

barking dog express

2024

oct/nov/dec



yankee chapter
north american versatile
hunting dog association

from our president...

calendar

**Yankee Chapter
Annual Meeting**
January 5, 2025
Phippsburg Sportsmen's
Association

**NAVHDA International
Annual Meeting**
Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2025
Bozeman, MT



yankeonavhda.org

ycnavhda@gmail.com

NAVHDA
NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION

President's greetings from the endless prairies and grain fields of Saskatchewan. As we travel home, saying "see ya next time" to the many wonderful friends we have made in this province, our memories are as endless as their fields. Blaine and I will share those memories anytime requested!

Blaine judged a NAVHDA test in Quebec many years ago and met two young men who were looking for their next hunting dog. Blaine loved their passion and we ended up selling them each a puppy. A few years later Steve and Murray contacted us, sharing that they had purchased a cabin in Saskatchewan and wanted us to join them for a week of hunting. We did just that! Trip details, Maine to Montreal by car, Montreal to Saskatchewan by plane, rental car to their new hunting cabin and then all in reverse to get home. Dogs were packed safely in their crates for the entire trip. It was just an amazing adventure. Steve's daughter joined us this year as he passes along his passion. Murray's story was featured in this month's VHD. We just repeated this adventure for the 20th time. Saskatchewan never lets us down. Thousands of sharp tails, huns, cranes, ducks, geese, muleys, whitetails, moose, jack rabbits, coyotes, badgers, porcupines, skunks, hawks and endless prairie dogs holes! There was NEVER a dull moment!

Moral of this story? NAVHDA offers many opportunities outside of its training and testing programs. Keep an eye out for the one that may change your life's opportunities forever. I know of a few Yankee Chapter members who know exactly what I am talking about!

It's been another great year for our chapter with record membership numbers and endless hunting dog educational opportunities. Our Yankee Chapter's Annual Meeting, Indoor Clinic and Maine Sportsman's Show started the year off. Our first ever Ask the Vet event was a huge success and we hope to repeat this again in 2025. Thank you Dr. Charles! Your enthusiastic support of each event is what makes them special. Feels like we all just enjoy our moments together, ya think?

As your President, I have attended NAVHDA's International Annual Meeting, the Zoom President's Meetings and Regional Representative Meetings. I am very proud to say, we are a VERY respected chapter and others are using our chapter's clinic as a model. I have noticed in the VHD the word "stations" at clinics being used. I have noticed on Facebook chapters using training drills with multiple dogs in groups. You, our trainers and members, are responsible for these educational examples and respect! Your enthusiasm and selfless willingness to give back to our chapter is contagious.

The Yankee Chapter has always been a "family" of dedicated versatile hunting dog trainers, hunters, and more importantly friends. Our youth involvement continues to grow with leadership creating new educational moments. This year we offered and supported our first Hunter Safety Program. Thanks Sarah Franklin, Phippsburg Sportsmans Association, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for making this event a great success. It will be repeated in 2025. Yankee Chapter member, Matt Lamontagne, generously donated an AED unit to our chapter and conducted a class in its use and the latest life saving techniques. This device will be kept in our trailer and hopefully never used! This class will be repeated again in 2025. Thank you Matt!

As we look to 2025 and by popular request, we will be hosting an Aims and Rules Clinic in the Spring. Date has yet to be determined. This educational event has always been very well attended and fills quickly. The Yankee Chapter has outgrown its equipment trailer and is currently researching a replacement. Russell Estes, Andy Baker, and Bryan Champagne will keep us all up to date on their progress.

As you head out hunting in a few days, please respect our feathered resources and the land they roam. We are blessed to have our Conservation Partners, RGS/AWS and PF/QF, continually making their habitat better. If your membership has expired, it's time to rejoin and mention, "Yankee sent ya"!

Be safe, use Fair Chase, and create some memories to share around the campfire. I'll be lookin' for your Yankee and NAVHDA decals! -- Patti

"not your normal chapter"

page 1

yankee updates & info

YANKEE CHAPTER APPRENTICE JUDGE SCHOLARSHIPS & MENTORS

Becoming a NAVHDA judge is a time-consuming and often expensive undertaking. To encourage and support Yankee members interested in becoming NAVHDA judges, the Yankee Board has two programs.

First is the Apprentice Scholarship Fund. Apprentices can be reimbursed for 50% of their travel costs to tests other than Yankee tests. Apprentices submit receipts to Yankee at the end of each calendar year for that reimbursement.

Second, we have an informal mentorship program. The idea is for Yankee judges to help individuals in the chapter learn more about what is involved in becoming a judge before applying to the NAVHDA program and/or help them throughout their apprenticeship by being a mentor -- reviewing and discussing judging and scoring issues. Blaine Carter has offered to serve as a liason pairing each apprentice with one or two judges. For more information, contact Blaine: mmkennels@myfairpoint.net

Membership Renewals

2025 Membership Renewals are due in January of 2025. For those over-achievers (we really love you), please wait until January!



