

barking dog express

january-february 2019



from our prez

It's been a great year for the Yankee Chapter in many respects. Our membership stays strong, closing the year with 175 members. Our activities were many: Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting, NAVHDA Annual Meeting, Indoor Clinic, Wood Duck Project, Camp Sunshine Dog Sled Rides, Vermont Ruffed Grouse Society, State of Maine Sportsman's Show, April Training Clinic, Maine Ruffed Grouse Society, Vermont Clinic, Handler Clinic, May Training Clinic, Pre-test Clinic, Spring Test, Water Clinic, NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Camp, Fall Pre Test Clinic, Fall Test and finally, Yankee Chapter Demos at LLBean. Thanks to so many!

Our amazingly talented and generous membership is the root to this success. So many members "stepped up" this past year to help at our many and diverse events. The year always starts as we gather together for our Annual Meeting in January. It's a great time to share pictures and stories of the past season, new babies or grand kids, new puppy or Versatile Champion. This group loves to get together and talk, which just happens to be our biggest asset.

We are a family chapter, and there is no time I feel that more than when we share sadnesses, injuries, the loss of loved ones whether 2 or 4-legged. We also love to celebrate together, whether it be a new baby or a member and dog's new success. I think this year there were more successful upland and deer hunts in our chapter than ever. Again, we love to tell stories. Just ask Blaine about his big deeyah!

In closing, let me get back to why we get together, our amazing versatile hunting dogs. Bodo Winterhelt, NAVHDA's founder, created this organization 50 years ago with visions of fostering, improving, promoting and protecting the versatile breeds of North America. He was very proud of our Yankee Chapter and its success as a training family. So, onto 2019 and lets train some dogs. October yet?

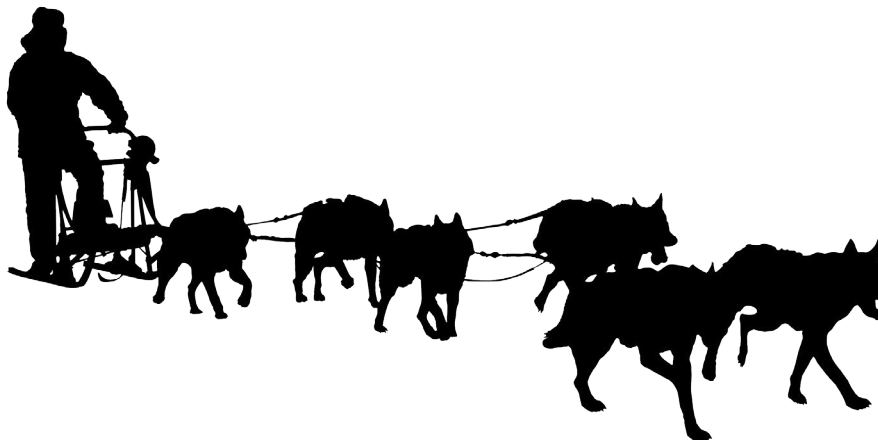
- Patti

calendar

Wood Duck Project
February 23, Dresden

**State of Maine
Sportsman's Show**
March 29-31, Augusta

Training Clinic
April 20, Dresden



chapter news

welcome new members:

Chris Baskin-Newburyport, MA
Blake Bodwell-Brunswick, ME
Anthony & Sabrina Coco-Whitefield, ME
Holly Forbes-Greenland, NH
Taylor Forbes-Greenland, NH
Charlie Guerette-Winthrop, ME
Heidi Guerette-Winthrop, ME
James & Heather Gushee-Stratton, ME
Pamela & Sam Jackson-Otisfield, ME
Anthony McKee-Windham, ME
Glen, Cathy & Ali Milton-Greenbush, ME
Patricia McNomora-Vannoni-Winthrop, ME
Timothy O'Keefe-Wolfboro, NH
Frank & Juanne Pizzo-Reading, MA
Laurie Robichaud-Woodville, ME
Henry Stern-Hammonds Plains, NS
William Thomas-Pownal, ME
Raymond Williams-Gorham, ME

kenny king/bob bisson fund thank you donors!

