



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com

Sept-Oct 2016



“Heel?..Heel?...Oh!!..I got it!”



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President's Message:

Only a “few” more days remain until bird hunting season opens! I am SO looking forward to working with my dog this fall! We’ve been training all spring and summer. However, fall starts even earlier with two events— “The Invitational” and our “Youth Day” on September 24th. With our dogs and NAVHDA, all the seasons are fun!

We recently finished our Fall Test weekend, with a single test on Friday and TWO double tests on Saturday and Sunday. To top it all off, we enjoyed a wonderful BBQ on Saturday night with a raffle to raise funds for Merrimack Valley Chapter. It was just great to be with friends, and enjoy each other’s company. It was a welcome break from all that we’ve been doing.

Congratulations are in order to all who participated in the Fall Test! Just the preparation for the tests makes us better handlers and our dogs better athletes. And after all, isn’t that what the test is all about—measuring how far we’ve come with our training and conditioning? Also, a hearty “Thank You!” to all our volunteers who pitched in—planting birds, marshalling, ran messages back and forth, helped here and there—Merrimack Valley Chapter couldn’t do the tests without your help. I know that when I’m talking to other leaders of various chapters, I always feel good inside knowing that our people step up and help each other. That’s what makes our Chapter a “community”—not just a “club”.

While I’m thinking of it, I’d like to take a moment to say “Thank You” to all the members who send in their photos and articles for the newsletter. This fall, remember to take pictures and jot down some of your thoughts and experiences! I’m hoping to see of your pictures and adventures from this fall.

As I mentioned earlier, the hunting season will soon be with us and we’ll be afield doing what we love so much. Let me remind everyone to be “safety minded”. Branches underfoot will be slippery, mud will be hip-deep, and trails will be long. Let’s all be “safety conscious” and be aware of our surroundings as the bird rises. I really don’t want to see anyone hurt or in trouble! Let’s celebrate the tradition right through the end of the year!

Good hunting everyone!

Carol T.



Carol Trahan

MV Chapter President

Hi All,

Last month we ended this year's training with another successful clinic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that made this year's training possible. We had what seemed like record turnouts at our clinics. A lot of new handlers received valuable training tips to use at home. The chapter's protocol for training birds went much more smoothly this year than in the past. I think that we have found a good, workable routine that will continue at next year's clinics.

Phil Fraser, from Saint Andrews Masonic Lodge, did a great job preparing lunches and the test dinners. A special "thank you" goes out to him.

Unfortunately, very few members are responding to the lunch "RSVP requests" when placing their bird orders. Not knowing how many lunches are needed in advance creates the potential of wasted food & increased costs. I will continue to ask for lunch orders with next year's bird order request. Please do your best to give us a "head count".



Director of Training

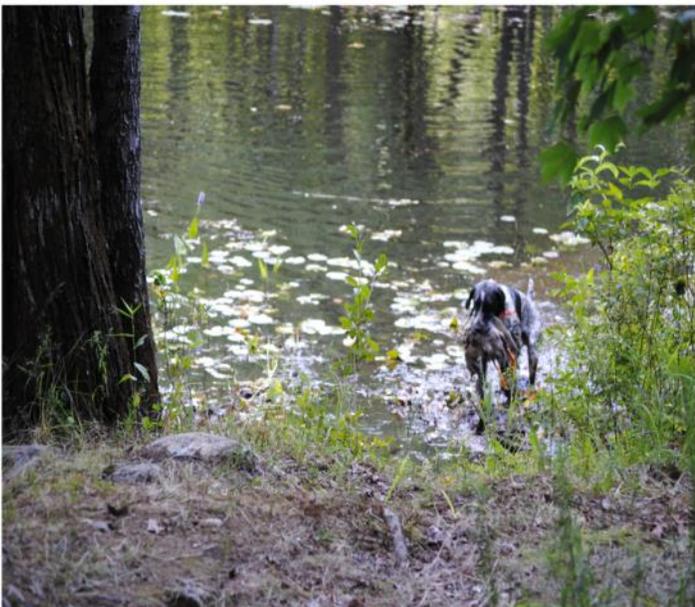
Chris Doherty and Frit

I will see some of you at the **MVNAVHDA Youth Day** on September 23rd, and will look forward to seeing the rest of you at the chapter's **Annual Meeting** in January.

