



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



www.mvnavhda.com

WINTER 2014

Dear Chapter Members:

What a FANTASTIC Annual Meeting!

On behalf of the Chapter I wish to thank our sponsors, the other Chapters, our Chapter members and the many people who donated items for the banquet auctions and raffles. I also want to thank our volunteers for their hard work and commitment in making NAVHDA's 2014 Annual Meeting a **HUGE SUCCESS**. Our Chapter has received many, many compliments from the Executive Council and other NAVHDA members on every aspect of the way we conducted the Annual Meeting from the organization, seminars, raffle and auction items, the hospitality room, banquet dinner to even the venue. The Meeting business was conducted, we shared many laughs and a GREAT time was had by all.



People LOVED Chris & Moishe's jewelry-making seminars and glass dog plates. Thank you Chris and Moishe!

The Pro-Trainer Q&A Forum, with Dave Trahan, Blaine Carter, Clyde Vetter and Tim Clark also drew a large crowd... and many laughs.

The Sunday seminar rooms were PACKED with people wanting to see the Canine Field First Aid and Trap Removal seminars.

Dr. Simon George gave a great and very informative seminar on Canine Field First Aid!

Missy Correia gave a FANTASTIC "hands-on" demonstration about removing your dog from traps and snares.

In the Hall of Delegates, the delegates wanted to send a message to the EC by unanimously approving (16-0 and 16-0) BOTH the Merrimack Valley and Potomac Chapter Motions. The only difference between the 2 motions is that the Potomac motion requires a sponsoring chapter to send its Chapter Delegate to the Annual Meeting to present its Chapter Motion while our Merrimack Valley motion requires that a sponsoring chapter send a representative (which means that it could be the sponsoring chapter's delegate OR one of the other Chapter Delegates who IS going to the Annual Meeting, thereby addressing a wide-spread concern that some sponsoring chapters may not have the financial wherewithal to send a Chapter Delegate) to present the Chapter Motion.

Congratulations to our raffle winners (you lucky dawgs):

Paul Repka of Congers, NY won the 20 ga. CZ Ringneck shotgun raffle donated by Gene Rochette, State Line Guns, Ammo & Archery of Plaistow, NH.

Regina Hairie of Saratoga Springs, NY won the MYSTERY gun, which was a 20 ga. Remington 870 shotgun donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society.

[Regina Haire](#) of NY won the \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Card

The bottom line...our hard work and commitment has paid off! **It was a FANTASTIC Annual Meeting** that people will be talking about for a long time to come and in the process, we made some money for the Chapter's coffers.

So now we can take a deep breath with sigh of relief and a short rest before we hit the training fields again.

Once again Terry Wilson is helping to support Merrimack Valley & Yankee Chapter's with his generosity by donating a Fausti 12 gauge over/under DU shotgun of the year for 2013. Only 400 raffle tickets will be sold \$10.00 each. Tickets will be available at all training and testing events. Contact David Trahan 603-494-3802 or Carol Trahan 603-494-0867 for any questions. Date for the drawing TBD.

Carol T.

2014 MVNAVHDA EVENT LIST

**FEB 7-9, ANNUAL MEETING
NAVHDA INTERNATIONAL**

APRIL 5—HELDCA CLEANUP DAY

APRIL 12—(HELDCA RAIN DATE)

APRIL 19—TRAINING CLINIC

MAY 3 — PRE-TEST CLINIC

**MAY 17 - INVITATIONAL TRAINING*
(INVITATIONAL BOUND DOGS ONLY)**

*(*WPGS TRAINING FOR KORTHAL'S CUP
MAY ATTEND.)*

**MAY 23, 24, 25—SPRING TEST
(NA/UPT/UT)**

JUNE 14—TRAINING CLINIC

JULY 26—WATER CLINIC

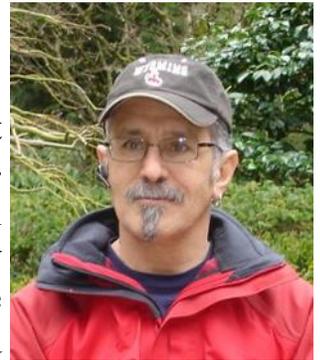
AUGUST 16—PRE-TEST CLINIC

**AUGUST 29, 30, 31—FALL TEST
(NA/UPT/UT)**

NOVEMBER 29—MEMBERS' DAY

REFLECTIONS FROM THE VP:

I find myself still thinking about what a great weekend we had, hosting the NAVHDA International Annual Meeting. It takes so many workers to put on something like this and make it look effortless, and I can only say that the Merrimack Valley Chapter members worked their magic! From the collection of all of the donations, to the printing and creation of name tags and meal tags. Setting up tables, and welcoming and registering all the attendees. Taking money for raffle tickets and cashing out patrons at the end of the night, all are tasks that were manned by the numerous volunteers in our chapter. So many jobs that had to be done to have a successful event, and they got it done, and with smiles on their faces. I could not be more proud to be a part of this event, and I believe we did New England proud. It did not matter that we had snow clouds looming on the horizon, we still had a lot of happy participants. As one of the co-owners of Monte Verde Art Glass Studio, I was excited to hear how much fun everyone had, who attended our jewelry making class. It is obvious that the event went well, and I want to thank all of you who worked tirelessly through the weekend, and all the weeks leading up to it.



Moische Ragieme

As I had stated in my platform, when I was running for this office, I never want anyone to feel that they are not needed, or that they do not have anything to contribute. Everyone makes up this chapter, and I believe everyone should feel warmly welcomed and a "part" of our group. When we put on any event, be it a training day or a testing situation, we need our volunteers and

Fausti 12 gauge O/U --- DU Gun of the Year 2013

donated by Terry Wilson

Never fired, choke tubes included
28" barrel, auto ejectors,
serial no. 794

Merrimack Valley & Yankee Chapter
raffle—only 400 tickets will be sold.

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT
CAROL OR DAVID TRAHAN
COST — \$10 each**

REFLECTIONS FROM THE VP: (Cont.)

everyone should feel that they can contribute in one way or another. You do not need special abilities, just the willingness to learn and to help out. I look forward to working with you and seeing you at future events.

Thank you again, for all that you do for this chapter and for the love of dogs!

Moishe Ragieme RN





To The Point:

This newsletter uses up the “inventory” of pictures. We’ve used pics that didn’t make the “first cut” and mixed in “memory” pics of 2013. We hope you enjoy them.

This also means that we’ll be looking for new pictures and ideas from the membership as we go forward. Last year was a *wonderful* year for pictures and “sharing”! We hope it will continue. (*Pictures and shared stories help a chapter grow closer.*) So please, take a minute or two to snap a picture and to jot down some of your experiences and fun that you would like to share with us!

Speaking of sharing, take a peek at our “**MV Tips Worth Sharing**”. If you have done anything that made your NAVHDA life “easier” *please* share it with us. It could be gadgets, training, technique, clothing, you name it. Everyone has at least one good idea! We’d love to put your good ideas into the newsletter!

If you’ve ever wondered why space is so limited in a NAVHDA test, Joanna Korte, the chapter test secretary, explains the whole thing for us on page five.

The Merrimack Valley/Yankee Gun Raffle is going full-bore! (Pun intended) We mentioned it on the first page and in more detail on page eight. A very special thank you to Terry Wilson who donated the Fausti Over-Under. *I’d like to get my hands on that!*

Suzi Moore, our Director of Testing, is asking for feedback on an interesting question. You can read her multi-chapter perspective on page nine.

We need a volunteer to help by coordinating the meals at our clinics, and tests. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to be involved, but doesn’t feel comfortable with the “dog stuff”, messing with “feathers and equipment; and so on. There are always ways to contribute without being involved in “the field” itself. *If you want to get more out of the chapter, put more in.* It’s a principle of life. A chapter does not run on birds and dogs alone. (Just sayin’...) We put the request on page twelve. There, Chris, our Training Director fills us in. He also has an idea that will help us become more familiar with training our dogs by increasing our involvement in the clinics. *I’ve learned more in the chapter by helping than from anything else.*

Many thanks to everyone who sought us out and said kind things about the newsletter. I’m always open to ideas and suggestions to make it better. I’d like the Merrimack Valley Chapter News to reflect the entire chapter—its diversity, its commonalities, its people and of course, the dogs.



And now, the best news of all: The days are getting longer. It won’t be long!

