



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

www.mvnavhda.com

WINTER 2015



Wow have you all been enjoying all this snow? I have been dog sledding as often as I can but I am tired of driving 1 hour & ½ to get to work every storm day!

Thank-you chapter members for allowing me to represent the Merrimack Valley Chapter at the NAVHDA's Annual meeting in Portland Oregon! The event was a great success for the Pacific Northwest chapter.

The motions set forth by chapters were not approved by the delegates as well as the Executive Council (EC). The EC board agreed to review the motion regarding UKC registry. The EC will inquire if NAVHDA would have any conflicts accepting the UKC registry.

The Executive Council announced the appointment of Rick Holt as Director of Publications . He plans on helping Mary Burpee to continue to improve the content of the VHD magazine. The magazine is the glue that holds NAVHDA together. Articles are needed all the time the VHD is your magazine and your efforts are needed. Rich hopes to see our articles published in other publications.

Jim Applegate stated that 3006 dogs were registered in 2014 and 453 litters were registered for 2014 which was an increase from 2013.

Joe Rara complemented the Youth Development Program Committee on a successful year. NAVHDA's Youth Program funded 8 youth handlers who attended a handler's clinic in 2014. The youth program funded 50% of the test entry fee for 14 youth handlers. The EC announced that this was increased to 75% of the entry fee for 2015. Two youth programs were funded in 2014. The Midwest Expo demonstrated to 16,000 children what NAVHDA is all about. The Sebasticook chapter of NAVHDA hosted a Youth event in Maine in 2014. If interested in hosting a Youth event in 2015 the applications can be found on the NAVHDA website applications for funding should be submitted ASAP.

The annual meeting held four very informative seminars. Howard Meyer Ph.D. presented his



Carol Trahan, President

seminar on what dog breeders can learn from results of breeding research with other species. Wendy Baizer, DVM. Ph.D. discussed Nutrition and Conditioning of Hunting dogs: Prolonging Peak Performance by preventing injury. Sunday morning's seminars continued with Donny Martorello on the subject The Wolf at the door-Implications for hunters and their dogs. Canine First Aide in the Field was presented by Jeff Osborn, DVM.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the many chapter members & friends for the out-pouring of condolences I received after my dog KD girl was laid to rest in February. KD was 2 months shy of her 14th birthday and what a wonderful life she had! She was my first DK that I trained and handled through NAVHDA earning her NA & UT titles. KD also competed in the NADKC Derby & AZP again earning titles. KD came from our first *On Point Kennel* litter. Her full name was "Acadia On Point" but KD just seemed to fit her better. I knew she was here to stay. She was *my* puppy. We hunted together from Maine to as far west as Montana with many states in between. This was her desire in life—to hunt when & wherever she could. KD always did what she wanted to do and I was along for the ride! In November last year we headed out to the Nebraska Sand Hills for the first time with 7 On Point Kennel GSP's and of course KD was with us. I thought I would take KD on some nice easy flat areas to hunt but KD had other ideas! She wanted to follow the pack so up and down the hills she went. Her tail never stopped wagging. We shot birds over her and they were retrieved. I believe I saw her smiling the whole time. KD will forever be with me in my heart and the memories. I will miss her.

Carol T.



TO THE POINT

We began this issue thinking that there was little to say.



We were so wrong! Carol tells us about the annual meeting in Oregon and losing “KD”. There is a piece about a wonderful “surprise” this fall —as told to us by Lou Gagnon (page 7), followed by some info on the Maine Grouse project and on page (#9), NH’s Grouse Wing and Tail Project. This issue, also have a brief “overview “ of the MV chapter annual meeting.

There’s a HUGE announcement on *lunches* at training sessions (page 12) , and a big step towards “fairness” in the way we purchase birds for training. See Chris Doherty’s piece on page 13.

Information on NAVHDA’s Youth Focus is on pages 15-18. Last but not least, three pages of “memory” photos from last year and the directory of Officers and Staff on the last page.