Thanks to all the members for their help and support.

Chris Doherty
Director of Training

A Couple of PICS of OLLIE (& John) ...sent by Amy Caswell O'Clair





From Bob Fee—the Director Of Testing

Hi everyone,

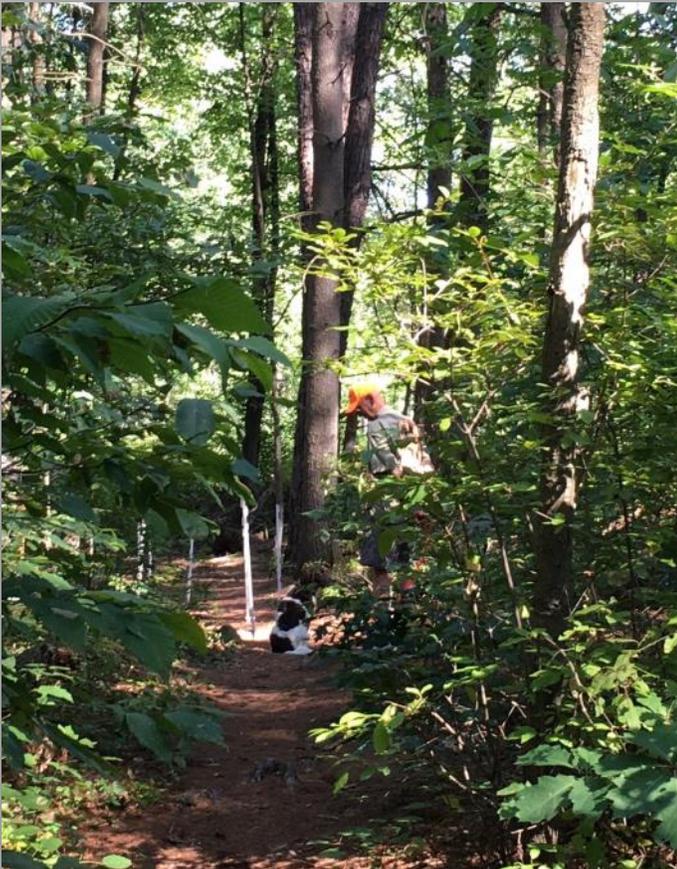
Well, you all did it again! Another great testing weekend has come and gone and because of all of you it went without a hitch. Thank you all so very much for your time and energy! These tests do not happen by themselves; it takes dedicated, unselfish volunteers such as yourselves to make them happen.

The chapter put on 5 tests in 3 days and that is quite an accomplishment. My responsibility as Director of Testing is easy because of folks like you. On two of the days I didn't do anything, except coordinate a little, because I judged one day and I ran my dog another. The chapter has so many people that volunteer time and time again that everyone knows what to do before I say anything. I found that when I suggested something needed doing the common response was " it's already done."

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you did the weekend of 8/26,27,&28. Without you there are no tests and no chapter. Give yourselves a big round of applause and a pat on the back.

Best regards,

Bob



Gus and "Vixie" waiting at the blind.

Photo by Joanna Korte



"Oli" is heading out with John Korte .

Photo by Joanna Korte



Joanna Korte

From the Test Secretary

Wow! We tested thirty seven dogs at our Fall test. I think that's a record for us at Merrimack Valley NAVHDA.

From my perspective, the test ran very well. Here are a couple of emails that I received from handlers who tested with us:

*“Thank you for a wonderfully organized and run test. Please extend our thanks to you, Joanna all the workers, the judges, and the club. I am looking forward to working with you all again!
Lee and Jennifer”*

“Just a quick note to say thanks for all you did to make the tests over the weekend possible! Really appreciate all the hard work you and others put in so that others like myself can test our dos. It's really considerate of you.

Brewster says thanks too! :)

Best,

John Kohan”

I am personally proud to be a member of the Merrimack Valley Chapter and I look forward to our Youth Day, as well as training with you all next year.

Joanna

And From Another Perspective.....

Burn Out by Rob Marcotte

As anyone who was at the fall test on Saturday knows, my dog Frippy suffered severe overheating during the field portion of his UPT test. The senior judge told me I could rest him and continue or I could stop and he would put down “withdrawn for health reasons”. I told him I was not going to kill my dog. I was out of water and water bottles appeared from everywhere. I think the gunners and judges gave us all their water.