Den

MV Tips Worth Sharing

For years I would be concerned about the temperature in the back of my truck while traveling with dogs. I mean, we had a rough idea what the climate was back there, but I always wanted to know exactly *how* cold—or warm it was in the enclosed body of the truck.

The problem was solved this year with a \$9.97 purchase from Wal-Mart— a home digital thermometer with a (wireless) remote sensor. Using Velcro, I attached the read-out to my dash and the sensor/sending unit to the inside of the truck bed—out of the sunlight. People in the cab can now look at the dash and easily see how cold —or how warm— things are in the back. I should have done this years ago! Den



Read-out on dash



Sending Unit

If you have any “MV Tips Worth Sharing”. please send them to the editor.

NAVHDA'S TEST CAPACITY

Have you ever wondered how we end up with the combination of test types and the number of dogs run each day at the test weekends? Have you wondered why on some days 10 dogs are run, while on other days only 6 are tested? Have you wondered why you didn't get the test day that you requested? Some of you have been asked to move to a different test day, even after you have been given your running day. Wonder why?

No, it's not due to the fancy of the Judges or the Test Secretary. The answer is all about NAVHDA's "Test Capacity Chart". The test capacity chart (below) can be found on NAVHDA's website. Much of the information in this article is from [page 4 of NAVHDA Test Secretary Information Packet](#).

This chart dictates the number of dogs that may be tested in one day by a judging team. This has been established to assist chapters in the planning of their tests. Once the chapter Test Secretary has requested the test days to the NAVHDA Test Director, the NAVHDA office will send the notice of approval to the Chapter Test Secretary. "Extra capacity is granted to chapters with a history of successful tests run on the grounds that they are experienced and that lend themselves to efficient operations"

The Merrimack Valley Chapter typically receives an approval for the **MAXIMUM** number of dogs as described in the lower table of the NAVHDA Test Capacity Chart.

The Test Capacity Chart is based on the amount of time to minimally run a test of a certain type. For instance, a Utility Test (UT) or a Utility Preparatory Test (UPT) takes at least 1.75 hours (if we were to add up the time it takes one dog to go through each section of the Utility Test consecutively) to run. This amount of time allows for the planting of birds in the field, the placing of a duck in the pond for the search portion of the test, as well as the time needed for the Judges discussion. A Natural Ability test (NA) takes an hour to run at a minimal.

There are a lot of factors that 'factor' into the time it takes in running a test; including the number of apprentices judging the test, whether there is a female in heat testing, and even the weather conditions. These factors may add time to each portion of the test. Therefore, *it is imperative that we abide by the test capacity chart in planning the test.*



Continued on page 3



NAVHDA Sanctioned test Capacity Chart
Maximum Number of Dogs per Judging Team

<u>NA & UPT</u>	<u>UPT & UT</u>	<u>UT & NA</u>
10 0	7 0	6 0
9 0	6 1	5 1
8 1	5 2	4 2
7 2	4 2	3 3
6 2	3 3	3 4
5 3	2 4	2 5
4 4	1 5	2 6
3 4	0 6	1 7
2 5		1 8
1 6		0 9
0 7		0 10

When conducting three types of tests with one judging team, UPT dogs are considered to be UT dogs in your calculations of the number of dogs, which can be run (Use UT and NA table)

Looking at the test capacity chart, we see that if we run 10 NA dogs on one day we cannot run any dogs in either UPT or UT. If we have 6 UT dogs on one day, that would be a full test. So, the combinations above are what the Test Secretary has to work with in planning the test along with the Director of Testing.

The system works, as it allows the right amount of time for the testing of each dog, based upon the types of test each dog has entered. Running orders are chosen randomly, 3 to 4 days prior to the test except for a couple of exceptions. When a handler is handling more than one dog in a group, the dogs do not run back-to-back. The NAVHDA Test Secretary Information Packet says "The dogs can take it, the handler usually cannot"

The other exception is that females in season must run last each day.

Every test secretary dreads the times when people's requests cannot be met or an entry cannot be accepted into a test due to the number and types of tests previously entered. There is a lot of juggling of entries behind the scenes prior to the test day. We have even added a second test (and the extra set of judges) to a test weekend to help fit everyone into a test.

I hope this has helped explain the test capacity chart to you and has helped you to know that even though we try to accommodate everyone, the test capacity chart dictates the final test entry numbers.

