

barking dog express

2025

"not your normal chapter" jul/aug/sep



yankee chapter
north american versatile
hunting dog association

from our president...

Welcome summer! With temps hovering around 100 degrees today, it's easy to forget that every event Yankee held this Spring was met with wet weather! The Women's Apprentice Hunter Program actually started with sleet, changing to a cold rain for the entire event! As I watched our soggy members persevere through Mother Nature's challenges, I had to smile. We definitely, are "not your normal" chapter! Attendance was not far off our regular "I can't wait to get out and train" crew! Thanks to our Training Committee that met and organized each clinic's schedule. We continue to receive compliments on our professionalism.

NAVHDA is promoting **Best Practices** as a way chapters across the country can gain info from other well established chapters. I'm proud to say, Yankee Chapter falls into that category and our trainers are contacted frequently to share our clinic model. In my conversations with other chapters, the #1 issue is getting volunteers. As Tyler will tell you, when he asks for volunteers during our test weekend, he is met with too many consistently! Be very proud of all you do for others. It does not go unnoticed!

Water Clinic, Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham, Maine, August 2nd. This event is by far the "funnest and most educational" training event we

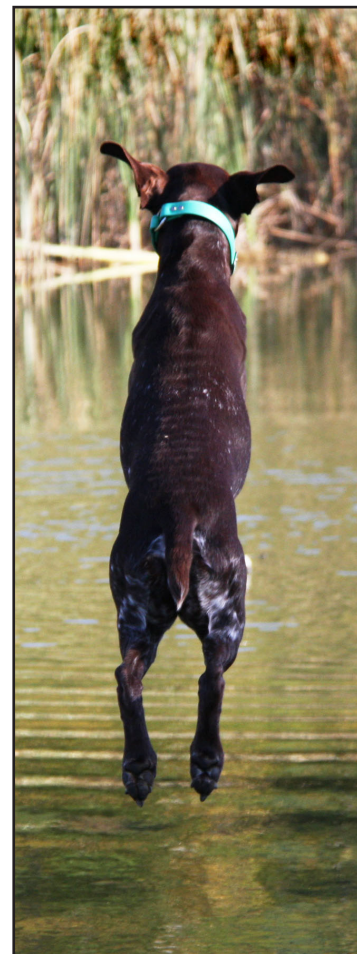
have! It's really like a family picnic! See you there!

It's time to take a short breather from our intense two Spring months of training and testing by enjoying family, friends and dogs. Hope you can spare a few hours on Saturday, July 12th, to **celebrate our chapter** and a thank you to our many volunteers. Robert, Sarah, Sam and Jack Franklin are ready to host this event at their beautiful home in Falmouth. See Sarah's post in this BDE. It's going to be a fun relaxing afternoon, ha! See ya there!

Exciting news! The many Aims and Rules Clinic attendees and workers got to meet NAVHDA's long time Senior Judge, Clinic Leader and former Treasurer, Rick Holt. I am VERY excited to announce that Rick is running for NAVHDA International Treasurer.

Raffle gun: 28 gauge Ruger Red Label donated by Jim Hynson. We will draw the lucky winners name at Water Clinic on August 2nd. Please buy your tickets asap. Contact me if you'd like to purchase tickets or better yet, sell a few!

-- Patti



Welcome New Members!

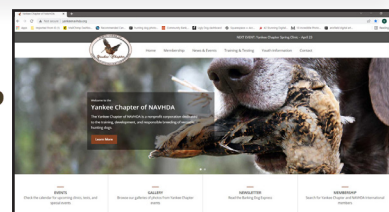
Frank & Stephanie Waltz
Tony & Rachel Barker



NAVHDA
NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION

yankeenavhda.org

ycnavhda@gmail.com



yankee updates & info

from Chapter Secretary - Dani Murphy

Spring has come and gone. This is evident by the thermometer reading 100 degrees and the fact that I am huddled by the air conditioner as I type. Spring had Yankee Chapter hopping. As reported previously we hosted the first ever Women's Apprentice Hunter Camp, followed by an Aims and Rules Clinic. As we headed into summer, we had training clinics, and a test scheduled.

Every single Saturday clinic this spring was filled with rain. As I think of this rain, I can't help but remember Terry Wilson. My last conversation with Terry was under a tent at one of our spring clinics. Terry had shown up to help plant birds in the field, but the rain was hindering that activity for Terry and we had several members available to help. I did not know this would be my final in person conversation with Terry, but it's one that will stick with me forever.