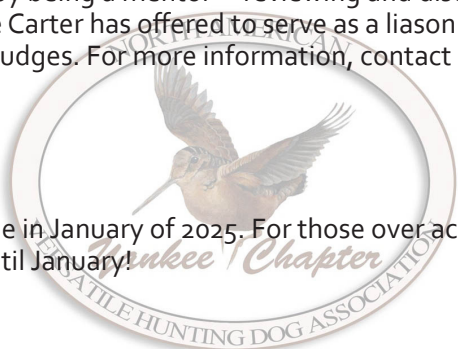
Welcome New Member!

Sarah Karp

The Barking Dog Express is published five times a year:

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

Don't forget to send us your "Yankees in the Wild" photos this hunting season!
Email to ycnavhda@gmail.com



Fall Test Results

utility test

Kelley Grover 183 PZ2
Sky Hunter Z's Goddess of the Night

Marsha Bennett 173 PZ3
Merrymeeting's Mighty in Battle

Nick Racioppi 176 PZ2
Schwarzeskabel Alder Brooke

Steve Morse 143 PZ3
Merrymeeting's Bissell

Elise Wright/Sarah Bodine 169 NP
Olympic Oh Henry!

Jason Carter/Elise Wright 195 PZ1
Olympic Come Around

Nate Becker 204 PZ1
Landry's Leonard Becker

Darcy M. St. John 153 PZ3
Sky Hunter Sequoia

Robert Clifford 159 PZ3
Timber Chasseur Doodle

Aaron Landry 161 PZ3
Sky Hunter's Alexandra

Amanda Dyer 179 PZ2
Fenton River Woodland Acres Ely

Mark Morneau 135 NP
Merrymeeting's Tessa Ann

utility prep test

Carlton Peabody 143 NP
Showdown-Garbonita Hustlin Sam

natural ability test

John McDonough 89 NP
Fenton River Ronan by the Bay

Mike Rinaldi 104 PZ2
Fenton River Wingman

Justin A. Dodge 112 PZ1
Schwarzwald's Quest for Nyla's Limit

Paige Pellerin 87 NP
Sunny Acres Con "Stella"tion of Hope

Danielle Murphy 106 PZ2
Glowing Northwoods Cinder

Danielle Friend 102 PZ3
She's Got Moxie of Serenity



Changing of the guard...

Thank you to **Philip Laperriere** for serving as Yankee's Director of Youth Development! Philip stepped down, and **Sarah Franklin** has assumed the position. Please feel free to get in touch with Sarah if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities or events for Yankee youth. sarahefrankling3@gmail.com

Guns Gifted to the Yankee Chapter by Jim Hynson

We are honored to be one of many beneficiaries of the estate of the late Jim Hynson who -- with his delightful Brittany -- was a Yankee member for many years. Jim left five guns to the chapter:

- Browning Citori Ultralight 20 ga o/u
- Ruger Red Label 28 ga o/u
- Ruger Red Label 12 ga o/u
- Beretta Super Magnum 12 ga auto
- Weatherby 20 ga auto

The Yankee Chapter deeply appreciates Jim's generosity.



The Yankee Chapter Youth Fund will be awarding a Lifetime Hunting License to this munchkin, Philip and Natalie Laperriere's new baby, Calen Fisher Laperriere.

Thank you from Phippsburg Sportsmen's Association



Potential Women's NAHP?

The youth NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program continues to be a great success. Why not create one for women? It's a question we as a chapter have started to consider. This camp would be geared towards women over the age of 21, with a platform similar to that of the current NAHP program: Hunting, survival, dog work, and outdoors skills. Please reach out via the chapter email address or contact Sarah Franklin if you have any input or ideas!
ycnavhda@gmail.com sarahefrankling3@gmail.com



from our Treasurer

As of August 31, 2024, funds for dedicated Yankee Chapter youth programs and apprentice judge scholarships totaled \$18,227. The Yankee Chapter General Fund balance was \$29,380.

Yankee Chapter's Hunter Safety Class

, organized by our new Director of Youth Development, Sarah Franklin, was a huge success. Congrats to Yankee for hooking another generation on hunting and the outdoors. See details on the Youth page.

Don't Overlook Bad Behavior

Every September for the past 20 years, Patti and I have been fortunate enough to travel to Saskatchewan to hunt their plentiful upland game birds. This past week I watched Keepah's "unsteadiness" to the shot increase! Last year at this time she had received a PZ 1 UT. My lack of training consistency this summer was obvious!

Keepah has always been a strong pointer, to my advantage. She pointed grouse and woodcock at a young age, which allowed me to shoot birds over her. As she matured, her drive for the game increased with every exposure. It was not long before she started breaking. I did try to stop the delayed chase which "kind of" kept my pointing intact. What I discovered was that her level of obedience was not keeping up with her increased drive.

