



# MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



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

## SPECIAL AUGUST ISSUE

### PRE-TEST CLINIC

OUR NEXT TRAINING DAY IS THE PRE-TEST CLINIC ON AUGUST 17TH AT SHARPE'S FARM EXIT 5 OFF RTE. 89. THIS IS FOR THOSE RUNNING IN THE FALL TEST. TIME PERMITTING, AND AT THE END OF THE TESTERS TRAINING WE WILL TRY AND HELP OUT NON TESTERS IF POSSIBLE. **SIGN IN TIME IS 0700 AND THE FIRST RUNNING IS AT 0730.**

BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS VERY LIMITED SHELTER FROM THE SUN AT THE DUCK SEARCH SITE AND LOTS OF MOSQUITOES AT THE BLIND SITE - BRING SUN SCREEN, BUG SPRAY AND PLENTY OF DRINKING WATER FOR YOUR DOGS.

WE WILL BE HAVING OUR USUAL HAMBURGER & HOTDOG LUNCH BBQ FOR SALE. CHAPTER MERCHANDISE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AND THE 50/50 RAFFLE FUNDRAISER.

AS ALWAYS A SIDE DISH TO ACCOMPANY LUNCH WILL BE APPRECIATED.

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN AND SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FELLOW CHAPTER MEMBERS.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU –

CHRIS DOHERTY

MVNAVHDA DIRECTOR OF TRAINING [603 479-9178](tel:6034799178)

CHAPTER STICKERS FOR SALE  
\$3 ea or 2/\$5  
Tickets will be on sale at all Training/Test events  
Contact Jessica [mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com)

**2014 NAVHDA Annual Meeting**  
Hosted by the Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA  
**February 7-9 2014**  
**Radisson Hotel/Center of NH**  
**700 Elm St.**  
**Manchester, NH 03101**  
Book Your Room Early.....  
Promo Code: North American Versatile Hunting D  
Visit <http://mvnavhda.com> for more info

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,  
I'm grateful to see that we have a "special edition" newsletter going out this month. We had many pictures sent in during the last few months, and wanted to get them out to the membership now rather than wait until September. "Many thanks" to everyone who sends pictures and articles to the newsletter. I just love to see what you're all doing and sharing!

Please note the information in this issue to help those who are planning to run on "pre-test training day" and in the "Fall Test".

The participation response from chapter members is terrific. We are looking forward to the (test) *Saturday evening pig roast* being one of the "high points" in the weekend (pun intended!).

We hope that the weather will be more cooperative than it was at our lobster boil at the spring test. ...It was SO cold!!! Some of us girls even tried to stay warm by "dancing to the oldies" using an I-phone...it didn't work that well.

Come out to the pig roast and enjoy each other's company with fellow members!



***Be sure to sign up so we can have a "head count"***

***(See more information on page six.)***

We have so many people who want to test this year that we plan to have a "double test" on Saturday. We will need plenty of helpers for this double test event. If you're not testing, please lend a hand.

See you at Sharpe's Farm on August 17<sup>th</sup> for Pre-test training and good luck to everyone testing this Fall!

Carol T.

## TO THE POINT:

This issue of the newsletter is a result of having plenty of pictures and information to share. We decided to send it out as a “special edition” rather than make September’s issue so large that some folks might have trouble downloading it. This was *only* possible because of your contributions.

Very sincere thanks to everyone who offered support and compliments for the newsletter, ... and special thanks to Moishe Ragieme for acting as one of our “on-site photographers”. Many of the photos in this issue are taken by Moishe. Not only does he run a *great* grille, he has a good “eye” with the camera!

A very special “Thank you “ to everyone for the individual photos that were sent in—taken at home, in training, in fun....you name it. They are the “seasoning” to the newsletter recipe. I believe we’ve used up every picture and article submitted to date. Thus, September’s issue will be “fresh”.

*So PLEASE! Everyone keep those pictures, articles, etc. coming in!*

In this issue:

As a (final) follow-up the skunk kit article we carried last issue, a grouse hunter and author from Martha’s Vineyard, *G.N. Allen* wrote to me about an off-the-shelf product that “saved” his home life when one of his wirehairs got sprayed “stem to stern”. His discovery is on page nine. (Hint: It’s really for poison ivy!)

The AKC has kicked off an awareness campaign that is focused squarely on our dogs and their activity. See the next page (four) for the article. There are some things “out there” that could kill our dogs or at least make both dog and handler very ill. AKC is helping to address them through research and education.

This issue, we’ve included a brief summary (highlights) of the Treasurer’s mid-year report on page ten. More detail is available in the “Members Only” section of our website, [www.mvnavhda.com](http://www.mvnavhda.com). Note: We’ll try to highlight the Treasurer’s report a couple times during the year.