I picked up Frippy and started to carry him across the first field to my truck. I was just about out of gas myself when I looked up to see Paul Bruk running towards us with an armload of water bottles. Right behind him was big Jeff Gutt. We put more water on Frippy and Jeff offered to carry him. It was either carry Frippy or carry me.

Once we got to the Gazebo people gathered around to help. Michele LaBonte (that’s what I knew her as in high school) produced a print out of what to do for an overheated dog. She also had a bottle of honey and we gave him a little of that.

When it was time to read the scores Tim Otto started out by saying that Frippy’s owner made the wise decision to stop testing due to serious health issues. At that point David Trahan started a rousing round of applause. I looked over at Bob Fee and he said, “that’s for doing the right thing for your dog”. That was the culmination of a very emotional afternoon for me.

So, in case I missed anyone that day, a huge thanks to everyone for their help and support.

I have been involved with dogs and dog clubs for over 30 years and nothing compares to the members of Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA.



Editor's note: I got choked up on this one. Well done everyone! Really nice work!



To the Point:

It will soon be time to vote In the NAVHDA election. The aspiring candidates have their “bios” posted at NAVHDA.ORG under “News & Events”. Here’s the link: <https://www.navhda.org/news-events/whats-new/biographies-upcoming-election> We encourage all members to carefully read and cast your vote as you “see fit”. Active engagement of membership is one of the *fundamental* principles of NAVHDA International.

Jim Jiottis won the 50/50 raffle and received a take-home amount of \$80. It pays to play! Congrats Jim!

Alain Youkel from Winooski won the shotgun raffle with ticket #334! Congratulations! And thanks to everyone who bought tickets!

Maybe you know what I mean: there is a “scent” that I stumble upon when I’m deep in the woods. It’s like a heady perfume. If Syl used it, I would probably stay home in October, November and December. Well, maybe not, but it’s a wonderful smell just the same! (Even better than Hoppe’s #9.) Someday I hope to learn what makes that wonderful scent so I can “find” it more readily. Until then, there’s a wet spot beyond some spruces that I want to check out.

Speaking of checking out. Terry Long wanted me to remind you that there exists an [MVNAVHDA Facebook Page](#). There you will find 35 photos of the NA test. This *FB page has been in existence for a couple of years*. So far there are only 21 members. Let’s change that and use it like other chapters do theirs.... chapter social media!

NH pheasant hunters, please remember that there are new F&G regulations regarding activity at stocking sites.

A super special thanks to the folks who sent in articles, pictures and such to the newsletter. You are appreciated more than you know! A special thanks to Joanna, Amy, Jessica, Moishe, Cheryl and Gary for stepping in to help with pictures. Cheryl has many photos on Shutterfly.. I was only able to “cherry pick” ones for the newsletter. There’s more! (I hope I didn’t leave anyone out!)

Amy O’Clair Caswell wrote a great piece concerning being a breeder and why the NA test is so “encouraged”. Rob Marcotte wrote two pieces—one concerning his experience at the test and a humorous piece—to which I can relate. The articles are scattered throughout the newsletter.

They are worth your time.

Den

mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com



PS: For you snipe hunters, the season starts in mid-September. If only we could have some decent rain!

Speaking of Snipe hunters, prior to the Fall Test, Chris Pope reminded us that the Hopkinton NH Police received a complaint from a resident of Little Frost Rd a few weeks ago that people were speeding down Little Frost Road. during a (non-NAVHDA) event at Sharpe’s Farm .



Chris & Gunny in Pittsburg

We ask everyone to drive slowly down the road out of respect for the folks who live there.

AND, please drive slowly down *Cressy Brook Road* if you are traveling to the water site. Chris also reminded us that the Hopkinton PD and NH State Police run radar in that area. (*The Newsletter Editor knows from personal experience ...don’t ask!*)

Thanks Chris for bringing it to our attention, and a huge thanks to everyone who drove safely in those areas! Merrimack Valley Chapter’s reputation is important to us. It’s part of the “tomorrow” we’re all building!

Finally, thanks go to Cheryl Cyr (p.9) for setting up a “Shutterfly” page for MVNAVHDA’s use! Now a MV event picture “you liked so much” can be printed made into on a personalized gift or item! Nice work Cheryl!

