



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



www.mvnavhda.com

WINTER 2016

⇒ GOOD NEWS! LUNCHES AVAILABLE AT CLINICS/TRAINING DAYS! ⇐

The Chapter has a new food coordinator! Phil Frazer has accepted the position.

Lunches will again be available at training days for \$8.00 per person. Children are free. Of course, those who prefer 'home cooking' may continue to bring their own lunch.

'As always', on Test Days lunches are provided as part of 'the programme'.

Thanks Phil!!



Onpoint Kennel
Dog Training Equipment for the Versatile Hunting Dog

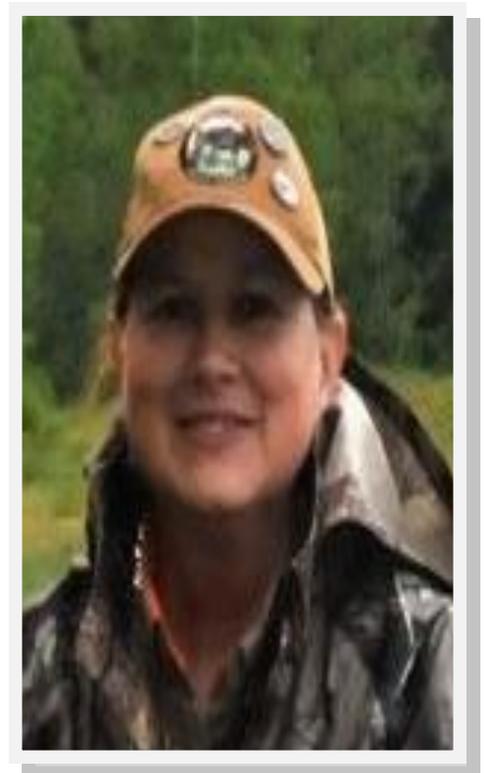
We utilize all our products in the field and during training

Dog Training Classes Available
101 Coffetown Road
Deerfield, NH 03037
603-494-3802
www.onpointkennel.com

We accept:  
We Ship!!

 NAVHDA LIFE MEMBER
NADKC MEMBER

 tri-tronics®
Making it easier for dogs to learn.



Carol Trahan

Chapter President

Chapter President Carol Trahan traveled to the "NAVHDA International" Annual Meeting to represent Merrimack Valley Chapter. Once she gets back and settles in, she'll have updated information from the meeting.

As they say, "Stay tuned, news at eleven."



Joanna Korte

Test Secretary

Hello Everyone,

It's that time of the year again to send in your test entries for the spring and fall tests. Please mail or email entries **no sooner than Feb. 15th, 2016.**

Please be aware of a new NAVHDA rule that you **must** have your dog's NAVHDA registration number prior to signing up for a test.

I will not be able to accept incomplete test entries.

Thank you,

Joanna Korte

Below is Jetta, Indaba's Persuasion, who had scored 112 in the Natural Ability Test (Nov. 2013 - Hopkinton). Kim Harter was her handler. Since then Jetta has become a fine hunting companion, retrieving birds in heavy cover and swamps that would have otherwise been lost. Here she poses after a December 2015 clean-up hunt at Green Mountain Shooting Preserve (Ossipee, NH). This past Fall, Jetta transitioned from stocked birds, to locating/pointing/retrieving several grouse and wood cock at Ross Lake Camps, Ashland, ME. - Doug Ross, Newington





MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA



2016 Shotgun Raffle

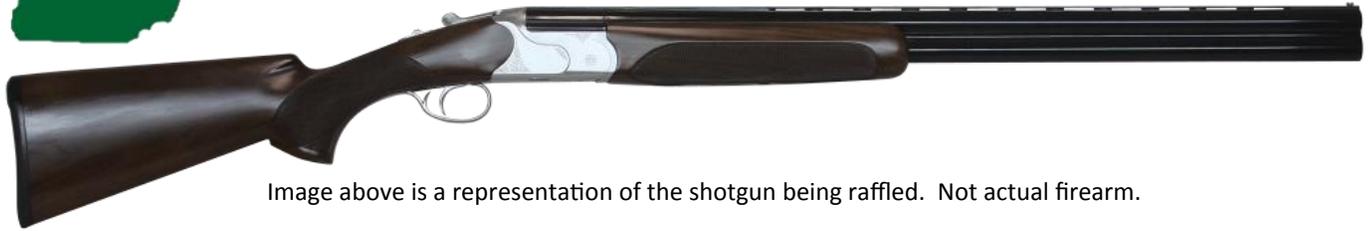


Image above is a representation of the shotgun being raffled. Not actual firearm.

