



# MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

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

## Sept—October 2014



Well, it has been a *very* busy summer of training, and I thank all of you who “helped out” at the chapter clinics and tests. Your participation made the difference. Thank you!

In a few days we will all be hunting with our four legged friends. While we enjoy the fall hunts, the MVNAVHDA board will be working on plans for next year’s chapter activities.

Also, I would like to congratulate Andres Nilsson and Terry Long for receiving the VC title on their dogs. And thanks everyone for sending bits and bytes to help create a great newsletter!

Happy hunting—hope to see you out in the field!

Carol



Carol Trahan, President





Chris Doherty  
Director of Training

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Hi all,

We have had a very productive training season. This year started with questionable weather and late melting snow and ice at Sharp's Farm.

We had good trainers and numerous volunteers who were instrumental in making our training clinics successful.

In the coming months I will be looking to tweak how we organize and conduct our clinics. We have had a few glitches with birds and the running order. None of it severe, but we are in need of a little adjustment for next year's clinics.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who ran their dogs in the Invitational. It takes a lot of dedication and training to get there and it is quite an achievement to take part in it.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again,

Chris

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Joanna Korte  
Test Secretary

Hi Everyone,

We had a full 3 day test on the weekend of Aug 29-31. We ran 10 Natural Ability dogs, 1 Utility Preparatory Dog and 11 Utility dogs. Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to help make the MV test weekend a success. We can't do it without all of you.

Looking forward to 2015, please remember that the first acceptable date for mailing your test entry is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (post marked). The tests do fill up fast, so if you want to run your dog in the fall of 2015, don't wait until late summer to send in your test entry and fee. We now accept payment electronically by PayPal, with the test entries being emailed to me. The information is on our website under FAQs/Test Info.

Thanks for making this a great year for training our versatile hunting dogs. Be safe hunting!



## TO THE POINT:



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

For most of us, the new year begins with the opening day of bird season. Wearing our “party pants” and using our shotguns as noisemakers, we listen as the dog’s bell tolls until the wonderful silence of the point. The colors and smells of the autumn woods rekindle in us a fiery passion that burns from generations before. *Thus beginneth the “new year”.*

The next newsletter will be MVNAVHDA’s Holiday Issue, so we ask you to take your camera with you this fall. (You’ll know when is the right time to use it.) We had some wonderful photos in the last holiday issue and look forward to “more of the same” from MV members as we celebrate the fall hunts. Stories are very welcomed as well. We’d love to hear from you.

Speaking of stories, you’ve got to check out John Korte’s piece on page 7—“A Truly Versatile Dog”. It’s a fun read.

Well, gotta go. (Putting the “Gone Hunting” sign on the office door.) Don’t forget pics!

## Happy New Year!



*Den*

Editor

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

## IDEAS WORTH SHARING:

### THE “MORE THAN TWO CRATE PROBLEM”:

Sometimes, we go hunting with someone who has a pickup with a cap, and we have at least three dogs. Two kennels fit across the body. The question is: “*Who is the guy who has to crawl up into the box (...and bang up his knees) and pull the third (or fourth) crate to the tailgate to ‘release’ and ‘kennel’ the dog?*”

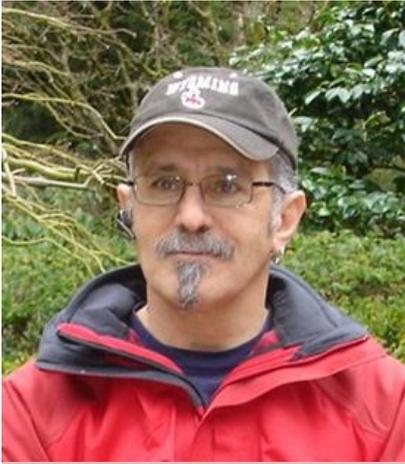
I saw the answer in Gus Gouzoules’ truck. It’s so simple that it’s beautiful. Gus put an eye-bolt in the base of his nylon kennel and



has a pole with a hook to pull/push the dog’s kennel as needed. (*Proper protection was on the inside of the kennel.*) Brilliant!

If copying is the sincerest compliment, Gus should feel he’s feeling good because last week, I copied this!! Ed.

# L.L.Bean®



Moishe Ragieme

MVNAVHDA Vice-President

## From the Desk of the Chapter VP:

What an amazing time we had at the 2014 NAVHDA Invitation-al...and to think there were 9 members that qualified and seven dogs that went for testing. Although the results were not what some of the participants had expected, it was incredible that Merrimack Valley was so well represented. I took several pictures of the members that participated and their dogs, and I wanted to let those of you know that we are very proud of all the MVNAVHDA members! Terry T. Long and Anders Nilsen came back with new VC's for their dogs: Seeker, a Small Munsterlander, and Gracie, a German Shorthaired Pointer. Congratulations to both of you and we are all happy for you. Have a great time hunting with your dogs this Fall. We will see each of you in the Spring. It has been my pleasure to not only serve a vice-president for this chapter, but to also be one of the contributing photographers for our group.

