



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



JULY 2013

WWW.MVNAVHDA.COM

2014 NAVHDA Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA

February 7-9 2014

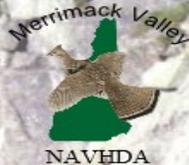
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MVNAVHDA President's Message



Hi everyone, well we are already in July only a couple of events left before our fall test. This year has been a very wet training and testing season hope this has not stopped your training this season.

Our next clinic will be at the Hopkinton

Dam side of Sharp's Farm doing water work —so please make sure you bring plenty of drinking water and shade. The dam side can get very warm out there.

I want to thank Dennis Swett for coming forward by picking up the newsletter editor position and making the newsletter available for everyone to enjoy. Remember this is your club unless you send him pictures, articles small or large to put into the newsletter it will never succeed.

I also would like to thank Jessica Barker for all her hard work putting the newsletter together for the past years. Jessica will continue to take care of the membership duties and help at training and testing events. Thanks Jess for always being there.

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.

On the Saturday of the Fall test weekend this year we are planning to have a pig roast for all members to come out and enjoy each other's company with fellow members! Details to follow later.

The Spring Test Lobster bake was a great success all those who attended did not go home hungry. Many thanks to all who put the Lobster bake together and all who attended.

See you at our next training day on July 20! Carol T.

From the MV Test Secretary:

Hello Everyone!

We have been granted permission to hold a double test on Saturday during the Merrimack Valley Fall Test. This means that there are a few openings for dogs to be tested (NA, UPT, or UT) during our Fall Test.

If you would like to test your dog with us this Fall, please submit your test entry form and fee as soon as possible. All of the information you need to submit is on our Chapter website www.mvnavhda.com under the test info section of the FAQ's/Forms drop down list.

Thanks, Joanna Korte

MV NAVHDA Test Secretary



What the H*** is HELDCA?

By Terry Long

The *Hopkinton-Everett Lake Dog Club Association* (HELDCA) is the liaison between the several member dog clubs who use Sharpe's Farm for dog events, the *Army Corp of Engineers* and the *NH Fish and Game Department*. The association (HELDCA) is responsible to set the event schedules, set up maintenance days, arrange for port-a-potty [service], obtain permits, and pay other various fees.

HELDCA is also '*the keeper of the gate key.*' The Army Corp or Engineers has the same type of lock on all its gates throughout the state. If the key ever gets lost, it would cost several thousand dollars to replace all the locks.

The clubs also pay a minimal fee to the association to use the fields. The fees are based on the type of event and the number of dogs.

The member clubs are MVNAVHDA, NAKDC, TARTAN, PATRIOT, Katahdin SH, New England Brittany and Boston Retriever.

When Terry is not training, he is the Merrimack Valley Chapter's "delegate-at-large" to HELDCA.

Message from MVNAVHDA Director of Judges

It's that time of year when everyone gets lazy in training and 'conditioning' their dog. In spite of warm weather, we should continue to work our dogs and 'condition' them.

Just as with any other athlete, you need to take your time with conditioning activities. Run them short distances and water them during your run.

When they have had a good start you can extend your run from 30 min to a hour workout. When the days are very hot, work them early in the morning or late in the day. When running them, *if your dogs overheat cool them under their belly and head that where the major arteries are.*

One other way to condition them is to swim them. Use a canoe and have them follow you. Something you should remember when swimming your dog: water can be very warm and *dogs can over-heat even in water.*

If you start off slow and work up to a long work out you should not have any problems. Dave Trahan





To the Point:

As I sit down in the newsletter editor’s chair, I’m grateful to Jessica Barker for the help she provided during the transition and her excellent work in the

newsletter. I hope to carry on the tradition of quality and “fun” of the newsletter that we enjoyed in the past. Being “new, I bring some ideas that may help the newsletter to evolve *a little* as well. For instance, thoughts have bounced through my head about certain columns like—

- “Merrimack Madness” where interesting topics may be assigned and discussed in a “both sides” forum by a few members,
- A small column that focuses our youth—in other words, tomorrow’s MVNAVHDA. (I don’t know if that’s feasible or not, but I’d like to explore the idea with folks.)
- Relevant items for sale. Duck boat, decoys, zinger, etc?
- NAVHDA Annual Meeting progress updates.
- “Member focus” — where “newer” and “older” members are highlighted to help us learn about and understand one another.
- A “Photo of the Month” (editor’s choice). See this edition.

That’s a few of the ideas that I bring to this chair. I’d like to hear from you concerning your thoughts of where the newsletter should go—or should not! *All suggestions with good intent are welcome!*

As we work out ideas , we’ll need a person here and there to help a little—especially with a camera!— so if your interested, see me!....please! (Sometimes a little help goes a long ways!) Keep the articles, pictures , recipes, etc. coming!! As you’ll hopefully see in this issue, it’s all good!

So,... everyone buckle up. This is going to be a *fun ride!*



You can drop me a line at mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com.

Den

NEWSLETTERS PLANNED:

FEB-MAR: Annual Meeting and related events. Winter activities and such.

APRIL MAY Spring Test Preparation’

JUN-JULY Warm Weather Training, Water, whose kid graduated, etc.

AUG-SEPT: Fall Test Training , etc.

OCT-NOV — Gone hunting

NOV-DEC Holiday Issue , Cooking, Stories of the past season....

