

# barking dog express

june 2019



## from our prez

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Hello sports fans

It's been a busy spring for sports, good, bad or ugly, we've seen it all. Whether you enjoy golf, baseball, soccer, tennis, lacrosse or training our versatile hunting dogs, you've been busy. The best thing about NAVHDA and our Yankee Chapter, is the folks we share time with. I've always said about things we choose to do, "if it's not entertaining we just won't do it". Thank to all for making my days so educational and fun.

Our 3-day test weekend went well. Our guest Bob Hauser, senior judge and NAVHDA's Vice President was quite gracious with his words describing how special it was to come back to Yankee and its friends. Handlers did a great job preparing their dogs for spring testing. Be sure to check out the scores on the NAVHDA website if you didn't join us test weekend. Impressive!

PS. The chapter is very proud of our new Yankee apprentice, Tyler Bruce. Awesome job judging spring tests for Merrimack, Seabiscuit and Yankee.

Most recently, we met many dedicated Spinoni owners at the Spinoni Only event conducted by Jason Carter and many Yankee talented trainers. It was great to watch folks get hooked on bettering their dogs.

Blaine and Jason just returned from Alaska where they conducted a three day training seminar for the Yukon Chapter of NAVHDA. What an amazing opportunity for them, training NAVHDA members with the same goals, yet so far away from Yankee. After the clinic they were graciously entertained fishing for Dolly Varden and Rainbow trout. They even were invited to a breathtaking flight over breathtaking glaciers.

River has arrived at Ugly Dog Hunting, Terry's new pup. Reports conclude, another amazing German Wirehaired Pointer is residing there. Terry's daughter Heather and her husband John, are new chapter members and have Rivers littermate.

Pheasant Forever's Women, Wine and Wild Game event was held in Phippsburg at a beautiful Bed and Breakfast 1774, on the banks of Maine's mighty Kennebec River. 1774 is owned by chapter members Stuart and Sarah DeVan. Nancy Anisfield, Melissa Knutson and myself helped create a night of education, delicious food and fun with the focus on Habitat and Conservation. We encourage all to join this organization as it is one of NAVHDA partners in conservation. We all need to pay better attention to the goals of our conservation partners.

So looking forward to our summer months. Water Clinic at Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham, Maine Pretty excited about this event. Such a great spot for our versatile hunting dog training, from puppies to Invitational training drills. Have fun!

NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Camp is happening in the next few weeks. Jason and Dani have worked hard to find kids, line up mentors and counselors. It's 3 days packed with outdoor education hidden behind a lot of fun events. Thanks to so many for supporting this program in many ways.

I wish you much fun this summer with family and friends. Please be safe. Please stay in touch with photos and stories. Laugh a lot, it's contagious,

Patti

## calendar

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**Water Clinic  
Burnham, ME  
July 13**

**NAVHDA Apprentice  
Hunter Program Camp  
July 19-21**

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visit us on facebook and at [yankeenavhda.org](http://yankeenavhda.org)

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## chapter news

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### welcome new members:

Chris Baskin-Newburyport, MA  
Anthony McKee-Windham, ME  
Glen, Cathy & Ali Milton  
- Greenbush, ME

kenny king/bob bisson fund  
thank you donors!



## yankee calendar

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JUNE	1	Pre-Test Clinic-Dresden, ME
	2	Yankee Chapter Spring Test-Dresden, ME
	7-9	Yankee Chapter Spring Test-Dresden, ME
JULY	13	Water Clinic-Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham
	19-21	NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program Camp
AUGUST	24	Pre-Test Clinic-Bowdoinham, ME
SEPTEMBER	6-8	Yankee Chapter Fall Test-Bowdoinham, ME

## treasurer's report

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The Chapter checkbook balance is \$15,571.00. The Kenny King/Bob Bisson fund balance is \$8,853.00 with the Silver Savings balance is \$17,775.00.

-- Michael Rinaldi

The winner of this years shotgun raffle was George Strickland. Congratulations!