At this time, MV has “vacancies”. Please see the directory on the last page and give some thought as to whether or not you could help. *One doesn't have to be perfect to help!* We’re all proving that! Join us if you can! My wife keeps a sign on her pantry door that says, “WE, THE UNWILLING, LED BY THE UNQUALIFIED, HAVE BEEN DOING THE UNBELIEVABLE FOR SO LONG WITH SO LITTLE, WE NOW ATTEMPT THE IMPOSSIBLE WITH NOTHING.” I’m guilty somehow, but I haven’t

figured if I’m her “unwilling” or “unqualified”. Still, we get it done! So can you. There’s room.



Above are shots out my window. The snow is blowing around with gusts up to forty mph here on the hill. I think I’ll wrap up things for now and throw a log on the fire, grab a cocoa and watch our sponsor, ‘Bird Dogs Afield’ on TV using my new ROKU.



Host Paul Fuller interviews Yankee Chapter’s Patti Carter

Stay Warm!

Den





Joanna Korte

From the Test Secretary:

Test entries will be accepted with postmarks NO EARLIER than February 15th for both Spring and Fall Tests. Don't delay. Both tests *do* fill up early.

Thank You,

Joanna Korte

Editor's Note:

We also accept payment electronically by PayPal, with the test entries being emailed to Joanna.

The information is on our website mvnavhda.com under FAQs/Test Info.

TRAINING TIPS FROM 'ON-POINT'

Winter time is a *great* time for you to start or refresh obedience. During the winter months, we work on helping dog owners with “down”, “stay”, and “retrieving” exercises. People lose focus on their dog when the snow is on the ground. It's a perfect time to start “force-fetch”. Practice retrieving drills by clearing a path in the snow for a straight line. That way, the dog has no other option but to go straight down.

For the down and stay command, I first start out by tying a very short lead down on the floor. This forces the dog to lie down. When they are quiet, I then give a treat. Later I introduce the command word “Down”.

If you need help, ON-POINT is here to help you.

See our On-Point Sponsor's ad on page 7 —Ed.



DAVID TRAHAN— MV Director of Judges, NAVHDA Int'l President and breeder/trainer at On-Point Kennels

Editorial Comment:



SIGNED,

The Newsletter Staff .



Gus's pup "Vixie" pointing a pheasant. Nice.



Grouse Woods - U Maine Photo

Lou Gagnon sent us an



interesting piece of information. It seems that Lou shot a grouse last fall that had "jewelry". No, it

wasn't a mallard or a honker, it was a ruffed grouse. The jewelry consisted of a band and a back-pack transmitter. Here's what he said:

"I thought that you might want to put this in the newsletter, because some of our members might find it interesting. This October I shot a grouse in Maine that was wearing some "jewelry". A radio transmitter and a leg band! I called the number on the band, and was sent this info along with an envelope to send the transmitter back. If you go to the website, there is some very interesting info about the grouse study that is being conducted in Maine. Hope you have a great holiday!.....Lou "

The following response to Lou was from MAINE IFW—>

Thank you for your participation in the Maine Ruffed Grouse Harvest Study. Reports of harvested bird by hunters provides us with important information that will benefit the long-term conservation of ruffed grouse in Maine.



Please place the radio collar(s) in the provided post-marked envelope and send back to us via US Mail. You may bend the radio's antenna in order to make it fit, but avoid kinking the antenna if possible. The bird's band is yours to keep.

If you have any questions, please contact Erik Blomberg at the University of Maine (207-581-2904). Please also visit the following we page for more information about the project: sites.google.com/site/erikjblomberg/research/ruffed-grouse



Photo- A female ruffed grouse sits on a nest in the Arcadia State Forest in Rhode Island.

This female successfully hatched 11 eggs during the spring of 2006.

