



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com

SEPTEMBER 2013



2013 — A YEAR WORTH REMEMBERING!

Hello Merrimack Valley Members,

What a amazing year we had this year! We started our year in April our first clinic bringing plenty of eager handlers and dogs ready to get to work. The month of May continued to bring lots of membership participation. Our two day Spring test brought rain, rain and more rain. We tested 16 dogs in Natural Ability, Utility Prep and Utility. Saturday's lobster bake dinner on the test grounds was a great success in spite of the rain. The summer started with a busy June clinic. The chapter's water clinic in July was a pleasant day a little hot but with a nice gentle breeze. We setup both sides of the pond with volunteers to get all the dogs through ducks searches. Walking at heel stakes; steady by the blind and the duck retrieve winger was setup for those who wanted to practice for the Fall test. Our Invitational bound dogs also were given the opportunity to work on the crossing if they wished to train. The August pre-test was also attended by many MV members all eager to work. In August it was very clear that our Fall Test was full with a large waiting list. Could the chapter swing a 3 day test and a double test on Saturday to accommodate all the entries? Wow, that was a lot to ask of our membership. With the plans set for a double test on Saturday we would need to have enough food for both

groups, so we put together a pig roast again at the test grounds. We tested 27 dogs in Natural Ability, Utility Prep and Utility this fall. Well done!



Carol Trahan
President

All the training and testing would not have been such a great success if not for the many volunteers. Many of these volunteers are also dog handlers themselves. The volunteers came to help throughout the training and testing season. I say to all the volunteers at all our events I am so happy to be a Merrimack Valley Member and proud to be your President. No job large or small was ever left undone. I have had so many complements from old and new members, judges and handlers on how this chapter is so well run. They have enjoyed coming to all our events making friends for a lifetime and having experienced volunteers helping with their dogs. We have come a long way! There are so many to thank, I could not list them all for fear of missing someone. I also want to thank the BOD for making my job this year an enjoyable year. We had tons of fun and good times to always remember. Again thanks to all.

Hey, where's Chris Pope? Carol T.

A message from Terry Wilson and Dave Trahan

From Terry Wilson, owner of Ugly Dog Hunting: I personally endorse David Trahan for President of NAVHDA International and ask you to support him as well. I have known Dave for a number of years -- trained with him, been judged by him and apprenticed under him. Dave is one of NAVHDA's finest judges. As President, he will bring valuable experience, energy and a fresh perspective to our organization. Please take a moment to read this note from him.



From David Trahan: NAVHDA's leadership over the years has helped develop it into one of the finest hunting dog organizations in the United States and Canada. We are financially stable with a strong sense of purpose and significant accomplishments. We can, however, continue to grow the membership, bring in new sponsors, and develop more chapters, all of which will make NAVHDA even better. As a hunter, pro trainer, breeder, and owner of On Point Kennel, I see how NAVHDA dogs can realize their potential. Sharing that goal and our system's ability to achieve it with other breed clubs should be an important part of our mission.

As president, I will be committed to open communication between the Executive Council and the Membership. Your participation and dedication are the key to NAVHDA's success. It is important that ideas flow freely between the board and the members. That flow goes both ways, which is why I still will continue to work hard at the chapter level.

I strongly believe that change is a good thing. We shouldn't be afraid of new ideas or looking ahead to see what path NAVHDA might take in the future.

AFTER-TEST REFLECTIONS FROM GENE SARTINI

Dear Merrimack Chapter,

Well how about those apples. I couldn't be more happy with Brady's performance. Even if he got a prize 1 204 I had no intention to try for VC. As far as I am concerned I got something far more valuable, a fantastic dog. His soul provides me with everything I need. I just needed a mentor to show me and you did. The prize was already there. He is a super performing bird dog. My biggest issue was I was personalizing this and trying to equate performance to training dollars. Once the fact was pointed out to me it became abundantly clear.

Jason said I was the most nervous handler he had ever seen, the truth as I see it is I was very clam. After a few minutes in the field with the fantastic judge team I was fine. I can't get over the pace of the test, Jason kept thing moving. With that said I can't believe how much work a judge is expected to do and how great they treat handlers. I have to say that you really get it done.

Brady was intended to lead me to birds but he has lead me to some of the nicest and most knowledgeable people I could have ever expected to meet. I gained an education and many new friends by simply buying a dog, I call that successful hunting.

I will never forget how u took me under your wing we getting Brady ready for NA. I felt you presence watching over me the entire test.

Sincerely,

Gene



THANKS FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF TESTING, SUZI MOORE



MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER 2013 FALL TEST WEEKEND

how does it happen and what makes it great ????



Suzi Moore

HANDLERS AND OWNERS

Terry Long, Dave Trahan, Gene Sartini, John Korte, Arron and Kelley Landry, Kathy Duffy, Jeff Gutt, Louise Shaw, Mark Beckerman, Richard Cullerton, John Crowley, Casey Matthews, Kent Bartley, Karen Oliver, Robert Marsden, Alan McBride, Chris Pope, Irvin Moran, Gary Schroeder, Chris Boelig, Anders Nilsson, Micheal Adrian, Robert Fabian, Donald Day, Gary Schroeder

HAPPY WORKERS

Chris Boelig, Chris Brown, Lou Gagnon, Jerry Roy, Dennis Swett, Gus Gouzoules, Missey Correia, Sam Tompkins, Frank, Paul Bruk, Chris Pope, Terry Long, Bob and Debbie Bray, Matt Lorello, Jim Titus, Mike Trull, Joanna Korte, John Korte, Brian Silva, Gary Schroeder, Bill Collins, Jess Barker, Joanne Gutt, Kristine Pope, Terry J Long

JUDGES

Dave Trahan, Don Olszewski, Bob Fee, Jason Carter, Jason Wade, Aaron Landry, Chris Doherty, Micheal O'Donnell,

PRESIDENT

Carol Trahan

(if I have over looked or forgotten anyone please forgive me)

A test cannot happen without all these component parts coming together, believing in what they do, loving what they do (no matter how painful it might be for the moment) , trusting in a system, and participating in it , at multiple levels Handlers become workers, workers become judges, and judges run dogs and remain humble (dogs have a way of making sure of that, not necessarily on purpose).