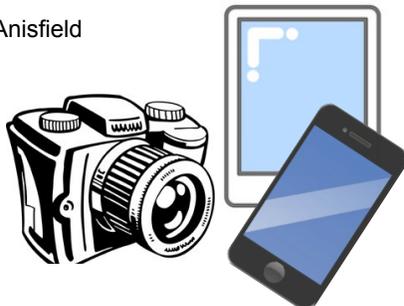
## yankee website photo gallery

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 [yankeonavhda.org](http://yankeonavhda.org) for our training info and videos, newsletters, forms, calendar of events, photo gallery, contact info and much more!



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# member news



A huge welcome back Maine to Bruno, Nick Racciopi and his family!



Tom Barks, Sr., Tom Barks, Jr. and Paige Barks relax in some shade at the June test.



Connor Johnson and his family thank the Yankee Chapter for his scholarship to the Conservation Camp. He's in the Junior Explorer program!



Ian Gordon's co-pilot while exploring Maine.

Patti, we met while I was testing Finn and I just wanted to say thanks for such a great test day everyone put on. Please pass along a thank you to Blaine and Jason for all their advice, it helped a lot and was much appreciated. Thank you again.

-Glen Milton



David Kuritzky's handsome and ever impressive, Riley at 12.5 years, enjoying a day of training at a recent Hudson Valley Clinic.



Blaine and Jason Carter travelled to Sodatna, Alaska to conduct a training clinic for the Yukon Alaska Chapter of NAVHDA. How awesome!



The Ruffed Grouse Society and the Phippsburg Sportsman's Association sponsored a youth event organized by Yankee Chapter member, Russell Estes.

## water clinic - july 13th - sugarfoot kennels, burnham, me

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Bring your dogs, your kids, your sunscreen and your list of water training goals. We'll do all levels of water training from puppy swims to duck retrieves (hear that Zinger noise!) and Invitational double marks. Ducks will cost \$15 each.

As always, KIDS ARE WELCOME! Lunch is bring your own and don't forget to bring shade tents, lots of water for you and your dogs, stakes or crates, bug spray and sunscreen. Sugarfoot Kennels located at 444 Troy Road, Burnham, Maine.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE: Please remind everyone that our training clinics aren't just for dogs that are testing in the NAVHDA system. We're here to help your dog learn the many skills a versatile hunting dog is bred for. We're also here to help your dog and you learn to be a better team hunting together. Whether you are training for a Natural Ability, Utility or Invitational test, or if you just want your dog to get some work off season, everyone is welcome! Dogs that are testing only get priority sign-up at the two pre-test clinics. Other than that, all dogs have equal dibs when it comes to field or water time, birds and ducks, and advice and help from our pro trainers. So come on down!



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## goose banding

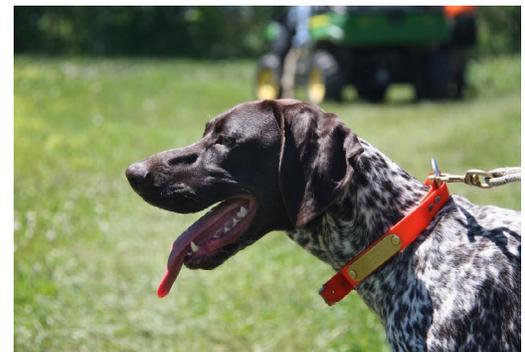
The Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA helped the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with the banding of Canada geese. Many of the Chapters Yankee Youth helped and the event was a huge success. The geese were herded across the river where pens and nets were ready. Each goose was sexed, banded and the band number recorded. Once all geese were banded they were released back into the water with a total of around 67 geese. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their time and assistance in this wonderful cause to assist the states biologists.



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# yankee spring test

photos by Nancy Anisfield



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## all about tone - jacob haskell

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When talking to your dog always use the right tone. Teaching woah was a difficulty when training my pup. He understood what the word “woah” meant but he did not listen when I said the command.

I meet with trainer, Jason Carter every Tuesday, he has helped a lot with training my pup, I don't know where I would be without him. I had been doing table work with the command “woah” and nothing was going wrong I would say “woah”, in a toned voice and he sat in place (My pup is a flushing dog so he sits on woah). When I met with Jason on a Tuesday afternoon we headed out to the field to see how the command was going. We let my pup run around for awhile and then in abrupt growling roar, I yelled out “woah”...He didn't even look I was disappointed and told Jason I'd been working on it. “Say it like you would when he's on the table” With Jasons calm, regular voice he yelled “woah” and my pup sat right down. I was confused but then I understood it was the tone I was using, he didn't want to listen to my abrupt growling roar, but when Jason used a calm regular voice, he new he was doing something good and did want to listen.