Kurt Adams, Michael Adrian, Charles Andrews,
Gocki Andrews, Nancy Anisfield, Don & Judie Bayles,
Dianne Bisson, Johan "Chris" Boelig, David & Gerry
Braun, Steven & Pamela Buck, Craig Buzzell,
Leonard Capello, Blaine & Patti Carter, Jason Carter,
Althea Croxford, Mark & Sheryl Daiute, James &
Charlene Daniels, Stuart & Sarah Devan, Dick & Ann
Dilley, Isabelle & Thomas Edling, Charles Ellithorpe,
Bob & Alison England, Linda Ewen, Robert & Sarah
Franklin, Timothy & Melissa Gagnon, Richard Gay,
Sean Gray, James & Holly Greenleaf, Charlie & Heidi
Guerette, Jason & Jackie Hawes, David & Jacqueline
Kuritzky, Matt Lorello, Patricia McNomora-Vannoni,
Frances (Suzi) Moore, Mark & Anna Morneau, Sue
Morton, Fred Myrick, John Petros, Brian & Karen Pike,
Nick Racioppi, Nick & Pat Ribaudo, Alexander Runyon,
Christine Schmidt, Rosemary Stanley, Ben, Philip &
Sherri Thayer, Ron Volk, Payl & Joan Von Hardenberg,
Joe Wadleigh, Terry Wilson

yankee calendar

FEBRUARY	10	Dickie LeMont Take a Kid Ice Fishing Derby, Phippsburg, ME
	15	Spring & Fall Test Entries Open
	16	Indoor Training Clinic, VOC Brunswick
	23	Wood Duck Project - Dresden, ME
MARCH	29-13	State of Maine Sportsman's Show - Augusta, ME
APRIL	20	Training Clinic - Dresden, ME
MAY	4	Vermont Training Clinic - Hosted by Ugly Dog Hunting
	18	Training Clinic - Dresden, ME
	19	Test Prep Workshop - Merrymeeting Kennels
JUNE	1	Pre-Test Training Clinic
	7-9	Spring Test - Dresden
JULY	13	Water Clinic - Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham
	19-21	NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program
AUGUST	24	Pre-Test Training Clinic - Bowdoinham, ME
SEPTEMBER	6-8	Fall Test, Bowdoinham, ME

treasurer's report

\$10,735.59 balance in the KK/BB account, \$13,217.15 checking account balance. Please remember your international dues. You can't be a member of Yankee unless your membership in international is up to date.

Mike



yankee website photo gallery

We're always looking for fun photos from Yankee Chapter events that we can post on our website. Grab that camera, ipad or cell phone and snap some pics!

Email the photos as jpegs to me (anisfield@gmavt.net) within a week after an event, and, if possible send high quality images (resolution around 300 pixels per inch). Send your best or favorite photos. Please don't send *all* your photos - a half dozen per event would be great.

One hundred thank-you's in advance for your help making the Yankee web gallery a fun place to visit!

- Nancy Anisfield

Visit the Yankee Chapter website at
yankeenavhda.org
for our training info and videos, newsletters,
forms, calendar of events, photo gallery,
contact info and much more!



not your normal chapter!
-- page 2 --

member news



Congrats to Charles Ellithorpe and Dok on a great year. PZ 1 UT and PZ 1 VGP. The latter being the German testing system and a two day amazingly difficult test.



Ian Gordon and his pup Chief at his first AKC show. Took Best of Breed, Best Sporting Puppy and Best of Sporting Adult at 6 months old. Congrats!



Congratulations to Stewart and Sarah Devan on their son, our newest Chapter kid, Cassin.



Todd Hand and Merrymeeting Ace enjoying their winter pheasant hunt in PA.



The Chapter sends its condolences to Matt Hodkins on the lost of his good buddy Cody.



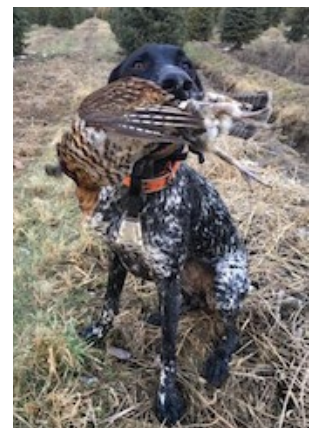
Ian Gordan's pup shows off his first retrieve.



Sarah Turner, chapter member, just passed her nurses exam. Way to go!



Congrats to Sarah Turner on her deer!



Joe and Karrie Saltalamacchia enjoy the last day of grouse hunting for 2018. Cricket really enjoyed it!

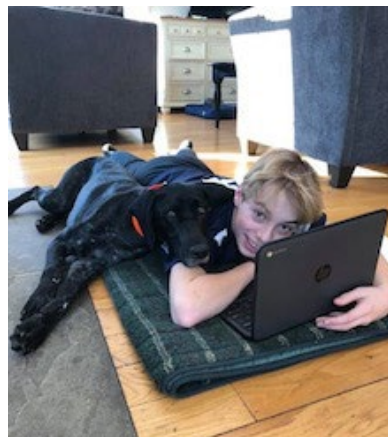
member news



Betty Blackman and her grandson take down some geese at the golf course.