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES, PICS ETC:

We’ll shoot for the 5th of the latter month—*i.e. for FEB-MAR ISSUE: deadline for submissions will be March 5th. (Next issue deadline —Sept 5th)*

There may be special editions if events warrant them.

Finally, sometimes things break or go off the rails. All things in life are ‘subject to change’.

I’m reminded of the individual in Ford’s theater who said, “*Other than that Mrs. Lincoln, it was a pretty good play!*”

We’ll deal with problems and make them work to our advantage. *DS*



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Skunked dog? Landers has recipe for remedy

[Rich Landers](#)

The Spokesman-Review

Any hunting dog with gift for finding birds also has a nose for trouble. It's in the contract you accept when a pup joins your world.

That's why I'm always prepared for the day my bird dog sniffs the business end of a skunk.

I've packed home dogs with broken legs, wounds from barbed-wire and snouts full of porcupine quills. Traumatic? Yes. Toxic? No.

A dog that returns to the hunting rig after rolling in a steaming cow pie or wallowing in putrid road-kill is relatively pleasant compared to a cur that's taken a full-bore load of skunk musk at close range.

German shorthairs, Brittanies and English setters – every breed that's joined my kennel has sooner or later been anointed with the foulest of common scents. This is the rare moment a dog is not man's best friend, especially if you're 100 miles from home and driving a Subaru.

Bathing the fuming mutt in a lake won't do any good, and I don't advise strapping it to the vehicle roof rack. You're going to stew in the rankness together if you're not prepared.

Growing up in Montana, my family never questioned the traditional cure of bathing a skunk-sprayed dog in tomato juice. Indeed, it worked – eventually. As I remember, the odor always subsided within a week.

Two decades ago I used that method for the last time, but it wasn't in the wilds while chasing pheasants. This time a skunk blasted my Brittany, Radar, with no warning as I let him out behind our house. My wife drove to the store and brought back a few quarts of tomato juice as I donned coveralls.

Meredith also bought tomato paste. "It's more concentrated," she said intuitively if not from experience.

Per tradition, I slathered Radar in the red juice, snapped on a leash and took him for a walk upwind from my least favorite neighbor while the natural acids tried to do some magic.

Everything was going reasonably well until one of the neighbors, a teenage girl, came out of her house. She shrieked when she saw us.

"What happened?" she squealed.



"Skunk got him," I said.

"Oh my God! Oh my God!" she screamed, running in place with her hands cupped around her mouth.

Turns out the odor hadn't hit her yet, but she thought Radar was coated with blood from a skunk attack. Took me five minutes to calm her down.

And Radar still stunk when I rinsed him off.

The column I wrote about that incident was among the most productive in my career. Calls came in with all sorts of remedies, including vinegar solutions and commercial products that have some merit.

But the life-changing advice came from Eastern Washington University chemistry professor Jeff Corkill, who mailed a clipping from a chemical trade publication in which a group of unheralded chemists gave the world one of the greatest gifts since penicillin – a cheap, effective treatment for a skunk-sprayed dog.

The de-skunking recipe is simple: One quart of hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda, 1 teaspoon liquid dish soap.

(editors note: the author specified "Dawn" detergent to me.)

Mix ingredients as needed – not in advance – when a skunk renders your dog unfit for human cohabitation. Apply to the dog liberally, using a washcloth around the face to keep the solution out of its eyes.

Let it work a few minutes and rinse thoroughly. In my wealth of experience, the odor will be neutralized and the peroxide does not change the color of the dog's coat.

Some people prefer to bathe the dog again with a pet shampoo for good measure.

From experience, I realized the key would be to have these ingredients on hand at all times, at home and in my rig for any trip involving the dog. This evolved into a Skunk Disaster Kit I've given as gifts to hunting buddies.

The de-skunking kit includes a small rectangular Tupperware-type container just big enough to hold two quart bottles of hydrogen peroxide, two plastic zipper bags with measured amounts of baking soda, a small plastic bottle with dish soap, a wash cloth, a small drying towel and a couple pairs of latex gloves.

I upgraded to this "double recipe" kit after a hunting trip in Montana when my Brittany and my buddy's Lab found a skunk at the same time. Being able to deodorize two dogs avoids the coin flip to see who rides and who walks to camp.

Skunked continued...

Should your dog get sprayed, you can mix the ingredients in the plastic container and remove the odor in the field (if you have rinse water) without stinking up your rig.

I received numerous testimonials on the recipe after republishing it. The best came after I took a midnight call from a friend and his daughter who'd gone fishing in Montana and ended up in dire straits.

They were camping with his wife's brand new SUV and she'd warned them in no uncertain terms that they'd better take mint-condition care of it in her absence.

But their golden retriever ignored a skunk's warning flag 300 miles from Spokane. The father-daughter needed help or they'd be in the dog house with the dog.

I gave them the recipe. Two days later I found a thank-you card on my doorstep as well as a bottle of fine red wine – with a nice bouquet untainted by their adventure.

Contact Rich Landers at (509) 459-5508 or email richl@spokesman.com. #



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Oh gawd!.....here they come again....



Merrimack Valley NAVHDA - SPECIAL RAFFLE

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Tickets will be on sale 5/25 – 9/1/13

Contact Jessica mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com





PHOTO OF THE MONTH



DREAM 'BIG'!!

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