At the end of the day we share food , stories, laugh and cry ----- then we go off into October on a different journey-- to our favorite alders, streams, hillsides, growing new memories with our dogs to keep us happy during the winter.

Hunt well and thanks to each and everyone of you. Suzi Moore



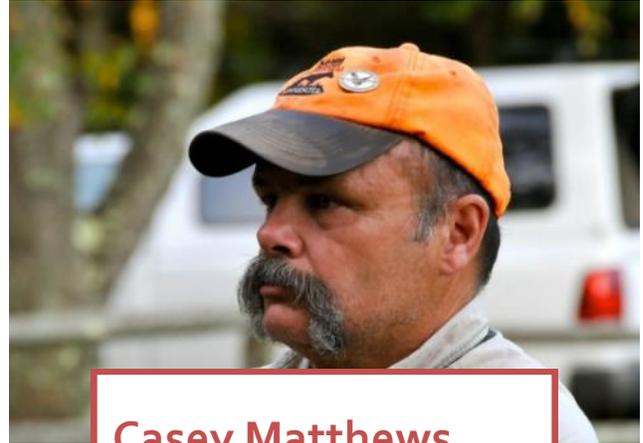
FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF GUNNERS



Matt Lorello

Not only did we have an “away judge”, we also had an “away gunner”! Many thanks to Matt Lorello from Yankee Chapter for helping us

with the double test on Labor Day Weekend.



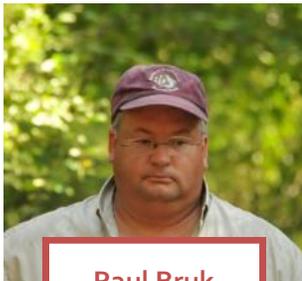
Casey Matthews

MORE GOOD (GUNNING) NEWS!

The chapter has added two gunners to the gunning team! Jerry Roy and Paul Bruk are now approved gunners. These two men really stepped up to help to help our gunning team for the fall test.

Thanks to everyone who gunned. You made a difference. It was great!

Casey



Paul Bruk



Jerry Roy

EDITOR’S COMMENT:

There’s a rumor going around that one of our gunners this past weekend showed extraordinary focus, concentration and dedication....and a lot of “sand”.

Apparently the gunner stepped on a hornets’ nest and was stung just before the shot. Not only did the gunner make the shot, but the gunner also remained there—silent and motionless—in order not to compromise the situation and to allow the dog to successfully complete its task.

I don’t know about you, but that’s the kind of friend to wish for—to willfully stand in a hornet’s nest for the sake of others! Wow! I’m impressed! What a great team of gunners we have!



Casey teaching the art of field improvisation —for when you forget your blaze hat.





Joanna Korte

Test Secretary Notes from the MV Fall Test

Hi Everyone,

We held our first double test at the Merrimack Valley 2013 Fall test. A double test is exactly as it sounds, twice the size of a single test. Twice the number of dogs, Judges, volunteers, birds, food, everything! We had 6 judges and 3 apprentice judges for the weekend.

Holding a double test on Saturday allowed us to test 5 extra Utility dogs. This helped to accommodate some of our members and also handlers from other chapters. We tested a total of 8 Natural Ability dogs, 3 Utility Preparatory dogs, and 16 Utility dogs over the 3 days. These handlers and dogs were from ME, NH, VT, MA, NY and VA.

This Fall test demonstrated how great our chapter is. We asked for volunteers to help for the 3 days of testing and boy, did they show up! We could not have pulled off the double test, or any test for that matter, without the support of our volunteers. A big THANK YOU to you all!

We had a BBQ pig roast for our Annual Fall test dinner. An 80+ pound pig was roasted and served to over 30 members and guests. It was a great meal with a lot of delicious items. Thanks to all of you who contributed food and helped set up and take down the meal (in the dark). The clean up team rocks! A big thanks goes out to those who took the bags of garbage home with them. That might not sound like a big deal, but it really is to those of us who are present for all 3 days of testing and cannot get to the dump for many days following the test. (pewh!)

We also had our first plant sale, courtesy of the Pope family. Chris and Kris Pope donated all of the proceeds to our Chapter, totaling a donation of \$129. Another big thank you goes out to them.

Speaking of Chris Pope, we thought we had lost him! (We hadn't). Just shows how silly we can get after getting up in the middle of the night, working hard all day, getting home to unpack, pack and do it all again for 3 days in a row. We had a lot of laughs in the pavilion at that one! You've got to keep your sense of humor on the third day of testing!

Enjoy the hunt!