CZ "Redhead Premier" O/U 28 ga Shotgun!

Silver Satin Chrome Receiver; Single Trigger; Turkish Walnut Stock;

28" Vent Rib Barrels; New Gun! with 5-Choke Tube Set;

"The flagship of CZ's line of over/under shotguns, the tried-and-true Redhead has the NEW 1-piece CNCed receiver, laser-cut checkering, solid mid-ribs, pistol grip and a classy white bead. The Redhead Premier is a true all-purpose shotgun, it's just as comfortable to shoot at a sporting clays event as it is when chasing chukar in the mountains. With a silver receiver and extractor, the Redhead Premier is packed with features that can't be found on another shotgun in its price range". -CZ.

Each \$10 donation gets a ticket

(500 tickets available)

Winner Gets Choice of Shotgun OR \$1,000 CASH!

Please Note: To choose the gun you must be a legal citizen and resident of the United States and be able to legally purchase this firearm within the state in which you reside.

Winning ticket to be drawn at the Merrimack Valley Fall Test

(August, 2016)

All Proceeds go to the Merrimack Valley Navhda Chapter

For Tickets, please send a self-addressed and stamped return envelope with your check in donation-- made payable to:

"MV NAVHDA"

Send your donation check and stamped return envelope to:

PAUL BRUK

4 Rasmussen Circle

Andover, MA 01810

Note: Tickets may also be obtained at all MV training and testing events.

ON-POINT

Dog Training Equipment for the Versatile Hunting Dog



Upcoming: Two Seminars at On-Point Kennel

“Hunting Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock and Using the GPS to Find Again”

February 6th 8:30-4:00

Bring GPS and lunch

“Choosing the Right E-collar for your dog”

March 5th 8:30-4:00

Bring e-collar, dog and lunch

Contact our sponsor, On-Point Kennel for reservations @ 603-494-3802

101 Coffeetown Road, Deerfield, NH

Admission for each event is \$50 pp

TO THE POINT:

A strong indicator that the season is over is my watching new YouTube (2015) videos of grouse and woodcock hunting...and perhaps watching a few others that I couldn't remember from years prior. *(That's one of the advantages of being my age. I can enjoy something "new" over and over again!)* Besides that, as I write this, I'm dreaming up ideas of how to ramp up K-Lee's bird exposure and to build a new 'house' for birds. I came to a new realization this year that I enjoy all of it—not just the hunting...Yep....even the "dreaming".



Starting this January, the Editor's email now gets a "feed" from the ME, NH, VT, and MA Fish & Game Departments. (Some feeds are better than others.) As we get "newsworthy" items from them, we'll them into the newsletter. We've started that on page 8. *If you like that idea, please let us know.*

The Annual Meeting was awesome! In spite of bad weather, we had a good time. Pictures of the event start on Page 9.

Nancy Roy sent a couple of "dog poems" by poet Billy Collins. Listen to his (funny) delivery at https://www.ted.com/talks/billy_collins_two_poems_about_what_dogs_think_probably?language=en. They are also in print form on page 14. *This inspired a "call" for some of our own poems and a "poetry contest". See page 14. Let's have some fun with that!*



Last but not least, we'd like to invite anyone who has interest in being involved with the newsletter to let me know. Sooner or later I'll want to do something else, and I'd love to help a few people be able to sit in this saddle. After all, we are building the chapter's future! We already have one individual who has interest. More folks would spread out the work. As we find out 'who' has 'what' skills, we can build on "comfort zones".

Happy New Year Everyone!