"I should have made her wait but killing the birds seemed more important." Does that sound familiar?

Hunting with young dogs and finding game will drive up their desire and often push them beyond their/your obedience level. Please keep this in mind while hunting and expect the needed corrections.

I do have to say Patti did it right with Etta and never let her learn not to be steady. Etta never broke on birds and as a result her marks were accurate and retrieves efficient.

I did restart my training in the field, watched Keepah during the flush and shot, and corrected any disobedience. It didn't take long and she suddenly "remembered" her job. I finished the week with the dog I tested last fall and man did she put on a show.

Most of you have trained hard this year so don't over look these bad behaviors, letting them manifest. Remember what I say about bird dogs, "They are all liars and cheats!" Keep your goals in mind and train accordingly. If you do, you will have



a great hunt and less to do in next year's endeavors. May your hunting go well and I can't wait to hear the story.

Thanks so very much to Yankee's Training Committee. It was an incredible year. Such a dedicated crew. I'd like to welcome Justin Dodge to our 2025 Committee! It just gets better!

Gone hunting,
Blaine

CDC Continues to Wrongfully Claim Power to Limit Dog Imports

Alert: September 24, 2024: **The Sportsmen's Alliance**

Yesterday, Sept. 23, the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation received a response from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) opposing SAF's motion for preliminary injunction in our lawsuit to rescind a CDC rule restricting the importation of dogs into the United States. In their response, the CDC continues to defend its rule-making under the legally unsound interpretation that the Public Health Service Act grants it the authority to limit and regulate dog importations as codified in the final rule.

The CDC rule includes new paperwork requirements and microchips for those who want to enter the United

States with a dog and goes on to prohibit any dog under the age of six months from entering the U.S. at all. SAF filed its original complaint on Aug. 7 and its motion for preliminary injunction on Aug. 20. If granted, the preliminary injunction would allow Sportsmen's Alliance members and others to import to the U.S. or reenter the country with puppies under six months of age. If awarded, the injunction would also void the requirement that dogs crossing the border be microchipped.

Many Sportsmen's Alliance members have upcoming international hunting trips, dog trials, dog sales and purchases, and veterinary appointments. The rule cripples these pursuits, trans-

actions, and necessary health checks, all in the name of protecting the U.S. from the extremely unlikely reintroduction of dog rabies from countries the CDC recognizes as rabies-free. ...

"Continually stating that you have statutory authorities does not make it so; statutory text and judicial interpretations grant authorities," said Michael Jean, Litigation Counsel at the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation. "The CDC overreached their authority here, as we argued in our original claim and motion for preliminary injunction. We continue to believe that a preliminary injunction is justified to protect the interests of our members, and we look forward to arguing as much before the court soon."



Score!

All NAVHDA tests are scored on a point-index system. Each of the dog's tasks receives an achievement point based on a scale of 0 (failure) to 4 (excellent). That score is then multiplied by an "index" number which reflects the task's importance. For example, in the Natural Ability Test, Use of Nose has an importance index number of 6. So if the dog is given 3 points in Use of Nose, that 3 is multiplied by 6 to give 18 points towards the final score.


All those task scores – each achievement score multiplied by the importance index number – are then totaled for the final test score number. That total determines if the dog gets a Prize I, Prize II, Prize III (or no prize), if the dog has earned the minimal acceptable score required in each task.

Thus, a dog could have a higher score but not receive a prize because it had not met the minimum in a particular task. A dog with a lower total score could get a prize if it met the minimums in all tasks. For example, a dog scoring a total of 86 points in an NA test could receive a Prize II if all the minimums were achieved. But if the dog failed at the water and received a 0 there, even if all its other scores were 4's and 3's, it couldn't receive a prize because the minimum at the water to receive a prize -- pass the test -- is a 2.

The shaded boxes on the scorecards serve as a guide to help judges weigh performance in different parts of the test. The NA scorecard boxes indicate where a particular performance can be evaluated. Open boxes are primary areas of judgement, lined/crossed boxes are secondary, and shaded boxes mean the task isn't relevant to that part of the test. For example, Tracking is primary in the pheasant track. A dog could, however, track a bird that ran during the field portion of the test. If that were the case, its tracking performance during the field hunt could be taken into consideration and would be notated in the secondary Tracking box in that column. It might then be factored in, along with the primary pheasant track.

Scoring System for the Natural Ability Test					
Test	Index Number	Max. Points Attainable	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III
Nose	6	24	24(4)	18(3)	18(3)
Search	5	20	20(4)	15(3)	10(2)
Water	5	20	15(3)	15(3)	10(2)
Pointing	4	16	12(3)	12(3)	8(2)
Tracking	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	2(1)
Desire to Work	4	16	16(4)	12(3)	8(2)
Cooperation	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	2(1)
TOTAL		112	99	80	58

Minimum score for each prize classification is indicated in parentheses.



