



barking dog express

Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

oct/nov/dec 2019

from our president...

It's that time of year again, "Where's the Prez?" has begun. Only thing that keeps me stationary is the seat belt I am currently required to wear for the flight. Gnarly and Willa are safely stored and most likely snoozing after a action filled week of hunting the grain fields and pot holes of Saskatchewan. I am currently playing catch up as communications were spotty.

It is so exciting to see Facebook, Yankee Chapter's website, and emails filled with the adrenaline rush of Hunting Season 2019. Wherever you head please be careful as there could be dangers or just inconveniences along the way. Check out the First Aid kit suggestions on our website under Training and Testing. Examples from last week: Willa's beautiful point on a world record porcupine. I watched Gnarly hunt the downwind side of a hedge row only to meet a very large skunk at its end. All I could see was Gnarly trotting behind a big black tail pointing straight up. Both those confrontations could have ended bad. Phew! We had hemostats in our vests and skunk remedy at camp.

The chapter recently supported LLBeans Hunting Expo and Cabelas Hunting Weekend with educational demos. Thanks to several chapter members that joined us at these events. Each company has donated generously to our chapter youth programs.

Speaking of our Yankee Youth, they have busy hunting with their families, friends, and mentors over the past few weeks. Thanks to so many for preserving our hunting traditions and hooking them on hunting and the dogs.

Since we will all be hitting the road soon, just a reminder, NAVHDA's International Meeting will be in Port

land, Maine, in January. It will be a guaranteed great time with our Yankee Crew in attendance. Kids are welcome and encouraged. Check it out on NAVHDA's website.

I am very excited about our newsletter's new format that Nancy Anisfield has been working on. Contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

Congrats to the many handlers that tested at Yankee and surrounding chapters. NAVHDA International posts test results soon after each event if you wonder how a dog/handler team performed.

Huge congrats to those that tested in the 2019 Invitational. Huge job accomplished no matter if you tested NA, UPT, UT or INV. Your hours of training have paid off and a hunting season is in your sights.

On a very sad note, David and Jacque Kuritzky, said goodbye to their sweet Riley. Riley was the last of my Berkley x Tera (30) pups. They have left an amazing legacy of hunting dogs. I was blessed to have hunted with so many of them. Riley, I will miss your amazing points and sweet kisses.

Be safe and create some memories wherever the road may take you.

Ok, a quick update on our travels home. We've been traveling nearly 24 hours at this point. Deer, skunks, raccoon, coyotes, leaf covered roads, Border Patrol, detours and we missed a moose but hit an 8" tree that had fallen across our path. We have been singing along to the oldies since Montréal to keep awake. We just cheered as we saw the Welcome to Maine sign. Zzzzzzz

-- Patti Carter



bulletin board

Upcoming Events

January 5	Yankee Annual Meeting Cabelas Scarborough, Maine
January 24-16	NAVHDA International Annual Meeting Portland, Maine

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account -- \$11,492.14
KK/BB Fund -- \$8,853.29
Savings -- \$17,780.27

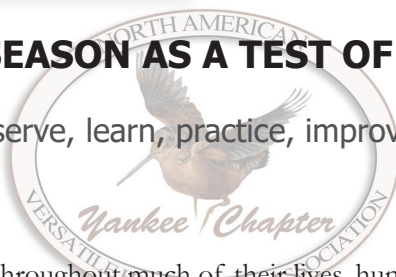
YankeeNAVHDA.org

Visit the Yankee Chapter website for training info and videos, newsletters, forms, photos, and more. Follow the Yankee Chapter on Facebook and Instagram, too!

from our director of training...

HUNTING SEASON AS A TEST OF TRAINING

Observe, learn, practice, improve!



Throughout much of their lives, hunting dogs are on a constant course of training and growth. Consider the hunt as another test -- carrying those skills developed in training into the woods or fields. You've trained your hunting dog, now when you go hunting, you can see what in that training has succeeded and what needs work.