Joanna



CHAPTER STICKERS FOR SALE

\$3 ea or 2/\$5

Tickets will be on sale at all Training/Test events
Contact Jessica mva.navhda.membership@gmail.com



By Terry J Long—Making it happen at Pre-test Clinic

**OUR CHAPTER HAS SOME REALLY NICE HATS AND ARTICLES OF CLOTHING FOR SALE
(THAT WE NEED TO MOVE).**

These are ideal items for Christmas presents and birthday presents and such. As I looked at them, there seemed to be more women's items than men's, so guys, don't miss the chance to get a "home run"! They are embroidered with the chapter name and logo. Sizes are limited. This may be an easy shopping opportunity. Check our website MVNAVHDA.COM There are also some smaller sizes that would be nice "bragging shirts" etc .for young folks too. Don't wait! MVNAVHDA.COM

With three days of "serious safety" ahead, a few gunners take a moment to review assignments with Judge Jason Wade and enjoy a little levity before the work begins. Thanks boys, we couldn't have done it without you!





TO THE POINT— HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We're finally here—(almost) at the beginning of a new year. For most of us, “new years day” is the opener. In NH, its October 1st., and that's when MY calendar starts. The Fall Tests are behind us. Nervousness and the anticipation are but a memory. The horizon is filled with hopes for beautiful autumn days, bird dogs doing their best, strong flushes and well-placed shots. (Well, I can dream!) Point is, the time we've all been waiting for is nearly upon us. Good luck everyone!

We've jammed the Pre-test pictures in a new format. To better see them, simply increase the size of your screen document in adobe. We're trying this new format to see if it will serve the membership better. Please let me know what you think of this experiment. ...yay or nay. Your feedback will be appreciated. *We're particularly interested to know if you had trouble downloading the newsletter.* Lots of bits and bytes!

Starting in this issue, we will do annual pieces on each of our “LOCAL sponsors”. The purpose is three-fold: first, it provides an opportunity for the members to better understand what our sponsors provide for goods and services; second, it gives the sponsor annual, direct access with detailed information to the entire chapter by way of the newsletter—above and beyond the monthly “brand advertisement”; and third, we hope that by “sweetening the pot”, we may pick up additional local sponsors to support the Merrimack Valley Chapter. If you know someone who would like to be a sponsor, please check with a member of the Board of Directors. The cost isn't that much for the targeted (nearly 150 email accounts) exposure the sponsor achieves. This month, the local sponsor is **Bird Dogs Afield with Paul Fuller.**

In fact, Paul and Susan gave such a great interview that I've taken the liberty of “melding” the member interviews we had planned and the Local Sponsor interview into one piece. We'll do more member interviews next issue. We think you'll find Paul's story quite interesting. Don't miss his Bird Dog Afield videos! They are well worth watching—in *my* humble opinion, better than the present cable and satellite TV shows! I also found the breadth and volume of his audience astonishing!

This issue has LOTS of pictures. People are sending them in and *it is just wonderful!* We also have an article or two. One from a new contributor Missy Corriea. It's a nice short piece of her transition from non-hunter to a full-blown NAVHDA gal. Let her know if you liked it. I did, and hope to hear more from her.

Gene Sartini also had some great after-test reflections that he shared in an email. Wonderful!

Getting back to pictures. Moishe Ragieme has *consistently* been providing some wonderful shots for the newsletter, so we've decided to give him a space of his own. He has a knack for catching those “moments” on camera and we would like to celebrate that. Look for “*Moishe's Montage*”. ...but keep those ones-ies, twos-ies, articles and such coming in. They make the newsletter so much more interesting and ‘readable’.



This was such an active weekend that we all took a lot of pictures. THANKS TO EACH OF YOU!!! I'm reluctant to leave any out, so we're trying to get as many as we can into the newsletter. *Typically, the newsletter won't be as large as this. I would really like to know if you feel it is TOO large! (22 pages!) What good is a newsletter if no one wants to read it?!*

So remember, this is our newsletter! Your feedback and offerings are SO important!

Don't forget to take your pocket camera hunting!! (In a zip-lock bag.)

Den

Dennis can be reached at mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com

My Adventure Leading to NAVHDA

by Missy Correia

Years ago, maybe 10 or so, one autumn day my Bill was going pheasant hunting near our home and asked if I wanted to follow along. He had a Brittany at the time and since I had never seen a bird dog work nor a bird hunter hunt for that matter, I said “OK.” That was the beginning. I can’t say I was overwhelmed with interest and desire; wild birds had never occupied much of my dinner table offerings, and I had tried some kind of duck once that didn’t appeal to my palate. A verbal warning related to “watch for pellets” created fear and intense caution with chewing.

When he shot the first bird, a snap shot from the hip as it took flight, I was impressed and excited! After a few bird hunting trips around southern New York, and watching Bill and dog, I thought maybe there is something to this. Bill bought a shotgun for me and we went skeet shooting, but killing clays was different than killing birds. That’s how my mind worked. My dad had given me a BB gun when I was four or five years old and I remember how sad I felt after I intentionally shot a chick-a-dee. I guess that event was hanging in my memory, but I still enjoyed shooting. Lots of red squirrels have been on the wrong end of my 22, but I was not quite comfortable thinking of ruffed grouse, woodcock, or pheasants being there (insert shotgun).



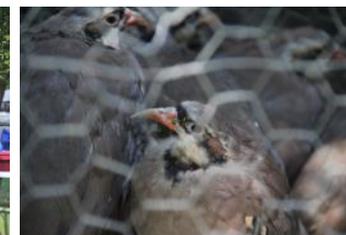
Missy in Trout’s maiden voyage. Notice the matching PFD!!

Bill has made annual treks to the North Maine Woods. He always invited me to come along, but work and just not being comfortable with shooting birds kept me at home. Then in 2008 I thought perhaps I may enjoy seeing that part of the country. It would be a vacation of sorts spent riding in the truck to the “hot” locations, watching and learning the ways of grouse and woodcock, and perhaps time spent reading/siting on the cabin’s porch. It turned into something more. In 2011 I bought my first Maine Small Game Non-Resident License, registered for a HIP number, and off into the great desolation we went. Bill, Abby dog, and I found lots of birds. I shot my first grouse and the adventure had begun.