New members (*including yours truly*) are amazed at the talent and diversity of the chapter members. Starting next issue, we’ll begin to highlight a couple members each time. The more we know each other, the more fun we’ll have! (We promise—only *good* things get published.)

We have Tips and Thoughts for those handlers in the Fall Test on pages six and seven. If you’re running, don’t miss them. By the way, don’t forget to sign up for the pig roast on Saturday evening! A great time will be had by all.

Though most of the pictures in this issue are from our July Water Day, the editor’s photo pic of the month is a little off the main diet. Missy Correia got her turkey this spring, and beneath all the “camo” is her beaming smile. A little late to press, but it showed that MVNAVHDA folks are versatile too! Well done Missy!

Last but certainly not least, we’ll soon be “doing” instead of training. Here’s your first reminder to take a camera with you and jot a few notes at the end of the day. Capture those moments! We’d love to hear your stories and see your photos. There *can’t* be too many. We’ve got a whole year to cover them!

Remember, this is *our* newsletter! What can we do together to make it better?



Den

Dennis can be reached at [mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com](mailto:mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com)



K-Lee (Ceilidh), pool queen, proof reader and main critic.

## AKC Canine Foundation (CHF) kicks off public awareness campaign.

**The campaign is focused on Field and Hunting Dog Health Awareness.** This six week series will highlight three main health issues of particular concern to field trial and hunting dog owners: Grass Awn Migration Disease, Leptospirosis, and Ehrlichiosis.

Grass Awn Migration Disease, or "Mean Seed" disease as it is commonly called, is caused when barbed grass seeds (or the bacteria they carry) enter a dog's airway /skin and damages healthy tissue. Leptospirosis is a contagious disease of humans and animals caused by the bacterium *Leptospira* and is transmitted through contaminated water. Finally, Ehrlichiosis occurs after tick-borne transmission of the bacteria *Ehrlichia* and causes symptoms similar to Lyme's disease. All three infectious diseases are life-threatening when not diagnosed and treated rapidly. "While any dog may be diagnosed with these health issues, sporting dogs that are out in fields and other natural areas are more likely to be at risk," said Dr. Shila Nordone, CHF Chief Scientific Officer. "Our goal during this series is to educate dog owners about the research being done in the field to help address these health concerns, and to educate all dog owners about the signs and symptoms associated with

these diseases." Since 1995, CHF has funded research in a variety of areas that affect active dogs such as cruciate ligament disease, osteoarthritis, and infectious disease. Last year, the Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to the active dog by launching the Canine Athlete Initiative (CAI) which will provide grants for cutting-edge research into orthopedic concerns, proper nutrition and conditioning to achieve maximum performance while preventing injury, and innovative rehabilitation techniques. The CAI also strives to educate the public on the joys of participating in canine athletic events, as well as the value of preventive examinations and optimal nutrition to keep all dogs at the top of their game.

**The Field and Hunting Dog Health Awareness campaign runs August 7 – Sept 13** and uses social media and online outreach, podcasts and website features to promote information on each of these health concerns. The podcasts to be released during this campaign include:

\* August 8 - Dr. William Laurenroth discusses his CHF-funded research on "mean seeds" and the role they play in Grass Awn Migration Disease.

\* [August 22](#) - Dr. Janet Foley discusses her CHF-funded research which looks at the risk factors for and clinical characteristics of Leptospirosis.

\* [September 5](#) – Dr. Rebecca Trout Fryxell discusses her

new CHF grant which involves the tick-borne disease, Ehrlichiosis.

\* [September 12](#) – Dr. Joe Spoo discusses health concerns specific to gun dogs, dangers to be aware of when in the woods or field, and ways that dog owners can be prepared to prevent and treat injury.

For more information, or to make a donation for canine health research, visit <http://www.akcchf.org>.

To keep up-to-date on podcast releases, articles, and facts during CHF's Field and Hunting Dog Health Awareness campaign, like CHF at <http://www.facebook.com/akccaninehealthfoundation>, follow CHF on Twitter at @CanineHealthFnd, or connect with CHF on LinkedIn. # # #

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping dogs live longer, healthier lives by funding research that helps prevent, treat, and cure canine disease. Established in 1995, CHF's mission is to advance the health of all dogs and their owners by funding sound, scientific research and supporting the dissemination of canine health information. Through the generous support of the American Kennel Club, Nestlé Purina Pet-Care, Zoetis, dog clubs, and dog owners worldwide, CHF has dedicated more than \$39 million to canine health research projects and education programs. —Submitted by Chris Doherty

**MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER STICKERS ARE HERE! NOW WE HAVE OUR OWN STICKERS FOR THE TRUCK, THE GUN CASE, THE LUNCH BOX, AMMO BOX, ATV, CAMPER.....**

**NEED I GO ON? THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!**

**PURCHASE THESE 'ESPECIALLY MADE' "CHAPTER STICKERS" AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A "BONA FIDE" MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER MEMBER.**

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHAPTER.**

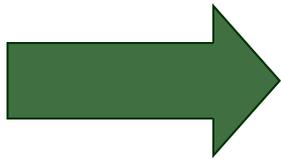
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**CHAPTER STICKERS FOR SALE**

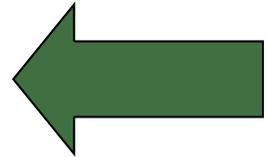
**\$3 ea or 2/\$5**

Tickets will be on sale at all Training/Test events  
Contact Jessica [mvmnavhda.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mvmnavhda.membership@gmail.com)





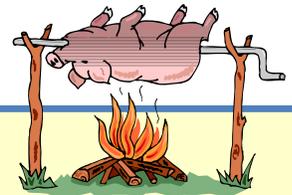
## “THINGS TO DO” AT THE FALL TEST



### *FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUDGING*

- THE DAY YOU RUN YOUR DOG, SHOW UP ON TIME – LISTEN TO INSTRUCTION GIVEN.
- FIND OUT YOUR RUNNING ORDER AND MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHO THE FIELD MARSHAL IS.
- IF YOU ARE GOING TO LEAVE THE AREA, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHEN YOU NEED TO BE BACK .
- LISTEN TO YOUR JUDGES IN THE FIELD. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP YOU AND THEY WILL KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE IF YOU LISTEN.
- ASK A QUESTION TO YOUR JUDGE IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO DO.

*Dave*



### **We're squealing with delight....**

What a great way for members and friends of the Merrimack Valley Chapter to say good-bye to summer and head into the hunting season!! The chapter is having a **PIG ROAST** Saturday Evening (August 31) after the day's testing is done.

Cost will be \$20 per person.

***We need a “head count”!***

Please contact Suzi Moore ([tracadie@comcast.net](mailto:tracadie@comcast.net)) and let her know that you are coming!



## THOUGHTS TO HELP YOU HAVE A BETTER TEST EXPERIENCE



### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TESTING

**To those who are testing this Labor Day weekend at Merrimack Valley Chapter, here are some thoughts that may (or may not) help:**

1st If you are running NA make sure your dog has a good recall, will come back to you, use a whistle, your voice, flailing arms---- especially if it has a bird or bumper in its mouth. You have time to encourage this behavior between now and the *test* using a check cord and or treats. Make it fun and worthwhile for the dog to come in to you. *Remember, love'm up when they return.*

2nd NAVHDA judges know that dogs and handlers make mistakes *so don't panic !!* Forgive the dog and yourself quickly, reconnect with the dog, and move on—correct if you need to—the judges will let you know what not to do, so proceed as *you* think you need to, let the dog and yourself regain your senses of balance and coordination. It can help if you have a series of cues that you have developed with the dog, touchstones so to speak---calling the dog in, giving it water, talking with a calm reassuring voice, hands stroking the sides, a look into the eyes, a brief down. Then move on. *Know that we are all there wanting you to do as well as you can.*

3rd Remember to breathe, consciously, slowly—don't freeze—chew gum, sing a song, whistle, stay limber. Your dog is reading you all the time—looking for familiar (reassuring) cues.

4th If you are running NA, on the pheasant track, remember that this is evaluating *their* ability to focus and stay on task — so be calm and focused yourself and release the dog when you can read that he or she *understands* the task. Remember you do not have to release the dog until you are *both* ready-- then slowly and with purpose let the dog go.

5th Mostly for UT: If your dog takes out a bird, is reluctantly retrieving, "chases" on a wild flush, "forages" on the heel, "farts around" on the retrieve of the duck; a smart purposeful correction at the beginning can prevent a major unravel. Remember, in NAVHDA you can get "dinged", but- *unlike AKC*- not disqualified.

6th As a very good friend would say, "Don't get your knickers in a twist" and "Keep calm and carry on" .

7th Remember hunting season starts 30 days after testing.

I look forward to seeing all of you testing. Good luck to you, and know that your dog will have had a fun day no matter what happens!