Photo from UMaine Wildlife Demographics Lab/ Erik Blomberg



For more local (Maine) information about the ruffed grouse study, see the Bangor Daily News article and video at <http://bangordailynews.com/slideshow/state-university-of-maine-biologists-embark-on-ambitious-ruffed-grouse-research-project-a-first-for->



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Digest

Ruffed Grouse Wing and Tail Survey

Statewide New Hampshire 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 -- we need your help!

How to take part:

Any grouse hunter can participate by picking up grouse sample packets, which include envelopes and survey cards for two grouse samples, from any of the participating locations listed below. Hunters are asked to remove all tissue from wing and tail samples and to let them dry completely before placing the samples in the envelopes. Do NOT place the samples in plastic of any kind. Hunters should place only one wing and tail in each envelope with the corresponding completed survey card. Completed packets must be returned to one of these locations.

Packets will be available as of **September 28, 2014**, at the following locations:

- **N.H. Fish and Game Department**, Headquarters, Concord, NH (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4 pm) **PACKETS MAY BE PICKED UP AND DELIVERED TO THE LICENSING OFFICE ON THE 1ST FLOOR**
- **N.H. Fish and Game Department**, Region 1 Office, Lancaster, NH (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4 pm)
- **N.H. Fish and Game Department**, Region 2 Office, New Hampton, NH (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4 pm)
- **N.H. Fish and Game Department**, Region 3 Office, Durham, NH (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4 pm)
- **N.H. Fish and Game Department**, Region 4 Office, Keene, NH (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4 pm)
- **Errol General Store**, 76 Main Street, Errol, NH (M-Th 5am-7pm; F 5am-8pm; Sat 7am-8pm; Sun 8am-6pm)
- **L.L. Cote** 25 Main Street Errol, NH. Open daily 8am-5pm
- **Lopstick Lodge**, 1st Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg, NH. Open daily 7am-9pm.
- **Tall Timber Lodge**, 609 Beach Road, Pittsburg, NH. Open daily 8am-10pm
- **Young's General Store**, 2792 North Main Street, Pittsburg, NH (Packets and tubs in entryway of store, which is open all the time)

Win a gun! All those who turn in completed and useable grouse study survey packets will be entered into a drawing for a quality shotgun donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Please let other ruffed grouse enthusiasts know about this survey and help us increase participation this year, and say thanks to these business owners for their effort, as well.

For more information on the grouse survey, call Karen Bordeau, N.H. Fish and Game Small Game Project Leader, at Fish and Game's Region 2 Office in New Hampton, N.H., at 603-744-5470.

Win a gun! All those who turn in completed and useable grouse study survey packets will be entered into a drawing for a quality shotgun donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society.



‘WHATSA’ CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING?

“I understand about a training clinic, the spring test, fall test, and water days, but what is the ‘Annual Meeting’?”

Answer: The annual meeting of the chapter is held once a year—hence “annual”. It is the meeting where elections are held for MV chapter positions in accordance with the “chapter’s election cycle”. Also, any new proposals that chapters have made to NAVHDA HQ throughout the year are discussed by the membership and voted on. Our delegate will carry our chapter’s vote forward to NAVDA’s (International) Annual Meeting. Thus, representative governing is at the core of NAVHDA.

Furthermore, “needs” and any internal, chapter proposals are also discussed and voted on, allowing Merrimack Valley Chapter to improve. I’m sure there is more that I’m missing at this point, but I’ll learn more as I attend. Last but not least, there is a wonderful “pot luck” dinner where warm feelings and camaraderie reigns. Dogs have the day off. *Den*

2015 Annual MVNAVHDA Meeting

On the day of the first snowstorm of 2015 (Jan 3rd), The St. John’s Masonic Lodge at 351 Middle Street graciously provided facilities for the Merrimack Valley Chapter’s annual meeting. The chapter met in a large assembly room in the basement of the lodge—accessed through double doors on the left of the facility. There was ample parking across the street. The room was well lit, and unfortunately, the editor’s camera didn’t have a flash that could be effective in such a large room so the pics have been computer-manipulated to bring out better detail.



