

NAVHDA Yankee Chapter – Annual Meeting



Date: January 8, 2023

Location: Phippsburg Sportsman Club

Meeting called to order by Patti Carter at 9:03 am with 55 members in attendance

Reports:

Officers:

President: Patti Carter

President's Report (attached)

Vice President: Nancy Anisfield (read by Patti)

VP Report (attached)

Secretary: Kathleen Weller - nothing new

Treasurer: Shawn Mowers (read by Patti)

Treasurer Report (attached)

Motion to approve Officer Reports: Betty Blackman

2nd the motion: Nick Racioppi

Directors:

Training: Blaine Carter (report attached)

Gunning: Matt Lorello (report attached)

Test Secretary: Nick Racioppi (report attached)

Testing: Rich Gay (report attached)

Publication: Brian Plke/ Misi Carter (report attached)

Youth Development: Phillip Lapperriere (report attached)

Delegate at Large: Bill Tracy

Motion to approve the Director reports: Bill Tracey

2nd the Motion: Damon Jordan

no opposed

NAVHDA Yankee Chapter – Annual Meeting



Grounds report:

Introduction by Patti of Dick Dilley:

Yankee Chapter has shared a partnership with IFW for 23 years, we are thankful for this and hope to continue this healthy relationship.

We are always thankful to Bob and Dick for all their hard work and many hours spent taking care of the fields we train and test in.

Old Business:

Nothing noted

New Business:

Thank you Russel Estes for providing the Phippsburg Sportsmen's Club for our annual meeting. And thank you to all that provided food for the lunch afterwards.

We will be hosting the Aims and Rules clinic May 13-14 in Dresden. There are still a few spots available, please reach out to Kathleen Weller if you are interested.

Discussion of our new duck provider, Libby's Upland Waterfowl. Foggy Ridge will still provide our Chukar and Pheasants, but are no longer raising ducks. Libby's offered to provide the chapter with our ducks for 2023.

The new rules for the testing lottery were discussed, most everyone agrees it is a fair process. No extra testing dates have been added. Nick will wait and see how many test entries he receives before any decisions are made.

Kelley and Brent Grover offered once again to prepare and serve a meal for the chapter. Thank you and it is much appreciated.

NAVHDA Yankee Chapter - Annual Meeting



So many thanks to Ugly Dog Hunting and their many donations to the Chapter this year. And thank you Nancy for all the gifts and survival kits you put together and donate for our test.

The international meeting will be in Sioux Falls this year. Patti Carter will be representing the Yankee Chapter. Patti read the motions that will be voted on during the annual meeting in Sioux falls. (motions attached)

Please submit any stories, photos, recipes etc to Nancy Anisfield for the Barking Dog express.

Elections of Officers; Vice president - Brian Pike

Director of Testing - Tyler Bruce

Director of Gunning - Matt Lorello

Treasurer - Shawn Mowers

Test Secretary - Nick Racioppi

Vote recorded - all in favor

Thank you to Rich and Nancy for your time and dedication to the chapter!

Calendar of Events for 2023

Feb 11 - Indoor training clinic, Phippsburg

Feb 25 - Winter Kids Day, Phippsburg

March 31-April 2 State of Maine Sportsman Show, Augusta

April 22 - Training clinic, Dresden

May 7 - Test prep workshop at Merrymeeting Kennels (all welcome)

NAVHDA Yankee Chapter – Annual Meeting



May 13-14 - Aims and Rules Clinic (must register - limited spots), Dresden

May 20 - Training clinic, Dresden

June 3- Pre Test, Dresden

June 9-11 Test, Dresden

July 15 - Water and Semi-annual meeting, Burnham

August 26 - Pre-test, Bowdoinham

September 8-10 Fall Test, Bowdoinham

Meeting Close:

- Motion to Adjourn: Patti Carter
- 2nd the motion: Blaine Carter

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Weller

Secretary, NAVHDA – Yankee Chapter

Treasurer Report 2022

The year 2022 was very interesting.
I became Treasurer of the Yankee Chapter in July and jumped in during a very busy Summer/Fall.

Profit and Loss bottom line was 3,412.55 after all expenses.

Yankee Chapter accounts

18,346.09 Money Market

Youth funds

6,355.95 Kenny King Bob Bisson Fund

1,450.00 NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program

Other

2,019.50 Yankee Apprentice Judge Program

Account balance at end of 2022

26,746.43

We need to upgrade our Quickbooks account. Programs are only good for about 3 years. The cost will be between \$900.00 and 1200.00. If anyone knows where we can get it cheaper please reach out.

We also need to be mindful of fraud these days. That means moving much of our money out of our checking account to protect it. We will be looking at options in the next month or so.

I look forward to serving Yankee as the club's Treasurer for the year 2023 and years to come. I cannot wait to see everyone during our clinics and tests.
Happy New Year

Shawn Mowers

VP's 2022 YEAR END REPORT

2022 was a year of tremendous dog work, volunteerism, and chapter excellence for Yankee. Despite being one of the oldest and biggest NAVHDA chapters, *we always see ourselves as a work in progress* – never resting in our desire to organize and present the best testing and training events possible. That has been a challenge given our growth in membership, but I am confident in saying our board, training committee, workers, and attendees have all met that challenge successfully.