Learning to hunt with a partner, watching the “birdiness” of the dog, and looking for likely grouse cover were all important aspects of the hunt. Safety ON until just before the shot, trigger control, and never shooting until the bird flushed all became second nature. I soon realized I had been missing out on a great sport, however there was one problem: I needed my own dog. I saw the advantage and difference a well-trained dog can make and I was becoming frustrated with following.

Bill’s Abby dog, a Wire-Haired Pointing Griffon, has been trained and tested in the NAVHDA program, and I continue to be impressed her performance in the field. Bill’s continued support and participation in NAVHDA has led me to follow the same path with my GSP Trout, and hopefully she will become a super “birder” also.

PRE-TEST CLINIC – AUGUST 17TH – SHARPE’S FARM



THIS MONTH, WE FEATURE ONE OF OUR LOCAL SPONSORS, BIRD DOGS AFIELD. MVNAVHDA News went to Durham NH to visit with Paul and Susan Fuller and discuss Paul's success as a pioneer of internet use to provide "bird dog programs" for hunters and pointing dog enthusiasts. As his website (birddogsafield.com) says, "*Your complete video magazine for upland pointing dog enthusiasts and upland bird hunters. It's FREE and it's available 24/7.*" The Fullers have taken on-demand TV to the next level for folks who are dog enthusiasts, and as MVNAVHDA News told Paul, "Bird Dogs Afield is visibly better every year". Paul also writes gun dog articles for the publication "*Northwoods Sporting Journal*". Because Paul and Susan gave us such a wonderful interview, we've decided to also consider this one of our September "meet the member" pieces. You'll see why. Below are excerpts from our chat.



MVNAVHDA: HOW DID YOU COME TO START "BIRD DOGS AFIELD"?

PAUL: I grew up in a small town in Ohio. My father and I had two breeds of dogs. We had English setters and we had Beagles. The setters we used for pheasants. Where I was at that point there were lots of pheasants. They don't have any pheasants at all there anymore because of loss of habitat—its all houses now. But we had lots of pheasants. In fact in the morning, if I wanted to, I could have opened up my bedroom window and shot my limit of pheasants. That's how close the cornfield was to our house. So we had a lot of pheasant, we had a few grouse—occasionally we'd find one, and we occasionally had a covey of wild quail.

We also had beagles and the beagles we campaigned in field trials, and in the late summer and fall we were in a field trial almost every other weekend. So I grew up around dogs, because my father was also a veterinarian and we had our own kennel for our own dogs. At any one time we had up to 8-10 dogs of our own and the most I every recall English setters was two. The rest were mostly beagles because my dad was breeding and campaigning them.

Interestingly, I think it was in 1961—I was just a tad of a lad—a neighbor came over and said, "Doc, I've got a dog you've probably not seen before." My dad said "Well what's that?" He said, "It's called a German Shorthaired Pointer." My dad said, "No, I think I've heard of the breed but I don't think I've ever seen one." The neighbor got the dog out of his truck, and I fell in love with that dog. I thought, "Wow! *That* is a pretty dog. I like that dog."

And so when I went out hunting by myself, I'd walk over across the cornfield and ask the neighbor if could take his dog out

....and I'd leave the setters at home. That's when I started hunting over a versatile hunting dog. It was in the sixties. We all go to college and get involved in other things, and I got really involved in fly fishing, and I took a sabbatical from bird dogs and fly fishing was a true addiction. A few years ago, I told my wife that I'd had enough of fly fishing and wanted to get back to my roots and so I got back to bird dogs.

I would say that as a boy, we would train our dogs. I really took a liking to that shorthair, and it was not well trained. I had it steady to the flush, but I never got it steady to the shot....it was about a year old when I started working with it. The problem was that it got training when I took it out, but when the owner took it out, it was just allowed to "freelance it" and run pretty wild.

But I always was told myself that when I got back into bird dogs, I wanted to get a shorthair. And that's what we did. That's Dillon. He's almost eight now. So that's my "pre-current" situation.

MVNAVHDA: WAS THERE A CATALYST?

PAUL: As I started working with Dillon and getting him steady, I started watching the bird programs on TV. And as diplomatic as I can be with it, I was very disappointed with the dog work on the outdoor channels. When you see dogs breaking on the flush and the birds are two feet above their head and everyone is shooting them (the birds), the hunters "high-five" each other for shooting these birds, I think "How much lead did the dog take?" That is dangerous! Then, I saw a program in California where they had all these younger people out, teaching them to bird hunt, and the same thing. They dogs were crazy wild running and the kids were shooting all over the place and they... I thought it was an embarrassment to have it on television.

So I decided I wanted to try to present something that was a little better and little more suggestive of how we should train our dogs. And that's how I started "Bird Dogs Afield". I started out with just going over and doing some videos with Dave Trahan (On Point Kennels) and I video-taped with a very basic camera some NAVHDA events. And that's how it all started. It was all just on the internet then.

MVNAVHDA: AND NOW YOU'RE ON TV...

PAUL: Yeah! We are on television. We're just on broadcast TV, not cable ...none of the cable outdoor networks. We're on broadcast. We're on in New WBIN, In Portland we're on Fox 23, and we're on in Minnesota ON Fox 21. We're selecting areas where we have best potential for viewership.

