



## President's Message...

Greetings to spring and good training weather! Hopefully everyone is taking advantage of the good weather and getting out into the fields and woods with their dogs. I know some of our members have new pups and are looking forward to testing them in the spring or fall. Testing is nerve wracking for new handlers but be assured we were all there at one point in our lives. After experiencing the excitement of testing and the enjoyment in seeing your pup perform, some of you will become slightly addicted to it and thus will be the start of your new life as a Versatile Dog-aholic.

You will have to readjust your household budget to add new expense categories like test entry fees, training birds, training supplies, shotguns, field clothing, extra gas for travel and a few dozen others. But the expenses are justified, and the sacrifices are accepted every time you see your dog perform well at a test or produce wild birds on a hunt. It is just great fun to train, test and hunt with your dog!

Our spring test is fast approaching and I wish great success to all who are testing. I would like to ask all members to try and

find time to help out at the test in whatever way that you can. Boyd Cooke is in charge of coordinating the test and helpers so please contact him and let him know when you can help.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Chapter skeet day on June 14, 2008 at the Pomfret Rod and Gun Club. This is a lot of fun and the cost to shoot is very reasonable. If you have never shot a shotgun before and are interested in starting, this is the perfect opportunity to try it out. Some of our more accomplished Chapter gunners will be on hand to offer an introduction and advice to anyone interested and guns will be on hand to use if you don't have one of your own.

After the instructional part of the day is complete everyone is invited to partake in rounds of light hearted shooting with a little competitive edge for those seeking bragging rights. Bring along some chairs and your lunch and join us for a great time!

The Vetter Clinic in July is filling up but there are still some seats available. This will be a great learning opportunity with hands on training of those dogs in attendance that are at the intermediate and up stages of training. Even handlers of younger, less experienced dogs will be able to learn a tremen-

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## SPRING TEST UPDATE

*From Boyd Cooke, Director of Testing*

As most of you are aware, we will be hosting a "Pre-test clinic" on **Saturday, 17 May**, and our "Spring Test" on **Saturday, Sunday, 31 May, 1 June**. Both events will be at Millstream Hunting Preserve.

I am writing to alert everyone to the need for volunteer helpers at the two events.

The clinic can be conducted with a minimum of extra assistance if those scheduled for testing can assist by helping to plant birds for others, etc. In the pre-test clinic, we will attempt to put each dog scheduled for testing through the test regime.

**HELP WANTED!!**

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## President's Message...(con't)

dous amount of useful information that they can apply in their training when they get to that point. This is a rare chance to learn from one of the very best in the NAVHDA system so attend if you can.

As always, don't let your dogs be couch potatoes during this prime weather. Get them out and run them and swim them. Most State Forest lands are loaded with trails and gravel roads that are typically accessible from a parking area at the head of one of the trails or roads. These are great places to take your

## **SPRING TEST UPDATE...(con't)**

It is anticipated that those handlers who are scheduled for testing dogs in UT will work together to accomplish that, with coordination on use of water and fields by both NA and UT dogs.

For NA dogs, where many of the handlers are doing NAVHDA testing for the first time, I would like to have assistance from experienced handlers to guide NA handlers through the test scenarios. I would expect the experienced handlers to provide brief critiques to the NA handlers as to what they need to work on, but there will be no time for conducting detailed training during the "simulated test scenarios." We will be attempting to "simulate" two days of testing in one day (we can do that easily if everyone cooperates).

For the **Spring Test on 31 May-1 June**, I will need a great deal more assistance:

### **Food Service:**

(1) Breakfast type snacks beginning at 0630 (test begins at 0700 sharp). Sat\_\_\_ Sun\_\_\_

(2) Lunch Sat: Kitisie Cooke coordinating; to help, contact her at 860-535-1063.

Lunch Sun: Leslie Ruddock coordinating; to help, contact her at (401) 364-8878.

(3) Dinner Sat evening: Would like to do at test site; if you can organize/coordinate, or help, please contact me by reply via email or at 860-535-1063.