Den

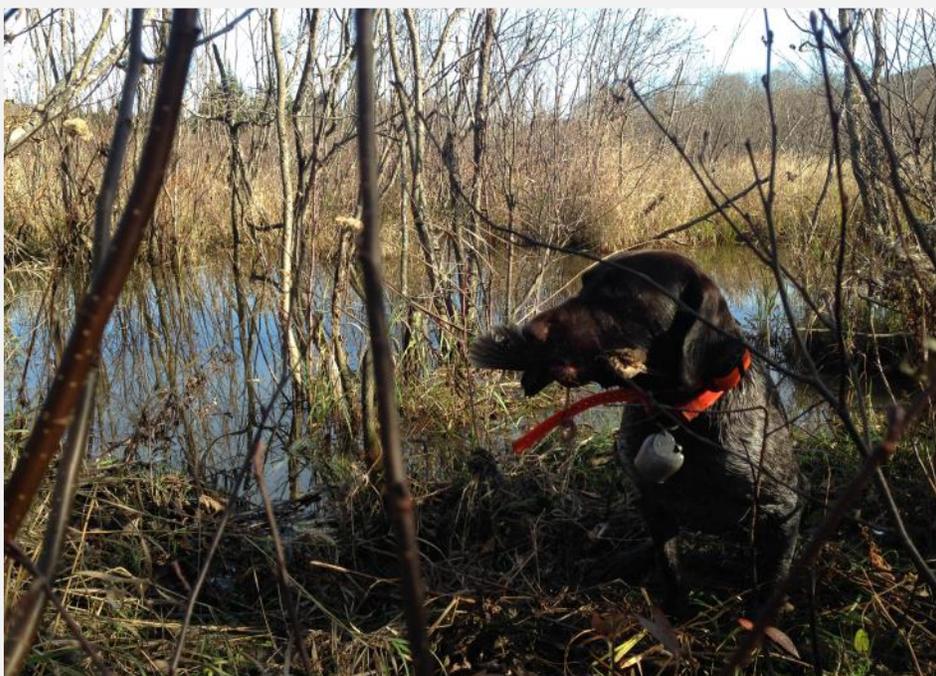
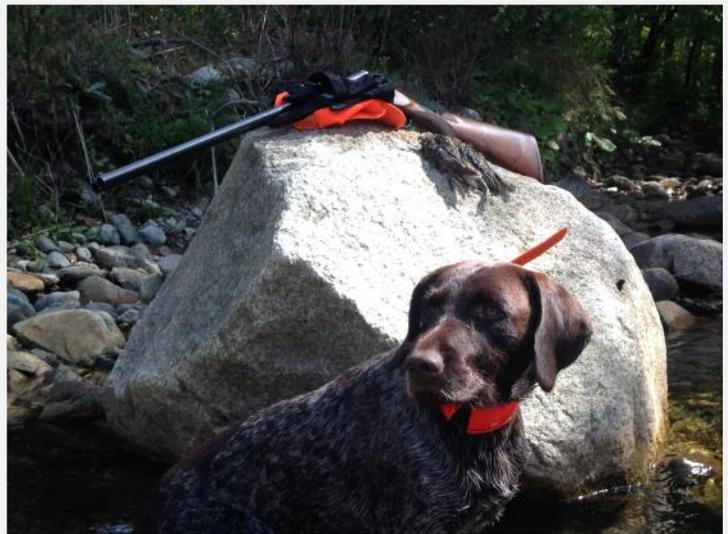
[Den may be contacted at
MVNAVHDA.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Den may be contacted at MVNAVHDA.editor@gmail.com)



Chris Pope wrote: Attached are a couple photos from Fall 2015. I don't think I sent any to you this year. I continue to get lots of questions/comments about snipe hunting and of course some believe I'm spoofing everyone! So I had to send a couple of pics with Gunny and snipe. Some combination of four of us hunted 3 days for snipe and took 9 birds. Recall it had been very hot and dry. One of our coverts was dry as a bone and produced one snipe only. Parts of another covert are always wet and produced several. And as you can see one can not be afraid of mud to find snipe which is why Gunny and I cool off and rinse down in the stream before heading back to the car!



Gunny in South Dakota, living the life of our dreams.



Chris also wrote: Attached also are a photo of Gunny in South Dakota with a couple of long tails and in Pittsburg with a woodcock after a difficult water retrieve. We worked with Dave last summer on expanding his search area and the training time paid off hugely on a number of retrieves this past fall. There is no way we (Gunny) would have gotten a couple of those birds without hard work at Elm Brook and at beautiful Lake Trahan in Deerfield! Thanks Dave!