MVNAVHDA: HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

PAUL: YouTube gives us great analytics. It tells you where all your viewers are from. It 's interesting that California and Texas....and I'm New England based. ...seventy percent of all my episodes are on grouse and woodcock and it's not *the* primary bird in California or Texas, but those are my two top states for viewing Bird Dogs Afield on YouTube. Minnesota is third or fourth, and that's how we selected Minnesota as a new broadcast area.

MVNAVHDA: WHAT MAKES BIRD DOGS AFIELD UNIQUE FROM THE OTHER OUTDOOR PROGRAMS?

PAUL: The one thing that makes us unique is that we're about the only program that does a lot of "ruffed grouse". The rest of them...there are some good programs and good hosts out there...but filming ruffed grouse hunts is hard work. It's thick, there's brush, there's stuff you have to get through and you've got to have a cameraman who's willing to go through that.

MVNAVHDA: IT MUST BE "NOISY" FOR THE CAMERA TOO.

Paul: Oh yeah. I've been out to the SHOT show which is the big hunting and gun trade show that is in Las Vegas each year, and I've spoken with several of the cameramen that film for some of the deer hunting programs and they say you couldn't pay them enough to film a ruffed grouse hunt because they just (quietly) sit up in a tree stand. So it's (filming grouse hunts) is very, very different.

We've shot several episodes out on the prairies. We've shot in Montana, in South Dakota, in Kansas, Iowa. It's fun to do the prairie type birds—and I include pheasants in that—because it's wide open, it's a lot easier to film the dog, the hunter...the ultimate is to capture the dog on point, the hunter flushing the bird, the shot, the drop and the retrieve. If you can do all that,

that's your "money shot".

MVNAVHDA: ONE EPISODE THAT I REALLY LIKED WAS A GROUSE HUNTING TRIP IN CANADA.

PAUL: Oh yes. In one quarter mile stretch we had 13 individual grouse flushes. But that's Ontario. In my episode in Emo, Ontario last year, which was probably my best grouse episode ever—hunting with Susan and me and our dogs, one day we had a 49 flush day. And our cameraman did capture the dog on point, the flush, dropping the bird and the retrieve. That's hard to do on ruffed grouse.

MVNAVHDA: YOU MUST HAVE SOME INTERESTING ANECDOTES — CARE TO SHARE ONE?

PAUL: Interesting story: Susan and I get up into the North Main woods every year, and two years ago we were up there and we were on a logging road and I thought it was impossible that we'd meet another truck because it was barely wide enough for us to get down with *our* truck. And all of a sudden, here comes a truck right at us. So we both maneuver into a spot where we can pass each other and the fellow stops, he rolls down his window and with a heavy southern accent says, "You're the bird dog man aren't ya!" And I said, "I guess..." then he looked at Susan and said, "and that's the woman who never misses!" (I had to confess that we edited out the occasional misses.)



So we got out and talked. It was a father-son team. They watched Bird Dogs Afield and they had never been to Maine, so they decided that they *had* to go to Maine. They were up there and for us to meet them way out in the north main woods, and for them to be there because of our program was very unique. It was really exciting.

I have to tell you though that by far the most watched grouse episode I've ever done (I think it has over 80,000 video streams on YouTube) is the hunt with "Long-gone Madison" with Dave Hughes in northern new Hampshire. She was arguably the best grouse dog in the country at the time, and she had won everything. She had won the National Grouse Championship, the Invitational, she had won them all. (She had unfortunately died at the age of 6 years because of Lyme Disease.) It was snowing, sleet, rain. I was doing the filming the video myself. She located and pinned *nine birds* in an hour. I had not seen anything like it. I captured on video about five of those flushes. It was amazing work.

I've had the opportunity both through field trials....I've got the Kilkenny Shooting Dog Classic (two episodes) recently posted. "Straight Forward" won the Invitational back in the spring and is in that program. I filmed some great dogs this past April in the Kilkenny Classic.

Y' know what I love, I just love to watch good dog work. Some people turn up their nose at me when I say this. Most people look at the dog as a means to an end. I look at the *bird* as a means to see good dog work. I want to watch the dog work.

MVNAVHDA: YOU'VE OUTLASTED SEVERAL OTHER DOG SHOWS AND SEEM TO BE GROWING WHILE OTHERS SHRINK AWAY.

PAUL: I'm getting 250-260 thousand video streams on YouTube annually. I wouldn't be surprised if we get over 300,000 streams by the end of this year. On the website, we get about 30,000 video streams on the website, so we're reaching people. It's amazing just what you can do over the internet. I was out at a 'Game Fair' in Minnesota the other day and I had my Bird Dogs Afield shirt on, and about every 30 minutes I had someone would come up to me and say that "I love your program". I had a guy talk to me for about 10 minutes about this training episode that I filmed with Dave Hughes.

MVNAVHDA: WHAT ABOUT THE PRESENT?

PAUL: We've got a three piece series on "Women and Pointing Dogs" we're doing. I don't know if you saw the one I did on Patti Carter.

MVNAVHDA: I DID! THAT WAS A GREAT SHOW!

PAUL: Thanks! We've also done a special on Chris Mathan in Maine. She runs pointers and is big in the Field Trial area. We've covered Versatile dogs with Patti Carter, Pointers with Chris Mathan, and then I'm going to do Kellie Short (She's Bob Paucak's daughter ..Bob Paucak is about 85 now). Kellie won the national grouse championship probably 15 years ago. She's heavy into field trials with setters. ...So that'll cover the versatile dogs, pointers and setters.

MVNAVHDA: ANY NEW "DIFFERENT" PROJECTS?

