barking dog express

Yankee Chapter

2025

"not your normal chapter" oct/nov/dec

yankee chapter north american versatile hunting dog association

from our President -- Patti Carter

It's here! Our long awaited Hunting Season 2025! What a great year for the Yankee Chapter and its members! Whether you prepped for the fun of our Sportsman's Show presentations, our Indoor Clinic, Women's Apprentice Hunter Program, arrival of our Spring woodcock or our many chapter training events, it's now time to head in your favorite direction and go hunting with your well trained dog! Be safe!

I personally seek out those that may not share my hunting ethics, hopefully leaving an impression of "fair chase" and conservation. Meeting hunters from around the country and listening to their adventures is always great.

Blaine and I have taken a few "extra moments" during our travels the past two weeks to talk to others and share who we are while scouting. We even had a phone call letting us know a flight of geese just landed on their pond. Blaine got a nice goose which Keepah retrieved, her first ever! We invited them over to Camp Wetafukawee for a Goose Dinner that night! Phone message, "3 more flocks have just landed!" Darn, it's Sunday!

Please remember we are ambassadors, so leave a positive and lasting impression. I hope you have a memorable and safe season. Please share your photos with Misi, our Director of Communication.

Looking back:

It was a great year for the Yankee Chapter. Our membership stays strong. Your support has been amazing, even after drenching rains at all Spring events. The energy at our first ever Women's Apprentice Hunter Program was contagious. The Training Committee continues to create and support all training events. And, ahhhhh, that new Equipment Trailer is amazing. Lumber donated by Andy



Baker and creative energy by Nate, Blaine, PJ and Charles decked out the inside. Nancy Anisfield and her design talents created the exterior. We travel in style.

Spring and Fall tests were full with waiting lists. I believe in the end all entries were accommodated at each event. Congrats to all handlers that trained and tested their dogs. Training and testing a dog in NAVHDA is a huge accomplishment. Recognize your hard work and skills learned wherever you hunt. We'd love to see a photo or two of these adventures.

Thanks to all that joined the Phippsburg Sportsman's Association during their membership drive and fundraiser. The Yankee Chapter made a monetary donation and also donated a shotgun for their raffle.

Don't forget, it's election year and ballots will be arriving soon. I'd love to talk to you about candidates running if you have guestions!

> Please vote! -- Patti





yankeenavhda.org

ycnavhda@gmail.com



yankee updates & info

from our Chapter Secretary, Dani Murphy

When I wrote this spring, the leaves were the size of mouse ears, now they are changing from green to brilliant shades of red, orange, and yellow. This is my favorite time of the year. Last night I oiled up the guns and counted what ammo we had for what guns. Truth is, I started this weeks ago. Last night was just the final inventory.

As I write this report I reflect on the past season. I take a different kind of inventory. Yankee hosted another fall test closing out another season of training and testing as we head into the fall season. What a team we have at Yankee.

I volunteered at our fall test as I usually do and listened as the scores were read at the end of the day. I saw happy faces, and I saw disappointment. I commend all who tested; it takes dedication.

At this test I reflected on where I used to be and where I am now. I remembered testing Ember and chasing that Prize 1.

Things are a bit different for me now. I now have bred a litter. This process has given me different perspective when evaluating test results.

Indulge me for a moment if you will. We have three levels of prizes for all levels of testing. Any dog and handler that prizes in NAVHDA is a team to be proud of. Yes, it is a team. The time spent together training creates a bond and a relationship, a good relationship can help a dog succeed, a struggling relationship can hurt.

What I want to focus on today, is... not the prize but the STORY. Sometimes I think we focus too heavily on the PRIZE and not enough on the SCORE/STORY. I know I have. As a new handler I wanted that PRIZE 1!!! As a newer breeder who wants to improve the dogs I am breeding, my focus has changed more to focus on the STORY. How old was the dog at the time of the test. What were the conditions on test day. Was the handler brand new or more experienced. What did the scores tell me? How are the attributes evaluated. What do they tell you? What is that TEAM'S story!! I sometimes think we should add a box to the top of a score card for a handler indicating the number of dogs handled in a test. Don't misunderstand me... I don't think the judges should consider it when scoring, but as a person now evaluating a dog I think it has value. Why... because some improve with age... like a wine... some never do like a warm beer... and some are good from the beginning like bourbon.