I wrote this to thank Jason Carter for his help and if you are struggling with a command, next time you do it, think about if it's the tone your using.

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## dogs and their owners - DOGwatch (cornell college of veterinary medicine)

- A University of Michigan poll showed that one in six people put their animals' needs ahead of their own.
  - The same poll found that in adults 50-80 years old, 75% said animals reduce stress and give them a sense of purpose. 18% said their pet strains their budget.
  - Dogs who live in homes sleep approximately 14 hours each day; dogs in shelters sleep just under 11 hours each day.
  - The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention reports that in 2018, 56% of dogs in the U.S. were overweight or obese.
  - The ideal weight loss rate for an overweight dog is 1 to 2 percent of their body weight per week.
  - Based on 2018 sales value, the top 5 fruits and vegetables found in U.S. pet foods are carrots, beets, ancient grains, sweet potatoes, and blueberries.
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## new strain of canine distemper in wild animals in NH, VT

*Science Daily* has reported the University of New Hampshire has discovered a new strain of canine distemper virus identified in wild animals in New Hampshire and Vermont according to pathologists.

Read the whole article from *Science Daily* here: [Distemper](#)

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## dogs and thunderstorms - burlington free press

It's common for your dog to seem fearful or anxious during noisy events like thunderstorms... Static electricity may be a cause, according to Jamie Shaw, an adjunct lecturer at the University of Vermont College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. A dog's coat will build up static electricity during a thunderstorm, Shaw said. The resulting shocks are random and can be painful for your dog.” The article went on to say, “Some dogs will seek out porcelain surfaces like tubs or bathroom floors because it breaks up the static”, Shaw said.



## from our director of training

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Developing a duck search does not have to be complicated. It only needs two elements desire and security in the environment the dog will be working. Water confidence can be developed in a variety of ways from throwing fun bumpers with increasing distances, two canoeing, allowing the dog to swim with you. One thing if you are throwing bumpers for a young dog make sure the bumpers are out front of the dog and if possible always on the other side of the water. One of my retriever friends once said never throw a bumper on the same shore you are standing on. This will teach the young dog to go out and to look out across the water for better marking as well as developing the young dog to look for the opposite bank for the marks will help in its search later. The overall quest is to develop the dog's confidence in the water which will help the dog's independence on game in the water later.

When you have developed the dog's confidence in swimming and have developed the swim in a variety of vegetation's. We can now start developing the dog's ability to search for a duck.

I like to begin with letting the young dog to chase on a small pond where the dog can catch the duck or I can shoot or help the dog if necessary. The important thing is the dog needs to always win and you need to make sure you're prepared to secure it. The better the young chases the stronger the desire for ducks become and the want to go find them will be seen when the duck dives. If by chance the dog looks like it will break off from a chase shoot the duck. We must keep in mind we are building the dogs desire for ducks so don't let it quit because it can't catch. This development is an upward hill that needs to gain trust for the activity and quit after success. Do not repeat a second search in the beginning that will come later.

When a dog has gained the like for ducks you can expand to larger water with more vegetation. The reason for more vegetation is to create scent for the dog to follow when it loses the duck. The better the dog's ability to follow this scent the quicker he will begin to search for a duck. Remember bigger water gives the duck more water to lose the dog and to generate more searching and less chassing. Do not forget to assure you have the equipment ready to make sure of the dogs success.

When the dog has gained a strong like for ducks I usually find a pond where I can stake the dog at water I then take a duck and throw it out into the water I let the dog watch it disappear out of sight and then I release him after the duck. This now begins the understanding for the dog to go out and find the duck and hopefully catch it or I shoot it but I watch for any depreciation before I will shoot it. Be patient it will create diligence on the dog part in the end.