You see Terry was a champion of volunteerism, and I learned from watching him. He taught me how to plant birds. When I struggled with training, Terry offered not only ideas but equipment to help me train. When I learned of Terry's passing, I remembered our last conversation and I thought to myself even through health challenges Terry always showed up.

While I don't always report on these training committee meetings in my secretary's report, my memory of Terry at this clinic has caused me to pause in honor of all that he taught me and all that he taught others through his efforts as a volunteer.

If you have ever shown up to a clinic or a test to run a dog, please know that these clinics require countless hours of planning and the help of several volunteers.

If you are testing a dog, consider volunteering on a day when you aren't testing. If you are training a dog, please consider what you might be able to do to help. We are fortunate at Yankee to have several volunteers who show up clinic after clinic, test after test, but they can always use another hand setting up or... taking down, bagging birds, planting birds, planting with a kayak, hauling equipment, or dragging a duck.

I am thankful for Terry; because I volunteered, I have learned SO MUCH MORE than if I had stood on the sidelines, ran my dog, and went home. Some say you should give more than you get. I say if you volunteer you can't help but get more than you give.

Thank you volunteers who helped Yankee have successful clinics and a successful test weekend this spring.

Thank you, Terry, through your example and tutelage I have gotten more than I have given. You will live on in my memories of you and your volunteerism.



Gun Raffle

Thank you...

To everyone who has contributed to the KK/BB Fund and to Peter and Ann Bako who donated \$150 to chapter youth.

Win this Ruger Red Label English stock 28 gauge donated by Jim Hynson. We still have tickets left! The winner will be drawn at the Water Clinic. \$10 per ticket / only 200 tickets to be sold. Contact Patti :
mmkennels@myfairpoint.net

calendar

July 12
Appreciation BBQ
Franklin's
Falmouth, ME

August 2
Water Clinic
Sugarfoot Kennels
Burnham, ME

August 23
Pre-Test Training Clinic
Wildes Point WMA
Bowdoinham, ME

September 5-7 Fall Test
Wildes Point WMA
Bowdoinham, ME

NAVHDA Invitational
September 8-13
Searsboro, Iowa

Treasurer Report

As of today, our chapter has 42,964.60 in the bank.

So far this year, we've received \$7,636.99 in donations in support of KKBB, NAHP, and the General Fund. Thanks to your generosity, we successfully funded our Women's NAHP, Youth Activities and replaced our Chapter Trailer -- a huge milestone for our club.

Our current net income year-to-date stands at -\$6,731.36. However, this includes a one-time equipment expense of \$13,070.53. When we adjust for that our adjusted net position is a positive \$6,339.17.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated their time, energy, and resources.

Your support continues to make this chapter strong and successful!

from Test Secretary - Nick Racioppi

Spring Test Scores

Run Date	Test Type	SEX	DOG CALL NAME	HANDLER NAME	REGISTERED DOG NAME	BREED TYPE	Prize / Score
6/6/2025	NA	Female	Cider	Philip Laperriere	KENNEBEC VALLEY FRESH PRESSED CIDER	(BS) Brittany	1 - 112
6/6/2025	NA	Male	Hank	Glen Milton	PRIMETIME-GARBONITA HUCKLEBERRY HANK	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 108
6/6/2025	NA	Female	Cinder	Danielle Murphy	GLOWING NORTHWOODS CINDER	(GR) Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	1 - 112
6/6/2025	NA	Female	Bambolina	Maryrose Verdile	BUSY B'S EARLYBIRD E	(SP) Spinone	3 - 96
6/6/2025	NA	Female	Moxie	Robin Jordan	HAMMER DOWN TO MOXIE	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 108
6/6/2025	NA	Male	Gyro	Frances Moore	GIL VOM NOBELLE HAUS	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 112
6/6/2025	NA	Female	Casco	Ansel Kipp	MERRYMEETINGS CASCO BAY	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 110
6/6/2025	NA	Female	Scout	Robin Jordan	SHOOTER'S SCOUT	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	2 - 97
6/7/2025	NA	Male	Ozzie	Edward Demetriou	KIRODEN BACK IN LOVE AGAIN	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 112
6/7/2025	GDT	Female	Rosie	Amy Caswell-O'Clair	SOONIP! POINT ROSEFINCH	(GR) Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	0 - 132
6/7/2025	UT	Female	Greta	Hank Volin	FAIRHILL'S POINT GROUSE	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	0 - 137
6/7/2025	UT	Male	Jagen	Stephen Bennett	JAGEN ZWEI VOM SCHLUSSTEIN	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	2 - 195
6/7/2025	UT	Male	Ely	Amanda Dyer	FENTON RIVER WOODLAND ACRES ELY	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 198
6/7/2025	UT	Female	Tillie	Marsha Bennett	MERRYMEETING'S MIGHTY IN BATTLE	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	0 - 147
6/8/2025	NA	Female	Fern	Daniel Riley	KENNEBEC VALLEY WILD FERN	(BS) Brittany	3 - 102
6/6/2025	NA	Male	Tuck	Frank Pizzo	KENNEBEC VALLEY TUCK FINN	(BS) Brittany	0 - 96
6/8/2025	NA	Male	Rip	Daniel Riley	KENNEBEC VALLEY RIPOGENUS RIPPLE	(BS) Brittany	2 - 97
6/8/2025	NA	Male	Rupert	Randall Pratt	BLACK WATCH RUPERT	(GR) Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	3 - 98
6/8/2025	NA	Male	Chase	Daniel Phillips	KENNEBEC VALLEY THRILL OF THE CHASE	(BS) Brittany	3 - 92
6/8/2025	NA	Male	Boone	Adam Morin	GLOWING NORTHWOODS BOONE	(GR) Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	3 - 96
6/8/2025	NA	Male	Joey	Dennis Kirouac	KIRODEN TOO FUNKY FOR ME	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	2 - 95
6/8/2025	NA	Female	Winnie	Sydney McCarren	KIRODEN BLAZIN ARLETTA	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 110
6/8/2025	NA	Female	Peepah	Stephen Morse	MERRYMEETINGS PEEPAH	(GS) German Shorthair Pointer	1 - 112
6/8/2025	NA	Female	Otto	Antoine Bernard	STELLA DEL NORD'S ASK ME NO MORE	(SP) Spinone	1 - 110

