland complexes in northern New England. The backwaters and shorelines of the lake offer high-quality habitat for waterfowl. Indeed, Lake Umbagog has *the* highest loon population density in the northern New England lakes. (*Now you know where all those state-stocked trout end up!*)



Satellite/map view of Lake Umbagog NWR—HQ indicated on Rte. 16

For duck hunters: There are permanent “duck blinds” that may be reserved by contacting the headquarters directly. The **Headquarters is located at 2756 Dam Road, on NH Route 16**, five and a half miles from downtown Errol, NH. Office Hours are Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm. **The telephone is (603) 482-3415.** or their website may be visited at

www.fws.gov/northeast/lakeumbagog.

Lake Umbagog has a NH State-run campground with NH rules for camping. <http://www.nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/Umbagog-Lake-State-Park.aspx>

There are even island campsites that can only be reached by boat, kayak or canoe.

(Memory note to self: Secure all coolers etc. There is an *active* bear population too!)

The town of Errol, NH (5.5 miles away) has a

couple of motels, and there is a private campground on the west of Errol on the way to Dixville Notch.

Umbagog NWR conserves more than 25,650 acres under Service management. In addition, the states of New Hampshire and Maine have each acquired over 1000 acres in the vicinity of Umbagog Lake. This unique combination of ownerships and easements protects nearly all of the Umbagog Lake shoreline in New Hampshire and significant lengths of shoreline along the Androscoggin, Magalloway, and also the Dead Cambridge, and Rapid rivers.

The area provides habitat for raptor species such as the bald eagle. *In 1989, bald eagles successfully nested in New Hampshire on Umbagog Lake for the first time since 1949.*



Banded Chicks at Lake Umbagog NWR

Migratory non-game birds like the northern harrier, American bittern and great blue heron depend on habitat around Umbagog Lake. *Abundant fish populations and wetland habitat support one of the highest concentrations of nesting osprey in New Hampshire.* The areas forested wetlands support good numbers of black ducks, ring necked ducks, and goldeneye. Woodies, mallards, hooded and common mergansers also nest in the area. The lake provides habitat for migrating scaup, three varieties of scoters and Canada geese.

During the warmer months, several observational blinds and trails are available. (At least one is “walking disability friendly”) There, people can observe the wildlife in the natural environment.

Bring binoculars and a telephoto camera lens. It is important to keep a proper distance from the wildlife—especially the young!

Harper's Meadow , Lake Umbagog NWR



Some friends and I were in the Errol area in August riding ATVs and I took a few hours to check out the location of a woodcock “site” that a friend had “given” me under terms of absolute secrecy.

That day, while we were driving towards Andover, Maine, I began to notice NWR (National Wildlife Refuge) signs along the road, so the next day we visited the Umbagog NWR Headquarters and chatted with biologist Sean Flint. We had a great conversation. Part of it went something like this:

MVNAVHDA: So you allow hunting on the reserve?

SEAN FLINT: Yes, subject to laws of Maine or New Hampshire. There’s also one other caveat. Because of the proximity of wetlands, we require non-toxic shot when hunters use shot-shells. *And any “guiding” on the reserve requires a special permit.*

MVNAVHDA: Does that non-toxic shot rule include hunting varying hares? What about using 22s?

SEAN FLINT: *Any kind of birdshot needs to be non-toxic. Buckshot for big game, bullets from rifles—they don’t fall under that mandate.*

MVNAVHDA: I noticed a white paper that said you had permanent (waterfowl) blinds that can be reserved for a week at a time.

SEAN FLINT: That’s right. We do have permanent blinds. I can sign you up right now if you know what you want. Other than that, we tell people to call in



Personal note: Though Lake Umbagog is considered a “cold-water” lake, smallmouth bass fishing is fun there—especially using a fly rod and a popper! ...

directly to one of us. Here, the email system and website doesn't get as much attention as other places might.

MVNAVHDA: I'm not ready for that yet, but how about setting up at other hunting locations?

SEAN FLINT: Anyone can use a blind that is temporary. We ask that it is removed at the end of the day, each day. They can set up almost in any location doing that. We address that in our hunting regulations—and it includes tree stands as well.

MVNAVHDA: Do you have a copy of the current "reserve regulations"?

SEAN FLINT: No, but I'll give you a copy of last year's regulations and they should be very close. The new regulations haven't been approved for printing yet. You can also see them on our website.

MVNAVHDA: I see from your publications that "dog training" is not allowed on the reserve.

SEAN FLINT: That's correct. We don't allow "training" in the off season anywhere on the reserve.

MVNAVHDA: Speaking of "new", I saw "new" reserve signs south of the lake....