GUN SHY TEST:

Not Gun Shy
 Gun Sensitive
 Gun Shy

WATER	TRACK	FIELD	TEST	SCORE	POINTS
			Use of Nose 4 3 3	6	18
			Search 4 3 2	5	15
			Water 3 3 2	5	15
			Pointing 3 3 2	4	12
			Tracking 3 2 1	2	6
			Desire to Work 4 3 2	4	16
			Cooperation 3 2 1	2	6

PRIZE CLASSIFICATION _____ TOTAL _____

JUDGE'S NAME _____ (Print Name)

SIGNATURE _____

JUDGE # _____

Check here if this is an Apprentice Card
 Check here if this is the Senior Judge's Card

NAVHDA NATURAL ABILITY TEST

CALL NAME: _____
CHAPTER: _____
DATE OF TEST: _____
NAME OF DOG: _____
AGE ON TEST DATE: _____
BREED: _____ **SEX:** _____
OWNER: _____
HANDLER: _____
REGISTRATION #: _____

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES:

1. _____ Eyes: ^(out)ectropic, ⁽ⁱⁿ⁾entropic, other defects _____

2. _____ Testes

3. _____ H.D. X-rayed

4. _____ Bite and Teeth _____

Butt Overshot Undershot Extra Missing

_____ List ID Number(s) of Involved Teeth _____

COAT:

Density	Harshness
Dense	Harsh
Medium Dense	Medium Harsh
Open	Soft

TEMPERAMENT:

NORMAL SENSITIVE "Recovers Fast" SHY "Recovers Slow"

COMMENTS:

Primary

Secondary

Where Applicable

A=
B=

A= Judge's Score
 B= Consensus
 (if different from A)

continued on the next page...

Score! ...continued

Scoring System for the Utility Test					
Test	Index Number	Max. Points Attainable	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III
Water					
Search for a Duck	4	16	16(4)	12(3)	8(2)
Walking at Heel	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	2(1)
Remaining by Blind	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	2(1)
Steadiness by Blind	2	8	6(3)	4(2)	2(1)
Retrieve of a Duck	3	12	9(3)	6(2)	3(1)
Field					
Search	5	20	15(3)	12(3)	10(2)
Pointing	4	16	16(4)	12(3)	8(2)
Steadiness on Game	3	12	9(3)	6(2)	6(2)
Retrieve of Shot Bird	3	12	9(3)	6(2)	3(1)
Retrieve of Dragged Game	3	12	9(3)	6(2)	3(1)
Judged Throughout					
Use of Nose	6	24	24(4)	18(3)	18(3)
Desire to Work	5	20	20(4)	15(3)	10(2)
Stamina	3	12	9(3)	9(3)	6(2)
Cooperation	3	12	9(3)	6(2)	3(1)
Obedience	3	12	9(3)	6(2)	6(2)
TOTAL		204	172	129	90

Minimum score for each prize classification is indicated in parentheses.

Judges' Scorecard for Utility Test

PURINA					NAVHDA UTILITY TEST					
NOSE	DESIRE	STAM	COOP	OBE	TEST	SCORE	POINTS			
					Search for Duck 4 3 2	4	4			
					Walking at Heel 3 2 1	2	2			
					Remaining by Blind 3 2 1	2	2			
					Steadiness by Blind 3 2 1	2	2			
					Retrieve of Duck 3 2 1	3	3			
					Search 3 3 2	5	5			
					Pointing 4 3 2	4	4			
					Steadiness to Flush					
					Steadiness to Wing					
					Steadiness to Shot					
					Steadiness to Fall					
					Steadiness Total 3 2 2	3	3			
					Retrieve of Shot Bird 3 2 1	3	3			
					Retrieve by Drag 3 2 1	3	3			
					Nose 4 3 3	6	6			
					Desire to Work 4 3 2	5	5			
					Stamina 3 3 2	3	3			
					Cooperation 3 2 1	3	3			
					Obedience 3 2 2	3	3			

CALL NAME: _____

CHAPTER: _____

DATE OF TEST: _____

NAME OF DOG: _____

AGE ON TEST DATE: _____

BREED: _____ **SEX:** _____

OWNER: _____

HANDLER: _____

REGISTRATION #: _____

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES:

1. _____ Eyes: ^(out)ectropic, ⁽ⁱⁿ⁾entropic, other defects _____

2. _____ Testes

3. _____ H.D. X-rayed

4. _____ Bite and Teeth _____

Butt Overshot Undershot Extra Missing

List ID Number(s) of Involved Teeth _____

COAT:

Density _____ **Harshness** _____

Dense _____ Harsh _____

Medium Dense _____ Medium Harsh _____

Open _____ Soft _____

TEMPERAMENT:

NORMAL _____ SENSITIVE _____ SHY _____

_____ "Recovers Fast" _____ "Recovers Slow"

PRIZE CLASSIFICATION _____ TOTAL _____

JUDGE'S NAME _____
(Print Name)

SIGNATURE _____

JUDGE # _____

Check here if this is an Apprentice Card

Check here if this is the Senior Judge's Card

Primary

Secondary

Where Applicable

A=Judge's Score
B=Consensus
(if different from A)

A B

The Utility Test scorecard uses the boxes a bit differently. Instead of categorizing Water, Track, and Field, the UT card uses the boxes to give the judges guidance on the subjective parts of the test – Nose, Desire, Stamina, Cooperation, and Obedience – all of which weigh into many of the test's tasks to varying degrees.