Editor's Note: Above, on the rock is a snipe. Notice the longer legs and leaner body than that of a woodcock. Gunny has another snipe in the upper left photo as he takes a mud-bath. DS



PURINA[®]

PRO PLAN[®]

brand DOG FOOD

NUTRITION THAT PERFORMS™



Newsy Notes: *(We REALLY need a better title for this!)*

- The Maine Warden Service is currently hiring! Warden service applications will be accepted until April 15th, 2016. During the month of February, the warden service will be holding several information meetings where candidates can meet current wardens and learn what is expected in a career as a Maine game warden.
- Residents in northern New Hampshire may spot a helicopter overhead in the coming weeks as approximately 45 moose cows and calves are collared for the third year of a six-year study of moose mortality and productivity. The Collaring will take place in WMU C2, and the eastern side of WMUs B and C1 and southern A2. www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/moose-study.html
- Maine recently captured and collared 70 moose and expanded their Moose Survival Study into Northern Aroostook County.
- NHF&G new lead law will affect fishing in 2016. The new ban will prohibit the use and sale of lead sinkers and jigs weighing 1 ounce or less, regardless of length. <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/fishing/get-the-lead-out.html>
- Hunters in Maine should be aware of a few new laws that go into effect January 2106. Maine's hunting laws are available online at www.eregulations.com/maine/hunting/
- MASS plans to reintroduce endangered timber rattlesnakes into the Quabbin Reservoir area. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/rare-reptiles-and-amphibians/endangered-rattlesnake-conservation.html>
- NHF&G warns about unsafe ice. See WildNH brochure. www.wildnh.com/outdoor-recreation/ice-safety.html.
- NHF&G launches new smartphone app. www.wildlife.state.nh.us/about/app.html

Doug Ross wrote, *'This past summer, while at deer camp in Clarksville, New Hampshire, Kota, my 8 years old English Setter, and a cow moose stared at one another for a minute or so, allowing me to locate my camera and capture the moment.'*



HOW TO TURN A WINTRY DAY INTO A GOOD TIME— MVNAVHDA's 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The weather was a bit forbidding: it vacillated between rain, sleet, and snow from minute to minute. Ice, slush and snow on the roads made travel difficult. In spite of the weather, brave souls traveled to “On-Point Kennel”, which hosted the MVNAVHDA 2016 Annual Meeting. They brought their own chairs, ready for a pot-luck luncheon once the business was transacted.



The meeting was held in the upstairs training area at the On-Point facility where everyone was warm and comfortable. A Board of Directors' Meeting was held nearby prior to the general meeting. As people gathered upstairs, they took the opportunity to chat and socialize with one another—something that is often too difficult when folks are working to set up training scenarios or judging a test. It was a good time to “catch up”. Concerns of driving in the storm simply evaporated as long-time members introduced themselves to new members and relationships were forged or renewed.



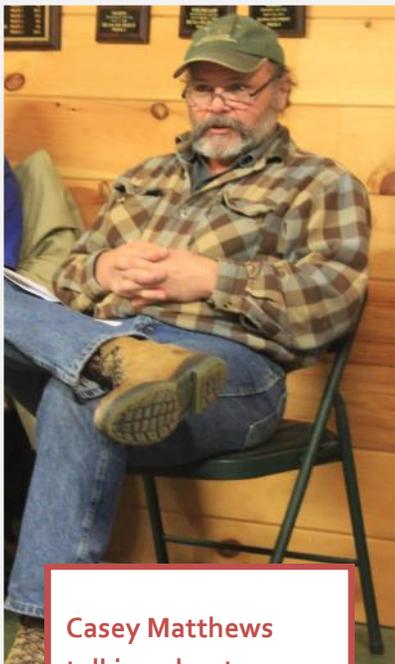
At ten am, Carol Trahan promptly called the meeting to order and followed a time-honored format that included reports, updates, old business, new business and the like. The meeting flowed smoothly. A common theme throughout the Training, Testing and other reports was deep gratitude for a wonderful membership that volunteers at training and testing events. Whether it was planting birds, setting up equipment, training other volunteers, removing trash or sending photos and stories to the newsletter; the membership helped the chapter to a successful “end”. Later, a lively and friendly discussion concerned the use of Dokken dummies in testing. It was a vibrant learning experience for this editor, who has minimal experience in that regard. I was mentally “downloading” the comments that were made—all of which had good points.