Regional Notes

- **Concord NH.** — Even though the summer season is starting to wind down and thoughts of autumn hang in the distance, NH Fish and Game and Forest Service urges homeowners, campers and the public to continue to be vigilant and responsible in bear country. The peak period of conflict between bears and humans is June and July, however bear activity in and around human-occupied areas can continue through September. This is particularly true during years of low food abundance, which has been the case in NH this summer. <http://archive.mailermailer.com/view/215808614r-ebe4e998%2a1195354n-804da2c5>
- **Augusta ME.** — Maine DIFW 2016-2017 Regulations are now on-line. Anyone wishing to hunt in Maine this year should check out the new regulations to ensure that you don't see blue lights and perhaps end up on "North Woods Law". Printed copies will be available soon at licensing agents et al. http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/laws/
- **Augusta, Maine** -- The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife cares about the Maine outdoors and those who enjoy it, so the department is reminding all who buy a sporting license or registration to make sure it is from the trusted and secure Maine.gov website.
- **Concord, N.H.** -- Looking ahead to the state's fall hunting seasons, New Hampshire hunters should be aware that certain rules have changed as a result of this year's biennial rulemaking review. Here are a few of them:
 - Turkey:** The fall turkey shotgun season was extended from 5 to 7 days by adding a weekend at the end of the season. The season will now run from October 10-16, 2016, in select WMUs.
 - Pheasant:** Due to safety concerns, on in-season stocking days the pheasant season will be closed statewide until noon. These closures will occur on Thursdays and Fridays, October 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21, 2016.
 - New this year,** the digest will also include New Hampshire waterfowl hunting season dates. www.huntnh.com/hunting/publications.html
- **"Rules" Article:** <http://archive.mailermailer.com/view/215808614r-ebe4e998%2a1193591r-210f93e4>
- **Concord, NH:** NHF&G is offering a deer hunting basics class for women on Oct 1 in Holderness NH. <http://archive.mailermailer.com/view/215808614r-ebe4e998%2a1195495n-6d711138>
- **Concord NH:** Small game hunting season hunters are asked to take part in two NHF&G surveys. Participants have a chance to win a quality firearm. <http://archive.mailermailer.com/view/215808614r-ebe4e998%2a1196233h-011d0ee0>
- **Montpelier VT**— VT Fish and Wildlife Dept. has an online fishing regs tool <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/one.aspx?portalid=73163&pageid=2530485>
- **Grouse season in VT** opens the last Saturday in September. Goes through December 31. Limit 4/da Possession limit is 8 birds. <http://www.eregulations.com/vermont/guide/game-bird-hunting/>
- **Holderness NH—NHF&G Commission** Meeting September 21. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/156a30d016505464>
- **Concord NH @ NHF&G** —Sept 21 7pm: Duck Hunting 101: Wes Reed will explain decoy tricks, successful calling tactics, choosing the right gun and loads, identifying ducks, and more.
- **Concord NH @ NHF&G** — Sept 28, 7pm: Sean Langton's talk will help you bring home a goose this season. Langton will explain tactics such as the use of ground blinds versus hedge row hunting, when to use decoys, playing the wind, and calling in geese.

- **HOLDERNESS, N.H. -- October 15:** The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is offering a one-day workshop for women who want to be prepared to find their way in the outdoors. Learn how to use a compass, read a topographic map, and use the two together to find your way through the woods. Also learn how to use a hand-held GPS unit and compare its use to map and compass on a moderate woods course. The workshop will take place October 15, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the NH Fish and Game Department’s Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness, NH. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Registration is now open. To sign up, fill out a print-and-mail application available at www.nhbow.com. The workshop fee of \$55 is due with registration. Registration is limited to twenty participants. If you are interested in attending, fill out and mail in your application right away. **Only mailed applications will be accepted.**



- **Ruffed Grouse Survey:** New Hampshire Fish and Game conducts an annual grouse wing and tail survey throughout the state to help gain critical information about ruffed grouse in New Hampshire. Hunter participation is key to this effort—they need our help! See this NHF&G webpage for further information: <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/surveys/ruffed-grouse.html> “Packets” will be available after Sept 28.
- **NH F&G Small Game Report:** Game Report (“forecast”) for this fall. Includes Grouse & Woodcock. <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/small-game-outlook.html>

Shutterfly

Cheryl Cyr has created a **MVNAVHDA** account on Shutterfly so we can share pictures with the newsletter. (I understand that Terry G Long —Little T— previously created an [MVNAVHDA Facebook page](#), but it is “underutilized”.