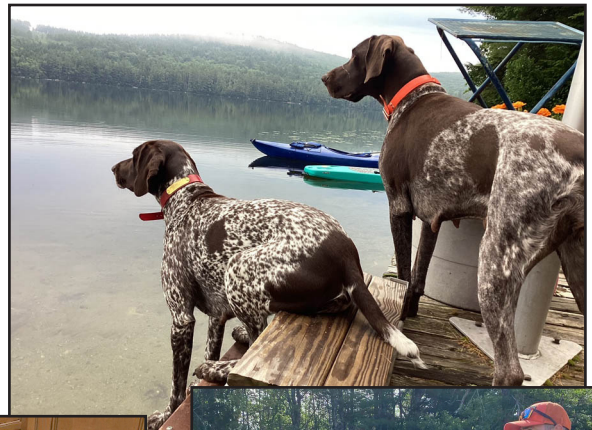
The right side of both the UT and NA cards record information for the dog's record – physical attributes, coat quality, and temperament. These do not affect the score and are considered to be a courtesy offered by the judges.

On the back of the cards, there are areas for judges to make notes about each aspect of the test. "These detailed notes are where you keep the information that determines the scores," Judge Terry Wilson explained. "Covering what the dog does, the amount of time taken for different things, where it goes, how it behaves...these notes help a judge settle in on a score and serve as a reference when the judges confer or a handler asks for an explanation."

Apprentice Judge P. J. Rose added, "Additional interesting factors contribute to scoring in certain areas. For instance, when judging an NA dog's overall desire, a judging team might weigh Field desire more heavily into the final score than Water desire. The thought being that the dog had a longer more sustained period of time to exhibit desire - as it's defined in the book - in the field as opposed to the water portion of the test. However, desire is a primary scoring factor in both events."

"Another example would be a UT dog that struggles during the steady to flush portion of the steadiness sequence on a bird, but follows through with a clean steady to wing, shot and fall sequence, P. J. said. "The infraction in flush might weigh more heavily in the overall steadiness score at the end of the day than the others. Think: hunting scenario. If a dog can't hold a bird to afford the on-the-foot hunter a shot, there isn't much of a chance of harvesting a bird. That is often considered by a judging team when conferring."

showcase:
summer season draws to a close



yankee youth!

by Sarah Franklin, Director of Youth Development

NAVHDA International Youth Membership Reimbursement

The Yankee Chapter will reimburse all NAVHDA International Youth Membership fees. Once you have renewed or enrolled your child with an NAVHDA International membership please submit receipt to ycnavhda@gmail.com for reimbursement.



This year's NAHP was a great success with a full camp of 8 campers and mentors. The kids spent three action packed days learning all about hunting, safety, survival, and dog training. This program wouldn't be what it is today without all of the amazing mentors and volunteers who continue to step up and help out each year. As a reminder, this camp is designed for children ages 12-14. If you or someone you know has a child that might be interested in next year's 2025 camp, please send their information over to me: sarahefrankling3@gmail.com



YANKEE HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

For the first time this year Yankee hosted its Hunter Safety Course in partnership with the Phippsburg Sportsman's Club and Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The class was a great success with over 20 individuals in attendance. Though the class was open to the public, the majority of the class was attended by Yankee members and youths, as well as current and previous NAHP campers and family members. This was a great addition for NAHP campers, and something we look forward to providing again!



NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION

Member Spotlight

Learn a little more about some of us Yankees! Join the fun -- 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?



Steve Morse

1. Nickname- Steveo
2. Current Job - Perio/Implants
DreamJob- Brewmaster
3. Dogs: Weimaraner-Molson
Merrymeeting GSP's:
Teal, Gritty, Bissell, Peepah
4. Unknown- Love to duck hunt
5. Why Yankee- Camaraderie, great knowledgeable people, definitely not your normal chapter, finally found my tribe
6. Change- Be more firm, I'm too soft
7. Oldest in fridge-
Chukar, frozen solid