Secretary Paul Bruk opened the meeting and conducted the business for the Board of Directors. For details of the meeting, please refer to the “Members Only” page of the MVNAVHDA.com website.

Discussions covered a wide range of topics, and frankly, the editor learned quite a bit about the operation and struggles of testing, judging, and so on. There were even questions about “fairness” —concerning bird purchases and clinics. On the following page, the pictures capture a little of what went on. It was definitely worth the trip!



Photos from the MV Chapter's 2015 Annual Meeting

Board members listened to a member's question.

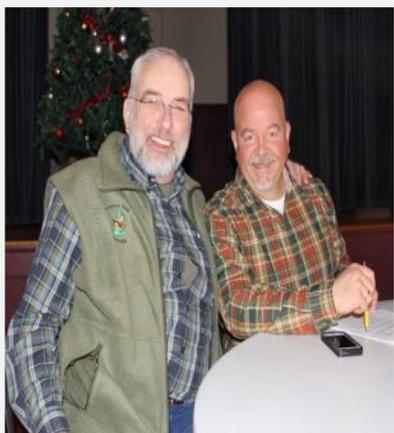


President Trahan making a plea for someone to come forward and fill the Chapter Secretary's position.



Dave Trahan explaining various motions made by other chapters. Interesting stuff!

Chris Doherty— Director of Training—leading a discussion on new bird purchase procedures which will provide an element of "fairness" for all.



Left: Den was caught trying to place an early order for one of Jim's "Titus Burgers".



A really nice spread of all sorts of food—both wild and tame “fares”. No one went hungry!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

REGARDING “MEALS” IN 2015

The Board is looking for someone to help coordinate meals. In 2015, Jim Titus will continue to coordinate the *Spring and Fall Test meals ONLY* . However, in the absence of someone else who can help with meals, the chapter decided to go “BYOL”—“bring your own lunch”— for training clinics, water day, etc. If someone steps up to fill the gap, the Board will review this decision.

For the foreseeable future, ***the only meals that will be “provided” will be at the Spring and Fall tests.*** Chapter Members are urged to plan accordingly and “BYOL”.

IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN TRAINING CLINICS

Hi all,

I would like to use this opportunity between snowstorms to remind everybody of a few changes to our training clinics this year.

First and most important, everyone who plans on using game birds at clinics must respond to my email requests. Typically I send out an email the week before a training day asking what birds are wanted. Please respond back to me by the deadline stated in the email. Everyone should ensure that Jessica Barker our membership coordinator, and Dennis Swett the newsletter editor have your updated email address.



Christopher Doherty,

MV Director of Training with 'Frit'

Secondly, there are two new procedures that will go into effect this year. Training day check-ins will be priority based. Anyone that did not pre-order birds will not be able to sign in until all those that pre-ordered have done so. There usually are a few extra birds that are available for those that did not pre-order but their availability *cannot* be guaranteed. We will be using a multi copy sign-in form and copies will be given to the bird trailer, bird planters, & field trainer. The bird trailer will be restricted to one or two designated volunteers and they will be the only ones to take birds out of the trailer. The trailer volunteer will give the birds to the bird planters and to those who have purchased extra birds.

Lastly, the running order will be set at sign-in and volunteers running dogs will go to the head of the list. I ask that everyone respect and follow the running order. If an issue occurs, please see me or the volunteer field trainer.

A reminder to all that at our annual meeting this past January it was decided that chapter organized lunches will not be available for this year's clinics. Everyone will be on their own for lunch and we may not have a designated lunch break during the clinic. Field volunteers and trainers will determine the lunch break for their training station. Along with bringing their lunch, everyone is encouraged to bring plenty of water for themselves and their dogs.

Bottled water from the chapter may not be available and should not be relied upon.

Thanks for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you all again in April!