PAUL: I'm going to be doing my "first ever" DVD that's "for sale". Everything I've done has been free, but I've had SO many people that say "Paul, you're the only one who films all this ruffed grouse stuff." So I'm going to do a DVD on ruffed grouse. It won't be done for another year.

There's only been one other one done by Tom Huggler. He's from Michigan. And he did it ...maybe 20-25 years ago.

We've got a lot of grouse hunting for this fall. We've got another booking in Emo, Ontario this fall and from there we're going

to Northern Wisconsin, then to Northwestern Maine, then to the Aligash, and I know we'll have a November hunt in there too.

...

We've got a full schedule this fall with probably three episodes. I try to get out and do at least one pheasant hunting video this fall.

MVNAVHDA: I'VE NOTICED THAT THE "VIDEOGRAPHY" HAS IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS..

PAUL: I'm glad you brought that up. I'm on my third camera. Every time you buy something new, you try to make it all little better. The camera I have now is capable of doing true broadcast TV. My other cameras were not even though when we first started on TV (WBIN), they would take a VHS tape. As you get a little income, you get better equipment. Stu Bristol who does our video work he's improved and learned his craft. None of us have any training. Neither Stu nor I have had any training of any kind. We're just trying to improve our craft. I do the editing. It's complicated. I had to learn how to do it and improve.

When we started, my account exec at WBIN (channel 56) called me and said that it was better than expected, but we had to work with our audio. That's when I said that I had to learn how to do it and get better. They say that you fix all your errors in post-production. That's not exactly true.

Our next purchase will need to be a better wireless system for audio work. ... Sometimes the static (on the less expensive equipment) is so bad that it's terrible. I have a friend (who worked Hollywood as a professionally trained audio person) who says "Audio is three times harder than the video. The cameras today do so much work for you, but audio? I feel for you."





MVNAVHDA: SUSAN, DO YOU HAVE AS MUCH FUN AS PAUL ?

SUSAN: I do! I do!! I've been having a lot of fun training Dena We have her so she's pretty steady to the flush. Yesterday, a woodcock wild flushed in front of her and she stopped.

MVNAVHDA: ARE YOU GOING TO TEST HER FOR UTILITY?



SUSAN: Not yet. She's not ready yet. I need to do more, but I want to. Lately, I've been doing do AKC events with her. Last fall she got her JR Hunter's Title, and we hope to take her through Senior and Master later. For now we've started on the (AKC) Rally Obedience with her. That's a lot of fun. We did our first leg and she got a 91 (out of 100).

PAUL: Susan just loves to have fun with the dogs.

SUSAN: Yeah! !

PAUL: We don't want couch potatoes. We had a run this morning, and we take them out twice a day.

MVNAVHDA: I WANT TO THANK YOU BOTH SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND HOSPITALITY. ..AND ON BEHALF OF THE CHAPTER, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP. (BIRDDOGSAFIELD.COM—also on FACEBOOK.)

PAUL: You're welcome. It's a pleasure. If you haven't seen them, go in either to our channel on YouTube or on the website at BirdDogsAfield.com and watch the episodes on grouse hunting in Emo, Ontario and the episode in northern NH with Long Gone Madison (from a couple years ago). You'll like them.

MVNAVHDA: I'LL MAKE A POINT OF IT. ..AND ONCE AGAIN, THANKS. I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR VISIT.

Editor's note: As I looked back at the interview excerpts, it seems that we left one star of the show out of the text. Dillon "had" several stories—one of which Paul told and is also partly caught on video in one of their episodes.

It seemed that Paul and Susan were hunting with the dogs up near Eagle Lake, Maine when they came upon some hunters who were searching for a lost bird...

PAUL: We were up at Eagle Lake last year—and this was in our newsletter already. It was so beautiful. We were behind a pickup truck on a logging road. The way was cleared about twenty feet on each side of the road.

We stopped and talked the usual...you know, "Any luck boys?" And they said "Oh yeah, we just dropped one. ...they all concurred that they shot it on the wing. The shooter said, I know that bird dropped. I know I got it." They had an English Setter. And that setter...they kept singing to it, and it kept running around never came out with anything. I finally asked, "Would you mind if I put my dog down for a minute or so and see if I could help you??" They agreed. I heeled Dillon to the edge of the woods and sent him in looking for the bird.

It couldn't have been more than 45 seconds, and he had the bird. (I can tell when he finds a bird because I can tell the difference in the sound of his bell.....I think it was Susan who jumped in and grabbed the camera.) Anyway, someone grabbed the camera as he was coming out, so we got that on video.

Dillon looked as if he was saying, "This what you're lookin' for?"

I love to film all those setters and pointers in their field trials, and that day working with Long Gone Madison, I saw some of the most incredible dog work. But they don't want their dogs to retrieve. Once the dog has caught the bird, it's harder to keep the dog steady. ... I love to watch all dogs, but there's a lot of pride in our versatile dogs when they're doing the things that we've been talking about.

MVNAVHDA: Every dog has his day, eh Dillon? (Dillon just came closer so I could scratch his ear. ...We both liked it.)

The following article is reproduced for the benefit of handlers who are preparing for the hunting season and possible injuries.

Dog First Aid

Laurie Cook, DVM

(Originally printed in the Griffonnier Volume 23 #3 2012—submitted with permission of author—>substitute your 50-60# dog)

One of the great joys of living with a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon is taking him hunting. Unfortunately, this marvelous activity has its risks. While no one likes to consider anything bad happening to his furry friend, we all ought to have some idea of what to do if injury occurs. The more prepared you are, the more things you can do to improve your odds of a happy outcome.