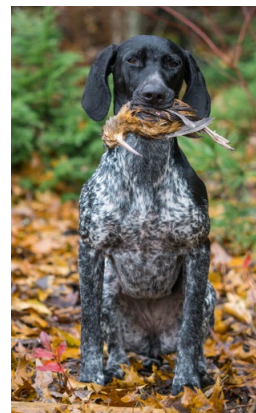
Congrats to Brittany Hosmer who was presented with the Cabelas-Bass Pro Young Hunter Award at the recent Safari Club International Convention in Reno. Brittany was one of your first Yankee Youth Members.



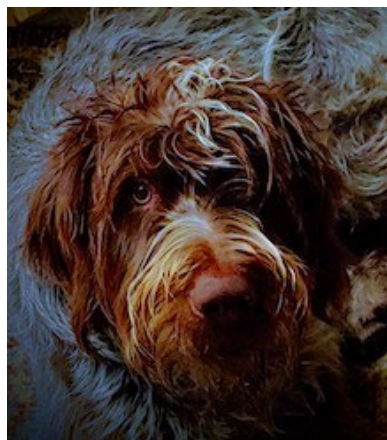
Ellie is helping Tucker Gagnon with his homework. Tucker is one of our Apprentice Hunter Youths.



John Noldan's 9 month old, Jäger, with his first fox blind retrieve.



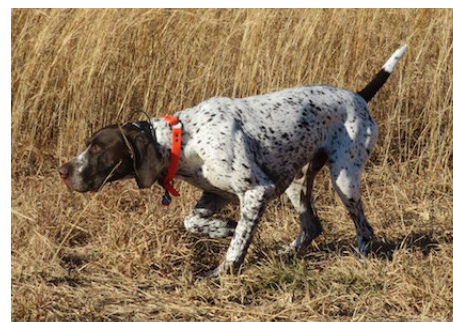
1 Year old Reveille holds owner, Camille Noldan's first woodcock.



Steve Bucks pup Hamilton strikes a captivating pose!



7 month old, Jäger, with his grouse. Owned and handled by John Noldan.



Paul and Joan von Hardenbergs dog, Duke, enjoy some Texas quail.

member news



From the show ring to the North Maine Woods, Christine Schmidts' dog, CH Fieldfine Autumns Secret Revelation won her first Grand Champion points and had a great season in the woods!

wood duck box project - february 23 - dresden

Join the Yankee Chapter February 23rd for the annual wood duck box project in Dresden. This project helps the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife perform general maintenance and record the information for the state's biologists on wood duck boxes. We encourage volunteers of all ages to attend and help in this vital cause! Dress warm!



vp's 2018 year end report - nancy anisfield

The Yankee Chapter's dedicated crew of volunteers should give themselves a tremendous round of applause for the non-stop action and timely completion of our training clinics this year. While it seems some clinic mornings that more dogs and handlers showed up than we could possibly process through our training fields and water in one day, this year the clinics were more thorough than ever. It was clear that the organization of training stations and multiple fields kept everyone busy (if not a fixed schedule), so all handlers got the training opportunities they sought.

The Vermont Clinic hosted 25 handlers and their dogs this year. The event has become more of a NAVHDA clinic than a training day for non-NAVHDA folks as it was originally intended, but we haven't had to turn any non-NAVHDA handlers away. Having participants from 3-4 other NAVHDA chapters added a special dimension to the clinic. To the Yankee team that helps us put on this clinic. Terry and I say a sincere thank you for your time and hard work.

Our second Super Seniors event was a success once again. Our hearts were touched - with plenty of giggles - as we watched the veterans run, shuffle, wander and enjoy their time in the field.

Looking back on Yankee's activities last year, we should also note that our youth participation continues to grow. From the NAHP camp to the help of our youth volunteers offer at each clinic and test, the chapter's commitment to youth involvement has flourished as part of our mission.

2019 looks like it will be a busy one for the Yankee Chapter. Along with a full schedule of events, we look forward to an updated website and the new venue for the water clinic which will expand our water training options. I'd like to encourage everyone to get in touch with anyone on the board if you have suggestions and ideas for the chapter - your input and insights are all really important!

nadkc vgp test, september 29-30 -- tom barks, III

For the first time in nearly a decade, the Northeast Region of the North American Deutsch Kurzhaar Club (NADKC) held a VGP test On September 29th and 30th at the Merrymeeting Bay Wildlife Management Area in Bowdoinham, ME.