Joanna Korte, MVNAVHDA Test Secretary



2014 Annual NAVHDA International Meeting: Another Success!

The Annual Meeting was held in Manchester NH this year, and this was my first such meeting. Before going further, this writer offers an “as gracious as humanly possible” tip of the hat to all those individuals who worked so hard to bring it together. I have to confess, I had a wonderful time. I have attended “Friends of the NRA” banquets and other similar events, but NAVHDA’s Annual Meeting was the crowning jewel of my “meeting experiences”. Perhaps because it touched my greatest interest—versatile hunting dogs. There were seminars with Q&A by professional trainers, Field First Aid instruction, Hands-on Training on how to release a dog from snares, leg and Conibear traps, and of course a Saturday afternoon with the author of “What the Dogs Taught Me”, Scott Linden. (I met Scott in one of those “aside” moments and found him taller than I expected, and very personable. He’s the type of guy with whom you wouldn’t mind spending a day or two, sharing time afield.)



For those who wanted “something else”, the *Monte Verde Art Glass Studio* opened its doors to NAVHDA attendees and provided an alternative experience. From what I could tell, it was a huge hit! On Saturday evening, the meal was excellent, the raffle prizes were very enticing, and the live auction was fun with GREAT items! The best part however, was the camaraderie.

I was concerned that such a three day weekend and banquet would be only for the “elite” of NAVHDA. I was terribly wrong. The moments of recognition for those who did exceptional things for NAVHDA were kindly done, appropriate and yet modest. However it seemed that the high points of the weekend were old friends meeting new friends, and professional handlers laughing with beginners. There were no “superstars” per se. It was a warm meeting of NAVHDA equals. A newcomer would not have felt out of place. I know, I was one.

If you would like to see pictures of the meeting, we invite you to visit Moishe Ragieme’s Facebook page “**NAVHDA– Photos and Updates**” There, you’ll find ‘gobs’ of photos and excellent commentary. Here’s the link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/222114954602906/> or

just look it up by its title, “NAVHDA—Photos and Updates”. You’ll get a nice “taste” of the Annual Meeting.

(You’ll want to return again and again to the site.)

If you get a chance, attend another annual meeting and have fun! I will!

Dennis Swett

MVNAVHDA EDITOR



NEW RAFFLE

MERRIMACK VALLEY AND YANKEE CHAPTERS

Shotgun Raffle \$10 per ticket—only 400 to be sold

FAUSTI 12 ga O/U—DU Gun of Year 2013

Donated by Terry Wilson ***Never Fired***

Choke Tubes included ** 28" barrels ** auto ejectors

Serial Number 794



For tickets, contact Carol Trahan: carolt@onpointkennel.com



Thanks to Terry Wilson for donating the Fausti 12 ga



A MULTI-CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE BY DIRECTOR OF TESTING, SUZI

For those of us who have tested with other chapters and or judged there, it is usual to see the same few people doing everything test after test, year after year. Our chapter has been there.



‘BUT’

What I saw and experienced last year in the Merrimack Valley Chapter was an expansion of those of who have been willing to come for one, two, even three days in a row and help nervous handlers, plant stinky birds, send ducks into an alcoholic haze, carry kayaks, load wingers, gun, sometimes while standing on a hornets nest (were you in shorts?), and at the end of the day, clap for each handler.

One change that has been suggested is to have two marshals—one to see to the handlers accompany them to each portion of the test, and a second marshal that is overseeing the actual procedure of the test. Sometimes these two parts to what was one job, requires a person to be in two places at once....best to separate them. (?) This second marshal will need to have done a UT test, as it prepares them to understand what needs to be in place, where it needs to be and at what time.

I would love comments, recommendations for improvements, anything that you can suggest that will move us forward. You can reach me at tracadie@comcast.net

So please volunteer as much and as often as you possibly can and thanks to all of those who have.

Suzi Moore



MVNAVHDA Chapter Secretary Paul Bruk sent us the following notations from the NAVHDA Annual Meeting held in Manchester, NH:



Congratulations to **Regina Hairie** of Saratoga Springs, NY who won BOTH the MYSTERY gun, which was a 20 ga. Remington 870 shotgun donated by the **Ruffed Grouse Society** and the \$1,000 **Cabela's Gift**



Congratulations to **Paul Repka** of Congers, NY who won the 20 ga. CZ Ringneck shotgun raffle donated by Gene Rochette, of **State Line Guns, Ammo & Archery** in Plaistow, NH.