Please let me know if you are planning to run as I have 10 people on the wait list and would like to notify them if we have a pull from the test. Be advised, although I have you listed on a run date, this could possibly change if someone pulls and I need to reassign a handler due to the constraints in the NAVHDA Capacity Chart.

from Director of Communications - Misi Knutson

Got a Minute?



We're on a mission to make our clinics, communication, and sign-ups better maybe even borderline magical. So tell us:

- How can we improve the clinic experience?
- Are our emails clear or confusing?
- Is sign-up smooth or more like herding ducks?
- And if you could design your perfect training or volunteering day, what would it look like? (Coffee cart? Dog massages? Clone of yourself?)



Hit us with your suggestions! The weirder, the better. We promise we'll read every one!

Even the ones written in

Email us at ycnavhda@gmail.com

Those who respond, get to sign up early at the next clinic.



Let's grill and chill together!

The Yankee Chapter invites you to our member/volunteer appreciation bbq!

Saturday July 12th @ 1 at

Robert and Sarah Franklin's

172 Brook Road

Falmouth ME 04105

Come early, stay late! RSVP to ycnavhda@gmail.com

or sarahefrankling3@gmail.com

Please bring along your favorite side dish or dessert to share. We'll supply the burgers and dogs!



Recalls and Possession Issues

After observing the June test I saw a few dogs struggling with their delivery of game. Does your dog recall to your side readily? Or, does your dog drop, regrip, urinate, veer off or even deliver to someone else? It's time to increase the value of returning to your side and presenting game.

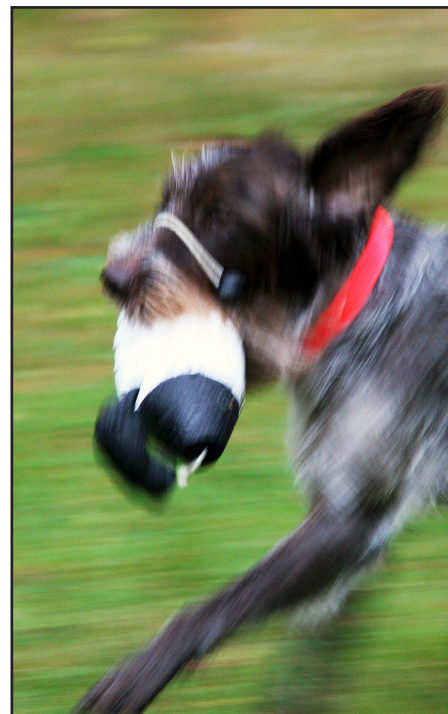
As I was training, I found my dog was slowing down and showing the beginning of possession issues. A gentleman who trained Labs showed me a start for pups that made me think about how I am going to solve my delivery problems.