To all who have run a test or are preparing to test, I encourage you to read those scores and think about the information it provided you... Do you think a dog who scores all 4s on a card but got a 1 at steady by the blind is as good as the dog who got a 3 in search, a 3 in heeling, and a 3 in overall steadiness but managed to squeak out the Prize 1? Maybe it is... but maybe it isn't.

Do you think the handler can make a difference?

My point here is to consider the story. Additionally reflect on whether you helped write a success story or were you a hinderance. TEAMWORK makes the DREAM WORK!

As you all head into your hunting seasons, I hope you have success as a team! I look forward to hearing your "stories"! Happy hunting!!

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased gun raffle tickets and donated this year to our youth funds. -- Patti



calendar

January 4, 2026 Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting Location tbd

January 30-31, 2026 NAVHDA International Annual Meeting San Antonio, Texas

welcome new members!

Cody Luce & Kendra Bergelin

from our Director of Communications - Misi Knutson

Yankee Membership Dues Reminder

We love your enthusiasm, but please hold those dues until January 2026.

Not December.

Not November.

Definitely not October.

If you send them early, we promise we'll just put them in a very safe pile labeled "Too Soon."

International Membership Reminder

Check your membership before you check your bird bag. A current NAVH-DA membership is required to vote in the upcoming election—don't miss your chance! Renew here... https://www.navhda.org/membership/

from our Treasurer - Shawn Mowers

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets and supported our fundraisers. Our gun and other raffles have brought in \$2,645 so far!

As of the end of August, our balances

Checking Account: \$3,295.73 Money Market: \$39,007.02 Thank you to all our generous members!!

from Test Secretary, Nick Racioppi

Thank you to all the handlers and volunteers that helped to make our test year a success. We were able to get a total of 43 dogs tested in 2025, and did not leave any handlers that joined our lottery on the wait list. That's a successful year in my opinion!

Below is a look back on our handlers, dogs and test scores for Fall 2025. Congratulations to all.

Be on the lookout for our 2026 Test Lottery signup. I expect to open up test entry submittals the day after our Yankee Chapter annual meeting.

FALL TEST SCORES

SEPTEMBER TEST SCORES					
Run Date	Test Type	DOG CALL NAME	HANDLER NAME	REGISTERED DOG NAME	Score / Prize
9/5/2025	Utility	Ripple	Jeremy Hatch	MERRYMEETING'S JUSTA RIPPLING ESKA	154 - NP
	Utility	Tomi	Richard Dilley	SOONIPI POINT'S TOMAH	155 - 3
	Utility	Maja	Charles Ellithorpe	MAJA II VOM FUCHSFLUESSCHEN	161 - 3
	Utility	Tillie	Marsha Bennett	MERRYMEETING'S MIGHTY IN BATTLE	146 - 3
	Utility	Triggah	Anthony Baker	MERRYMEETINGS PULL THE TRIGGAH	200 - 2
	Utility	Griz	Jake Cornish	LONE PINE'S IKO GRIZZLYBAR	152 - NP
9/6/2025	Natural Ability	Tuck	Daniel Riley	KENNEBEC VALLEY TUCK FINN	112 - 1
	Natural Ability	Teddy	Dennis Kirouac	KIRODEN GET FUNKY	112 - 1
	Gun Dog Test	Hogan	Robert Borden	PANNONIA CINKOS	156 -1
	Gun Dog Test	Rebellin	Teresa Champagne	CEDARS POINT DISTANT DREAMER	168 - 1
	Utility	Lexie	Raymond Dyer	ARIEL VOM KINEO	149 -3
	Utility	Bogie	Michael Rinaldi	FENTON RIVER WINGMAN	175 - NP
9/7/2025	Natural Ability	Timber	Shawn Mowers	REGAL POINT WINDERSHINS TIMBERDOODLE IN A FLASH	86 - 3
	Natural Ability	Chinook	Justine Chabot	MERRYMEETINGS CHINOOK	112 - 1
	Natural Ability	Lena	Joe Carito	DRY GRASS LENA	84 - 3
	Natural Ability	Chase	Daniel Phillips	KENNEBEC VALLEY THRILL OF THE CHASE	112 -1
	Utility	Savvy	Jason Carter	MERRYMEETINGS SAUVIGNON POINT	204 - 1
	Utility	Huck	Kevin Schofield	MERRYMEETINGS HUCKLEBERRY GRAND	122 - NP
	Utility	Henry	Elise Wright	OLYMPIC OH HENRY!	157 - NP

FALL & SPRING TEST TOTALS

Natural Ability: 25
Gun Dog Test: 3
Utility Test 15
Total Dogs Tested: 43



Judge Blaine Carter, Utility Test Handler Dick Dilley, Apprentice Judge P.J. Rose, and Judge Raymond Dyer during Fall Test reading of the scores.

from Director of Training, Blaine Carter

Time for Our Hard Training Work to Pay Off...