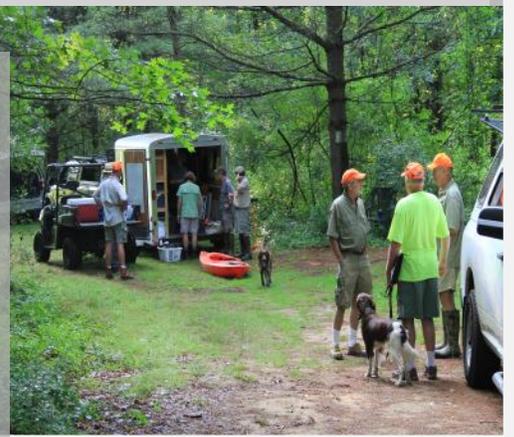
*Suzi Moore*, DIRECTOR OF TESTING

**P.S. We need workers !!!!!** If you are testing on one day, we could use you to volunteer on another. Please let me know [tracadie@comcast.net](mailto:tracadie@comcast.net)

# WATER DAY JULY 2013



Soooo, if we're not supposed to be training, ...what's there to do ?



As a (final) follow-up to the de-skunk kit article in last issue, here is an experience that a friend of mine had on Martha's Vineyard. Jerry's passion is grouse hunting. He even blogs about it (*Ruffed Grouse—Drumming on a Blog*). He owns a cabinet shop where his two (nearly all white) German Wirehairs (and soon Sally's new GSP pup) oversee his operation. In the morning, he and Sally take the dogs for a brisk walk. For her, it's a fitness thing. For Jerry, it's more about getting ready for grouse season.

As Jerry put it, "I was walking the dogs last week and we came around a turn in a narrow path and the dogs literally tripped over a little skunk. That guy had been around for weeks and the dogs and I had been avoiding him. The dogs are pretty skunk smart and will give them a wide berth.

 Anyway, that little guy had a habit of charging at humans! I'm sure he felt very powerful, watching those tall creatures run away. I had been charged at a half dozen times and Sally a couple too. So there I was, screaming for the dogs to come as the skunk ran between their legs to chase me. Colby made an escape, as I did too, but Chara got misted from one end to the other.

A few days before someone said TECNU, the poison ivy product, worked excellent, so down to the drug store I went. It didn't take much and there wasn't a trace of odor, and when I rinsed Chara off she was the whitest she'd ever been.



The good news is Colby went dancing off the trail yesterday morning and then stopped to sniff something. I went to see, and it was tufts of hair from a little skunk. I guess his brazen behavior was too tempting for an owl or hawk." Jerry



Well, that was good enough for me. I went to the drug store and bought two bottles—one for the truck and one for home. The products is intended to remove the oils from the poison ivy which causes rashes. Apparently it works just as well for the musky scent oils of the skunk. They even advertise it for "skunk". TECNU. The bottle I purchased cost me about \$12. If it's as good as I've heard, it's worth it. Anyone else tried it? *Den*



## Merrimack Valley Chapter Of NAVHDA



***"We help train you so that you can train your dog."***

### Upcoming Events

- August 17, 2013 Pre-Test Clinic @ Sharpe's Farm
- August 30, 2013 Fall Test NA/UPT/UT - Currently FULL
- August 31, 2013 Fall Test NA/UPT/UT - Currently FULL
- September 1, 2013 Fall Test NA/UPT/UT - Currently FULL

**A very warm welcome to  
this month's new member  
Gerhardt Gary Schroeder.**



Ruffed grouse photo tby Dennis Swett

*"Sometimes you just get lucky"*



Gene Sartini wanted a versatile hunting partner. It looks like he got good one! Pudelpointer Brady proves it by keeping the Fall River area free of woodchucks. This woodchuck isn't going to chuck wood anymore—even if he could!! Brady, this could turn into a part-time job!

STAY TUNED FOR A BIG EVENT NEXT YEAR. WE'LL BE PROVIDING UPDATES AS WE DRAW CLOSER. "THE NAVHDA WORLD" IS COMING TO MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER!



We decided to include the highlights of the Treasurer's mid-year report for everyone's edification. Greater detail is available in the reports located on the "Members Only" page of the website.