He explained: Put a white bowl on the ground and place several morsels of food on top with dog observing. He would move the dog a way from the bowl a bit, and then he would release the dog with a fetch or back command. The pup runs out and eats the treats. When the dog is done eating, he recalls him, having a high value

treat (hot dog or cheese) for the reward. After a few reps the dog will be charging out and hustling back, sit looking up at you for the treat. I tried this with Keepah, my 3yr old, and it has made a great improvement in the accuracy of her recall and delivery. No more possession issue! Cheese was the magic!

Try using the bowl with your retrieving drills. For you who will be piling later in your training, put a bird or a bumper in front of the bowl (nothing on the bowl) and reward the recall with your high value treats. Repetitions will increase trust and accuracy. I explain this exercise on a YouTube video for Paul Fuller's Bird Dogs Afield, "Simple Recall Exercises." Enjoy and get to work! Always feel welcome to call with questions!

Good training,
Blaine



One item... So many connections! by Patti Carter



The story behind the Yankee Chapter donation to the Russ and Carol Dyer Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society brings many people with shared passions together.

While we were helping clean out Ray and Jo Craemer's house last fall, Don Bayles showed me the shadow box hanging on their wall. Ray had very proudly showed me the same when we visited many years ago. In the box was a Black Duck call carved by George Soule with a hand written note to Ray.

George Soule duck hunted with Leon L. Bean quite often. George always made fun of LL's decoys. George carved him a spread and the rest is history. LLBean still sells those cork decoys!

George carved a few duck calls too. Ray was fortunate enough to acquire one of those calls. He framed it along with its story. At this year's RGS banquet in Augusta, Ray's shadow box went up for live auction. My deal with

RGS was to split the proceeds 50/50 with the Yankee Chapter.

Lively bidding began; one lady was very determined to own this! I whispered to Blaine, "Let's donate Yankee's half back to RGS." Halfway through, I told Amanda Dyer (President of the Russ and Carol Dyer Chapter of RGS) that Yankee wanted 100% to go to conservation.

The George Soule duck call shadow box sold for \$700.

In the end, Carol Dyer, whose husband Russ, hunted with George Soule, bought the shadow box. She then shared with me that George carved her name into her own spread of Black Duck Decoys. It was perfect.

When it was done, I turned to Blaine and said, "Donating Yankee's part of this sale back to RGS was such a Terry Wilson move." With tears in our eyes, we hugged Carol.

Pre-Test Training Clinic



August 23rd - Wildes Point Wildlife Management Area, Bowdoinham, ME

- Watch for an email several days before each clinic with a link to registration.
- The clinic will start at 9 a.m. At noon, we'll fire up the grill for LUNCH.
Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.
- When you arrive, check in and pay for your birds. Anyone who is not a NAVHDA International member will need to sign a waiver.
- Please remember to take all dead birds off the grounds to dispose of them.

Be prepared for everything from mud to bugs. Don't forget to bring **water**, leash, and a stake or crate for your dog. You might also want to bring a canopy in case it's rainy or hot sun.

REMINDERS: Be sure to sign up for your birds ahead of time. The "Pre-Test" clinic means that dogs testing this fall will get priority for their field runs and water work. Nevertheless, there will be plenty of stations with activities for all dogs to work on retrieving, obedience, steadiness and more.

YOU MAY RUN YOUR DOG IN THE FIELD OR WOODS WHEN THE CLINIC IS OVER, BUT FOR SAFETY REASONS THERE MAY BE NO GUNFIRE -- LIVE OR BLANK -- AFTER THE CLINIC HAS ENDED.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD OR STAKED UNLESS YOU ARE WORKING YOUR DOG IN THE FIELD, AT THE EXERCISE AREA, OR AT DRILLS. THANK YOU!

FALL Test Weekend September 5-7

Wildes Point Wildlife Management Area, Bowdoinham, ME
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday - Sunday



Fall Test weekend is almost here! Help is always needed, and working a test is one of the best ways to learn about the excitement of NAVHDA testing. If you'd like to volunteer to plant birds, set up the tent, be a go-fer, help with lunch, etc., please contact our Director of Testing, Tyler Bruce.

Test days will begin at 7 a.m. sharp. Handlers should be at the test grounds no later than 6:30 to have enough time to park, "air" their dogs, take a DEEP BREATH, and find the donuts and coffee before meeting with the judging team. Don't forget to bring lots of water for both you and your dog(s). There's not a lot of shade or cover at the site, so bringing a tarp or tent is a good idea if it's hot or raining, or both!