Patti and I are headed North. Our truck is freighted with dogs and hunting gear. First stop is Camp Wetafukawee for a family hunt and then onto Camp Franklin somewhere behind the 5 Mile Gate. Yes, we are very excited.

As a member of the Yankee Chapter, you are very fortunate to have so many talented trainers and devoted workers at all our events. I'd like to start with the 10 dedicated members of my Training Committee for their time and willingness to step up at our events. I'd like to thank the members of the Yankee Chapter Board for their support. The sharing of information for all these events is so important! Huge thanks to Brian and Misi for that.

It's now time to go hunting. Your hard work with your dog is about to pay off! The friendships you have made throughout this past year will add some great memories to your fall hunt. Please share those moments!

You will soon be receiving a ballot in the mail for the NAVHDA International election. If your International membership has expired, your vote will not count!

NAVHDA has been a very important hunting dog organization for me and my family for over 50 years. I feel it's time for change! Please always feel you can call me to talk some about this election.

But give me a bit of time to find Keepah! I'll get back to ya....



Elise Wright and Sarah Bodine (Olympic Vizslas) launch a new fund as a tribute to Terry Wilson

The Yankee Chapter is excited to announce the "Yankee Chapter Outreach Fund" with seed money donated by Elise Wright and Sarah Bodine.

Inspired by Yankee member Terry Wilson's volunteer leadership over 19 years, this new fund will further our chapter's commitment to non-profit conservation and education organizations, such as the Ruffed Grouse Society, Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever, regional youth organizations, and the local Phippsburg Sportsmen's Club that shares its facility and volunteers with us.

Terry was known for his generous support of our hunting and sporting dog community. This fund will insure his enduring impact.



And on a side note... Elise and Sarah's handsome Vizsla, Olympic Oh, Henry!, graced the cover of the September issue of The Maine Sportsman.

Photo credit: Lindsay Becker

Listen to Blaine and Patti Carter on the Hunting Dog Podcast...

Blaine and Patti talk with host Ron Boehme about how NAVHDA has changed over the years and some of the issues in the upcoming election, giving newer NAVHDA members some great insights into the heart of NAVHDA.

https://thehuntingdogpodcast.com/episodes/the-good-old-days-with-merrymetting-kennels/



yankee youth!

from Director of Youth Development - Sarah Franklin

Just a reminder... all our Yankee events are kid friendly and we are looking to grow our youth involvement! Send us some ideas of what you'd like to see incorporated into our training clinics.

Hunting season is here! Send us photos of your kids doing what they love outdoors to share in our newsletter!







ACORN

BERRIES

BURROW

BEAR

ELM

FALLING

FOLIAGE FOREST

did you know...

The vertical groove in a dog's nose is called the **philtrum**, and it does more than just separate the two sides of the nostrils. It is a working part of a dog's anatomy that helps the dog's sense of smell.

When a dog licks its lips, saliva collects in this groove. Next, that wetness is pulled up to the nose's surface by capillary action. Then, as it keeps the nose moist, that moisture traps incoming scent particles, which in turn helps the nose detect odors and process the scents.





FROST

GEESE

LEAVES

MAPLE

HIKE

MOUSE

ROBINS

TURKEY

NUTS

OAK

showcase: Yankee Fall Test















Send us your favorite game recipes and game cooking tips. Original recipes are welcome along with favorites created by others. Bonus points are yours for a photo of the dish prepared.

Betty Blackman's Canada Goose Recipe

- Remove the meat from the breastbone of the goose. Remove grizzle from each breast.
- Sprinkle Adolf Meat Tenderizer to each side of the breast. Use your tenderizer and pound each side of the breast thoroughly.
- Heat skillet. I use 1T of olive oil and 1T of butter. More or less as needed.
- Place goose breasts in fry pan.
- Add finely chopped garlic to top of breasts.
- Add orange zest. Spread this combo across the breasts while they cook.
- Cook about 7 minutes.
- Flip over, turning heat down a bit and cook 5 more minutes.
- Remove from fry pan, cover and let it rest, 5 to 7 minutes.