SEAN FLINT: Yes. The government acquired those lands a little while ago.

MVNAVHDA: I noted that you are actively managing areas specifically for woodcock.

SEAN FLINT: Yes. We have a couple of "experimental" areas that we have worked a couple years ago, and we're working a plan to see if we can successfully improve the habitat —primarily for woodcock —and other species of course. I can give you directions if you'd like to have a look at them. We are cutting them in *approximately* 20 year cycles.

MVNAVHDA: Thanks. Since you cut it only a couple years ago, the growth must not be tall enough yet. *(Sean indicated that the growth was only knee-high at the moment so I told him that I would like to return*

at a later date and take him up on the offer.)

MVNAVHDA: I see from your publications that "dog training" is not allowed on the reserve.

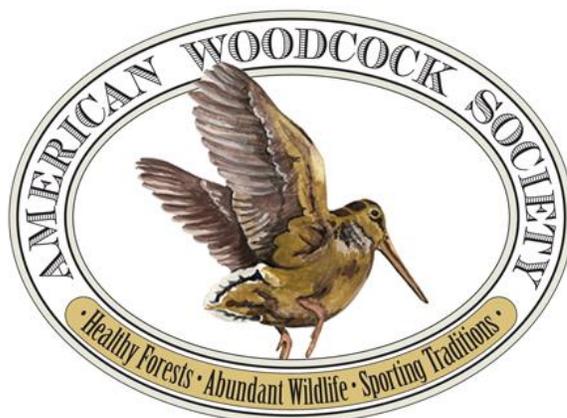
SEAN FLINT: That's correct. We don't allow "training" in the off season anywhere on the reserve.

So that's how the conversation went. Sean was most pleasant.

For those who like "adventure", this mayor may not be an "opportunity".

One of these days, I may just ride over there and poke around. If you go too, I'm thinking that with 25,650 acres to explore, chances are really slim that we'll bump into each other!

REMEMBER: Non-toxic shot ONLY!



MV NAVHDA SPRING TEST PICS-1



Judge Angie Coenen gives morning instructions.



Nos amis Canadiens



Beau on his way to Utility Prize 1



Steve et Ilgor– Recupe du canard

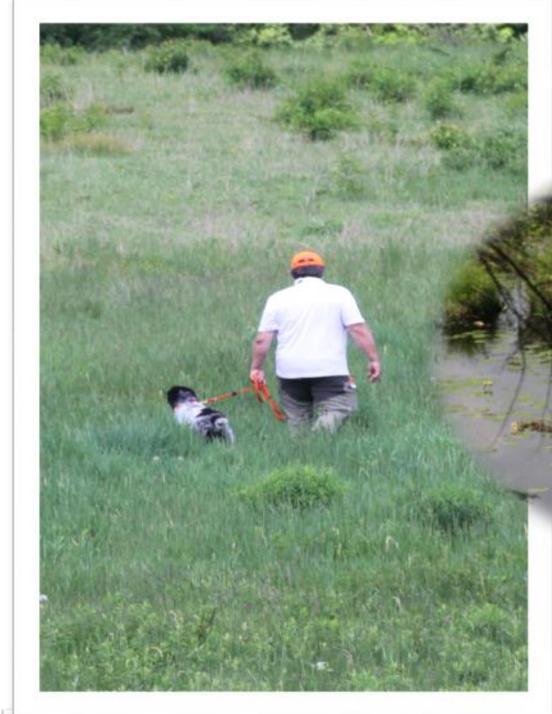


Allons y!



Eric et Lexy–le canard a' main

MV NAVHDA SPRING TEST-2



SPRING TEST PHOTOS—3



Duck Blind



Saturday noon—Judges reviewing each dog's results

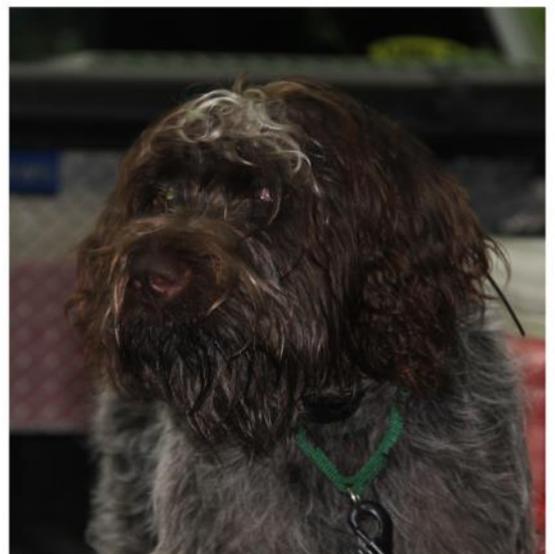
Serge et Lattimo



Setting up for Lunch —with one assistant.