### **Field work each day:**

- (1) Bird planting, duck tossing, etc,
- (2) Field Marshall (coordinate with judges and have handlers in appointed places on time),
- (3) Gunners (blanks for NA field, blanks for UT water, and live fire for UT field),
- (4) Bird care (before and after use),
- (5) General Logistics (transporting judges, water, etc).

dogs for exercise and fun. There many great scents to experience and plenty of small ponds to cool off in along the way. And on the plus side, it is healthy for us too!

See you at the test!

*Mike O*



If you can assist in any of the above tasks, for the pre-test or test, please let me know. If you are inexperienced and willing to help, you are very welcome to come and we'll be happy to show you the ropes. It's a lot of fun and a great way to learn. I will be out of town for much of the time over the next two weeks, but if you have questions concerning the tasks and are unable to reach me, I'm sure Lon Ruddock would be happy to answer them. If you respond by email, please indicate which days you are able to help, which days you prefer, which tasks you prefer and others that you are willing to try.

My email address is [boydcooke@comcast.net](mailto:boydcooke@comcast.net) . Phone (home) 860-535-1063; (cell) 860-460-9877.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you,

Boyd Cooke  
SNE/NAVHDA Test Director

## Members in the News...

**Jim Levins** and his daughter **Sarah** ventured to Litchfield for opening day again. She woke at 3:30 am and we were walking into our spot at 4:45 am, on the way in we heard a gobble so the morning looked promising.

I placed the decoys and set Sarah up in a good shooting angle, I sat 5 yds to her right and we relaxed and listened to the woods wake up. The birds began to gobble like crazy around 5:30 am.

I called softly and shut up when one answered. We could hear the fly down and they gobbled on hitting the ground, I called a little and not again as they came up over a small rise and through the wood line. Sarah and I could hear them walking, she saw them first and her eyes grew BIG.

Seven Jakes came marching in, Sarah whispered if it was OK to shoot. I said yes, and she shot the lead bird. I shot just after her and harvested a nice Jake as well. I cannot express the enjoyment opening day brings each year spending it with my daughter, we also moved a grouse while scouting another piece, a first for her.

I look forward to future reports from Danielle, Little Rock, Gabby Duran, Gabby Gallucci, Becky (again), Owen, and Ryan. I continue to believe there are "just some things you cannot learn in school".



**David Kenney** is the new program director at Greenland Point Conservation Center in northern Maine.

The summer camp for kids offers great fishing, canoeing, hiking, adventure, fun, dog work, hunter education, boater safety and much more. He is



hoping to reach out to our members, so they can get more kids involved in our wonderful outdoor world.

<http://www.greenlandpoint.com/>  
Ph# (207) 796-5186



**Lon Ruddock** sent in a reminder that we have 35% discount coupons for Tri-Tronics products.

This year we also have two discount coupons for Garmin GPS devices. It is good for up to two devices and two accessories. There is no discount amount listed on the certificates. You would need to call in.

They are available on a first come first serve basis and will be available at the test.

I would like to take this time to thank all that have entered the chapters' spring test. It has been my pleasure to correspond with you all and I would like to thank you all for your patience as this test is coming together. I look forward to meeting those of you that are new to our chapter and wish all of you and your dogs all the best on test day.



**Millstream Preserve**, the site of our Spring NAVHDA Test, has become a chapter sponsor, and is now accepting limited dog training memberships. These limited memberships will entitle the member to the use of the preserve grounds for dog training purposes only, seven days a week during the "off season" period of April through August.

The cost per season is \$250. There currently are two DEP designated Dog Training Areas at the preserve in which live game may be used for training purposes. There is also good water for water work. Availability on any particular day or time will generally be on a registration basis, first come, first served, but, to the extent that there are other SNE members training at any particular time, I would suspect that people could work together, and perhaps members might even get together to select a common training day and time.

For more information, contact **Don Favry at Millstream Preserve: 860-841-0561**.

<http://www.millstreampreserve.com>

## **SNE MEMBER PROFILE**

**Mike Mularczyk**  
Secretary

**Involved w/ NAVHDA: 25 years**

**Dogs: 2 Wirehaired Pointing  
Griffons - Cooper & Nellie**

### **SNE NAVHDA goals / thoughts**

My Dad first introduced me to NAVHDA when I was 14 years old. I had already been hunting since I was 12, and after a failed experiment with a field trial line Brittany, we got our first versatile dog, which I started helping train.