Enjoy! Sooo good!

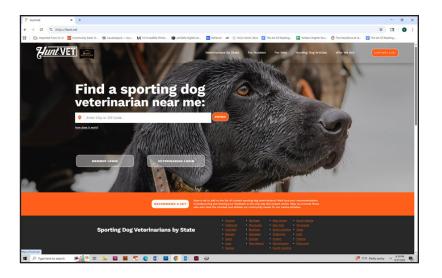
Orange slices go very well with goose.



- Crockpot with 4 cups of water, 1/2 orange
- Add onions, carrot, celery, and a little garlic and cook til meat falls off the bone.



Betty didn't send us a photo of her goose dish, but she did send us this pic of Donie and Copper. Looks like Copper is dreaming of his own bowlful of yummy goose!



Hunt.Vet

A new online resource helps hunters find sporting dog vets in their area or on the road. The site also offer ratings on their accredited vets and articles on sporting dogs.

From the site: "Hunting dog people are a finicky bunch. We want a veterinarian who listens; one who

is empathic to our needs and appreciative of our culture. However, we also want a doctor who understands the medicine of working dogs and acknowledges our desire to take a hands-on approach to their care."

"This is by no means a simple pay-to-play database. Each member of this community is accredited by our team and ranked based on their Hunt.Vet Score from our extensive vetting system. Our hope is that you will get a sense of how qualified each clinic or clinician is prior to utilizing their services.:

Check it out: https://hunt.vet/



Be on the lookout for more information coming soon... We are looking for mentors and volunteers, as well as women to participate in next year's program. We are looking for women with little to no hunting experience. Please email Sarah Franklin or the Yankee Chapter if you -- or someone you know -- are interested!



How Dog Shows Don't Help Hunting Dog Breeders Obtain "Perfection of Form" by Craig Koshyk

Excerpts and link by permission of Project Upland

Excerpt from this article:

For millions of people around the world, dog shows are a fun, challenging, and educational activity. Wherever they are held, they stimulate the local economy and offer an excellent opportunity for a fun family outing. I've attended many dog shows as a spectator (I have a soft spot for Italian Greyhounds and Irish Water Spaniels), and I enjoyed them. I even owned a show champion, thanks to my friend Shelly, who showed him. So, I don't have a bone to pick with dog shows per se. However, as a hunter, owner of hunting dogs, and someone who has spent over 30 years studying hunting dogs, I have concluded that dog shows cannot help breeders "obtain... perfection of form" when it comes to hunting dogs.

The reason is simple. Dog shows are not designed to help breeders breed good hunting dogs. They are

designed to help breeders obtain beautiful animals. Some canine organizations openly admit it. In France, dog shows are called Concours de beauté (beauty contests), and in Italy, they are called Esposizioni di bellezza (beauty shows). A dog can earn a champion de beauté or campione di belleza title. Both terms mean "Beauty Champion."

Instead of measuring beauty, wouldn't it be more useful for breeders if a show system measuring the physical capabilities of dogs existed?

... But here's the thing: when Edward Laverack, the father of the English Setter, wrote about "perfection of form," he was not referring to a dog's subjective beauty—although I am sure he appreciated a good-looking dog. For Laverack and every other breeder of hunting dogs at the time, the expression "perfection of form" referred to the physical character-

istics of a dog's anatomy that influenced its ability to perform in the field.

... If purebred dog breeding were truly about improving dog breeds, the Westminster Dog Show would be a gathering of veterinarians, statisticians, and biologists dressed in whatever work wear is appropriate for their profession, putting each dog through a series of physical, medical, genetic, and performance-based tests.

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

https://projectupland.com/dogs/ how-dog-shows-dont-help-huntingdog-breeders-obtain-perfection-ofform/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_ medium=email&_ kx=jogirhABIGVfi5DL7j_tpr-TK-7SeHm3oouYJ9v1sxtM.XSVPXG

Member Spotlight

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

Sarah Franklin, Yankee Youth Director

- 1. Do you have a nick name? I do not.
- 2. Current Job? Rockin the stay-athome-mom job
- 3. Dream Job? Currently living it, but I was a burn/trauma/surgical intensive care nurse before I came home to be with my two (well, four, if you count the dogs) boys.
- 4. How many dogs and what breeds? 2 German shorthairs- Maverick and Riggs



- 5. What is something we don't know about you? I recently joined on the sour dough making train.. who knows maybe one of my loaves will end up at a clinic breakfast!
- 5. What made you join the Yankee Chapter? My husband and I got our first Gsp from Patti- Blaine wasn't kidding when he said we were joining a cult. 8 years later and we are still here.
- 6. If you could do one thing differently in your training what would that be, and why? Oh probably add quite a bit more obedience training in.. the wheels come off the wagon when Maverick gets down to a duck blind!
- 7. What is the oldest thing in your fridge? Lucky for me I just fall cleaned our fridge so there's nothing too old in there now!