Open for business



SPRING TEST PHOTOS—4



Judges read the afternoon results.

After the work at the Utility water site, everyone was invited to join in a BBQ at the Trahan residence. Spare ribs, chicken and more! No one needed to go hungry! Sitting around gave time for folks to gab and relax after a great day of testing!

**SATURDAY PHOTOS BY CHERYL CYR.
THANKS CHERYL!!**



MORE PICS FROM CHERYL ...



Les Juges annoncent les
resultats, et voila`!!

“La Joie de Vivre!!”

....avec eau glace~!

Here are some pictures taken by Joanna Korte— of the “Pre-Test”—1.

Thanks Joanna!



Noah Forman and “Gage”



Looking good Brian (Silva)!

Jaclyn Silva’s dog “Gallie” with her dad, Brian handling.



Noah is one of our youngest members and he worked really hard all day long at the pre-test, helping others do pheasant tracks and planting birds. Learning by doing!



More pictures from Joanna Korte—2



“Kaiser” in the field with photo-bomber John Korte!



Gallie showing her “stuff”!



Karen Oliver with “Cipher” (UT Pre-test_



Kaiser keeping an ear out for Joanna.



“Cipher”

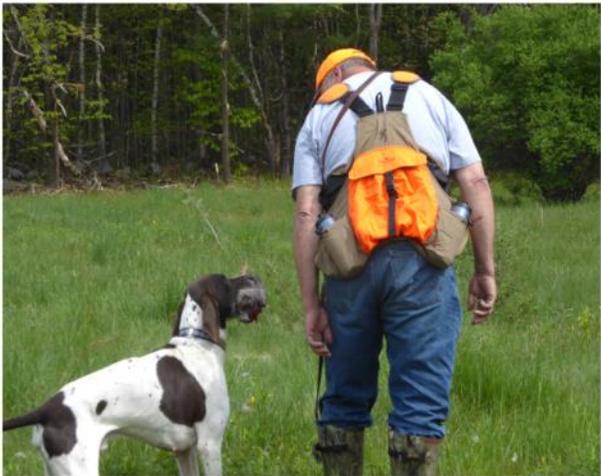
More pictures from Joanna Korte—3



Kaiser is happy—the chukkar isn't.



"Kaiser"



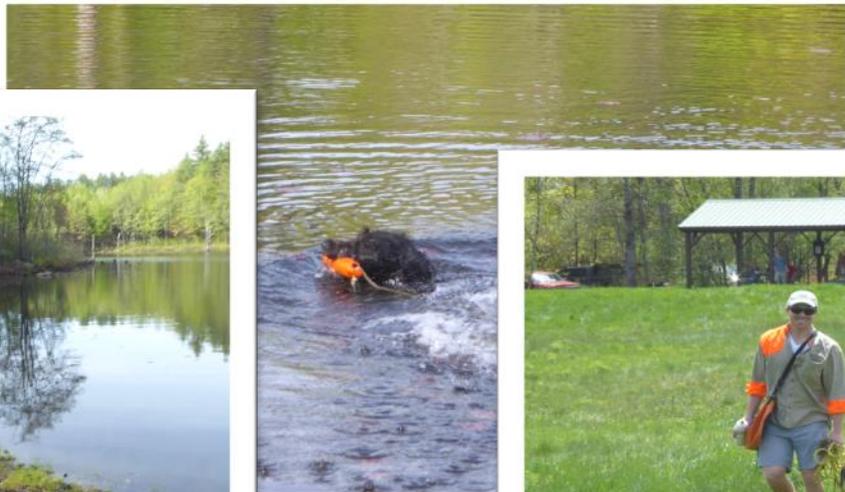
"Beau" gets a little instruction from Chris Boelig



"Beau"



Robert Marsden and "Chip" at NA Water



Crystal Pierce's
"Bella"



Andrew, Bronwyn and "Willow" Gallant



Conor Devoy: Maddie and Jaxson playing "keep-away"