(Note: Today, there are 35 (new) NA photos on it. We should all be “liked” into this page. It’s “ours”! Also, Moishe Ragieme has a [NAVHDA Photos and Updates](#) Facebook Page that is inclusive of the whole NAVHDA organization. His is not limited to the local chapter and has a much larger “foot print”.) Check them out!

The good news about the Shutterfly account is that Cheryl is willing to give access to chapter members.

Why is that a good thing? First, there are more pictures to be seen on Shutterfly than in the newsletter. (At the newsletter, we only pick some that “appeal” to us for publication.)

Second, Shutterfly is an EXCELLENT source for mugs, calendars, photo prints, (you name it) . You can order a mug, a print suitable for framing, or create calendars using photos that you select. Perhaps you wouldn’t want to look at a picture of someone on a calendar or mug for the whole year, but your dog? You bet!

The point is, this Shutterfly account allows us to obtain unique MVNAVHDA items for ourselves and our special “others”—birthdays, anniversaries, holidays (Christmas is coming ...right?) We can just go on the site, find a picture that we like, take the appropriate steps and we have our personalized items delivered . Easy!

For folks who want access to the MVNAVHDA Shutterfly site, please contact Cheryl Cyr.

To check out Shutterfly’s home page, just click on this link! <https://www.shutterfly.com/>

ALERT -- ALERT--ALERT--ALERT---ALERT--ALERT

THIS WAS *NOT* A DRILL!!!

By way of information, we would like to provide the following to the Merrimack Valley Membership as shared by On-Point Kennels:

“A dog that ran in our 2016 Fall Test was infected by another dog that had ‘*kennel cough*’. This act exposed *many* other dogs. Not knowing of the exposure, an Owner placed a dog that was exposed at our kennel for the weekend. The dog then exposed fourteen other dogs. This required *all of them* to be put on medication costing the kennel (stress, time and money) to care for the dogs. If some of the dogs recover and are well enough, they will compete in other scheduled tests/events. Not only the cost of meds are involved in the loss, but the cost of focused training would be lost if the dog were not be able to compete.” (Not to mention someone’s “best friend” suffering unnecessarily!)

“Kennel Cough is very infectious and the On-Point is still dealing with this issue two weeks after the event.



“Think people, next time you run a dog”. David Trahan, On-Point Kennels

.....And for Dogs Sake! **Make sure the shots and vaccinations are current!!** Ed.

ALERT -- ALERT--ALERT--ALERT---ALERT--ALERT

REPORT ON NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Report on NH Wildlife Federation is sent to us by Terry Long, who is tracking their activity for us. Terry forwarded us this message. NHWF is the "advocacy arm" that stands up to legislation for our sporting interests.



New Hampshire Wildlife Federation
54 Portsmouth St
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-5953
www.nhwf.org

NHWF President Jim Morse is going to be making presentations about NHWF and its work on upcoming legislative issues as well as the need for help to carry out the work. He will also be discussing the concerns regarding the changes some groups are trying to make in the NH Fish and Game Department.

We are asking our affiliate clubs to send two representatives to one of these meetings as they can report our concerns back to their club. We hope by having these meetings in different areas of the state, we can have more representatives present.