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Some of our Merrimack Valley members that attended the 2014 Invitational



### “THESE PEOPLE”

I was listening to a ‘TED Talk’ (Technology, Entertainment, Design) on the radio a few days after our fall test, a professor of anthropology was explaining that he feels that the pillars of an ethical society are empathy and reciprocity, based on his work with primates.

Well , that seemed in many ways to fit into what I had seen and experienced during the three days of our test. Well placed empathy is a very sweet thing, (been there), reciprocity essential to the creation of a coordinated and smooth running test (seen it).

It happens when we have a core of volunteers that know what and how to set up, put out, and take down. Many of you ,“these people”, the “usual suspects”, have done this not only for 2-3 days of any given test weekend, but have continued to volunteer for years. You let me know ahead when you can and as importantly when you cannot be there.

Joe Raia during lunch looked up and chuckled “There must be 2 volunteers for every handler here” Yup it is “these people” Bird planters, gunners, pheasant pluckers (not always), duck herders, water site setter uppers, pheasant catchers, marshalers of handlers.

Nancy and Jerry Roy with their beautifully set up “Merchandise Tent”, Nancy , with her big grin, patiently reading until someone appears, knife wielding Kathy- guardian of the food table until the judges get there, Jessica organizing dead and alive ducks and rocks for NA, Chris Pope’s father in law, surrounded by his beautiful mum’s that he donates to the chapter, watching the dogs run in the field. What a guy!

Beyond this- behind the scenes, there are those who months ahead start to put thing in place :David organizing a mowing crew I think for 3 days (has anyone considered what it would be like to run a dog in waist high grass????) David and Casey who take care of and transport the birds; Mike and Jess who organize, clean ,and transport the chapter trailer; Joanna who shuffles and reshuffles and effortlessly produces a coherent running order: John Korte with his blessed 4 wheeler: Terry who always seems to arrive with the key (pew).

I think this is RECIPROCITY, many times over.

We are lucky to have this energy, I know it can be better organized and wish for suggestions to this end, Hope no one goes away. I thank you all.

**STACK-ON.**

To those who tested and have not volunteered yet, please come and become part of a team. You can learn a lot about handling dogs for a test, return the favor given to you when you tested, and learn some new jokes.



May the grouse be plentiful, the woodcock fly straight, and the teal fly slow.  
Best, Suzi



**Suzi Moore**  
**Director of Testing**

## A Truly Versatile Dog



All right, I have to admit it. Joanna and I own cats. They are a vestige of the time when Joanna and I were both working and travelling extensively, and we

could not own dogs because it would not have been fair to them (the dogs). So we got a couple of cats: Casper and Mickey named by our son Drew. They slept in our bed and woke us up regularly and I was the one doing the cat toss where one or both would end up helicoptering across the room.

Fast forward ten years and now we have our dogs. It wasn't so wonderful with our indoor cats at first. The dogs were on their game chasing the cats until we claimed "our house" (our command for "stop chasing the cats!"). A little bit of eCollar and a lot of "hands on" discipline brought peace to the homestead.



Now they get along, snuggling by the fire or on couches, each with one eye open making sure things remains copasetic.

Our cat Casper is an escape artist. He takes advantage of every chance he can find to sneak out a door. We have a sunroom underneath our deck with re-sealable screens and the bugger found a way paw through the screens to release himself. We tried

multiple barriers but in the end, he always found a way to escape. When he got out and the dogs were outside it was a different ballgame. A chase outside is for real and the dogs would be in a "take no prisoners" mindset. Good thing we were always around to counsel them.

Casper escaped in August around 6 p.m. with a storm coming in. He managed to paw through a screen again and I saw him on a wood line on our property



border. I hustled the dogs inside and made for the cat. He ran like heck and I lost him. Joanna and I searched for him around the neighborhood, up and down our street, and around our neighbors' properties. No cat. We sat on the couch quiet with concern. Regardless of my current feelings about cats, they are a part of the family with our daughters, sons, and grandparents loving them.

It dawned on me that I had Oli, a DK (Deutsch Kurzhaar, the fully German short-hair), which I trained to track furred game as a part of his breed club testing. I took a quick trip to the cat bed and pulled a clump of cat fur and put it outside in the last known cat location. I leashed up Oli, put him on a track command, and 5 minutes later with a track across to our neighbor's woodline, we had the cat. Oli had a slack leash when he found the cat deep under a bush covered with groundcover. He lunged but did not bite as he normally would with game. He knew it was his feline "brother" Casper.

I walked back to the house with Oli at heel and with the cat by the scruff of the neck, as I have with ducks, grouse, and pheasants. It felt odd but rewarding none-the-less. A truly versatile dog! John Korte



Oli keeping watch to prevent future escapes.



"SPENSER" Photo by Denise Heath Photography of Lowden, IA



Here's Hunter and Zachary Bouck in their "chariot" at Sharpe's Farm. If you want to see them as newborns, go to April 2013 newsletter. The lads are growing and are active. It's great that they take such an interest in NAVHDA at such an early age!