Highlights this year in terms of chapter support were the addition of our Apprentice Judge Scholarship program, the Apprentice Judge mentorship program, and Yankee's participation in the NAVHDA International's best practices panels and articles.

We produced five issues of the Barking Dog Express newsletter in 2022. I would like to thank everyone who sent in content – your contributions are hugely appreciated. I hope all of you will consider sending in short stories, hunting and training tips, general dog tidbits, classifieds, recipes, and links to valuable online resources. Besides updating everyone on Yankee events and business, the newsletter is a great way for us to share all sorts of hunting dog related info.

I decided not to run for re-election to the office of Vice President. I think this was my third tour of duty in the position and feel it's important to get new perspectives and fresh faces on the board. Thank you for the honor of serving our chapter.

Writing this with snow on the ground and the last days of grouse season dwindling away, I look forward to seeing you in a few months as we embark on another great year of versatile dog training.

Nancy Anisfield
12-15-22

Director Of Training Report 2022

What a year!

2022 was a training/testing season that seemed to grow at every event. Training clinics were combined with tests in the same weekend to accommodate our huge Yankee numbers. As most noticed, clinic turnout was huge! How we accomplished these numbers was no miracle, it was due to the very hard work of the chapter's Training Committee.

The Training Committee, and all its volunteers, gave our clinics the help needed to accommodate those in attendance and send them home with new skills and drills to improve their dogs. Organization of our clinics has improved greatly, with preregistration, running order re a deck of cards, remedial training stations and just about everyone in attendance volunteering to assist at a station. Huge thanks to those who generously donated the use of their UTV and ATVs which made everyone's task simpler. Yankee is blessed with many talented trainers and gunners. Most of all, every member who was asked to help stepped up. These were long hours, but each member should be proud of what our chapter offers and their accomplishments last year, testing and hunting.

Last year I watched two very dedicated chapter members run their dog in the Invitational, a novice trainer handle her first dog in an NA test, my wife and daughter do the same at UT level, a youth member train and handle her dog like a pro and so much more. I have not mentioned names as I would most likely forget someone and the list is too long. Congrats and thank you to everyone, handlers, trainers and workers. You are what makes us such a great group of versatile dog enthusiasts.

Hats off to our "Not Your Normal" Yankee Chapter
Blaine

2022 Yankee Chapter Test Director Report

In 2022, the Yankee Chapter used 921 chukar, 87 pheasants, and 188 ducks. Over the past six years during my time as Director of Testing these numbers have gone up 22%(Chukar) to 65%(ducks). The need has been growing and hopefully the supply will also be there for our needs in the future. In 2023, we will use a new supplier for our ducks, as Jim and Laurie Olmstead have decided to stop raising them.

Our year started with significant concern of Avian Flu, but due to the careful and likely time-consuming efforts of Foggy Ridge Game Birds, Merrymeeting Kennels, and many others, we escaped the season unharmed and with plenty of healthy birds for our training and testing requirements.

Thanks to the volunteers and test workers that consistently pitch in and pull off great test weekends. Also, many thanks to our judges near and far, many of whom were used and abused during the rigorous International testing schedule of 2022. We appreciate all the local judges who always make time for us and give up time away from their families for us to test our dogs and have them evaluated.

This is my last report as Yankee's Director of Testing. I'd like to wish my successor good luck in the coming year and offer my support and assistance where needed. I'd like to close by saying that serving on Yankee Chapter's board has been a meaningful, rewarding, and educational experience in many ways and I'm grateful for the knowledge many have passed on to me during this time.

Look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Gay
Yankee Chapter Test Director

Director of Communications Report

First, I'd like to thank all the members of the Communications Team for their work this past year. These folks make up a well-oiled machine that made my job so easy.

To start the year, Nancy Anisfield conducted a survey of Yankee Members to see how effective our various communications channels were performing and see where the membership thought we could improve. We heard back that most folks were happy with our multi-pronged approach to communications with email, the Barking Dog Express newsletter, Facebook, and the website. There were also some constructive comments that we heard and used to improve things.

Our newsletter continues to be an important piece of our communications package. Most folks said they read the newsletter 'cover to cover' and said they wouldn't change much. A couple of suggestions that did come, and that Nancy has implemented since last Spring were to have more pictures, and add a 'Ask the Pro Trainer' Q&A section.

I want to thank Judie Bayles for all the work she has done with sending out emails through the years, many times being asked to send out chapter wide messages without much notice. It is greatly appreciated.

We did hear feedback that people weren't always getting our emails. We were getting flagged as spam by some email providers. Over the past couple of months, the team has been working on ways to improve email deliverability going forward and we think we have a plan in place to accomplish that goal. We have set up Mailchimp to be our email delivery platform, and we have hooked it up to our yankeenvhda.org domain sending the emails as news@yankeenvhda.org. Sending emails from our official domain should allow us to build up a good email reputation score and wind up in far less spam folders. Nancy also set up a great template for the emails, so they will have a more professional look to them. Look for these new emails to start hitting your mailboxes in the new year.