My Dad would always "bribe" us with ice cream sundays if my sisters and I would help him plant birds, lay drags, shoot distraction guns, etc... Needless to say, I like ice cream and I LOVE to shoot, so I was hooked. Plus I just love dogs, being outside and the whole process.

What I love about our chapter is seeing all the kids at our events and the fact that they are actively involved and participating at all levels. They are the future of our sport and it is essential that we get them involved.

These days there is such an unjustified stigma around hunting that kids grow up thinking it is something bad without ever having been exposed to it, which is an absolute shame.

My Dad used to say, "Speak to a kid like an adult, treat him like an adult, and he will act responsibly like an adult. Treat a kid like a brat and that's what you'll get."

I really like the fact that we treat our younger members in this fashion and I think it gives them a sense of pride, responsibility and they feel part of something.



*Mike and his dad, Bob on opening day of pheasant season in 1997.*

My Dad taught me all these things and I think it is important that we "pay it forward" to the next generation.

### **Life outside SNE NAVHDA**

I live in Easton, MA with my wife Jessica and my two wonderful daughters - Lauren, 4 and Taryn, 2. I have two dogs - Cooper and Nellie, and in the summer we have an assortment of ducks, quail, etc... which the girls love to help me take care of until they "fly south" at the end of the summer.

I am constantly over-extending myself doing home and landscape projects and juggling my time between my family, work, dog training, hunting and fishing.

It is a miracle that I can get anything done at all, and it used to drive me crazy leaving things done halfway. However, I have learned that you need to take time out for the important things in life like your family and doing things you enjoy - otherwise you will lose your mind.

I guess that is why my grass always needs mowing, and I have a good half-dozen projects started but not finished. Oh well....

### **Something that folks might not know about you**

Two things actually come to mind:

- 1) I am allergic to dogs. My doctor told me the only way around this was to not have dogs. I told him that was not an option, so I just manage it as best I can.
- 2) I played collegiate and semi-pro rugby for 12 years. I have played all over the US and been able to travel and play internationally in Ireland, England, South Africa and Canada.

My favorite was playing in Las Vegas Seven's Tournaments. Because it is so hot there, the matches start at 11 pm and you play all night. One you got your body clock adjusted it was just the coolest experience.

Fortunately I was smart enough to stop playing without suffering any major broken bones, surgeries or other injuries (besides possible liver damage from all the drinking!)

## Clyde Vetter Training Clinic

*Presented by  
Southern New England NAVHDA*

Date: July 19th and 20th, 2008  
 Times: 8:00a.m. till 5:00p.m. (Tentatively)  
 Location: Millstream Preserve  
 Rte. 66 Columbia/Hebron Ct.  
 Cost: \$150 for SNE chapter members;  
 \$200 for non-chapter members  
*Includes coffee and donuts and lunch.*  
 Limit: 25 people



This two-day seminar will provide an overview of intermediate to advanced training techniques used with versatile dogs, particularly for those being tested in the NAVHDA Utility and Invitational levels.

Topics will include obedience skills, the trained retrieve all the way through electric fetch, lining drills and beginning blind work, a thorough introduction to electronic training devices, pointing and steadiness on game as well as backing, along with water work for duck searches and retrieves. It is definitely a packed weekend!



Bring your dogs, as this is a "hands-on" seminar. You will have the opportunity to apply what you are seeing, as well as ask questions throughout the weekend. Clyde welcomes

questions on problem areas as they usually provide the audience with beneficial examples. Dogs from the audience will be used to demonstrate techniques.

In addition, you will learn how to improve your ability to "read" your dog. Handlers will be taught how to improve their timing and their selection of methods used to correct and praise, in order to eliminate gray areas in training.

Bring a comfortable chair for yourself and appropriate footwear and clothing for field/water work. All dogs must be crated and quiet or leashed by your side and quiet. For your dog's safety we highly recommend crating for your dog as opposed to leaving him in the truck or staked out.