As you've been hunting and continue to hunt this season, your dog is putting those trained skills to work at a venue in which his desire will be even higher. For you, the distraction of getting through the woods, seeing the bird, getting a shot, etc. is tough but doable. For your dog, those distractions are compounded by the sights, smells and other sounds of the environment. It is when we are hunting that we can see what lessons were truly learned on the training course.

Most important is safety -- at least steady to the shot. Here you need to draw a line in the sand, for the protection of the dog and yourself. Whatever kind of hunting you are doing, even with pheasants that like to run, you don't want your dog breaking on the flush. Consider your dog a hunting

tool -- as important before and after the shot as your gun -- an essential part of the hunt but one for which safety is a priority.

Then consider other parts of the hunting "test." For example, has your dog appeared cover shy -- reluctant to bust through thick brush? When you take him back to the training course this year, you'll have to give him environmental experience by planting birds in roses and thick bushes. Another example would be the command "easy." If you've needed to relocate or slow down your dog as you approached a bird and he hasn't responded to the command, you will take him back to the training course and work on reinforcing the verbal cue.

Give some thought as our season draws to a close about taking these pieces from the hunt back to the training field to work on so you will get the hunting dog you need and want. Even with prized Utility dogs, each hunting season is a test to see where your dog is at in his or her skills. Then you can go into the next training season knowing what you want and need to work on for the next hunting season. That is the constant course of training and growth.

-- Blaine Carter



barking dog express

Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

The Barking Dog Express will now be published five times a year with more training and hunting articles, a photo showcase, and an occasional Yankee youth page. Be sure to keep an eye on Facebook for member news and photos, on Instagram and the Yankee website galleries for event photos, and on chapter emails for announcements.

Oct/Nov/Dec -- Fall Test Recap & Upcoming Hunting Season
Jan/Feb -- Hunting Recap & Upcoming Winter Events
Mar/Apr -- Annual Meetings Reports & Winter Recap
May/June -- Mega Training Issue
July/Aug/Sept -- Spring Test Recap & Summer Issue

" not your normal chapter "
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Camille Noldan: Yankee's New Photo Editor

Snap those pics and send 'em in!

Camille Noldan, an accomplished photographer herself, is the Yankee Chapter's new photo editor. She will collect and select photos to be posted on the Yankee website, Facebook page, and Instagram.

Although we will no longer be including all the clinic, test, and member photos in the Barking Dog Express, our digital sites and social media would love to share your pictures with the rest of the chapter.

Send your hunting shots, favorite dog pics, and newsy images to:

NoldanPhoto@aol.com

Coming soon: Information about the Yankee Annual Meeting.

fall test recap

A big round of applause to all the handlers, judges, apprentice, and volunteers that made the Yankee Chapter fall test weekend one filled with great dog work, excitement, fun, and high drama.

Eight Natural Ability and 13 Utility dogs tested over the three days. Judges Megan Marzolf, Blaine Carter, Suzi Moore, Jason Carter, Ray Dyer and Leon Hairie put in many miles in the hot sun, working hard to ensure the best success possible from the testing dogs.

Apprentice Tyler Bruce was a great addition to the team, no doubt learning a lot from this dynamic batch of versatile dogs: twelve shorthairs,

two Brittannys, five wirehairs, one pudelpointer, and one English setter.

The judges awarded a total of five NA Prize 1s, one NA Prize 2, one NA Prize 3, four UT Prize 1s, three UT Prize 2s, and four UT Prize 3s.

Special kudos to Lisa Rinaldi and Blaine Carter for Bleu and Willa's perfect Utility 204 scores, and to Heather Place, Terry Wilson, Bryan Champagne, Tony Cote, and Charles Ellithorpe for perfect 112 Natural Ability scores on Odin, River, Pepper, Iggy and Leica.

Merrymeeting's North Country Prairie Dog owned by Nancy Anisfield had the unique distinction of receiving the lowest UT score of the

weekend after inhaling several chukars first thing Friday morning then completely forgetting that she really does know how to do a decent duck search.