First, it is important that wherever you travel with your dog, you locate the closest veterinarians. Learn their hours and carry their phone numbers with you. Find out where the local emergency vet is, as many vets will close early on Saturdays. This information is invaluable to the potential well being of your dog.

Of course, in the field, your vet won't be there. You will need to have the necessary knowledge and equipment to deal with emergency situations on your own. An injury that you initially deal with correctly can lead to a shorter recovery time, less pain and fewer complications.

In order to deal with these emergency situations, we all need to have a versatile first aid kit with us when we hunt. My first aid kit is actually divided into 2 parts: the emergency supplies I carry with me into the field and a second bag of less critical and supplemental supplies that I leave in the car.

The first essential that many people don't think about is a muzzle that fits your dog. Yes, Griffis are sweet-tempered and would never hurt their people -unless they are really in pain and they know it will hurt when you touch them. You can either carry an actual muzzle or make one using a roll of non stretch gauze or even a long shoelace to tie around your dog's mouth. A muzzle will make it much easier to treat your dog knowing that you don't need to deal with him trying to bite you.

One possible injury that you could encounter in the field is a simple laceration, or tear, of your dog's skin from barbed wire, a sharp stick, or something similar. One of the most important things you can do to prevent infection is to clean it out. To do this properly, you will need an antiseptic solution. I recommend a small bottle of Clorhexidine concentrated solution and a quart sized plastic bag. If the wound isn't actively bleeding, you should first clean your hands with hand sanitizer or put on a pair of vinyl gloves. Then, squirt a small amount of the Clorhexidine into the bag and fill it half way with water. The dilution should be a very pale blue. If the injury is on a foot, you can hold your dog's foot in the bag to soak out any dirt. Otherwise, fill a large syringe (with no needle) by putting the end in the diluted solution and pulling the liquid into it. Use this to flush out the wound, repeating several times. You can also use gauze squares wetted with the diluted solution to gently dab out any debris. Use tweezers or thumb forceps to remove large particles of dirt.

After you have cleaned the wound, you will need to bandage it to keep it clean. It is important to know, before you go hunting, how to apply a bandage to your dog. Practice a couple times at home. When your dog is injured in the field and you are both stressed and upset is not the time to learn. The bandaging items that you will need are Telfa pads (or other brand of non stick pad) cast padding (a roll of wrap-able thin cotton), Kling or some other brand of soft wrapping gauze that comes in a roll, Vetwrap (non stick bandage roll) and white bandage tape. You will also need scissors to cut the bandage material. Start by applying a thin smear of an antibacterial ointment, such as Neosporin, to the Telfa pad. Place the pad on the wound, followed by a layer or two of cast padding, a layer of Kling, and end with a layer of Vetwrap. Use the bandage tape at the top edge of the bandage and extending onto the dog to help secure the bandage to the dog's leg or body. In general, you want your bandage snug but not tight, so it neither slips off nor compromises the circulation. Be careful not to stretch the bandage material as you wrap it around your dog, as it will tighten after it is placed. There are several videos available online to see bandaging techniques or you could discuss this with your veterinary technician. Bandaging looks simple when you watch a professional do it, but it requires some practice. Your bandage doesn't have to be pretty. It just needs to stay on until you can get your dog the veterinary care he needs.

If your dog incurs a more serious wound, you will be required to stop the bleeding. Pressure is your first line of defense. Press a couple of gauze squares with several of your fingers or the palm of your hand over the affected area. Wait five minutes before you check the bleeding again. Each time you check, the clot is potentially broken so that bleeding begins anew and you start the process over again, so don't check too often. It is good to have a product like Celox, a substance that promotes blood clotting, to apply when the bleeding won't stop with pressure alone. (Directions will be on the package.) After you have controlled the bleeding, do NOT try to clean out the wound. You may cause the bleeding to restart. Bandage the area using an extra layer or two of padding, as you should make the bandage a bit tighter than normal to help keep the bleeding from beginning again. The extra padding will help keep the bandage from cutting off the circulation. And, of course, if your dog has incurred a serious wound, go to a veterinarian as soon as you can.

Some people may choose to carry a surgical staple gun in their kit. This piece of equipment is fairly simple to use, and could be helpful to close a large laceration. After cleaning the wound, hold both edges of the laceration so that they are just touching. Hold the staple gun firmly on the skin so that the staple will go across the wound, and squeeze the trigger to insert the staple. Staples should be placed approximately ½" apart. But you should never close a wound that you can't clean out first, as you will trap dirt and bacteria inside the wound. *And never close a wound that is actively bleeding because the wound will continue to bleed under the staples.*

If your dog takes a significant fall or gets his leg caught and twisted, he may incur a fracture. The product "Sam splint", a compact roll of splint material, is a useful item to have. The splint can be cut to any size needed or just folded to obtain the proper size. You should bend it lengthwise into a U-shape (so that it has the appearance of a drinking straw cut in half lengthwise) to give it stability. Wrap the leg with the cast padding (to prevent pressure sores) and then place the splint on *back* side of the leg so that the leg is nestled in the "U". Then apply a very snug layer of Kling followed by a snug layer of Vetwrap. Apply white tape to the upper and lower ends of the bandage to adhere it to the dog's skin.

In warmer weather, we all need to be concerned with overheating. Watch for excessive panting, slowing down, or wobbliness. Don't push your dog if it is warm out. Normal dog temperature is 100-102.5 degrees. (I carry a thermometer with me, too.) It could be a degree higher just from exertion. More is trouble. A small bottle of rubbing alcohol is a good addition to your kit, as applying alcohol to a dog's feet and groin area can help a dog who is starting to overheat. As the Griffon doesn't have a thick undercoat to trap water, you could also wet him down if he is kept in an area where the water can evaporate to help cool him down (e.g. NOT his crate). You should then take him immediately to a veterinarian.