PRE-TEST CLINIC August 16th (a)



PRE-TEST CLINIC August 16th (b)



Practicing for my point— First, tail down, Then tail up... down, up, down , up

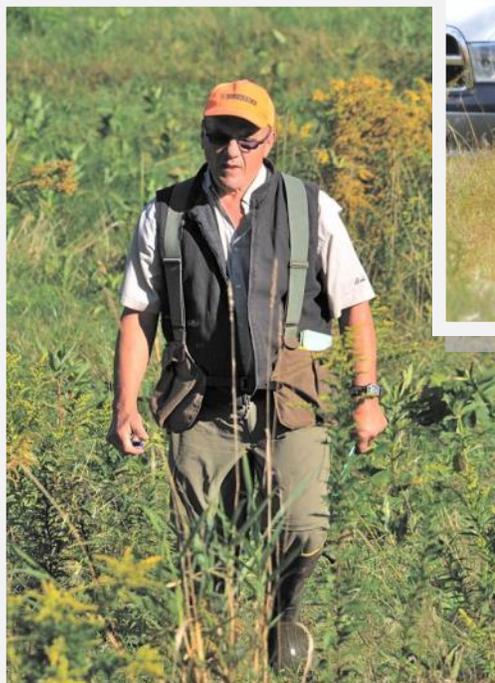


"Now look kid, first you strike a pose like this".. "Got it?"

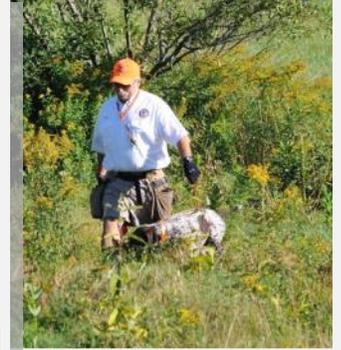


Many thanks to the Kortzes for the use of their UTV

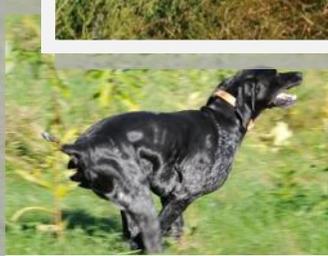
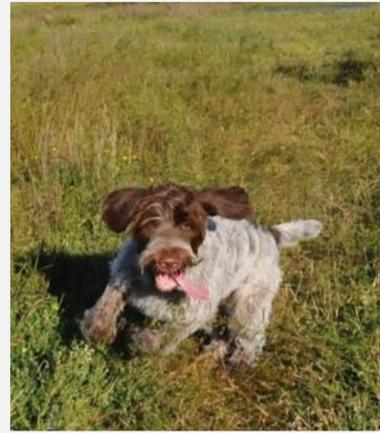
# 2014 FALL TEST PHOTOS BY MOISHE RAGIEME



# MORE PHOTOS BY MOISHE RAGIEME



**EVEN MORE PHOTOS BY MOISHE**



# 2014 FALL TEST PHOTOS – SUBMITTED BY OTHERS



NOT SASQUATCH!

It's Joe Raia —our "Away" judge!





Brennan Wade—UTV driver extraordinaire!



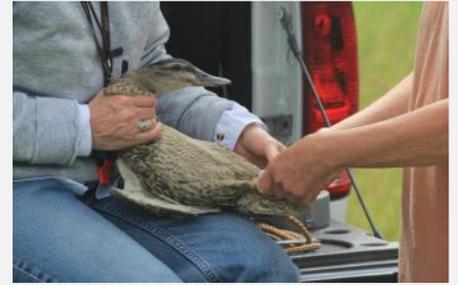
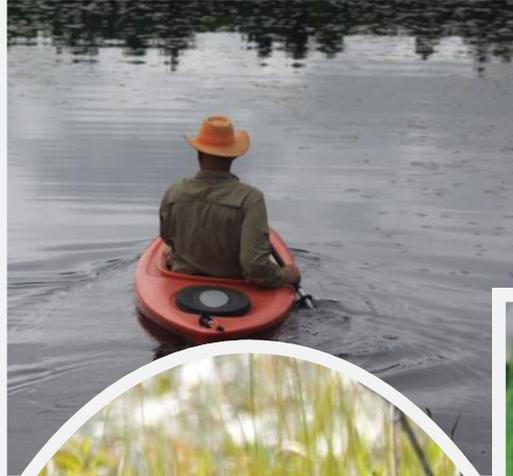
Brennan just being an 11-year-old.



Casey's class on puppy wrangling.



Class of 'Student' Puppies





### **MANY THANKS TO GEORGE DAY**

Our thanks to our friend, George Day and the Popes for their wonderful generosity. Again they raised Mums, brought them to the Fall Test and sold them as a fundraiser.

The proceeds were donated to the Merrimack Valley Chapter. What a wonderful gift! *(And what a buy!!)*

Thank you George, Chris and Kristine!

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On Saturday, we had a “fly-by” given by two bald eagles.



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