Porcupines, ugh.

There's a lot of great advice online about how to remove quills in the field, when to get your dog to a vet, and what myths surround quill removal. Here are two excellent articles:

How to Handle a porcupine encounter with your hunting dog by Seth Bynum DVM

https://hunt.vet/articles/how-tohandle-a-porcupine-encounter

Porcupine Quills and Dog Encounters: A First Aid and Avoidance Guide by A.J. DeRosa, founder of Project Upland

https://projectupland.com/dogs/porcupine-quills-and-dog-encounters-afirst-aid-and-avoidance-guide/



A few tips...

Place a stick or dowel in the dog's mouth to prevent the dog from biting down and breaking the quills, and to have better access to quills inside the jowls and cheeks.

Hemostats work better than tweezers or pliers because they lock tighter and keep your fingers further away from the quills.

Cutting the quill ends so they'll come out more easily is a myth. There is no evidence that it helps. Shorter quills are harder to grab, and cutting takes unnecessary time.

After quill removal, be sure to watch for migrating quills surfacing or for signs of infection: swelling, discharge, signs of discomfort, etc.

Even Storybook Endings Need a Little Luck

Story by Nate Becker, Photos by Lindsay Becker

We were first in the field Wednesday of this year's NAVHDA Invitational with a hot sh*t Vizsla from South Dakota, handled by my new buddy Tate (shoutout to the Martinsen family).

"Nate and Tate" had an amazing hour of hunting with Lenny and Roo. The two dogs had very similar casting and searching styles, with nice points and backs for both. They were so similar that on two separate occasions they crossed in front of us and pointed the same bird simultaneously.

I dropped Lenny's retrieving score to a 3 by being too fidgety and giving him unnecessary "good boys!" My handling judge told me I had nervous handler brain (quilty).

From there we had a clean blind retrieve and honoring at blind sequence. The blind had me a little nervous as Lenny veered to the right on the way across instead of heading straight to the duck, then acknowledged about halfway over. He saw the best way up the bank and I didn't. He hit the far shore and immediately turned left for a clean pickup and retrieve.

On to the final event, the double marked retrieve, where I had my most nervous moment. On his way back to me with the first retrieve, the distraction shot was fired. I sent him for the 2nd retrieve, but instead of taking my line he decided to turn right and head over to where the distraction shot was fired. After swimming around and realizing there was no duck in that part of the pond, he looked to me for help. I asked my handling judge, Rick Holt, what my options were.

"You can either handle him or resend."

With a "Whoa!" I got his attention, and with an "Over!" and a hand direction he headed straight to

the memory bird for his final clean retrieve.

Crisis averted.

From there we had a four hour wait for the closing ceremony where the scores were read. There was some celebration, and I was a part of it, but there was also a lot of disappointment.

It takes a lot of things to pass the Invitational, luck certainly being one of them. The pass rate was 40% this year, and two of the five dogs from Maine passed, all of which are exceptional dogs and handlers.

Thank you to the Yankee Chapter for supporting Lenny and I to get here, especially the Carter family, Justin Dodge, and Marie Wade. The Carters trained us all summer and did so much more, and Justin & Marie were in my corner on test day.

Now let's go hunting!



TRCP Applauds Expanded Hunting & Fishing Opportunities on Public Land



The Theodore Roosevelt
Conservation Partnership joined
hunters and anglers in celebrating the
announcement by the Department
of the Interior to expand hunting
and fishing opportunities across the
National Wildlife Refuge and National
Fish Hatchery Systems.

"TRCP thanks Secretary
Burgum for prioritizing expanded
hunting and fishing opportunities at
the Department of the Interior," said
Joel Pedersen, president and CEO of
the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership. "These new opportunities will help Americans get outside
to enjoy the great outdoors just in
time for the fall hunting and fishing
seasons."