For those not familiar with the test, the Verbandsgebrauchsprüfung (VGP) is the German utility test. The VGP covers 4 different subject areas – field, forest, water, and obedience. Over the course of the test the dog is evaluated on 26 different aspects including two duck searches, a gunfire stability test, three dead game drags, retrieving a fox over an obstacle, and a blood track. By rule, the test must be held over the course of two days and no more than 4 dogs are allowed to run in the test.

The entrants for the VGP were Charles Ellithorpe and Doc, Rob Shaw and Nickle, Tom Barks and Blue, and Tom Barks III and Harper.

The weather was about as good as could be asked for during the course of the test weekend; not too hot for the dogs and no rain. Day one started off a bit slowly with the judges laying blood tracks in the morning. Once done, the test kicked off with independent wood searches to let the dogs blow off some steam and for the handlers to, well, do the same. The searches went well and Doc even pointed a dead chuckar. A dead chuckar at Bowdoinham? There's a shocking development. After the searches came the blood tracks. The gallery eagerly waited (and waited, and waited, and waited...) for the handlers to come back. One by one the handlers returned, each with oak leaves to signify the completion of a successful track. In the end, all of the dog and handler teams had successfully completed the blood track which is no small feat. Next up was the water work which all of the dogs executed flawlessly, even Harper who has had 'ahem' issues with ducks. After the water was completed obedience tests were run until dark. Once the day's testing was completed the predicate scores were read and all of the dogs were still in the test (in the German testing system, if you fail an event you are kicked out of the test).

Day two began with the fox over the obstacle and the performances ranged from perfect to "what the hell was that". Next up were the game drags which went pretty well for the dogs. On her fox drag Nickle even managed to find a grouse and a woodcock; such a versatile dog! After the drags came the field work which is a cinch compared to the Utility Test so the dogs had no problems with it. The next to last event was a free search for a planted bird. This was new to the handlers and the best way to describe it is like you've shot a grouse which landed in a huge patch of blackberries and the dog didn't see it go down and it now has to find it. There was a learning curve for all the handlers involved but the dogs got through it. The last event was to heal on leash through the woods. Being experienced dogs and (generally) obedient they handled it like champs. And with that the test was over and all the dogs passed!

Scores are as follows:

Charles Ellithorpe and Dok - 299 Points, Prize 1

Rob Shaw and Nickle - 281 Points, Prize 2

Tom Barks, Jr. and Blue - 271 Points, Prize 3

Tom Barks, III and Harper - 279 Points, Prize 2

It was a long weekend filled with lots of learning and good times had by those involved. The author would like to personally thank Blaine and Patti for their monumental effort and hard work in organizing and executing this test. A big thanks to all of the volunteers who helped plant birds, lug kayaks and shuttle judges, with a special hat tip to Andrew and Dani Friend for providing the amazing smoked pig for lunch of Saturday.

If you'd like to learn more about the VGP test, here is a [link](#) to a website that contains a lot of good information and descriptions about each of the events. You can also talk to one of the handlers as well.



yankee chapter test prep workshop - helping your dog succeed on test day

A few years ago, the Yankee Chapter developed a new workshop for handlers, not their dogs. As many of us have learned after testing dogs several times, there are lots of ways we handle our dogs and ourselves during a test that affect its outcome. Practical tips can be picked up during training clinics, but often testing questions or situations just don't come up. Besides, we all know that a test day is very different from a training day.

Concept. NAVHDA Handler Clinics focus on the NAVHDA testing and judging system. They concentrate on the scoring system, what judges look for and what the elements of the test are designed to accomplish. The hands-on part of a Handlers Clinic usually has the participants assuming the role of judges, giving them an opportunity to evaluate dogs themselves. In contrast, our Test Prep Workshop focuses on handlers' actions and options in the field and at the water. We don't teach tricks or ways to beat the testing system, we simply present practical and effective handling advice for both the Natural Ability and Utility Tests.

Method. Test Prep is a one-day workshop, covering Natural Ability in the morning and Utility in the afternoon, approximately three hours per session with a break in the middle of each and a break for lunch. Participants have the option of attending both sessions or just one. The workshop features a panel of four or five Yankee Chapter directors, trainers, judges and/or apprentice judges.

It has been very important to have a facilitator—someone up front with the teaching panel whose job it is to keep things moving, directing questions, helping the demo handlers. There is a tendency for the discussion to dissolve into trading war stories about what happened where and when on what particular test. Another risk is that people start asking detailed questions about how particular actions are judged, and the discussion ends up veering into Handler Clinic territory. With so much material to cover, we found it essential to keep the discussion on topic.

Yankee offers the workshop to our members at no cost. Non-members are asked to pay \$10, and if they'd like to join the Yankee Chapter, that \$10 can be applied to our \$20 membership fee.