A common injury I see in all kinds of dogs is a torn toenail. If your dog starts to carry one leg, the nails and feet are the first place to look for injury. Some cracks are subtle, so you need to examine each nail carefully. If you are near home, you can take your dog to your vet who may choose to sedate him to remove the torn part of the nail. If you are in the field, however, this may not be an option. Clipping back a torn nail is a simple procedure. Yes, it hurts the dog quite a bit...but only for a second or two. The next two items in my first aid kit are a dog nail clipper and Kwikstop. You need to gently place the clipper over the affected nail past the area of the crack. Quickly cut it (just as you trim a nail) and immediately put your finger on the end of the nail to keep it from bleeding. The painful part is over. Now apply Kwikstop tamping it into the nail end and applying pressure for several seconds. Repeat until the bleeding stops. If there is more than a half inch of nail left, you are good to go. If there is less than that, you should probably get your dog on some antibiotics that evening. If the whole nail is gone then, he will also need a bandage to keep the area clean and a vet will need to examine him.

Another common problem that you could encounter is a bee sting. You can give Benadryl at a dose of 50mg two to three times daily for your average sized Griffon. You can also hold an instant ice pack on the swollen area. If the dog's face starts to swell, you can give the Benadryl, but try to seek immediate veterinary care as there is a possibility of swelling in the throat as well.

If your dog starts to squint or paw at his eye, he could have gotten some plant material in it. You can use a bottle of sterile eye wash to flush any debris out of his eye. Put your finger directly under his lower eyelid and pull it down slightly so that you can rinse out this area also. If he continues to squint, contact a vet to make sure he hasn't scratched his eye.

So what do I have in the car for any trip I take with my dogs? A bottle of Skunk-off will keep me from driving home with a stinky dog. I have a pair of hemostats to remove porcupine quills. To remove a quill, hold the dog's skin down with one hand as you grasp the quill in the hemostat with the other. Pull with a firm, steady motion. (If there are a lot of these or they are inside your dog's mouth, you need to have a veterinarian deal with this.) A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, such as Rimadyl, Ascriptin or buffered aspirin is nice to have on hand. I would give this to my dog if he had sore feet from running in the snow or for helping with the pain of any other minor injury. These are also good for those dogs who are just plain achy from too much running. The average Griffon could take 1 regular strength buffered aspirin or Ascriptin (with food) twice daily. I also recommend taking along medication for anything my dog has been prone to. In my dogs' case, that includes ear medication for ear infections and an intestinal antibiotic for diarrhea. If you have a good relationship with your vet and your dogs have had recurring problems, he may prescribe some of these medications and perhaps some antibiotics for you to have "just in case".

Nobody wants to think about his dog getting hurt. But not thinking about it doesn't prevent it from happening. Let us all accept the fact that there is a risk involved in hunting with your dog. And let us all be prepared to handle any emergency that comes our way.

FIRST AID KIT (SUGGESTIONS—ADD TO THIS OR REVISE AS YOU SEE FIT—ed.)

Necessities to have with you

Muzzle gauze (hard gauze, non-stretch) or muzzle

Bandage material: Telfa pads (non-stick) 2-4
 Cast padding (roll of thin cotton) 2 rolls
 Soft gauze (Kling) 2 rolls
 Vet wrap (Bandage that only sticks to itself) 2 rolls
 White tape (1" or 2") 1 roll

Sam splint

Celox

Bandage scissors

Gauze squares (about 20-30)

Antibiotic ointment

Vinyl Gloves and/or hand sanitizer

Nail Trimmer

Chlorhexidine concentrated solution (antiseptic to clean wounds) 2-4 ounces

Gallon size plastic baggie

12cc or 20cc syringe

Kwikstop (or something to stop bleeding for ear tips and nails, *not* for wounds)

Thumb forceps (tweezers)

Rubbing alcohol 8 ounces

Benadryl (50mg 2 to 3 times daily) for insect bites, allergic reactions

Eye flush (Saline Solution)

Instant ice pack

Thermometer

Staple gun (optional)

Things to have in your car

Antibiotics

Pain reliever Rimadyl or regular strength buffered aspirin or Ascriptin, one twice daily with food

Skunk-off

Hemostats

Extra bandage material

Any other medications for your dog's recurring problems

(This article was submitted to MVNAVHDA News by Amy Caswell on behalf of our dogs.)

MVNAVHDA Officers/Board of Directors

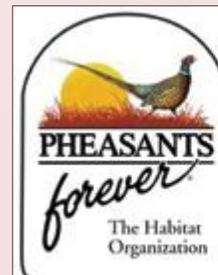
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HAND CARVED BY JOHN GRAF

Congratulations to Matt Lorello who won the hand-carved decoy!!

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Moishe Ragieme



Chris and
Kris Pope
with
"Gunny".

Thanks for
the Mums!!



The Bartley family
with "Uncle Dave"
and Bella

MOISHE'S MONTAGE



MOISHE'S MONTAGE- SUITE



THIS ISSUE'S 'EDITOR'S PICK'



PERHAPS ITS BECAUSE HUNTING SEASON IS ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY. THIS PICTURE OF JOHN AND OLIVIA MAKE ME WANT TO GRAB MY SHOTGUN AND GET IN THE BRUSH. IT'S NOT THE FACES, IT'S THE THRILL THAT IS CAPTURED.



Dog Training Equipment for the Versatile Hunting Dog

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