Friday is bring-your-own-lunch. Saturday and Sunday our grill will be up and sizzling with burgers and dogs and whatever else we can come up with. But even with the dedicated Yankee Chapter volunteers at the grill, there are lots of hungry handlers, field volunteers, judges and friends to feed. Please please please: Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to contribute to the lunch table!!!

Good Luck to all Testing Handlers and their Dogs!

YANKEE CHAPTER WATER CLINIC

Saturday, August 2nd.
9 a.m. until waterlogged
Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham, ME

Whether you have a puppy who's not swimming yet, a UT dog developing a duck search, or an Inv. dog doing double marks, Dave Mosher's Sugarfoot Kennels' ponds have a place for you. We'll do retrieving, steadiness, drags and other drills, too. There's plenty of parking along the treeline, but you might want to bring a shade tent for afternoon sun. Watch for the duck order form email; pay when you arrive.

Bring your own lunch and beverages. Deserts to share are always welcome!

At lunch we'll gather for our Semi-Annual Meeting. Please contact Patti Carter if you have items you'd like discussed.

The First Annual Yankee Survivor Games **Outwit. Outplay. Out-sniff.**

Register Saturday morning (right after you've had coffee but before your dignity kicks in). You'll be randomly sorted into two teams—including our furry athletes, who have no idea what's going on.

**** Team Tired But Trying**
****Team Chaos & Kibble**

(Your destiny awaits... or at least a colored bandana.) There may be fake drama. There may be imaginary immunity idols. There will definitely be snacks....

Do it for the glory! Do it for your dog! Or do it because you accidentally wandered into the sign-up sheet.

Family fun for everyone. Kid friendly survivor challenges and activities for the kids too!

Let the mildly chaotic games begin!



We have three terrific items to auction off at the Water Clinic. All proceeds go to the Yankee Chapter. Check them out! Make a bid! If you can't attend the Water Clinic but are interested in one or more of these items, send your bid(s) before the clinic to ycnavhda@gmail.com.

creeks of Montana. Thomas and Thomas are high-end USA made handcrafted rods that are Legacy pieces. This 5 wt is the perfect all around weight. "

Silent Auction



1. Compound bow.

2. Custom Bighorn bow made for Ray Craemer. 62.5, 0690, 65# @ 28" with arrows.



3. Handcrafted Thomas and Thomas Fly Rod: PA-905-3 rod; #183 in this series.

Notes from P.J. Rose: "This is a very light, slow action rod designed for delicate dry-fly and nymphing presentations. This rod is no longer made in the 3-piece form. It can be used on larger rivers in Maine or the smaller



yankee youth!

from Director of Youth Development - Sarah Franklin

Yankee Youths No More!


Congrats to Devi Martinez and Wyatt Knutson on graduating from Brunswick High School! Cheers to you and your next big adventures in college!



Congrats also to Abby Johnson! All best wishes for the future!



IMPORTANT SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FOR DOGS



- Learn the early signs of heat exhaustion**
 - Excessive panting
 - Excessive or thick drool
 - Reddened tongue, inside ears
 - Red or pale gums
 - Glassy and/or red eyes
 - Anxiousness or restlessness
 - Reluctance or refusal to go on
- Take it slow and cut it short**
 - When it's above 80°F (26.6°C)
 - The more extreme the heat, the shorter the walk
 - Spend more of your time inside playing, cuddling, training or just recovering from the heat
- Pay close attention to the dog**
 - Breed will influence how heat-tolerant a dog is
 - Watch for signs of distress, difficulty breathing and pain
 - If your dog seems to be done, head back home
 - Don't force them to continue
- Brachycephalic dogs heat up faster and have difficulty cooling down so take extra precautions**

Affenpinscher, Boston Terrier, Boxer, Brussels Griffon, Bulldog, Cane Corso, Chihuahua, French Bulldog, Japanese Chin, King Charles (St. Charles), Lhasa Apso, Mastiff-Akita, Pekingese, Pug, Shih Tzu, Tibetan Spaniel
- Find cool ground and avoid hot asphalt**

Look for shade, grass and sprinklers

 - Cross streets quickly
 - If it's too hot to put your hand on for 3 seconds, it's too hot for paws
- Bring room-temp water - always!**
 - Cold water can be too much of a shock to the system
 - Give the dog chances to drink
 - Apply to ears, paw pads, inner thighs and stomach
- If you transport dogs never leave them in a hot car**

If you must, keep the car well ventilated or leave the A/C on and keep your absence extremely limited
- Check paws frequently**