Since this isn't a dog training clinic, we emphasize that participants will not be training or practicing with their dogs. Two handlers (a "good handler" and a "bad handler") and their dogs demonstrate various points during the discussion, such as how to release a dog on a track or how to best throw a bird if it won't flush. We've held the workshop outside, asking participants to bring their own chairs.

The workshop leaders cover the various parts of the test where the handler's actions are critical, using the demo handler and dog teams to show what they're talking about. They present practical test handling tips rather than extensive analysis of testing and judging variables.

The Yankee Chapter has offered this workshop three times. Each was well attended. Most interesting to those of us presenting the workshop was how different the questions have been year to year, and how there seems to be endless variety in the nuances of testing situations to be explored. Join us at Merrymeeting Kennels!

Test Prep Workshop Outline

Commands

- When to command and when not to
- How to decide if you should issue a command
- What types of commands are best to use – verbal, whistle or hand

Water work

- NA: How to motivate an NA dog into the water on test day
- NA and UT: How to help the judges check coat and teeth
- UT: Body posture
- UT: Timing gun shots
- UT: Handling the gun and poppers
- UT: When to throw stones on a search
- UT: Tips on receiving the retrieve

UT Heeling

- How to start your dog
- Pacing and mid-course corrections
- Moving from the heeling course to the water

Intervention and correction

- When should you intervene to change the way things are going – or not going
- What's considered a command and what's considered a correction

Field and Time management

- NA and UT: How to move through the field – pacing, direction
- NA and UT: Watering your dog – when and how and why
- NA and UT: Praise – when to give it and why
- UT: How to handle your gun
- UT: Tips on receiving the retrieve

Judge interaction

- What you can ask of the judges
- What you should tell the judges
- What to do if you don't agree with what a judge asks you to do

from our director of training - blaine carter

Training Your Pups for Testing and Hunting:

The age old question is "when do I start training my new pup?" I start as soon as I get my puppy home. If your breeder has done his or her homework, you are ahead of most. The first weeks we concentrate on bonding and conditioning for learning. Your new pup was born with a survival instinct, warmth and nourishment. You can use these instincts to your advantage in your pups early development. Multiple short duration sessions work the best. Keep up beat and you pup will have fun and enjoy.

Come

Teaching an informal come with the use of treats. "Come" is a very important behavior and should be reinforced using different scenarios during each day. Initial training should be done in a safe area using food for compliance. A quick verbal "good dog" or click tags the correct behavior. In the beginning layer the command with positive reinforcement, such as, verbal excitement, praise and food. I like to half fill a Gatorade bottle with kibbles as a treat. Shake the bottle while calling pup, reward. This is easily started in the house with less distractions and transferred to your walks outside. Add distractions as your confidence in your pup's understanding and reliability grows.



Place boards

First, what is a place board? It is an approximately a 2'x 2' platform that was first created by Jim and Phyllis Dobbs of TriTronics and Dogtra fame. What can be learned from a place board? It has a wealth of training possibilities such as stay, come, sit, whoa, recall, just use your imagination. The young pup learns quickly it is place where rewards happen and rushes towards it for a treat. Put several in a row and teach "whoa". Our litters know this game before they go to their new homes. Put two in a row and teach "stay" and a "come or recall." Again, your imagination is its only limitation.

Heel

Heel is a position, think of it like that. I like to start this training in a safe area with no leash. Basements or small room works great. Start by holding treat in left hand, walk and reward pup, at first, when close to correct position. Keep practicing this concept before introducing the leash. Remember, dogs have a built in opposition reflex, meaning they will naturally pull against your pull.

Sit

Using your place board to teach sit speeds up the understanding. Always "click" or say "good dog" before the treat. Encourage pup to board, "good dog" and treat. Wait for him to look up at you, lure his head up and back his rear will naturally drop, tag behavior with a quick "good dog" and treat. Pay attention! Do not say "sit" as it slows the learning. Your only word(s) at this point is to tag the dog's action you are working towards. As soon as your dogs thinks about sitting, "click, good dog" and treat immediately. Reading your dog is critical here.

The New England Chapter of Pheasants Forever is hosting a banquet on April 11, 2019

Please join us for our 1st N.E. Chapter Banquet where you will enjoy great food and the company of like minded sportsmen and women that care about our upland hunting in New England and introducing new hunters to the sport of wingshooting.

Date: April 11, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH 3301

Contact:

Scott Rouleau

603- 478-0099 Scott@Newenglandupland.com

Tickets:

<https://www.pheasantsforeverevents.org/event/3741>

2018 director of youth development report - jason carter

This year we were again very busy with a multitude of youth initiatives. The chapter stepped up in a big way supporting not only our chapter events but also reaching out to a local sportsman association, a conservation partner and a philanthropy organization in support of their youth initiatives as well. We were able to provide youth learning opportunities that pulled together families from both hunting and non hunting, bridging our common interests in the outdoors.