For details on scores and prizes, go to www.navhda.org and click on Testing. From there you can select to search test records by chapter. Scores are also posted in the back of the Versatile Hunting Dog magazine, usually a month or so after each test is run.

For more photos from our test, visit the gallery at www.yankeenavhda.org. If you have some photos from test weekend you'd like to submit for the website or Yankee FaceBook page, please send them to Camille Nolden at NoldanPhoto@aol.com.



invitational recap

Congratulations to all the Yankee Chapter members who ran dogs in the NAVHDA Invitational hosted by the Buckeye Chapter in Bloomingdale, Ohio, September 14-17, 2019.

Yankee was well represented by handlers Matt Lorello, Mike Trull, Lauri Bailey, and Rich Gay, and a contingent of Yankee Chapter volunteers and supporters.

There were 206 dogs qualified to run in the Invitational this year, having received a Prize 1 Utility score the previous year. Always a roller coaster of highs and lows, anticipation and celebration, this year's Invitational featured 136 dogs running the test resulting in 68 new NAVHDA Versatile Champions.



YANKEE'S NEW VERSATILE CHAMPIONS

VC Fenton River Smoke Rise Over Mt. Mica VC Fenton River Claiming the Victory

The Northeast Region Solms/AZP/Zuchtschau test was held last month in Bowdoinham with several Yankee Chapter members (among others) running their dogs in this challenging event. Congratulations to all the NADKC handlers and their dogs for their hard work and testing success!

nadkc recap

September 27th - BtR (This is the blind fox retrieve. This test has the highest fail rate in the entire German system.)
Boss' Thunder vom Darz Bór Thor/Brent Grover : PASS
Androscoggin von der Nezinscot/John Noldan : PASS

September 28th - Solms Test

Chipsi vom Steirerengel/Boczowski NO PRIZE: Disqualified
Jedi On Point / Mike McKenzie PRIZE 1
Jett On Point / Zac Curtis PRIZE 1
Jaden On Point / Dave Trahan PRIZE 1
Jordan On Point / Dave Trahan PRIZE 1

AZP Test - Jasmine vom Adlerberg / Drew Burdick PRIZE 1

September 29th - Solms Test

Androscoggin von der Nezinscot / John Noldan PRIZE 1
Abagadasset von der Nezinscot / Steve Rowland PRIZE 1
Azischohos von der Nezinscot / Ron Budeshiem PRIZE 2
Islay von der Merrymeeting / Mark Morneau PRIZE 1
Ivo von der Merrymeeting / Suzi Moore PRIZE 1
Iwilladia von der Merrymeeting / Blaine Carter PRIZE 1



DIFW DIRECTIVE ON LAWS, RULES, POLICY AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO POSSESSION, TRAINING AND HUNTING CAPTIVE BRED UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Some upland game birds including pheasant are now on the unrestricted list. Other birds on the unrestricted list used to train dogs for hunting include:

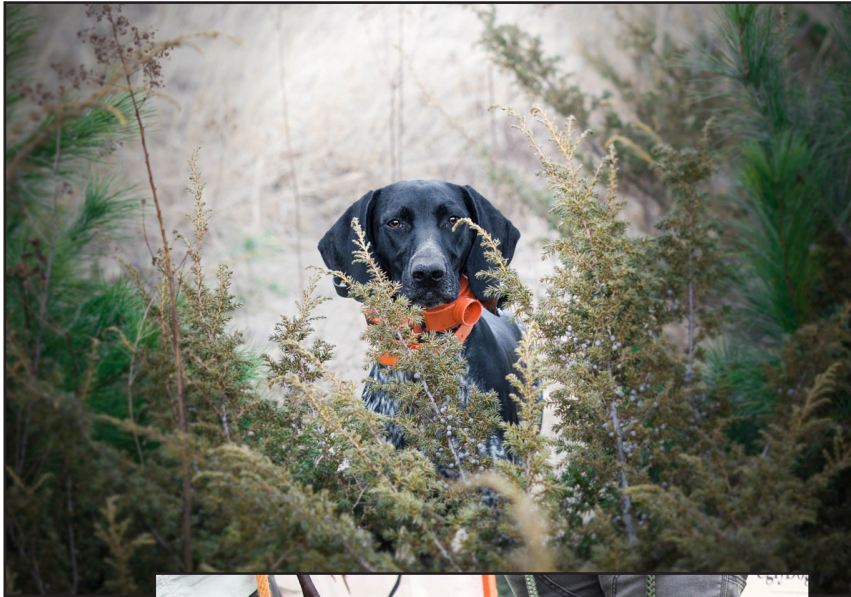
- o Chukar partridge
- o Quail, (Button, Northern Bobwhite, Common, Japanese)
- o Hungarian partridge
- o Pheasants
- o Pigeons (not hunted but are used for training purposes)