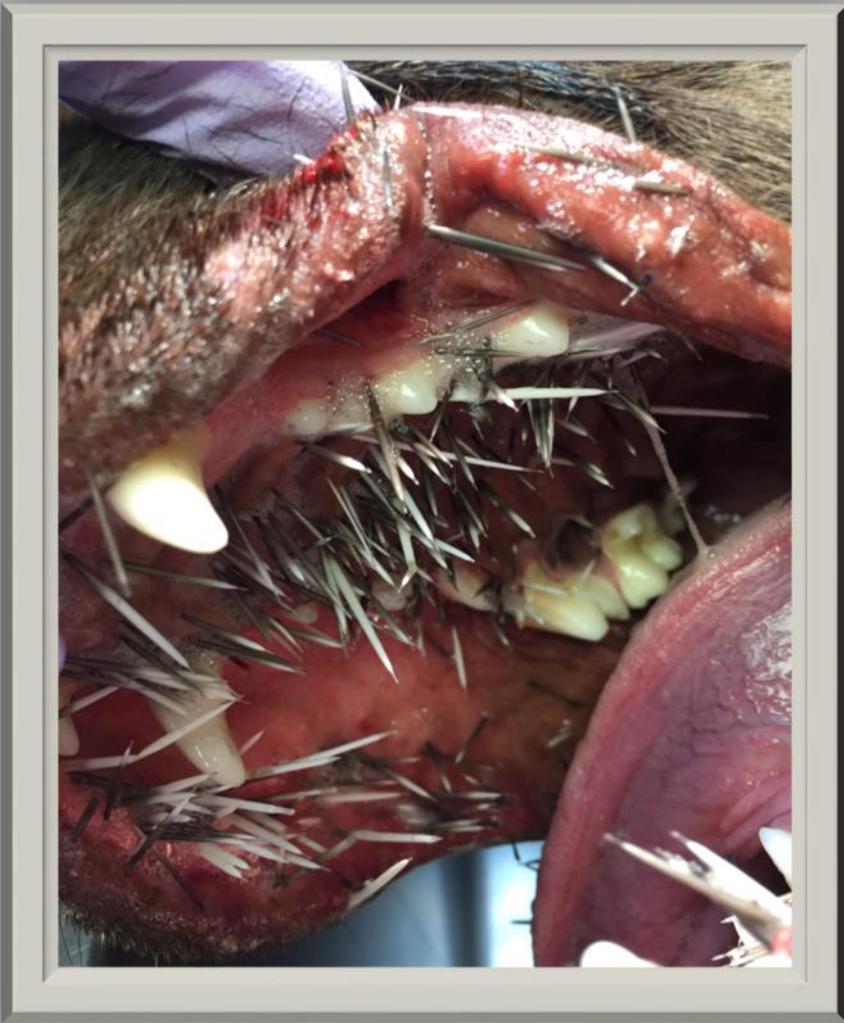
On September 6, 2016 at 7:00pm, the first meeting will be held at the Deering Fish & Game clubhouse, 52 Fish & Game Road, Deering NH 03244.

On October 3, 2016 at 7:30 pm, the presentation will be held at Pointer Fish & Game Club which meets at the American Legion Sweeney Post Hall, 251 Maple Street, Manchester, NH.

We will also be having a meeting in the Plymouth or Laconia area for those of you who are farther away. We will let you know as soon as details are complete.

Please make every effort to attend one of these meetings.

Janice Boynton
Executive Director



This picture looks painful and EXPENSIVE!

It seems that the porcupine population has grown this year. This picture was provided by Michael Daiute. His "pup" tangled with a "quill pig" around the Independence Day holiday. Hope you've got pet insurance Mike!

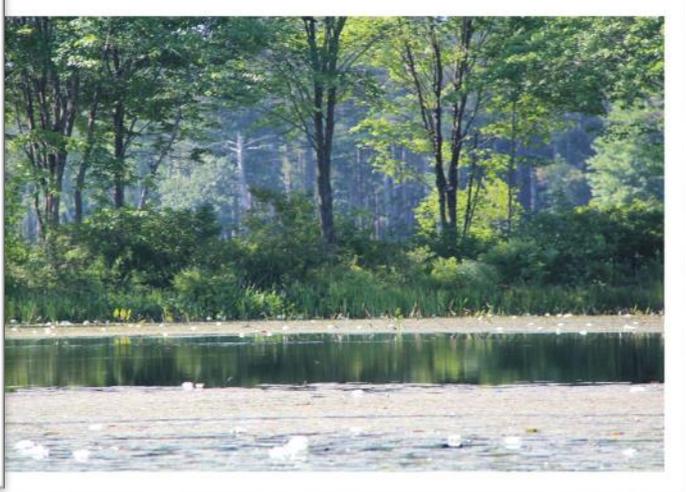
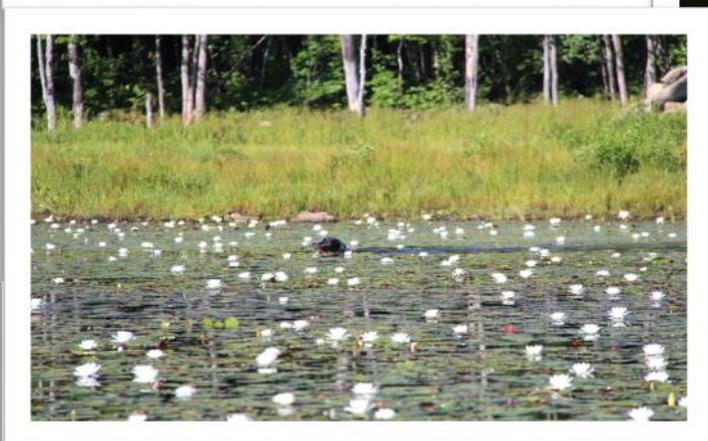
There seems to be a growing interest in some Porcupine Avoidance Clinics. If I can get time between now and hunting season, I'll place a call to the Idaho Humane Society and see how they made out with their clinic...and perhaps learn of the success ratios, etc.