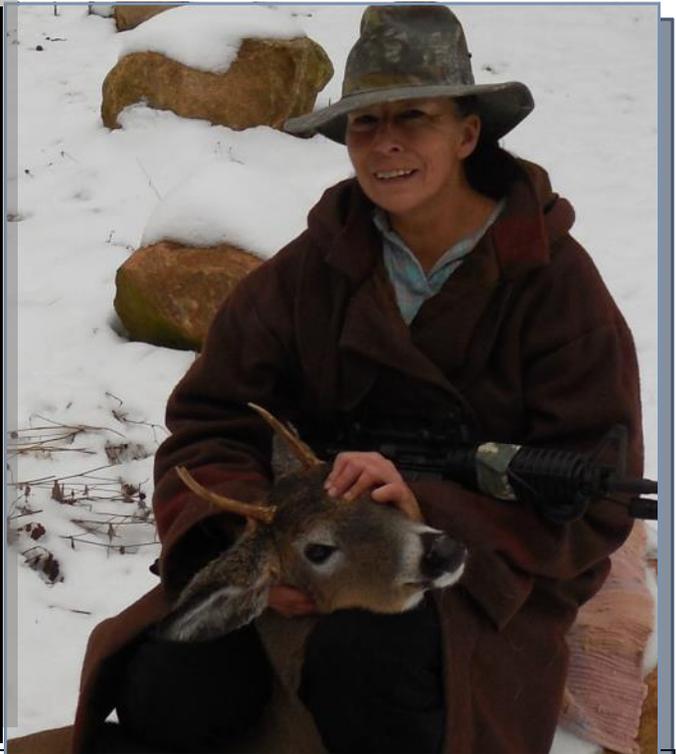
CHAPTER STICKERS FOR SALE

\$3 ea or 2/\$5

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



Her dogs took the day "off" while Missy filled the larder. It was a good day.



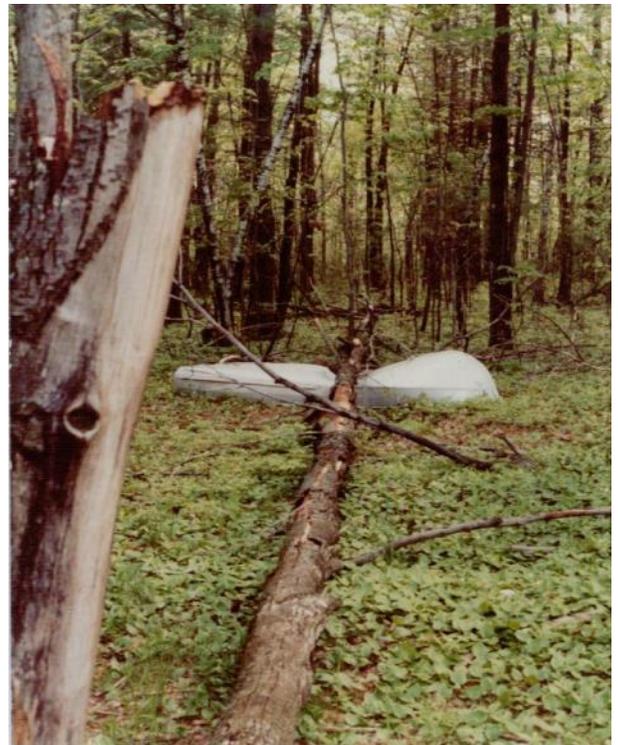
**OUR CHAPTER HAS SOME REALLY NICE HATS AND ARTICLES OF CLOTHING FOR SALE
(THAT WE NEED TO MOVE).**

These are ideal items for gifts , 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 "brag shirts" for young folks. Don't wait! MVNAVHDA.COM

BOAT FOR SALE

SLIGHTLY WEATHERED, STORED ON DRY LAND
MOSTLY ALUMINUM WITH SOME WOOD INLAY
SELDOM USED
RARE TO FIND A BOAT IN THIS CONDITION!