The last stage I will add gun fire to the start but the dog will be stacked out of sight of the water. I will show the duck to the dog and then walk to the bank and release the duck and fire. Once the duck is out of sight I will bring the dog to the water. At this point the dog is usually very excited do not worry about any obedience we will include that later. At the water the dog is released and commanded to fetch. If the dog desire is strong I usually see the dog go out and start looking to find the scent of the duck and if the dog stays out I am ready to begin a real duck search. If not I repeat until the dog figures it out.

Building the desire for the game is the key to success so if you think of it like playing keep away and the carrot just at the dog nose will cause the desire to go up.

Blaine



## yankee bear day - june 16 - joe kazar

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On June 16 a small group of Yankee youth and adults visited 8 bait sites established by State bear biologists in their ongoing research project to capture and tag bears to better manage their population through hunting seasons. We were extremely lucky to witness the capture, data gathering, and release of two bears at a single site! One being a very large boar of about 385#, who by this fall could be over 500#, and a smaller sow he undoubtedly was following during this peak of the bear rut. The sow was captured and collared earlier this season. The Yankee Chapter's Director of Youth Development, Jason Carter, added this new Youth Event thanks to a discussion with Maine Black Bear Project member Evan Whidden. Evan, assisted by team member Nick Bartholomew, led the Yankee group on their daily trap-check rounds, and explained how and why the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife conducts this ongoing study.

Bears are captured in leg restraints (cable snares), using bait and scents. These captures occur during May into mid-June. The bears are tranquilized with carefully measured doses of drugs depending on the animal's size, and then physically examined, internal temperature taken to guard against overheating, recorded for length and girth and weighed. If it is a new capture they are fitted with individualized ear tags, males get an inner lip tattoo (because during fights with other males they often lose the ear tag), and females are also radio collared. Following this an antidote is administered, and upon its taking effect the bear in a matter of seconds becomes alert and runs off unharmed (too fast to get the camera powered up!). The purpose of this major effort is to have enough data to allow biologists to recommend whether there should be changes to hunting and trapping seasons, the only significant means of controlling the bear herd. Currently the herd is outpacing the hunting/trapping harvest. Males that have been ear tagged and tattooed and later recaptured or harvested by hunters tell biologists about their growth, general health and population trends. Most importantly, collared females are located by Department aircraft at the beginning of the winter-den season, as early as October or by late November, depending on food supply. The den sites are now precisely known since the newer collars are GPS equipped. In February, IFW biologists and other Bear Team members visit every den with snowmobiles and snowshoes to tranquilize the female and get data on the female and her cubs, which number between 1 and 4, and weigh 12 ounces at birth, and have just been born (the mating occurs in June, but the fetuses' development is delayed until fall). The cubs are ear tagged at this time. They spend 2 years with female, so the following winter the female and her cubs get another visit by the team, and this time the yearling females are also radio collared to follow their lives and their offspring. The den visits are most important to the study and tell biologists litter size and ultimately cub survival in their critical first year where non-hunting mortality is highest. Cub "recruitment" is the key to understanding population trends in bears when compared to hunter harvest records.

A few more facts: This study has been ongoing since 1975 and is conducted in three areas of the State. We visited the area north of Old Town. The others are in Aroostook County and Downeast. Over 3,000 bears have been in the study so far. The current herd is estimated at 30,000. An average hunter harvest is about 3,000 bears, while hunter/trapper success rates vary between 3% and 26% depending on method. Maine has the largest bear herd in the East, yet even serious deer and bird hunters rarely see one in the woods, making this close encounter even more unique. An excellent You Tube video produced by the Department, "Maine Black Bear Project", shows much of what we were treated to. A special thank you to Evan for giving us this wonderful opportunity, and to Jason for setting this in motion. Oh, and a tip from the Pros: the bugs were thick, and the biologists rely on ThermCells more than bug dope. Even the snoring bears got some relief!



## turkey hunt - may 4 - casey barks

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I was lucky to be gifted with a guided turkey hunt with Casey Mowers of Reddog Guide Services by my husband, Tom Barks. The excitement of the following day made it impossible to not wake up at 2 a.m. Surprisingly, and happily, I was able to get ready and leave without waking up Tom, the pup or our daughter. I arrived at Casey's at 3:45 a.m. and the crisp darkness was full of the sounds of peepers.