Sometimes I think my dog goes after the big rodents so she can get a "hit" from our vet's medicine cabinet! Den

A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO PORCUPINE ENCOUNTERS?



"WATER DAY "PICS BY GARY CYR (1)



"WATER DAY "PICS BY GARY CYR (2)



WATER DAY PICS (A)—Moishe Ragieme



WATER DAY PICS (B)—Moishe Ragieme



Oli doing the “dog paddle”

Oli retrieving duck



WATER DAY PICS (C)—Moishe Ragieme



The Natural Ability Advantage

By Amy Caswell-O'Clair

Last fall I bred my first litter of puppies. I asked my buyers to please do the Natural Ability test so that I could see the strengths and weaknesses in the litter. With a little help and guidance, nine out of ten owners signed up for their local tests. I was very lucky in that more than half of the buyers were NAVHDA experienced members, and also very fortunate all ten live within a five-hour radius of me. Throughout the summer I invited buyers to my house to train in the field and to help groom out the puppy coats, so that I could show them the proper techniques & tools. I think that the puppy buyers also enjoyed the fact I love to take photos because by the time they were home I had e-mailed them pictures in the field.

Five of the pups tested at my local NAVHDA Chapter and several people commented, "You might get a Breeders Award for your very first litter." I knew it but didn't want to act overly excited or like I expected it would happen. I had seen many of the pups work and got regular updates on the other pups so I knew that a Breeders Award was probably in Bijou's future. I think that when some see a breeder ask the owners to test in NA they assume it is just for the Breeders Award, but for me it was more.

As a helpful and kind person by nature, I wanted to help guide my puppy buyers through their first year with their puppies. I knew that doing the NA, I could keep in close contact with many of the buyers and help be their mentor, whether it was with grooming or training or helping guide them towards a more experienced trainer. Some of these folks are first time pointing dog owners that want to hunt and I believe that the NA test will only help them with their success hunting wild birds. With our first pointing dog we had no idea there was any such thing as a club that would help you train your pointing dog or trainers that could help you train your pointing dog, so I wanted my buyers to see first-hand how much help there is out there for them.



The Mission Statement of NAVHDA is:

To foster, promote, and improve the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs on both land and water; and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs.

I feel as a breeder of my first litter that I have done all in my power to help the breed and set owners in the right path to help properly train, care and move forward with their dogs in the future, and for that I am very grateful to NAVHDA.

Spring Pics—Cheryl Cyr



Dog
Tired



Spring Pics 2 — Cheryl Cyr



Sometimes “Brain Farts” Stink by Rob Marcotte

Earlier this summer I noticed a foul odor in my house. Smelled like a dead rat. So I cleaned out all the closets and couldn't find anything. It had been a while since I cleaned the carpets and with all the humidity I decided to steam clean them. Took all the furniture out and steam cleaned the carpet. Still could smell something rotten. While putting the couch back I walked past my hunting vest that hangs on the wall. Now the odor was really strong. Checked my vest. In the game pouch was a dead chukar from the previous week's training day at Sharpe's Farm.

Mystery solved.

Editor's note: I pulled a similar stunt with sea worms. Ask Syl and hang on!

“Ready for today's test!”