REASONABLE OFFERS ACCEPTED
1-603-555-1212 LEAVE MESSAGE



From the Director of Training, Chris Doherty

Hi all,

It seems like winter has been going on forever, but spring is just several weeks away. Our first training clinic is on April 19th at 0900. I will be sending out an email the week or so before, asking for a bird count, and for the first time, I will also be asking for volunteers to respond. My plan this year is to identify those who would like to volunteer and to assign them positions before the day of the clinic. I would like to get as many members involved in helping with the clinics as possible.

Once more members are comfortable with the different stations, they will be able to rotate between stages and the clinics should flow a little smoother.

I am going to use this time to ask for one or two volunteers to take over the food operations, at the clinics and the tests. The job would not necessarily be to make all the food, but to coordinate the donated dishes, and to organize the lunches.

Please let me know if any of you would be willing to take over this position.

I hope to see you at the Sharp's Farm Spring Clean-up on April 5th and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again on the 19th.

Chris Doherty



Chris Doherty and Frit

We need a person or persons to help out as

“Meals Coordinator”.

Contact Chris Doherty for further info.

landlubber30@icloud.com



OUR HOPES FOR
2014 ARE BORN
FROM MEMORIES
OF PAST YEARS



OUR HOPES FOR
2014 ARE BORN
FROM MEMORIES
OF PAST YEARS

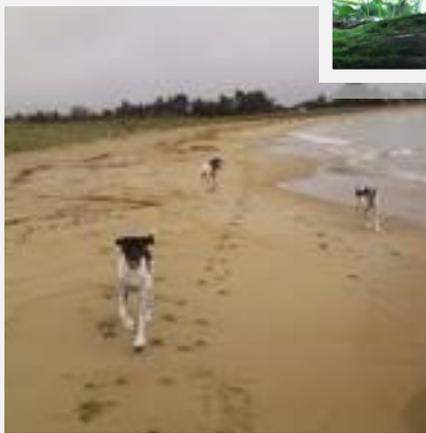




I'M OUTA HERE!

(SHORT TRIP! LITTLE DID THE BIRD KNOW THAT THERE WERE MV GUNNERS AROUND!)







This picture is one of my favorites from last year—Kris and Suzi getting to know each other at Sharpe’s Farm. This is the sort of thing that makes MV Chapter so “special”. Here’s to looking for more friends in 2014! Ed.

On Point Kennel—a Chapter Sponsor:

On Point Kennel has started indoor training for your dog. We offer obedience training and retrieving training. Call to make an appointment to start classes. This is the perfect time to work on these items. We also offer boarding for your dog for long time training.

For Further Information Contact:

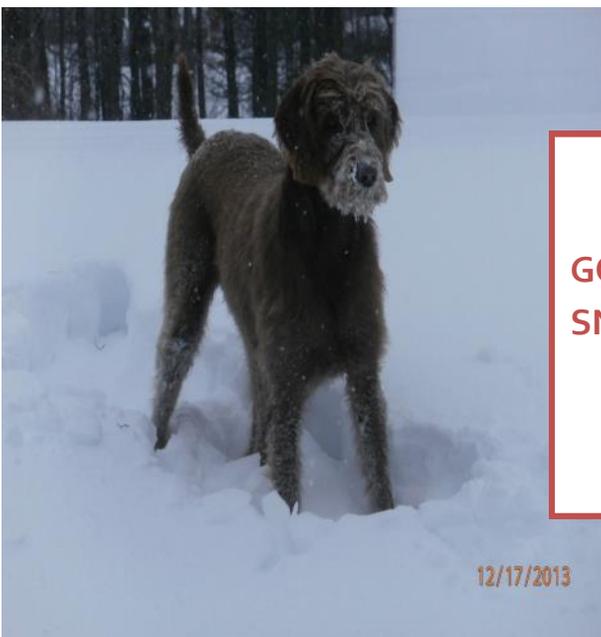
David A Trahan

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Deerfield N.H. 03037

603-494-3802

davidt@onpointkennel.com



**GOT
SNOW?**



**BRADY with his
Rooster**

MVNAVHDA Officers/Directors/Staff

Member	CHAPTER OFFICERS / TERM	Email
Carol Trahan	President 2012-2015	carolt@onpointkennel.com
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	Merchandise Coordinator	-
	Meals Coordinator	-

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*"Thank you" to our
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