Examine paws and watch for redness, sensitivity, signs of burning or pain, and head back home or cool them off with water
- Know normal temperature**

Most dogs average between 101 - 102.5°F (38.3 - 39.2°C)
In general, 105°F (40.5°C) or above is considered hyperthermia
- Walk in populated areas**

so that if you or your dog needs help, someone may be around to assist
- Minimize sun exposure**

especially for hairless dogs or dogs with thin or white hair
Use sunscreen made for dogs when available
- Take plenty of breaks**

Find some shade, take a seat and relax
Take time to chill as often as needed, especially in high humidity

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Newest little Yankee

Alice "Allie" Levesque
Born May 28th
Adam and Megan, we are so happy for you!



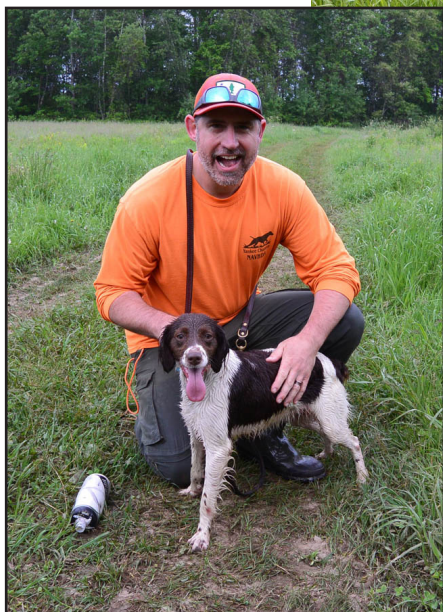
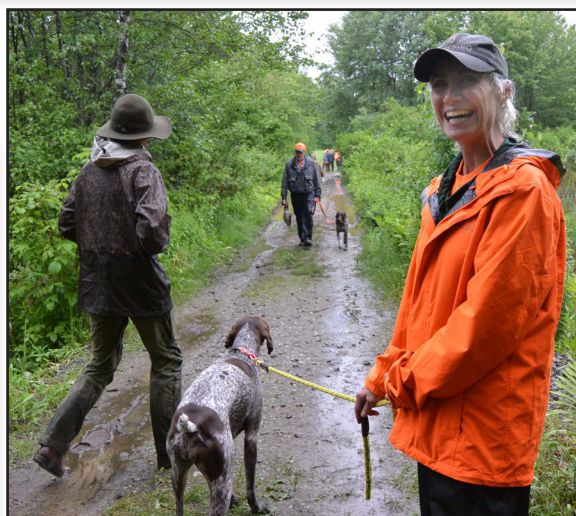
PAW PRINTS!
COUNT 'EM UP! CAN YOU FIND THE **5** PAW PRINTS HIDDEN IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

Why did the termite quit chewing on the grandfather clock?



It was too time-consuming!

showcase: Test Weekend Smiles!





NAVHDA ELECTION 101

WHY ARE NAVHDA ELECTIONS IMPORTANT?

NAVHDA is a Two-tiered organization consisting of the Parent Body Organization- **NAVHDA International** who approves and charters the **Individual Local Chapters**.

Why is an Election important to an individual NAVHDA member? The **FOUR** Elected positions control who makes up the other members of the **Executive Council** and all of the **Committees**. The decisions that this Executive Council and these Committees make determine the path of the Organization. *Chapters and individual members are all impacted by this process and its effects.*

NAVHDA International Governing Structure

(Per Bylaws, as published and dated 1/1/2020)

“THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL”

are Considered the “Officers” of the Corporation and exercise the powers of the Corporation as allowed in the Bylaws. These positions Consists of:

ELECTED POSITIONS (Election held Every 3 Years)

These FOUR positions are the Decision Makers for the makeup of the rest of the Executive Council

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

BYLAWS REQUIRED POSITIONS *Appointed by the above Four Elected Officers*

- Director of Judge Development
- Director of Testing
- Director of Publications
- Director of Promotion
- The Registrar

BYLAWS ADDITIONAL ALLOWED POSITIONS ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(At Discretion of President with support of a Majority vote of the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer)

- Immediate Past President

(and Up to Three other Positions)

Currently:

- Director of Information Technology

COMMITTEES

Per Bylaws: “Committees for specific purposes or activities *may be designated from time to time by the resolution of the **Executive Council**. The Chairs, and members of such committees, shall be appointed by the **Executive Council** and they shall serve at the pleasure of the **Executive Council**.*”

Member Spotlight

Merrymeeting's Wicked Gnarly

Learn a little more about some of us Yankees! Send in your photo and answers to these questions, and we'll put you in the next newsletter.