Dave Trahan and Beth Mello demonstrate a principle for “Test Success”.



Picture sent in by Jessica Barker



MVNAVHDA FALL 2016 TEST PICS

Fall Test Pictures I — Cheryl Cyr

After all the training, the practice, the studying and saying that you're "not going to worry"—that "it will be what it will be"..... It comes.....*"Test Day"*!



Fall Test Pictures II — Cheryl Cyr



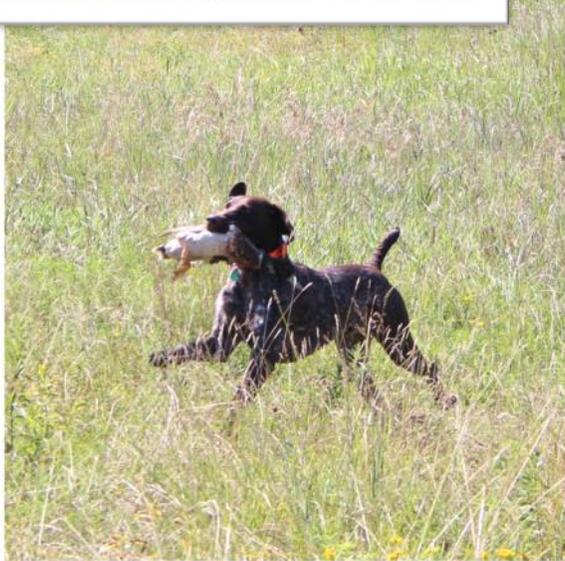
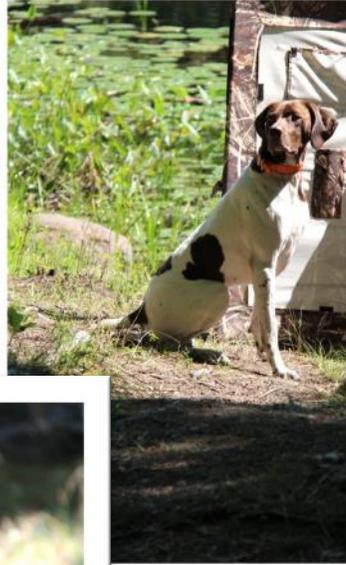
Fall Test Pictures III— Cheryl Cyr



Fall Test Pictures IV— Cheryl Cyr



Fall Test Pictures V – Cheryl Cyr



Fall Test Pictures VI—Cheryl Cyr



Fall Test Pictures VII — Cheryl Cyr



Fall Test Pictures VIII — Cheryl Cyr







WANTED



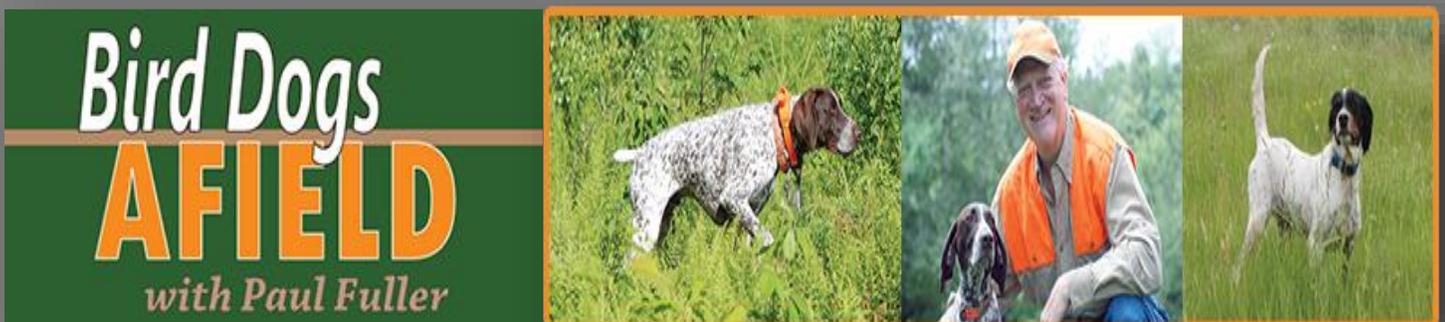
Please send in pictures, stories, training tips and hunting stories you would like to share.

Your contributions are *always* greatly appreciated.

Please direct your items to
mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com



SPONSORS





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