The minutes of the annual meeting taken by Chapter Secretary Phil Thayer will be posted under the “members only” portion of the website at a future date. Our (newsletter) purpose is to give one and all a sense of the productive meeting and the great time that we had.

What follows are snapshots taken during the meeting. We apologize for their fuzziness and “poor color”. We elected to avoid using a flash in order to be minimally intrusive. In doing so and using the available light, the shutter speed was slower. Consequently, some shots have a lot of “blur”. (Plus, the photographer now shakes.) Regardless, we hope you’ll “enjoy the ride”.

We had a great time! A special “thank you” to our sponsor, On-Point Kennel !

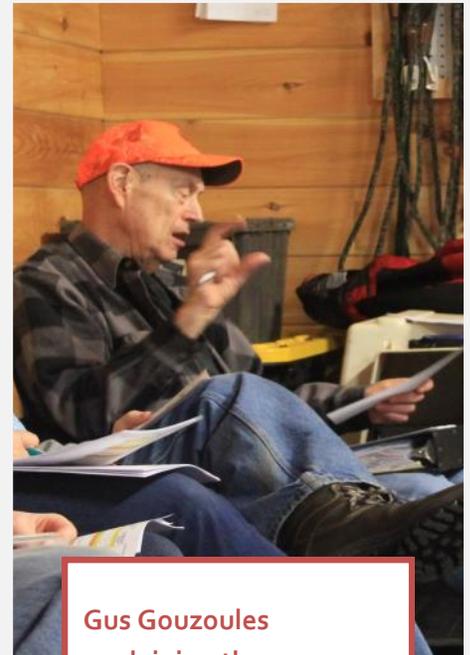
HOW TO TURN A WINTRY DAY INTO A GOOD TIME—



Casey Matthews talking about "Gunning" & Safety.



Chris Doherty giving the report on "Training"



Gus Gouzoules explaining the "Treasurer's Report"



Jessica Barker, having completed Membership work (for the moment) reviews a financial report.



VP Moishe Ragieme handling questions about our 2015 Youth Event .



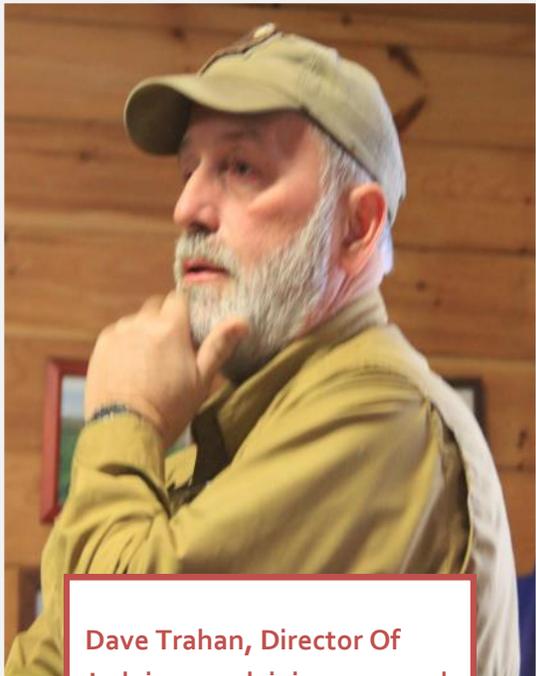
Joanna Korte, Test Sec't'y, reading interesting statistics while chapter President Carol Trahan looks on



Chris Pope , MV chapter's new representative in HELDCA explains things.



Bob Fee, Director of Testing, expressed gratitude...as did others



Dave Trahan, Director Of Judging, explaining our need to "partner" with NHF&G



Phil Thayer, chapter secretary, taking minutes .



Chatting before the meeting



Plenty of parking space.





As they say in Tennessee, it was a regular “gabfest”. Great time!