1. Name? Do you have a nick name?
2. Current Job? Dream Job?
3. How many dogs and what breeds?
4. What is something we don't know about you?
5. What made you join Yankee?
6. If you could do one thing differently in your training what would that be; why?
7. What is the oldest thing in your fridge?

Send us your photo and answers to the Member Spotlight questions:

ycnavhda@gmail.com

Call name: Gnarly

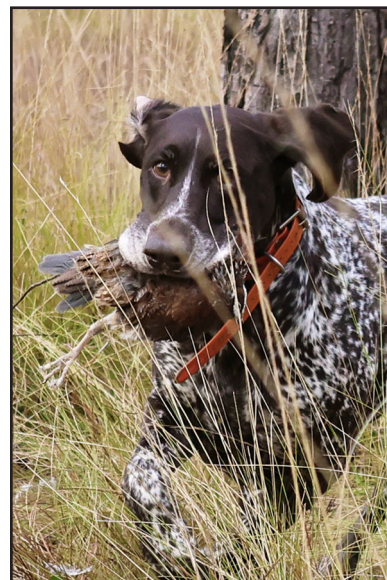
Favorite thing to do: Hunt with Patti! She says I'm an overachiever. I think she means I might bump a bird.....or two. I don't know what she's worried about, I can always relocate.

Job? Parenthood: Folks have called me a "super mom". Guess that's because I had two litters of 13. Holy crap, literally. I was a great mom and still nurture my puppy Etta.

Things you don't know about me:
I am a "singleton," meaning I have no siblings. My mom Tiza and the pack of critters here at MMK raised me. They done good. I am the queen of this castle called Merrymeeting. I watch over my human family and love to wash Blaine's face while he's sleeping. He says I can't control my lickah!

Dream job: #1 counter surfer, never mind, I've pretty much got that position nailed right here. #2 Emotional support dog. I take care of all, two legged and four.

Greatest accomplishment: Patti was very proud of me and my mom Tiza when she ran us the same day, and we each scored 204. Then there was that grouse Patti shot/wounded in the NMWs last year. I tracked it down and retrieved it to her. She was jumping up and down for some reason. She gets so darn excited. I love my mom.



Can Dogs Get Sunburn?

Yes. There are three types of dogs most at risk of getting sunburned : Shorthaired and hairless breeds, fair skinned dogs, and dogs that spend a lot of hours outside each day.

Sunscreen for dogs may help protect your dog from the sun, but is not foolproof. It's best to limit time in the sunshine or avoid it altogether and let your dog out during early morning before the sun is strong, or after sunset.

Symptoms of sunburn on dogs include skin turning pink or red, skin that becomes very dry and flaky, and blisters. Be alert to signs of itchiness which in turn could cause bacterial infections if your dog scratches alot. Blisters eventually will pop but also need to be monitored for pain or infection.

Dogs with severe sunburns can develop a low to moderate fever. If that happens, your dog should be seen by a veterinarian and may need fluid therapy.

NA Testing Journey

by Dan Riley

When Willow, my 4.5-year-old Brittany, tested for the NA test a few years ago, her breeder had to handle her because I was unable to get the day off from work. Although she earned a prize 1 that day, I didn't have the same understanding about the NA test that I have learned over the years. This year, Willow and Yoshi's puppies tested for NA test in June. The challenges for a spring test especially swimming became clear very quickly.

On test day, all the puppies showed their talents. Every puppy swam but 3 of them swam for the bumper for the first time. I felt a great sense of excitement for all the new owners as a first-time breeder. Dan Phillips trained his very first versatile hunting dog. He showed tremendous dedication to his dog, Kennebec Valley Thrill of the Chase.

Chase struggled to swim throughout his training in preparation for the NA test. With Dan's dedication and connection to Chase, he continued his effort to expose him to water.

Luckily, Dan's commitment to bumper love helped Chase swim for one bumper on test day. Chase showed his stuff in the field with great pointing, desire, search, and especially his connection to Dan as they worked the field as a team.

Even though Chase struggled with different parts of the day, Dan Phillips guided his handsome looking Brittany to earning a Prize 3 as a first-time handler. It is not just pride that inspired me to share this story, it is

gratitude for Dan's desire and effort to own and train an incredible hunting dog like Chase.

Gratitude was a feeling that I felt with all the pups and their handlers during the testing weekend. However, an unexpected level gratitude happened when Tom Cormier realized that his son was graduating from high school on the same day as the test. I was happy to run Rip for him.