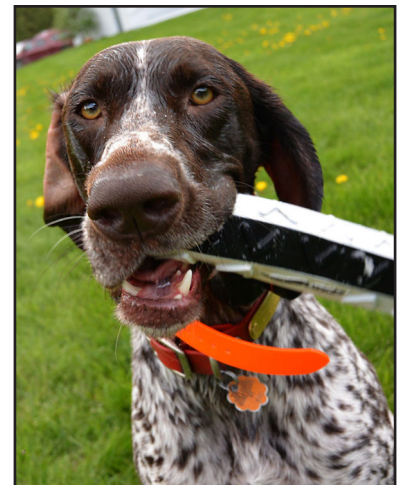


Nate Becker

1. Nickname: Blaine calls me and my dog Broccoli
2. Current Job: Engineer
Dream Job: Coach/Mentor/Trainer
3. Dogs: 1 Dog, GSP
4. Something you don't know: I'm building a mobile sauna.
5. Joining Yankee: The community of people that the Yankee Chapter has assembled is diverse and special.
6. Do one thing differently with training: I would have pushed myself earlier to organize training groups outside of our weekly classes and clinics. We've done this a lot with chapter members this year and it's been really rewarding.
7. Oldest thing in my fridge: Not sure of the age but I have a drawer in my freezer full of training birds...Sorry Lindsay.

Merrymeeting's North Country Prairie Dog

1. Nickname- Prairie, PDog
2. Current Job - High Speed Purveyor of Upland Birds
DreamJob- Taste tester in a meat-packing plant
3. Step-siblings include one too smart, edgy wirehair; one old sleepy wirehair; and a clueless bracco
4. Unknown- I almost made it to the Invitational but pulled two weeks out allegedly because of injury but actually to save my owner from embarrassment.
5. Why Yankee?
Duh... Merrymeeting, of course!
6. Different in my training? I'd have learned to rewire my Dogtra T&B just to goof on my handler who thinks she's in control.
7. Nothing. Impossible. Given access, I would eat everything, including the tupperware containers.



Send us your photo and answers to the Member Spotlight questions:
ycnavhda@gmail.com

30 Years in NAVHDA

by Matt Lorello

for Katie, Gus, Bob, Dylan, and Bob

The following are true accounts of my thirty years in NAVHDA and the Yankee Chapter. They can all be fact checked with a few individuals, if senility hasn't set in with them yet.

In the spring of 1994 I'd been without a dog for about a year. I wanted a bird dog, a German Shorthair to be specific. But I didn't know where to get one or anything about the breed other than they hunt birds. Anyway, this guy walked past my house with a GSP puppy. I came at him stammering questions about his puppy, and I think if he could've he would've held me a gun point because of the way I launched at him. I asked him where the pup came from, and he said, "New Brunswick." I said, "New Brunswick Canada?"

The man still seemed concerned about his surroundings, probably due to my zealous excitement over his puppy. I guess I had an odd look on my face when I asked him, "They don't have any of those dogs around here?" I just thought that was crazy, that a person would drive six hours to New Brunswick for a dog. He did his best to get rid of me by telling me the name of some people in Brunswick that have GSP's and train them. Then he hurried down the road, often looking back over his shoulder.

A few weeks later someone else gave me the name of Patti and Blaine Carter in Brunswick. Ok, I can find Brunswick, Maine. If I only knew how my life was about to change when I turned down the driveway of 33 Simpsons Point Road, I might've driven by. They were nice and knew where I could get a puppy. Where? New Brunswick. To the same place the guy down the street said he got his pup! I ended up going there with some other guy I'd never met before, thanks to that turn of events when I went down Simpsons Point Road. That man's name was Chip Amergian. We became very good friends and traveled many more miles together over the years. The guy with the first puppy was Joe Hosmer, who also became a good friend.



Those three dogs from New Brunswick were crazy. Yeah, we learned a lot from those dogs, but they were wild. I think Blaine came close to kicking them out of class a few times. I should've known something was up when he said, "If you can train those dogs you can train any dog!" Being new to the game, I didn't know how to take that.

Katie, that dog of mine, caught two deer, and one of them was on the warden's camp lawn. Good thing he wasn't home. I chased that dog over half this state. (I was a young man back then and I could still run.) She'd just take off! She just didn't care what she hunted. Once, as Patti and I walked through the Maine Wildlife Park, I checked off animals that Katie had caught. It was a very long list.

But I stayed with it and all the crazy times along the way. Even when a group of us chapter members went to a paintball facility and my own team mistook me for the enemy and shot me to pieces. Because of those dogs...there have been a few more since Katie... I took a low blow from a pheasant that brought me to my knees. I almost drowned when a duck caused the kayak to roll, with my friends on shore laughing and taking pictures.

When a good friend let his male dog have his way with my female dog, there were my friends on the sidelines giggling away. Another time I was the one who was molested – in the back seat of moving truck by a large male GSP who

mistook me for my dog who was in heat. The driver and passenger were laughing so much they almost drove off the road. I ended up in therapy.