February

1. Wood Duck Box Project - We had 20 participants both hunting and non hunting families. Great collaboration and fun.
2. Camp Sunshine Dog Sled Rides - For terminally ill kids. Lots of fun had by all. We are always in need of dogs for this event if not to pull to pet and cuddle.

March

1. Winter Dogsled Field Day at Merrymeeting Kennels - We had a dozen kids join in.
2. Phippsburg Winter Field Day - Cancelled due to lack of snow

April

1. April Clinic - We had 8 Youth participants pitched in and help throughout the day.
2. Youth Turkey Hunting - Casey donated hunts for three chapter youth. All were successful.

May

1. We had five youth participate in our handler's clinic.

July

1. Goose Banding with MDIFW - Organized by Joe Kazar. All new kids with around 15 youth participants. We were a well oiled team out there.
2. NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program - Great outpouring of support by so many. We had 8 campers and 3 youth counselors participate in a 2 ½ day intensive hunter education program. Merrymeeting Kennels hosted the event, Varney's Sporting Clays donated the shooting event, Ugly dog supported us organizing, products, photography and media release on and on Thank you Terri and Nancy, John Petros from the NADKC provided us donations from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Purina supported us with products for the campers and mentors and so many more.

August

1. Swan Island family field day was cancelled due to lack of participants.

September

1. Joe Kazar and Russell Estes put on dog demos for local schools in conjunction with Bay Day put on by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay.
2. RGS Youth Field Day - Russel, Casey, Blaine and Patti Headed the hunting over dogs portion of the day.
3. Youth Waterfowl Mentored Hunts -We a multiple youth hunts led by Casey, Russell and Jarod Gordon for our camp kids.

October

1. A number of our camp kids were able to take the skills they learned in camp and put them to work in the field. Biggest area of weakness...navigation.

None of this would of been possible without the outpouring of support from this chapter. Looking ahead to 2019 please consider mentoring a youth and introducing them to one or more of our programs. Our biggest struggle is finding youth participants and we need your help. Thank you all for making a difference and creating so many amazing memories for the all those kids .

About this time of the year, I check my YouTube analytics to see how we're doing for the year. Yet another year with over 300,000 views. We leave Wingshooting USA (Linden), The Flush and Project Upland in the dust.

Paul Fuller

Host, Bird Dogs Afield TV

Gun dog columnist, Northwoods Sporting Journal

YouTube: www.YouTube.com/birddogsafield

Website: www.birddogsafield.com

remember when you're shooting: get a clue before you see blue!



This column offers advice by Nick Racioppi and Jason Carter about Maine's hunting laws and regulations. Is there a hunting regulation you don't understand? A situation in the field you weren't sure how to handle? Send the Cranky Yankees and email and let them look into it for you: Jason: jcarter@rsu1.org Nick: feathersfins@comcast.net

Purchasing a Puppy:

When purchasing a puppy, we never know exactly what we will be getting. Will they be big, will they be small or even good hunters? But what if you select a puppy that becomes sick or worse? Here are some laws we need to know when buying a puppy and things go wrong.

Sale prohibited

A seller may not sell an animal that has any obvious clinical sign of infection, contagious, parasitic or communicable disease or abnormality or has any disease, illness or condition that requires hospitalization or non-elective surgical procedures.

Rights of Purchaser:

1. If, within 10 days after receipt of the animal by the purchaser, a veterinarian states in writing that the animal has a health problem that existed in the animal at the time of delivery or if, within one year after receipt of the animal by the purchaser, a veterinarian states in writing that due to a hereditary or congenital defect the animal has died or has a condition that will shorten its life or will require constant treatment during its life, the animal is considered to have been unfit for sale at the time of sale.
2. When an animal dies due to a health problem that would have rendered the animal unfit for sale pursuant to subsection 1, and that health problem existed in the animal at the time of delivery to the purchaser but was not disclosed, the seller shall provide the purchaser with one of the following remedies selected by the purchaser:
 - A. An animal of equal value, if available.
 - B. A refund of the full purchase price of the animal.
3. When an animal has a health problem that renders the animal unfit for sale and that health problem existed in the animal at the time of delivery to the purchaser but was not disclosed, the seller shall provide the purchaser with one of the following reimbursements selected by the purchaser:
 - A. Return of the animal to the seller for a refund of the full purchase price of the animal.
 - B. Exchange of the animal for an animal of the purchaser's choice of equivalent value, providing a replacement is available.
 - C. Retainment of the animal and reimbursement for 1/2 of the reasonable veterinary fees not to exceed 1/2 of the original purchase price of the animal.
4. The fee for veterinary service is reasonable if the service is appropriate for the diagnosis and treatment of the health problem and the fee for the service is comparable to fees charged by other veterinarians who are in proximity to the treating veterinarian.
5. Sellers may not, contractually or otherwise, exempt themselves from the remedies provided by this section for deaths or health problems caused by infectious, contagious, parasitic or communicable disease.