- There is no longer a propagation/possession permit for pheasants (see below). That statute was repealed as of Nov 1, 2017.
- If a person wants to release the above referenced birds, train dogs over the birds or use firearms while training they must obtain a permit from DIFW under Title 12 section 12156 that authorizes both the release and use of firearms to train dogs over birds.
- The "Permit to Release Birds and Use of Firearms for Dog Training" [formally titled: Dog Training for Firearm Use] will have a MOSES item so anyone interested can apply for \$12. The permit can be acquired by going to the DIFW website, downloading the application on the forms page <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/forms/> and mailing the completed application to: Inland Fisheries & Wildlife 284 State Street, SHS #41, Augusta, ME 04330.

This permit allows a person to:

- o Release birds into the wild for any reason;
- o Shoot at released birds while dog training on Sunday (unless you have a field trial permit);
- o Shoot at released birds while training dogs outside the open season on them (unless you have a field trial permit);
- o Shoot at released birds while training dogs anytime if you don't have a hunting license (unless you have a field trial permit); and
- o It authorizes shooting at birds during daylight hours.
- We placed many of the common upland game birds (including pheasants) used for training, on the unrestricted list so they can be possessed and propagated without a permit, however if they are being imported from out of state they need to have proof of a health certificate per DACF regulations.
- If someone is operating a commercial shooting area and they want to bring mallards, quail, chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge from outside of Maine they would need an importation permit.
- If a person or entity releases pheasants or quail for hunting purposes they would have to be hunted within the State's season and bag limit framework.

yankee chapter showcase



Be sure to visit the Yankee Chapter website and click on Gallery for photos from chapter clinics, test, and events!

" not your normal chapter "
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GROUSE HUNTING

by Jason Carter

Are your senses tingling yet? The flutter of wings, the crunch of leaves beneath your feet, the sound of the bell falling eerily silent in the distance or that nostalgic odor of gunpowder? No? How about that smell of "swamp dog" permeating from your truck, the sharp sting of your ears from the cool temps paired with the crisp whip of a sapling or those late night muscle spasms punishing you for on those hills you traversed. Not ringing any bells? Let's try the ever present sound of defeat rattling around in your game pouch, reminding you that you were once again outwitted by the king. I'm sure that might jog your memory. Yup, you guessed it, its grouse season!!!

Pre Scouting

A ton of research can be done without stepping into the woods, saving a ton of time and money. With the use of today's technology you can get a feel for your potential hunting grounds and predict with a fair amount of accuracy where your great concentration of birds can be found in that area. Simply take your areas and locate large swaths of previously logged forest. They are very distinctive on your imagery. Follow the line of old growth abutting the younger 10-15 year old growth. Where that line meets a water source and gravel you'll likely find birds. Which is usually why I hunt every culvert I cross especially during droughts or warm days. It also helps keep your dog cool on hot days.

Scouting

Once you're physically in the area you'll be able to better identify where your greatest concentration of birds can be found. What berries are ripe, what is budding, how wet is the ground, which trees dominate the landscape and how old they are. Look for raspberries and tamarack. It will indicate sufficient moisture on the ground. Look for a mixed forests that are young yet diverse with ample amounts of conifers. Find 10-15 year old log yards with drumming logs and feeding undergrowth void of thick tall grass. This year we are having a banner crop of beeches and acorns. I predict birds will go to these high valued food sources early this year where normally these are a late season food source. If you can find a covert mixed with birches, oaks, beeches, and conifers you may get into some good numbers. Open the crop of your harvested grouse and refine your scouting to those food sources. If this is true, the beech and oak ridges will make for some great shooting opportunities.