Oh, then there was the time in the Sportsman's Show parking lot with a black panther. I was at the show helping with the Yankee Chapter dog demos. A guy had a collection of wild predators on exhibit, a couple of black panthers along with bobcat, bears, and whatever. A few chapter members and I were standing there, and a young panther – not much smaller than the adult – leapt at me with its front paws aiming for my mid-section. Scared the shit out of me! The thing wrapped its legs around me before I could move. The owner then said, "Aw, she's giving you Huggies." Huggies? I was weak with fright. There were Chip and Rusty pissing themselves laughing. Once again my friends were doubled over while I watched the replay of my life in its last moments.

And testing, oh man! Had a dog stand there and throw the duck up in the air in front of the judges, repeatedly. Had a dog bring a duck back on the rocks at Bowdoinham, take a hard right and kept going just before I could take it from her. Had a dog up and leave the blind on remainder. Yeah, there was no dog there when I came back from the two shots. The judge pointed to an object way out in the water and said to me, "She's out there."

I'm on my fifth NAVHDA dog now and have changed breeds to a GWP. I have no idea what the future holds for the two of us, but it can't be anymore chaotic than the past thirty years with my previous dogs and the cast of characters that make up the Yankee Chapter.

It is true, though, that I've met a lot of great people through NAVHDA, and probably the only things I'd change are a test score or two. For some reason I tell myself it's been a fun time. Well, at least, given the hours my friends have spent laughing at me, it sure has been fun for them.

What to Put in Your Hunting Dog First Aid Kit

Below are excerpts from an article posted by the Orvis staff on June 11, 2024. Reprinted by permission of Orvis. The article contains a wealth of information from what to put in a kit to treating snake bites to first aid for common injuries. Tons of valuable information!

For the full article, go to <https://news.orvis.com/dogs/put-hunting-dog-first-aid-kit>

Prevention Is Paramount

It's critical to be prepared for accidents, injuries, and health problems, but you can minimize the risk by taking the following precautions:

- Make sure your dog is up to date on all of his vaccinations before spending time in the field hunting, hiking, or training.
- Talk to your veterinarian about the best tick control treatments for your dog.
- Know the signs of heatstroke—including excessive panting or drooling, difficulty breathing, disorientation, vomiting, collapse, bright red tongue,

and increased heart rate.

- Carry enough water to keep you and your dog well hydrated.
- Take breaks in the shade with your dog to prevent heatstroke.
- Know the areas of a dog's body most susceptible to injury: the face, including ears, eyes, and teeth; legs, knees, and joints; and paw pads.
- Ensure activities are appropriate for your dog: Some breeds are prone to spinal and head injuries, brachycephalic breeds may struggle to breathe in hot weather or during strenuous activities, and swimming can be a hazard for short-legged or barrel-chested breeds.
- If you are walking far from your car, carry first aid essentials for you and

your dog in a backpack or your hunting vest.

- Know your dog's limits and work up to more strenuous activities; limit intense activity in puppies and young dogs, as they are susceptible to growth plate injuries.
- Reduce the risk of injury in an older dog by knowing his limits, warming up before a hike, and helping him maintain an ideal body weight through regular exercise and a vet-recommended diet.
- Familiarize yourself with the terrain and wildlife you may encounter before hunting, hiking, or exploring.
- Your cell phone should be charged and carried with you at all times—off or set to mute, of course.

Always Check Your Dog After a Hunt

Your dog may appear hale and hearty at first glance after a hunt, but he still needs a thorough inspection before you head home. Check for ticks as you would after any excursion in the woods, but also check his entire

body for cuts, thorns, or an embedded foreign body.

- Don't forget to examine between his toe pads, on his legs, along his undercarriage, and inside his mouth.
- Check his eyes for signs of scratches.
- Watch for limping, avoidance of activity, whimpering, or unusual aggression, which could all be signs of a

broken bone or a sprain.

Small cuts and scratches should be cleaned and dressed to avoid infection. Any injuries more serious than minor scratches require a follow-up with your veterinarian as soon as you can.

Other Dog Health Essentials

In addition to a first aid kit, carry a muzzle if you spend a lot of time outside hunting with your dog or field training. No matter how calm and gentle he is under normal circumstances, he may bite out of pain or fear when you are tending to an injury. Gauze wrap can stand in as a muzzle if necessary, but the real deal

is often easier to clip one-handed and doesn't require as much practice to put on.

Pack clean towels, washcloths, and blankets for use cleaning wounds, drying your dog, and keeping him warm.

Keep a list of household hazards and dangerous foods, as well as a photo identification guide of plants toxic to dogs. Know common problem plants in your area—both in the

yard and on the trail. A smartphone app may help identify plants, but a hard copy could be imperative if you're hiking and don't have service.

Add the number of your veterinarian and animal hospital to your cell phone contacts. If you're traveling, put the number of a nearby veterinarian and animal hospital in your contacts as well. A pet poison hotline number is also recommended.