To obtain the reimbursement, the purchaser has the following responsibilities with respect to an animal with a health problem.

1. The purchaser must notify the seller, within 2 business days, of the diagnosis by a veterinarian of a health problem and provide the seller with the name and telephone number of the veterinarian and a copy of the veterinarian report on the animal.
2. If the purchaser wishes to receive a full refund for the animal, the purchaser must return the animal no later than 2 business days after receipt of a written statement from a veterinarian indicating that the animal is unfit due to a health problem. With respect to a dead animal, the purchaser must provide the seller with a written statement from a veterinarian indicating that the animal died from a health problem that existed on or before the receipt of the animal by the purchaser.

a letter from terry wilson, sponsor - ugly dog hunting

Ugly Dog Hunting has been a NAVHDA sponsor for a number of years, and I know we are familiar to most of you. What many of you may not be aware of is that NAVHDA indirectly had a hand in naming my company. You see, back in 1999, when I was mostly a Lab and Chessy guy, we were hunting Nancy's first shorthair into the ground as our obsession with upland hunting grew. I realized I needed my own pointing dog.

So before I ever heard of NAVHDA, I bought a fuzzy little bundle of German wirehair from a Wisconsin breeder named Jim Moe. We named the puppy "Scrub," as in "scrub brush." When I decided to launch a wingshooting and dog supply business the next year, that puppy had grown into an oversized, hairy, long-nose moose with huge paws and a perpetually wagging tail. Scrub was the inspiration for the company name, Ugly Dog Hunting.

It wasn't until some time later that I learned Jim was a long time NAVHDA member and senior judge. Scrub became the CEO and spokesdog for Ugly Dog Hunting. The company logo still shows Scrub on point. He was a super New England grouse dog, taught himself how to block pheasants in South Dakota, and relished skidding into a point so hard he'd fall over sideways.

It wasn't until 2004 that Nancy got me involved with NAVHDA when she got a shorthair from Merrymeeting Kennels. Then our lives changed. We scrapped the tropical vacations, quit the golf club, watched Ugly Dog Hunting grow, and let NAVHDA into our hearts.

In the years I have been involved in NAVHDA I have witnessed many triumphs and tragedies in our organization. What always amazes me is the overwhelming amount of support and caring that our members show for each other in times of good and bad.

Think about it: If you could put our entire membership in one room, I doubt that any of us would agree on the current weather. But let a member have a problem, and we are right there to help. Likewise to congratulate someone on their success.

Virtually every chapter I have judged, tested or trained at has an unbelievable sense of family and community. From both ends of the country to Canada, it is always the same.... I've seen new pups with all the promise of a spring day, veteran dogs waiting to get into the game, kids planting birds and chasing frogs, people putting up tents, preparing food – everything it takes to make the day a success.

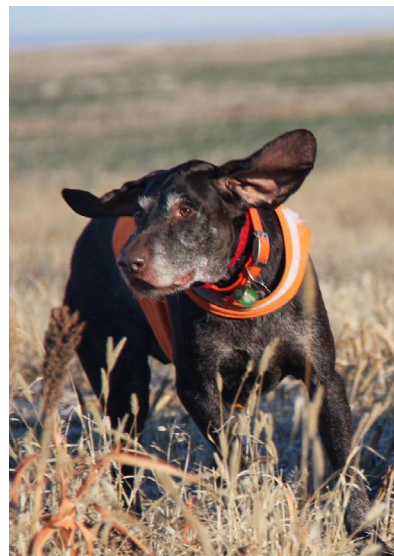
But wait... there's more! Being involved with NAVHDA gives all of us opportunities and adventures we would never have had otherwise.

- When else, but as a NAVHDA judge or handler would I have had the thrill of traversing a narrow bridge, hauling myself over a bank via rope, then slogging through mud to access the duck search water? (Notice I'm not mentioning which chapter.)
- When else would 25 people form a cordon surrounding a field to grab a runaway NA dog later nicknamed Zig Zag Ziggy who defied all attempts to get him to return to his handler?
- Where else could I witness a chukar on top of a port-a-potty, an eagle stealing a chukar out of mid air, gallons of water dumped on Utility Prize 1 recipients, or the sight of my UT testing wirehair stopping mid duck search to bark at a judge's umbrella?