Biology

The more you know about the biology of the grouse the better you will be able to predict their locations. Grouse of course don't have teeth, so they need gravel in their crop to eat. What age growth of trees do they prefer (no larger than a baseball in girth), what are they eating at that time, do they have dense conifers to roost and hide in? Is there

hard mass (apples, beechnuts, acorn, etc) feed to go to late season? Remember all game needs food, shelter, water, protection from predators and habitat. They will make a home in a small area and will have intimate knowledge of their escape routes keeping them handy at all times. When a predator approaches they move into their escape route, and the moment they have a solid barrier between you and them they fly. Understand that their greatest threat comes primarily from above making a dense canopy essential. And is also why, the moment you see them they vanish like ghosts.

The best strategy I tell folks is to not go to their dogs. Get out and around the bird and walk back at your dog. This takes their escape route away and encourages them to go into hiding, essentially pinning them and providing you with your best opportunity. Another trick of the trade is to initially hunt every culvert as water and gravel are essential to grouse. However, grouse are very good at finding water in the gravel and need very little for their crops so they can get pushed back off the roads relatively easily in high pressure areas. They are also edge creatures that follow the edges of cuts and can concentrate their numbers in areas that are rich in food supplies. After a flush, look around and you'll likely find yourself in a corner or a point of sorts near water and gravel. Pay close attention and over time like your dog you'll begin to see patterns and similarities to help better hone your skills at finding grouse.

JUST 'CAUSE IT'S COOL DOESN'T MEAN IT'S COOL

Hypothermia.

We tend to think of waterfowl dogs being the ones at risk of hypothermia, retrieving in icy water and sitting in a frigid duck blind. While they are the prime candidates, upland dogs in cold, icy or wet conditions can become hypothermic as well. Shivering doesn't always mean the dog is cold since many hunting dogs do the shake, rattle and roll from anticipation or excitement. Symptoms of hypothermia progress from shivering to stiffness, weakness and disorientation followed by stupor, collapse and unconsciousness. As the dog's body temperature drops, its pulse, breathing and mental status deteriorate.

A dog with a moderate level of hypothermia may have a body temperature dropped to 85-90 degrees from its norm of 101-102.5. If that core temperature falls below 82, the dog probably would lose consciousness and be in a potentially fatal condition.

Immediate treatment for a dog in the early stages of hypothermia can be simple: blankets and a heat source. If the truck or home are too far away, it's best to build a fire and rub the dog vigorously with a towel or soft jacket to create frictional heat. If the dog is conscious and will drink, small amounts of warmed fluid help raise the body temperature. Unlike hyperthermia, with hypothermia, it's okay to raise the dog's body temperature quickly. Likewise, taking the dog's rectal temperature can determine the severity of the hypothermia. With severe hypothermia, professional medical intervention such as the introduction of heated intravenous solutions is critical.

DO WE STILL NEED THE 20-GAUGE?

A look into the advantage of a true square load.

by Terry M. Boyer

Why do we still need a 16-gauge? This has been a favorite topic for shotgun writers for the last 20 years. This is also a topic that appears on various Internet shotgun bulletin boards at least once a month. Writers and bulletin board users question why we still have the 16-gauge when a 12- or a 20- will do the job just as well. Yes, a 12-gauge will do the job as well as the 16-gauge. A 20-gauge won't. ...

The hype for years for the 20-gauge had been that with the 3-inch shell, the hunter had 12-gauge performance (1-1/4 ounce of shot) in a lighter handier package. Now the 20-gauge may have been in a lighter, handier package than a comparable 12-gauge, but it does not equal the 12-gauge performance. There are many reasons for this, and all of them are found inside the shotshell and the shotgun barrel.