Soon to be back in many coverts—
"Woodcock."
"Peent!"



American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)
Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY



Naturalhistoryman



© Dave Lewis

FOCUS— YOUTH

Those who have read the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes have noticed a strong commitment this year on the youth. Whether they are members of the chapter or not, they *are* the future of our sport. We need to identify and help our youth to join in on the fun of NAVHDA. What could we do better (or new) to make MVNAVHDA fun for kids of all ages? *Need input.*

NEW on Facebook!!

HUNTERS IN THE MAKING



This is a page for the new generation of NAVHDA members. It highlights NAVHDA's youth initiative and gives an opportunity to share experiences and pictures.

Visit the FB page and "LIKE" it to stay connected. It's going to be a fun ride! As I was putting this page together, at least twenty-three new "shares" came in. It's a flood! ...a GOOD flood! Ed.

NAVHDA encourages family participation in our organization. To that end, NAVHDA offers educational and testing opportunities for our younger members.

Kristin Rieser Youth Scholarship Fund

This endowment funds the cost of young members (ages 10-18) who wish to attend a NAVHDA Handlers Clinic. For more information visit the NAVHDA website.

NAVHDA Youth Testing Incentive Program

PURPOSE

TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE TRAINING AND TESTING OF VERSATILE HUNTING DOGS.

ELIGIBILITY : ANY YOUTH, AT LEAST 12 YEARS OF AGE AND LESS THAN 18 THAT HANDLES A DOG IN A NAVHDA SANCTIONED EVENT.

FOR PROCEDURES, SEE WWW.NAVHDA.ORG/YOUTH-PROGRAMS



NAVHDA Youth Events Program.

This program's purpose is to financially support the efforts of NAVHDA members, chapters, Youth Development Committee or Executive Council in developing the next generation of dog enthusiasts, outdoors persons and hunters. Our goal is to remove barriers keeping youths from experiencing the outdoors, particularly hunting. This, in turn, will foster a lifelong love of the outdoor heritage and lifestyle as well as the values that NAVHDA represents. With this end in mind, the following criteria have been established. All youth prior to the age of 18 are eligible for financial support to pay for or defray the cost of programs that directly relate to one or more of the following topics:

- The training and care of the versatile hunting dog
- Hunting related activities
- Firearms safety, shooting sports, and shooting skills development
- Wilderness or outdoor related first aid
- Hunting ethics and good sportsmanship principles
- Wilderness survival training, map/compass/GPS reading and use
- Other topics related to NAVHDA's mission and principles.

These events could include camp programs, youth training days, youth shooting skills classes, NAVHDA chapter youth outdoor events and youth hunts.

Applying for funds works two ways. 1) a chapter may request funds to help run an event themselves. 2) Individual youth may ask a chapter to sponsor them for an event. In both cases, the application must be submitted by a NAVHDA chapter for consideration by NAVHDA's Youth Development Committee. This can be accomplished by sending it to the NAVHDA Central Office.

The NAVHDA Youth Development Programs' funding is limited each year. The Fund works as an endowment, with its annual income providing the monies available for use each year. The hope is that all qualified request can be met, but until the committee sees how many applications will come in each year and the amounts requested, they cannot guarantee funds for all.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CHAPTER LEADERSHIP or go to www.navhda.org/youth-programs

This came to us via email, January 30th. Editor

Subject: NAVHDA Youth Facebook

We have published the “**NAVHDA – Hunters In the Making**” on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/navhdayouth>

It'd be great if this could be shared with the memberships in chapter newsletters, FB Page/Group, website. We welcome photos and stories.

Ultimately want to find members in the 12-25 age range that can help take an active role in posting and getting friends Involved.

I did reach out to Jessica Mastriani in SNE for this purpose. Welcome any other suggestion.

Appreciate any support in getting the link and page shared with as many as possible.