Our first stop I was so excited and ready to get things going, but as we began to discuss things, Casey noticed red lights in the distance. Headlamps, and in the exact spot Casey had planned on setting up....What a let down, but we didn't have time to waste so we got back in the truck and off we went to another location. Upon arrival Casey said we were going to need to book it to get set up in time and of course I respond "No problem, I may have short legs but I make up for it with enthusiasm" and we began through the field. Casey eventually slowed us down at a good spot, but still wanted to ensure he was in the best spot possible. A few more steps and all of a sudden we heard and saw turkeys spook from the trees....oh no! We quickly backtracked and set up to wait and hope.

As the morning light started to show itself, the birds and bugs began to make their familiar sounds. It reminded me of sitting in the goose blind, watching and hearing everything wake up with the start of the day. Soon, the same turkeys we saw spook began to come off their roost one by one with a quiet elegance. After giving them some time, Casey began to work on them with his calls. Before I knew it up pops the head of a Jake cresting the hill and he begins to work his way to the decoys. Now, Casey and I will tell the following in two different ways with the end result being the same. In my version I hear him whisper "it's a Jake" and I of course ask "can I shoot it?" (duh!). He tells me if I wanted to then go for it. I very slowly pulled up my gun and lined up my shot. I took a couple deep breaths, pulled the trigger, and down he went! I couldn't believe it and sat there stunned. Casey then used the calls again and we heard more chattering. He decided the best thing to do was to belly crawl up the hill to see what was going on. We get to the top and carefully look to see a large flock of several hens and Jakes together. I was given the choice of going after another Jake or trying elsewhere for a Tom and no surprise, I decided I'd like to try for a Tom. We gathered our things, including the stinky Jake (you can ask Casey about that) and made our way back to his truck.

Once we got it tagged, we moved on to looking for a Tom. We didn't see much and stopped at a few places to see if we got any responses to calls, but again with no luck. The morning was getting late and we decided we'd stop at one last spot. We began walking down a damp dirt road paralleling a field when all of a sudden we heard a loud and close gobble. Next thing we knew a Tom runs across the road in front of us, but it was certainly too far and moving too fast to attempt a shot. We both dropped down to the ground hoping there was another around. Casey began to use his call and we got another close gobble in response. I slowly got up on one knee looking, waiting and hoping. Soon I saw its head, I slowly pulled my gun up and whispered to Casey that I could see it. Casey was staying as low to the ground as possible to avoid being seen by it and said "if you have the shot, take it because I can't see sh\*t". The Tom came out into the road more, I took a deep breath and took my shot. I can't believe it still, but I connected! I tagged out in one amazing day!

I am so appreciative of being gifted this experience and to have had Casey to guide and help me on this hunt. I'm so excited for next season and will be trying it on my own. I would highly recommend reaching out to Casey for his services. He's informative, comfortable to talk to, and I felt he was as invested in my success as I was.



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## 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 an email and let them look into it for you: Jason: [jcarter@rsu1.org](mailto:jcarter@rsu1.org) Nick: [feathersfins@comcast.net](mailto:feathersfins@comcast.net)

Passing on our Maine hunting traditions is near and dear to all of us. NAVHDA International and the Yankee Chapter invests a considerable amount of money, time and effort supporting our youth outdoor enthusiasts. Thanks to the considerable efforts of Joe Kazar and other yankee members, this summer we were able to participate in two amazing youth events of collaring bears and banding geese. Passing along the importance of conservation to our next generation being an important focus for all us. In that spirit, I encourage all of you to share one of many hunting opportunities Maine has to offer for its youth. Junior hunters who hold a valid junior hunting license (including a lifetime license) can participate in special youth hunting days for bear, deer, spring wild turkey, and migratory waterfowl. If a person is continuing to hunt on a junior license and has turned 16 they may hunt on youth hunting days. However, if they opt to purchase a regular hunting license they would no longer be able to participate in those youth hunting opportunities.

I highly encourage all of you to offer your knowledge and expertise to any youth interested in what we do. Who knows the impact you may have on that youth and the ripple effect of those experiences may have on our future hunting traditions.





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**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!

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**barking dog guidelines**

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Litter Ads - 1/4 page max size		
free for members		
\$15 / month non-members	Jan/Feb	January 1
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