TREASURER'S MID-YEAR SUMMARY (JUNE 2013)	
FOR DETAIL, SEE "MEMBERS ONLY" PAGE ON MVNAVDA.COM	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Clinic Fees	\$ 680.00
Meals, tests and clinics	\$ 1,350.00
Raffles	\$ 1,237.00
Membership Dues	\$ 1,560.00
Tests	\$ 4,495.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 309.00
Bird Sales	\$ 2,934.00
Unsolicited Donations	\$ 98.00
IRS Refund	\$ 740.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,403.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Club Annual Meeting	\$ 115.18
NAVHDA 2014 Annual Meeting	\$ 2,240.00
Bird Purchases	\$ 3,969.00
Clothing Merchandise	\$ 90.00
Equipment and Supplies	\$ 1,192.20
Clinics	\$ 625.62
Sharps Farm Rent, (2012 and 2013)	\$ 450.00
Tests	\$ 951.26
Miscellaneous Costs	\$ 1,047.98
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,681.24</b>
<b>TOTAL PLUS/MINUS</b>	<b>\$ 2,721.76</b>
<b>Current Checkbook Balance</b>	<b>\$ #####</b>



Biologists call it what they will... socialization, ...bonding. To us, it's just "puppy love" plain and simple. There's nothing like a puppy's "love" and the promises it brings Nothing.





Missy Carrera's 'Trout' is "catching some air" while dock diving for a mallard retrieve. Water shy? We think not!

NO COMPARISON !! –

CHECK OUT THESE DEKES AND COMPARE THEM WITH JOHN GRAF'S HAND-CARVED DECOY BELOW.

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN THE BLACK DUCK DECOY BEING RAFFLED.

CHECK IT OUT AT THE NEXT EVENT. THE WINNING TICKET WILL BE DRAWN SUNDAY AT THE FALL TEST.

WOULDN'T IT LOOK GOOD IN YOUR HOUSE?

ALSO SEE PAGE 12.



Don't miss out!! This deke is suitable for field or home ! Pick up a ticket or two and it may be yours. Regardless, you'll help the chapter. Editor

A new gun rack for the Utility Field.  
A great idea and nice workmanship.  
Thanks Mike!



**Merrimack Valley NAVHDA - SPECIAL RAFFLE**

**BLACK DUCK DECOY**

HAND CARVED BY JOHN GRAF

Tickets \$5/each

Winner to be drawn at MV NAVHDA Fall Test

Tickets will be on sale 5/25 – 9/1/13

Contact Jessica [mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com)





## MVNAVHDA Officers/Board of Directors

Member	Position/Term	Email
Carol Trahan	President 2011-2014	<a href="mailto:carolt@onpointkennel.com">carolt@onpointkennel.com</a>
Sheila Bennett	Vice President 2011-2013	<a href="mailto:sheila.bennett@gmail.com">sheila.bennett@gmail.com</a>
Gus Gouzoules	Treasurer 2013	<a href="mailto:baysiderun@myfairpoint.net">baysiderun@myfairpoint.net</a>
Paul Bruk	Secretary 2012-2014	<a href="mailto:pbruk@comcast.net">pbruk@comcast.net</a>
Suzi Moore	Director of Testing 2012-2014	<a href="mailto:tracadie@comcast.net">tracadie@comcast.net</a>
David Trahan	Director of Judging 2012-2014	<a href="mailto:davidt@onpointkennel.com">davidt@onpointkennel.com</a>
Joanna Korte	Test Secretary 2012-2014	<a href="mailto:joannakorte@gmail.com">joannakorte@gmail.com</a>
Chris Doherty	Director of Training 2012-2013	<a href="mailto:landlubber30@icloud.com">landlubber30@icloud.com</a>
Casey Matthews	Director of Gunners 2012-2013	<a href="mailto:CamTile@AOL.com">CamTile@AOL.com</a>
Terry T. Long	Delegate At Large 2013	<a href="mailto:longdrived@ yahoo.com">longdrived@ yahoo.com</a>
Jessica Barker	Membership/Merchandise	<a href="mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com">mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com</a>
Mike Trull	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mvnavhda.com">webmaster@mvnavhda.com</a>

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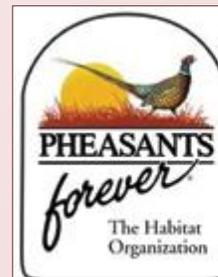
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International



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*"Thank you" to our Sponsors & Conservation Partners*



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA - SPECIAL RAFFLE  
**BLACK DUCK DECOY**  
**HAND CARVED BY JOHN GRAF**

Tickets \$5/each

**Winner to be drawn Sunday, at MV NAVHDA Fall Test — Need not e present to win!!**

Tickets will be on sale 5/25 – 9/1/13

Contact Jessica [mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com)



This is a hand carved Black Duck decoy. It is a “working decoy” which means it can be used and intended to be in a decoy rig.

However, some folks like to collect working decoys for their displays.

**Appx value \$125**

**Merrimack Valley Chapter—Editor's Photo Pick Of The Month**



05

**Proof that MV NAVHDA members are "Versatile".  
"Bang! End of story." Congratulations Missy!  
What a way to celebrate spring!!**