Let's look at the one ounce load that is common in the both the 12 and the 20 gauge: The nominal interior dimension of a 12-gauge barrel is .729 inches. An ounce of shot that is inside that .729 barrel has a shot column height of .069 inches. This means that the height of the shot column is less than the diameter of the shot column. For a 20-gauge, the nominal barrel diameter is .615 inches. An ounce of shot inside this diameter is .986 inches in height.

Even before it is fired, the shot string in the 20-gauge shell is one-quarter inch longer than the shot string in the 12-gauge. After firing, as the shot string travels down the barrel, they continue to elongate, and the 20-gauge shot string becomes longer than the

12-gauge on a geometric proportion. By 20 yards, the 20-gauge shot string is approximately 14 inches in length. The 12-gauge one-ounce shot string is only six inches in length.

Now, eight inches does not seem like a lot, but it drastically alters the effectiveness of a shotgun pattern. It has weakened the pattern and diminished the number of pellets that can effectively strike the target. When you throw out the pellets that are out-of-round or damaged in the trip down the barrel, the shot string is even weaker. This is not as critical when the load is a no. 8 pellet with 410 pellets to the ounce and the quarry is a dove, quail or other small bird. However, if the load is one ounce of no. 6 (225 pellets) or no. 5 (170 pellets) and the quarry is a pheasant or other large bird, the difference in the number of pellets striking the bird becomes critical. This is with the optimum 20-gauge one-ounce load. When attempting to make the 20- into a 12- and stuffing 1-1/8 or even 1-1/4 ounce of shot through that .615 bore, the shot string is being stretched and distorted even further.

Now let's look at my favorite, the 16 gauge: The bore of a 16-gauge measures .662 inches. An ounce of shot inside the 16-bore measures .837 inches in length. Even though there is a difference in the diameter vs. the height of the shot column, the one-ounce 16-gauge load is considered a ballistically "square" load.

I learned long ago in ballistics that the one unbroken rule is to "expect the unexpected and anticipate the unexplained." Don't ask me to explain

the reason, but I have counted numerous patterns of one-ounce loads of different shot sizes out of different chokes in the 12-, 16- and 20-gauge. The 16-gauge will consistently have a more equal distribution of pellets and a rounder area of impact than a 12-gauge. Twenty-gauge patterns are often elliptical, erratic and spotty.

The 16-gauge is considered a "square" or a "ballistically equal" load. The same is true with the 3/4 ounce 28-gauge load. This is one of those ballistic anomalies. Technically a 12-gauge one ounce-load should give the roundest, most even pattern. It doesn't, but a one-ounce 16-gauge load and a 3/4 ounce 28-gauge load do.

I will admit that as a gun for small birds, quail, dove, woodcock, etc. the 20-gauge is a very good choice. I believe that for these the 28 is even better. When you ask the 20-gauge to perform on pheasants or larger prairie grouse, it will do so, but not as consistently effectively as a 12- or 16-gauge. The 12- or 16- will perform on large birds and small birds. The 28-gauge fits the niche well for small birds.

In the past, 20-gauge guns were praised for their light weight, ease of carry and quick handling characteristics. With the plethora of different models available in all action types, 12- and 16-gauge guns are available that are lighter and handier than many 20-gauge guns.

A common question is why do we still need a 16-gauge? My question is why do we still need the 20-gauge?



Terry Boyer was a ballistics and gunning expert who wrote numerous articles on upland shotgunning. This article first appeared in The Upland Almanac, summer 2007. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

BIRD HUNTING DILEMMAS

Things to ponder before you head into the field...things to analyze at the end of the day.

1. Your dog is on point in a nasty, thick blowdown. The bird is pinned and won't flush.

(a) Do you wait and wait, knowing that if you go into the mess you probably won't have room to swing your gun even though the bird might fly out the other side and you'll have no shot?

(b) Or do you move in to flush it, hoping to secure a shootable location before it flushes, figuring it's better to make something happen in case the bird decides to run and/or your dog breaks point?

2. You've trained all year to make your pointing dog steady. As soon as you start hunting and put up a few wild birds, he starts breaking on the shot.