The final rule for the 2025—2026 season creates 42 new hunting and sport fishing opportunities on more than 87,000 acres of public lands across 11 states. These new op-

portunities will be available starting September 2, 2025.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 prioritizes compatible wildlife-dependent recreational use on wildlife refuges and specifically identifies hunting and fishing as priority uses. This most recent expansion will increase sporting opportunities by opening more acres and units to hunters and anglers. For hunters and anglers, this means:

- New Access: Inaugural hunting opportunities will be offered on public lands such as Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge and the Grasslands Wildlife Management Area, and new sportfishing access will be available at North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery.
- Broader Alignment: Regulations are being streamlined to better

match state fish and wildlife rules, helping reduce confusion and making it easier for hunters and anglers to enjoy these places.

• Conservation Benefits: By engaging hunters and anglers, these opportunities generate critical funding for habitat restoration, wildlife management, and local economies through license sales and excise taxes on gear and ammunition.

The final rule is available at https://www.regulations.gov/document/FWS-HQ-NWRS-2025-0031-0001



Phippsburg Sportsmen's Association

Many Yankees are members of the Phippsburg Sportsmen's Association and support this great club that is so generous in letting our chapter use their facilty for special events. Consider joining! Applications are available by contacting them at: PO Box 298, Phippsburg, ME 04562 or phippsburgsportsmens@hotmail.com

Here are a few events they have scheduled for this fall -- more info available on their Facebook page.

- 1. Turkey-Gravy Fundraiser Meal Saturday, Oct 11th from 4:30 to 6:30
- 2. Turkey Shoot Sunday, November 2nd at 10 am
- 4. Turkey Shoot Sunday, November 23rd at 10 am
- 6. Free Community Thanksgiving Meal Thursday, November 27th



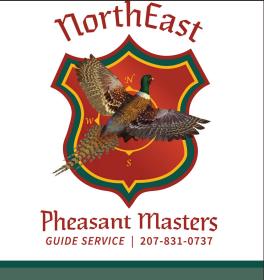
The Barking Dog Express Needs You!

Send us your stories, training and hunting tips, recipes, classified ads, links to online resources, tales of your dog's adventures.

Send your stuff to ycnavhda@gmail. com and put "For the newsletter" in the subject line. If you're not a punctuation wizard, don't worry. Our editor can smooth out the rough edges for you. And don't forget to include a photo or two if you have them.



"DOG BOX BUG-OUT" photo and rig by Charles Ellithorpe



If you need a large field and wooded trails for your bird dog training, give us a call. We have the area, equipment, Bob White Quail, and Ringneck Pheasants available for you to train your bird dog. Blanks and live fire for junior and senior/master hunter training is permitted.

Bridgton, Maine



The Barking Dog Express is published five times a year:

Jan/Feb Mar/Apr May/June July/Aug/Sept Oct/Nov/Dec

We're always looking for stories, tips, recipes, info, and Member Spotlight profiles. Email to ycnavhda@gmail.com

Wishing Everyone Safe, Successful Hunting Adventures and a Wonderful Holiday Season!







The Yankee Chapter is Proud to Support Conservation

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YANKEE CHAPTER CONTACTS

officers

President Patti Carter
Vice President Brian Pike
Secretary Dani Murphy
Treasurer Shawn Mowers

mmkennels@myfairpoint.net 207-725-8229 bpike@maine.rr.com 207-749-5097 yankeenavhdasecretary@gmail.com 207-754-1707 shawnmowers@gmail.com 207-522-5741

board of directors

Testing Tyler Bruce
Test Secretary Nick Racioppi
Training Blaine Carter
Communications Misi Knutson
Gunning Justin Dodge
Youth Development Sarah Franklin

tyler_bruce@hotmail.com 207-522-9889 feathersfins@comcast.net 207-751-3133 mmkennels@myfairpoint.net 207-725-8229 thumperaek1@yahoo.com 719-494-3387 justindodge3o@gmail.com 207-319-5911 sarahefrankling3@gmail.com 207-240-4402

chapter support

Membership Elise Wright
Social Media Misi Knutson
Website Brian Pike
Grounds Russell Estes
Newsletter Nancy Anisfield

 ycnavhda@gmail.com
 804-380-7974

 thumpereak1@yahoo.com
 719-494-3387

 bpike@maine.rr.com
 207-749-5097

 russellabby69@gmail.com
 207-607-3489

 anisfield@gmavt.net
 802-233-9158

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yankee chapter local sponsors

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(207)737-4029 (207)522-3275