8 Steps to a Clean Gun

1. In the field or back at your truck, if your gun has gotten wet, wipe it gently with a clean, absorbent cloth.
2. Back home -- or at camp or wherever you are staying, wipe your gun down again using another clean, dry, absorbent cloth. It's important to remove any remaining excess moisture and condensation.
3. Be aware that if you put your gun in a case when you were done in the field, the inside of that case may now be damp. Be sure to dry the inside of the case before putting the gun away in it or before you use it next time.
4. If you got bird blood on the barrel, clean it carefully to avoid erosion to the finish.
5. Once the gun is clean and dry, wipe the metal surfaces with a little rust-resistant oil such as Ballistol.
6. Use a clean bore snake to remove debris and moisture from inside the barrels. Always check to make sure that your bore snake is clean before you use it. Use a bore snake appropriate for the gauge.
7. Examine the seams and tight spots for dirt, paying careful attention to the locking mechanism.
8. Wipe the gun one final time using a clean chamois or soft rag to remove finger prints on metal and to lightly polish the wood.



let's pause for a moment to consider paws...

--The scales on a dog's pads are angled back like a snake's for traction.

--When running, the four toes really spread out which is why a paw print can be twice the size when the dog is running compared to walking.

--The small pad further up on a dog's front leg, or carpal pad, is used for additional traction when dropping or descending slopes, as the foreleg is lower to the ground.

--Dogs have scent glands on the bottoms of their feet for tracking and marking territory.

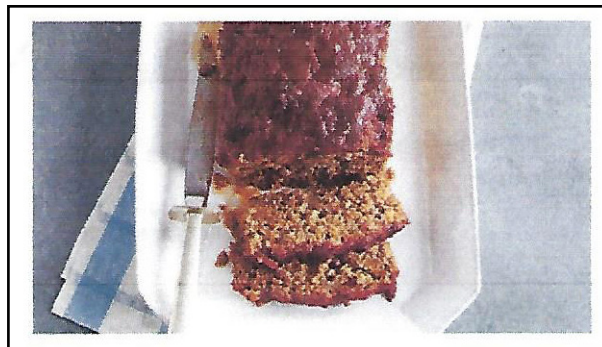


Send us your favorite game recipes and game cooking tips. Original recipes are welcome along with favorites created by others. If you send a recipe from another cookbook or chef, please tell us who created the recipe or where you found it. Bonus points are yours for a photo of the dish prepared.

sarah's famous meatloaf - Sarah Mitchell's meatloaf is based on a Martha Stewart recipe modified by Sarah's mother-in-law. Yum!

INGREDIENTS

3 thick slices wheat bread, torn into large pieces
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 celery stalk, chopped
1 medium carrot, chopped
1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley
1 large egg
3/4 cup ketchup
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
12 ounces ground beef chuck (90% lean), preferably pasture-raised
12 ounces ground pork, preferably pasture-raised
2 tablespoons light brown sugar
Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Pulse bread in a food processor until finely ground. (You should have about 2-1/2 cups breadcrumbs.) Transfer to a medium bowl.
2. Pulse garlic, onion, celery, carrot, and parsley in food processor until finely chopped. Add to breadcrumbs. Add meats, egg, 1/3 cup ketchup, the mustard, Worcestershire sauce, 1 tablespoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper; mix together using your hands. Transfer mixture to a 5 x 9" loaf pan.
3. Stir together remaining 1/2 cup ketchup and the brown sugar until smooth; brush onto meat. Set pan on a rimmed baking sheet, and bake until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center reaches 160 degrees, about 1 hour, 20 minutes. (Time may vary depending on thickness.) Let cool slightly.

a few waterfowling tips from Maine IF&W



1. Decoy placement: Put out an odd number of decoys, with one at your maximum range and the rest within your shooting range. Place decoys on one side or the other (not all around you to avoid making yourself a focus point).
2. Calls: Always let the decoys do the work for you. When people start duck hunting, they often call too much and spook the birds. Consider starting off without a call and waiting to see what you may need.
3. Take one bird at a time, particularly if you don't have a dog, and only take ethical, responsible shots that are within your range.
4. Always pattern your shotgun before you hunt so you understand how many pellets you have in the kill zone.
5. Unfortunately, Maine waters, as well as the fish, wildlife, and recreation they support, are threatened each year by introductions of fish, plants, diseases, and other aquatic invasive species that compete with and displace native natural communities. ...Do your part to

protect Maine's waters:

- Clean off plants, animals, and mud from gear and equipment including decoys, waders, footwear, boat, paddles, ropes, anchors, and field gear before leaving water access.
- Scrub off any visible material on footwear with a stiff brush.
- Dispose of debris in a trash reciprocal or a responsible location away from the water.
- Prior to entering a water body and when preparing to leave launch sites, boaters are required to remove or open any devices designed for routine removal/opening (for example, hull drain plugs, bailers, live wells, ballast tanks) to encourage draining of areas containing water (excluding live bait containers). This must be done in a way that does not allow drained water to enter any inland water of the state.
- Dry completely before reuse.

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.



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