(a) Do you forego the opportunity to shoot, focusing on correcting your dog and re-establishing his steadiness so all that training time isn't for naught?

(b) Or do you say the heck with it, and take the opportunity to put a bird on the ground for him to retrieve (and for you to eat), figuring you'll recoup the steadiness in the spring?

3. It's late afternoon, you only have a half hour left to hunt, and you know of just one more spot that almost always holds birds that you can check on your way back to the truck. But you just shot at one, and while it really felt like you were on it, you didn't see the bird fall.

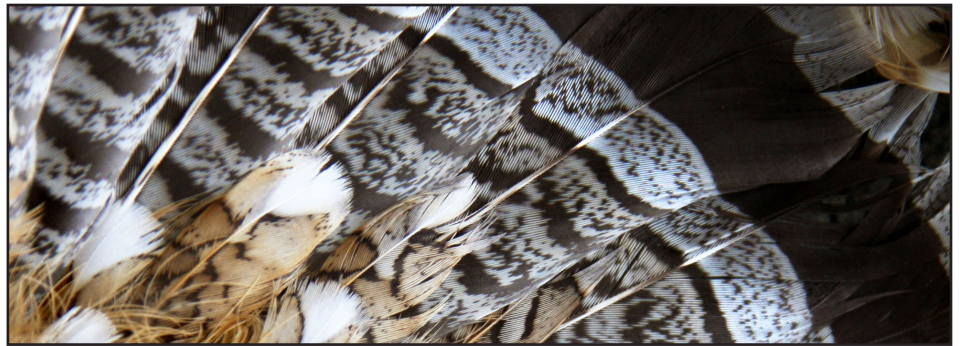
(a) Do you and your dog spend that whole half hour, if need be, looking for that bird in case you got it, never wanting to waste game?

(b) Or do you send your dog on a quick search, then get back to hunting your way to that last honey hole where the odds of another shooting opportunity are pretty good?

4. You never shoot birds on the ground or in a tree. But the end of December is approaching and you really wanted to bag your young pup's first grouse. A big partridge just flushed out of the road ditch up into an airy white pine. You know if the bird flushes it will fly into the woods giving you no shot. You can see it on the limb, waiting nervously. It's an easy shot.

(a) Do you shoot it out of the tree to reward your dog's good work with a retrieve even though it violates your personal fair chase ethic? (Devil on the shoulder.)

(b) Do wait for it to flush, hoping for that 10% chance it will fly out into the road, reconciling the fact that your dog may not get a grouse his first year? (Angel on your shoulder.)



3 SMART VEHICLE SURVIVAL TIPS

1. We can live without food for days, but water is important. Carry a gallon jug of water in your vehicle. In the winter, keep it in the passenger compartment so it won't freeze.

2. Make a small homemade fire-starting kit: Take lint from a dryer and mixed it in with candle wax to make a ball of tinder. Wrap that in tinfoil and store it in a Ziploc bag along with a dozen or so waterproof, strike anywhere matches. Put it all inside coffee can with a plastic lid. For a slow-burning small heat source, burn the candle inside the can. For a bigger fire for heat or signaling, use the tinder ball to get a larger fire started. A pre-packaged fireplace log (kept in the trunk or covered truck bed) works well. Use the small can and a piece of the log as a source of heat or to start a fire outside the vehicle.

3. A pencil and paper can be life-savers. If you have to leave your vehicle, leave a note and indicate where you are headed. You can also have a piece of cardboard pre-made with "NEED HELP" on one side and "CALL POLICE" on the other."

NAVHDA INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS



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barking dog schedule

The Barking Dog Express will be published five times a year:

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

Fall Test Recap & Upcoming Hunting Season
 Hunting Recap & Upcoming Winter Events
 Annual Meetings Reports & Winter Recap
 Mega Training Issue
 Spring Test Recap & Summer Issue

Be sure to keep an eye on Facebook for member news, on the Yankee web-site galleries for event photos, and on chapter emails for announcements.