NAVHDA is a remarkably strong organization, poised to grow and thrive well into the future providing we stay focused on the dogs, the youth, and the family.

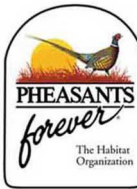
I urge you to participate in the Ruffed Grouse Society, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever, and the other conservation organizations. We need to help them protect our resources and our sporting traditions, both of which are constantly being threatened.

Ugly Dog Hunting continues to be honored to support NAVHDA and looks forward to being part of this organizations success in the future.





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	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>APPROX. MAIL DATE</u>
Litter Ads - 1/4 page max size free for members		
\$15 / month non-members	Jan/Feb	January 1
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\$35 / year members	Nov/Dec	December 1

SEND US YOUR STORIES & PHOTOS!

Please send us your photos and stories -- we love to hear from you and are always looking for material. Send up to three photos and stories 250-400 words. Besides your hunting and training stories, please share recipes, tips, dog humor and anything else you think the Not Your Normal Chapter folks might enjoy. Send them to caseycase124@gmail.com by the 20th of the month. Thank you all!

call to action!

Contribute to the Yankee Newsletter! We love to hear from you and are always in need of short articles and quick tidbits. Here's a list of ideas that would be great to share with other Yankee Members:

- Dog Tips (at home and in the field)
- Game recipes
- Hunt stories (please keep it 350-500 words max)
- Training anecdotes
- Interesting information about dogs and/or dog breeds
- Dog/hunting jokes
- Photos photos photos!
- Newsy stuff about what members do when they're not hunting or training
- Newsy stuff about members' accomplishments, awards, promotions, etc.
- Book and/or gear reviews (one short paragraph, 350 words max)
- Classifieds

Please send items to Casey Barks at caseycase124@gmail.com



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Dandelion von der Merrymeeting “Weed” took off for the last time on December 23rd 2018. As usual she ignored the commands, curses, screams, and pleas not to leave.

One of six born to Akela von der Merrymeeting and Hugo Vom Geestmoor, Weed was a precocious pup from the minute she put her paws on the floor of the house and promptly ran to the food can. Ever the food hound, in her time she ate an entire trick-or-treat pumpkin full of Halloween candy (thank you hydrogen peroxide), breaking in to the dog food bag and eating 18 pounds of food (she was mad when she didn’t get dinner), and eating half a loaf of moldy bread (good stuff), barfing it up, and then going back for more.

Her training and testing career were exemplary, earning prize ones in the NAVHDA Natural Ability and Utility tests. In addition she earned prize ones in the NADKC Derby and AZP tests as well as earning a prize one in prestigious VGP, scoring 307 points and earning a silver medal as the second highest scoring dog in the nation (also beating out Mark Morneau’s and Suzy Moore’s dogs too).

For as good a training and testing dog as she was, her hunting career far superseded that. It began when she pointed and retrieved a woodcock (to fill out the handler’s limit no less) at 5 months old in the Church Cover. From hunting up in Oxbow with Wounded Warriors to tackling geese in Cambridge, Weed became an outstanding gun dog routinely finding birds where none were thought to be found; including one in a pond, making her handlers and hunters look incredibly stupid. One particular trait that she possessed was squeezing the guts out of woodcock before returning them to hand. This caused discomfort among a few hunters but always put a grin on the face of her owner. Her drive to hunt never diminished even as she aged. When being put back in the kennel after hunting, she would always try to bite the hand that stuffed her in after she refused the ‘kennel’ command. In her younger days there was a real element of danger in this behavior but as she aged (and lost teeth) it became an endearing and hilarious personality trait.

While a better gun dog cannot likely be found, what will be most missed about Weed will be her friendship. At no point did her tail ever stop wagging nor did she ever sleep on a dog bed; it was always right next to or (preferably) in the lap of a human being.

She is predeceased by her parents as well as countless grouse, woodcock, ducks, geese, and rabbits. She is survived by her puppies Blue, Amy, Sky, Nickle, Birch, Harper, and Bingham.

She also leaves behind her owner Tom Barks and a cadre of hunting camp visitors who will miss her white muzzle, lonesome screams from the truck when she was forced to sit out a cover, and her big doe eyes when begging for appetizers.

Her ashes will be spread up at camp and at various hunting spots at a time to be determined. Due to the confidentiality of these spots the public is not invited (especially if your last name is Carter). Monetary donations are not wanted but if chapter members have extra kennels with the doors still attached or leashes that haven’t been chewed in half, the family would gladly accept those.