Best,

Anders

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

--- Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

HIKE! Missy Correia is taking conditioning seriously. Below, Sedge and Trout on their first day as 'sled dogs'. She wrote, *"Our first outing with the dogsled. Exciting!"*



How do you spell 'INTENSITY'? A nice picture of Doug Ross' pup . Otto passed his Natural Ability test in September 2014. Here he is in November taking care of business.



Chance locates a chukkar for Doug's hunting partner (Mike Harrington- Rochester).

Colleen Kilbreath shared a couple photos of her German Longhair Pointers. The second photo is on the next page. Great!

Thanks Colleen!



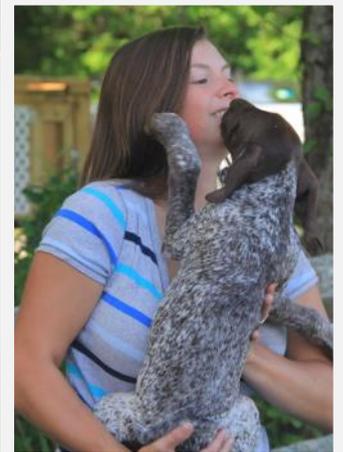
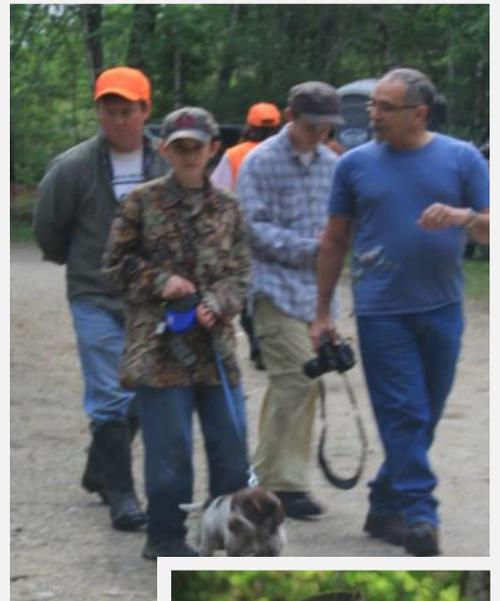
Editor's Pick. The vote is two to nothing. The "eyes" have it!



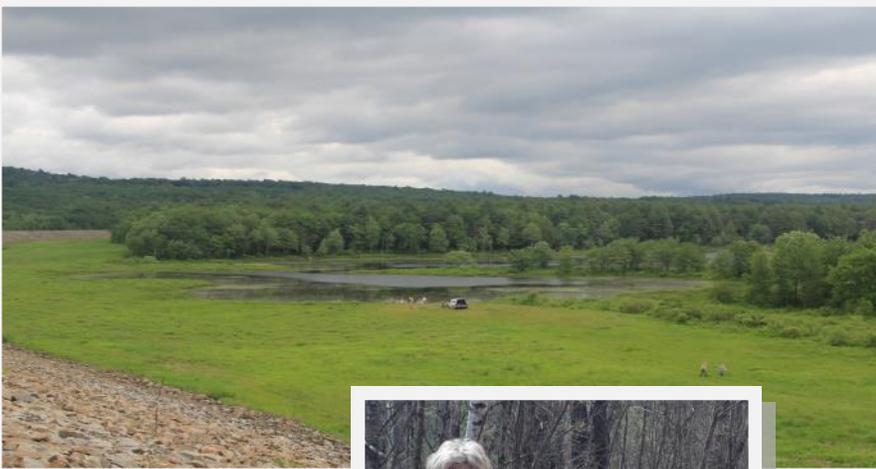
MEMORIES of 2014 — Pictures of dogs and fun we had last year



MORE FOND MEMORIES.....



AND EVEN MORE....



**LOOKING FORWARD TO
MORE MEMORIES IN
2015—CAPTURE THEM AND
SHARE THEM WITH US.**



THANKS TO OUR
NATIONAL
SPONSORS AND
CONSERVATION
PARTNERS



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