I was able to work with Rip in fields by my home and I tried to help Rip retrieve a bumper in the water the week before the test. Unfortunately, he would only retrieve a dead chukar. I decided to just make the water experience fun.

The day before the test I took Rip with his mom, Willow, and sister, Fern to a pond that I just gained permission to use. When Rip watched Willow and Fern swimming, he jumped right in and had a blast. Would he do it for a bumper on test day.

I experienced tremendous joy handling Rip in the field who showed such great hunting talent. He struggled with the track but did well enough to show his skills. In my mind, I was at peace knowing that Rip would swim for a chukar, but we were going to give it our best shot to get that cute puppy to go for a bumper. With some excitement, rocks, sticks, and bumpers, Rip did it! He retrieved 3 bumpers. Rip earned a prize 2 and I was able to help a new owner test his pup as a breeder just like Willow's breeder did for me.

There are so many great experi-

ences, positive and helpful people in the Yankee Chapter that makes me grateful every day. I would never imagine the feeling of pure joy that I experienced by being a part of something so intimate with my own litter of puppies. Seeing all those puppies, especially the one that looks like her mom, is a moment in my life that I will always cherish. The Brittany puppies of Kennebec Valley will be forever in my heart.



Aims and Rules Clinic

Despite the rain, Yankee's Aims and Rules clinic was well-attended. Clinic leader Rick Holt did a terrific job explaining NAVHDA's testing and scoring system, as he shared years of insights and experience with the group.

— Cautionary Tale

My first dog, a dalmatian named Cheyenne, choked to death on a racquetball when she was 6 yrs old. She loved catching high pops, and one day when we were playing it came down with enough force that when she grabbed it, the ball got caught in her throat. I tried to reach in and pull it out, but it was all slimey from other catches, so I couldn't get a hold on it. I stood her up on her hind legs and shoved upwards under her ribcage, sort of like a Heimlich maneuver. The ball popped out.

After that, I only threw ground balls when we played, but one day the racquetball hit something and bounced back at her hard enough that when she grabbed it the ball went down

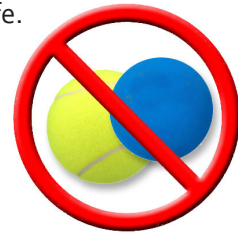
her throat. My Heimlich didn't work. I raced her to an animal hospital just 10 minutes up the road, but Cheyenne was dead by the time I got there.

The vet told me that Cheyenne wasn't the first to choke on a racquetball, and he'd seen several also choke on tennis balls, usually older balls that were softened or punctured so they could compress enough to lodge in the throat.



There are several videos online showing how to remove a ball from a dog's throat by putting it on its back, straddling it, and popping the ball out using your thumbs under its jaw. The method is called the "external extraction technique."

Here are a few of those videos:
<https://abc7chicago.com/dog-choking-on-ball-rescued/11164179/>
<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=8871225>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppYeUyhogZg>

I wish I'd known this technique for Cheyenne, although the safest approach is not to give dogs balls at all. There are lots of bumpers, frisbees, stuffed animals, knotted socks, and toys of all sorts to keep them happy, and safe.



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Attention all you Yankees thinking about heading over to the Sportsman's Club on July 20th, just add it to your calendar right now!

And...while you're slurpin' crunchin' and munchin' those delicious crustaceans, why not **join the club!**

See ya there!

-- The Prez

PS It's worth the price of admission just to watch Blaine eat one...or two...



Please PAY ATTENTION: UP TO THREE MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS COULD BE SOLD

PF, QF, RGS, CSF, TRCP, and other conservation and hunting organizations are closely following the budget reconciliation bill now being considered in Congress which has provisions for the sell-off of America's public lands. Up to three million acres of OUR public lands across 11 western states could be offered for sale through this bill — with no opportunity for sportsmen and women to have a say. This could be devastating for hunters, access, and wildlife across the West, *while setting a dangerous precedent for public lands throughout the country* — your most cherished wild places could be next on the chopping block.

If granted ownership of federal lands within their borders, states would be wildly underfunded and understaffed to manage them. Thousands of BLM, USFS, and National Park Service jobs could be eliminated in rural communities as these agencies would dissolve, and public land-driven outdoor recreation tourism -- including public access to hunting on vast amounts of public lands -- would be interrupted and potentially ended. Let your voice be heard. Contact PF, QF, RGS, or TRCP for links to your state legislators. <https://www.trcp.org/public-land-access/>

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Whelp Date: 7/20/25

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