**2106
ANNUAL
CHAPTER
MEETING**



LOOK WHAT JUST WALKED IN! A (SORT OF) PHOTO ESSAY FROM THE MEETING.

New Englanders are a tough lot. They engage the weather; they fight the weather. Sometimes they simply ignore the weather. Noting the diversity that was in the room, we captured a few footwear “species” to celebrate the fact that there aren’t any “lemmings” in the MV Chapter. Folks just do their “own thing”. Ed.



Ain't it great?!

Nancy Roy sent in a couple of poems that were thoughtful and cute. A bit of "cowboy humor"? Try these on for size!

A DOG ON HIS MASTER by Billy Collins

As young as I look,
I am growing older faster than he,
seven to one
is the ratio they tend to say.

Whatever the number,
I will pass him one day
and take the lead
the way I do on our walks in the woods.

And if this ever manages
to cross his mind,
it would be the sweetest
shadow I have ever cast on snow or grass.

The Revenant by Billy Collins

I am the dog you put to sleep,
as you like to call the needle of oblivion,
come back to tell you this simple thing:
I never liked you - not one bit.

When I licked your face,
I thought of biting off your nose.
When I watched you toweling yourself dry,
I wanted to leap and unman you with a snap.

I resented the way you moved,
your lack of animal grace,
the way you would sit in a chair and eat,
a napkin on your lap, knife in your hand.

I would have run away,
but I was too weak, a trick you taught me
while I was learning to sit and heel,
and - greatest of insults - shake hands without a hand.

I admit the sight of the leash
would excite me

but only because it meant I was about
to smell things you had never touched.

You do not want to believe this,
but I have no reason to lie.
I hated the car, the rubber toys,
disliked your friends and, worse, your relatives.

The jingling of my tags drove me mad.
You always scratched me in the wrong place.
All I ever wanted from you
was food and fresh water in my metal bowls.

While you slept, I watched you breathe
as the moon rose in the sky.
It took all my strength
not to raise my head and howl.

Now I am free of the collar,
the yellow raincoat, monogrammed sweater,
the absurdity of your lawn,
and that is all you need to know about this place

except what you already supposed
and are glad it did not happen sooner -
that everyone here can read and write,
the dogs in poetry, the cats and the others in prose.

→ **"Oh! I can do better than that." you say?**

Well, now's your chance!! We are suggesting/
requesting poetry entries for a winter poetry contest.
*Really, you can only clean your gun so many times
during a snowstorm!* The prize for the best poem
will be one of the editor's somewhat used, inexpen-
sive and "so glad I finally got rid of it" items. Second
and third place will get honorable mention. Entries
will be published in the April Newsletter.

"Others" will judge the entries—not the editor.

So, on those wintry days while the fire blazes, play
with words and see what you can create. Humor,
word-play, great moments—it's all fair game. **Note:**
G-rated only! (Use your imagination.) **Submit before**
St. Patrick's Day to mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com .

MVNAVHDA OFFICERS & STAFF

Member	CHAPTER OFFICERS / TERM	Email
Carol Trahan	President 2015-2018	carolt@onpointkennel.com
Moishe Ragieme	Vice President 2014-2017	mragieme@aol.com
Gus Gouzoules	Treasurer 2014-2017	baysiderun@myfairpoint.net
Phil Thayer	Secretary 2015-2018	vtbirddogs@gmail.com
Bob Fee	Director of Testing 2015-2017	bobf@metrocast.net
David Trahan	Director of Judging 2015-2017	davidt@onpointkennel.com
Joanna Korte	Test Secretary 2015-2017	joannakorte@gmail.com
Chris Doherty	Director of Training 2016-2018	landlubber30@icloud.com
Casey Matthews	Director of Gunners 2016-2018	CamTile@AOL.com
Member	APPOINTED CHAPTER POSITIONS	Email
Chris Pope	Delegate At Large 2016-2018	longdrivered@yahoo.com
Jessica Barker	Membership	mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com
Mike Trull	Webmaster	webmaster@mvnavhda.com
Dennis Swett	Newsletter Editor	mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com
Jerry Roy	Merchandise Coordinator	jerryroy49@gmail.com
Phil Fraser	Meals Coordinator	—

Thanks to our corporate sponsors and conservation partners!