Facebook continues to be a strong central communications hub for the chapter. Misi does a great job of communicating events, sharing pictures from those events, and keeping the chapter engaged. I know that I enjoyed being able to see people respond to Misi's posts with pictures of training or during hunting season.

Feedback for the website was good overall. I think in 2023 that we may need to pursue an upgrade to the platform. It wasn't built originally with mobile in mind, and the calendar can behave a little strangely on some devices. The training library was an area that I flagged for improvement, and it still needs a good amount of work to add more content there. I think that will be a good winter project for myself now that my weekends will be a little more free in the next few months.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to help out in this space. If anyone has any interest in these areas, please reach out. Also, we are always looking for more pictures to share in the newsletter, on Facebook or the website. If you have some you would like to share, please forward them along. It will be greatly appreciated.

Brian Pike
Director of Communications

January 8, 2023

Test Secretary Report – Year Ending 2022

For the 2022 testing year, Yankee Chapter received 103 test entry forms. Due to the increase interest in testing, we added 3 additional test days for a total of 9 tests in 2022. We tested a total of 62 dogs, which 21 were NA and 31 were UT.

This year we will be revising the test entry process from a first come-first serve to a lottery drawing and I'll discuss that under new business later this morning.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers that supported these tests and without you, we would not be able to successfully pull these days off. Thank you and looking forward to another YC great year in 2023.

Nick Racioppi
Test Secretary

YANKEE CHAPTER 2022 DIRECTOR OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Philip Laperriere

Director's Report

This year we focused on doing those things for the Yankee Youth that the Chapter has historically done exceptionally well, and once again knocked them out of the park. We are looking forward to further expanding our Youth focused activities in the coming year.

Despite a lack of chapter youth participation this year, Andrea Black and Jason Carter took the lead in supporting maintaining the boxes this February.

The NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program (NAHP) camp was held this year during a beautiful warm summer weekend this July. We achieved full capacity with 8 enthusiastic participants. Activities included tons of dog handling, skeet shooting at Varney's Sporting Clays, getting lost and finding our way out of the woods, and culminated with safely harvesting game over the dogs that was later cleaned and prepared for the table. This event wouldn't have been possible without the folks who made it happen.

- Melissa and Patti Carter put forth tremendous effort into setting everything in place for, as well as provided full-time support and direction the entire weekend.
- As camp Director Jason Carter executed the weekends fun and educational activities flawlessly.
- Our Mentors: Patrick Bowles, Steve Buck, Jason Hawes, Casey Mowers, Danielle Murphy, Brian Pike, Dan Riley, Joe Wadleigh and their dogs each developed special bonds with their campers which even led to multiple excursions during the hunting season where Mentor and Mentee reconnected to experience a hunt in the great Maine woods over versatile hunting dogs.

- Our Camp Counselors: Jacob Haskell, Wyatt Knutson, and Natalie Peaslee.
 - Our Campers Abigail, Brendan, Elijah, Jonah, Landon, Max, and Noah who were fully engaged through the entire weekend.
 - Brad Varney donated the use of his Sporting Clays facility, provided firearms safety instruction, and operated the range for the NAHP camp. For some participants, this was their first time shooting a shotgun, and their first time connecting with a clay pigeon.
 - Countless others who donated their time and support to warmly invite the future generation of sportsmen and women into the sport that we all love.
- Being my first time supporting the camp, I was taken back by how well thought out, organized, and executed the weekends activities were conducted. I was proud to be part of an organization where so many volunteered their time and service to make the camp a success. The NAHP event would not be possible without the support of our dedicated membership.

Natalie Peaslee successfully ran her grandfather's German Shorthair Dakota this fall in the Utility Test and achieved a Prize 1 maximum score Prize 1. Despite not achieving the desired result in the spring test, Nathalie stuck with her training program through the summer and earned a coveted score!

Nancy Anisfield continued to publish a dedicated section of every Barking Dog Express for the youth of our chapter's. Further, Nancy published a special edition of the BDE dedicated to the NAHP put on by the Yankee Chapter covering the history of the NAHP, this year's events, as well as moments from years past. We would appreciate any content suggestions and ideas you feel the Chapter's youth would enjoy. These can be in the form of articles, quizzes, jokes, or games.

Russell Estes has generously donated a Ruger .22 to the chapter to raise money for the youth fund. We will be raffling the firearm off to raise money for the Yankee Chapter Apprentice Hunter Fund.

At this point we have no lifetime license candidates. We are always looking for committed chapter youth to support.

For any chapter youth interested in Bryant Pond summer camp please submit a letter of interest to the board of directors by February 28th for consideration of a scholarship. Selected individuals can receive up to half of the camp costs.

We need to thank all those that have donated to the youth fund and supported the youth fundraising efforts. These funds allow the chapter to provide youth and families opportunities they might not otherwise have.