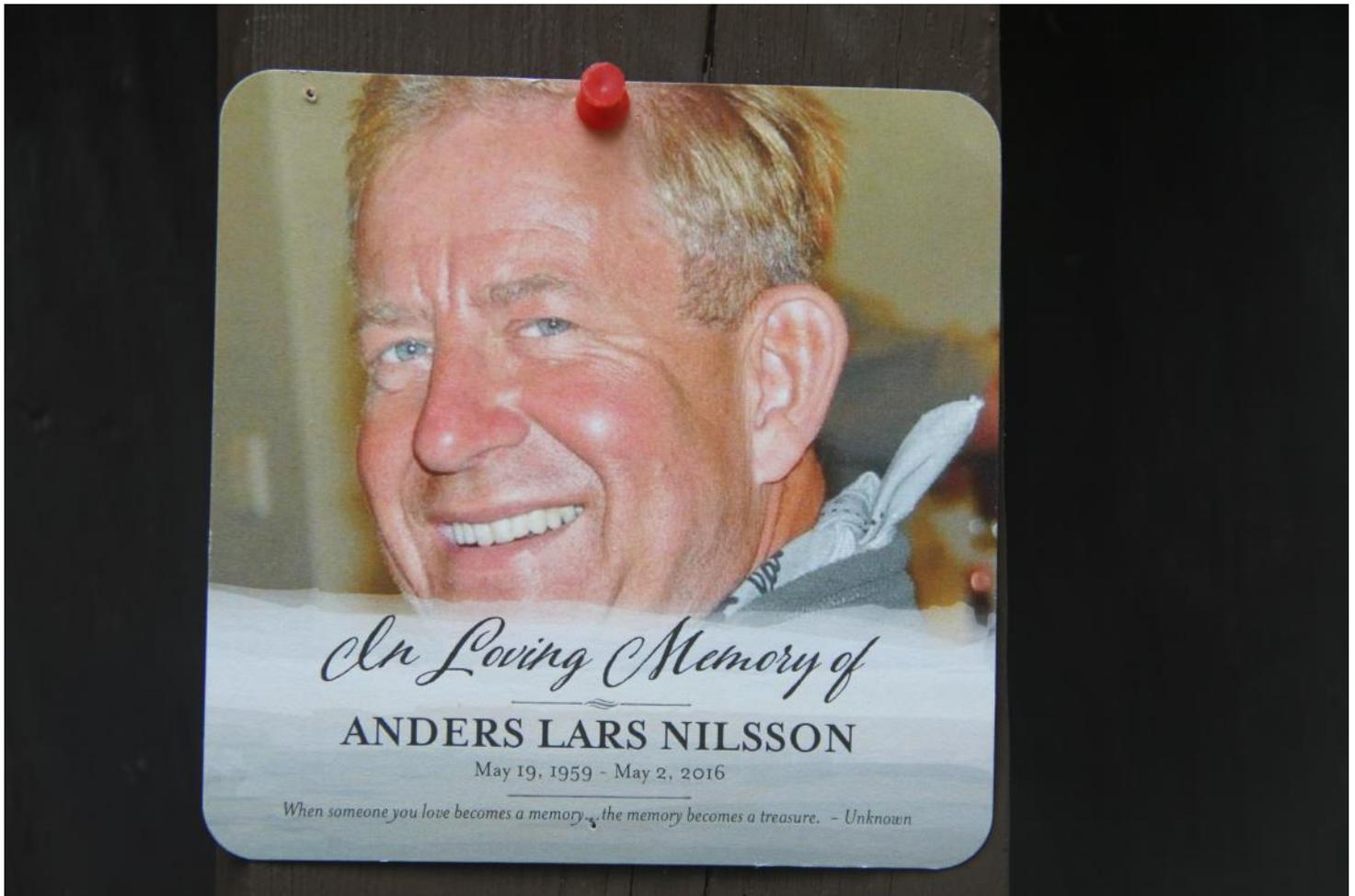
Natural Ability Water Site, Sharpe's Farm

“LEST WE FORGET”



A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO ANDREW GALLANT FOR PROVIDING “FIELD” BENCHES AT SHARPE’S FARM!!





We lost a friend on May 2. This Obituary was posted in the New England Seacoast Chapter's Facebook page. The picture above was displayed during the Spring Test at Sharpe's Farm. Rest in peace dear friend.

"Anders Lars Nilsson of Winthrop passed away unexpectedly on May 2. He was 56 years old.

Born in Guthenburg, Sweden to Ake and Berit Nilsson, he is survived by his wife, Jorun and his brother, Gunnar and his family.

Anders graduated from Gothenburg School of Business and continued his education finishing second in his class at NYU Stern for his MBA in Finance, class of 1985. He was employed by Mortgage Master.

Anders enjoyed life to the fullest. He was very passionate about the culinary arts. One of the highlights in his life was taking a cooking class with Jacques Pepin. He loved his dogs and enjoyed bird hunting throughout New England and his October road trips out to the Midwest. He was an avid sailor and had his private pilot license.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to NAVHDA Youth Fund, PO Box 520, Arlington Heights, IL 60006 or call 847-253-6488 or to St. Jude's Hospital."

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