**Registration is now open to the public.  
 Space is limited, and this clinic will sell out, so register by  
 sending your payment in full to:**

**Mike O'Donnell  
 148 Orcuttville Rd.  
 Stafford Springs, CT. 06076  
 (860) 684-7890  
 gunmettle@cox.net**

**SNE Semi-Annual Meeting and Pig Roast  
 Saturday evening, July 19, 2008  
 Millstream Preserve**

In conjunction with the Vetter Clinic, we will be having our semi-annual meeting and a pig roast on Saturday evening. We are hoping to make this a more enjoyable and social event this year. It should be a good time, and tickets will be somewhere in realm of \$12-\$15 per person. We will be looking to have our water clinic around mid-August. Details to come....

## Members in the News... (con't)

**Mike Mularczyk** sent in these pictures from a puppy renunion from a litter Cooper sired last year. We were playing by the pond and the funniest animal scene happened - down landed a male mallard who quickly realized, what have I done? 4 Griffons plunged in following the extremely nervous duck around the pond



## **German Longhaired Pointer Club of North America formed to help advance breed for North American bird hunting challenges**

To make the versatile German long-haired pointer an even better dog for North American bird hunting conditions, a new organization was founded this fall. The goal is to bring together the breed's best traits from wherever it is found across Europe and this continent.

The German Long-haired Pointer Club of North America will establish its own registry for this breed characterized by its setter-like coat of brown and brown/white combinations, feathered full tail and strong desire to hunt, track and retrieve both upland game and waterfowl.

In addition to the best of the breed from its German homeland, the new club will incorporate the best bloodlines from Scandinavia and England to produce a driven, yet cooperative and affectionate bird dog to better fit North America's variety of unique bird hunting conditions, says Del Peterson, GLPCNA president.

Peterson, who first imported the breed to North America in 1974 and has been hunting a myriad of game birds over it ever since, says due to the changing landscape of Germany, German breeders there have been emphasizing larger and more aggressive dogs for forest big game hunting, such as red stag and wild boar.

The new club will select for upland and water fowl attributes, as well as biddable companions that interact well with handlers and other dogs. The club will continue to adhere to a demanding German-style field testing system and physical confirmation examination, including hip certification, to ensure breeding quality control.

"The ability to incorporate dogs from Scandinavia and England will also allow us to expand the gene pool here in North America and make these highly-sought after dogs more available to dedicated bird hunters," said Peterson, who lives in Yakima, Wash. .

The GLPCNA will be utilizing NAVHDA and the VHDF as their preferred testing venues in order to qualify German Longhairs for breeding.

For more information on German long-haired pointers and the GLPCNA see the club's Web site at <http://germanlonghairs.org/> or contact club secretary Cortney Schaefer at [secretary@germanlonghairs.org](mailto:secretary@germanlonghairs.org) or (715) 457-2145.

**Please support our local sponsors**



**Millstream Preserve LLC.**  
 470 Route 66 Columbia, CT 06237  
 860-295-9974  
[www.millstreampreserve.com](http://www.millstreampreserve.com)



**Day Hill Kennels**  
 136 Addison Road  
 Windsor, CT 06095  
 860.688.2370  
[www.dayhillkennels.com](http://www.dayhillkennels.com)

**Upcoming SNE Events**

**May 17 - Spring Pre-Test**  
 7 AM, Millstream Preserve  
 Hebron/Columbia, CT  
 Lon Ruddock (401)-364-8878

**May 31 & June 1 - Spring Test**  
 7 AM, Millstream Preserve  
 Hebron/Columbia, CT  
 Lon Ruddock (401) 364-8878

**June 14 - Skeet Fun Shoot**  
 9 AM, Pomfret Rod and Gun Club  
 Pomfret, CT  
 Neal Cunningham (860) 684-4856

**June 21 - Training Clinic**  
 8 AM, Mansfield Dog Trial Area  
 Mansfield, CT  
 Mark Snyder (860) 889-8377



**Southern New England Chapter Officers**

**PRESIDENT:** Mike O'Donnell, 148 Orcuttville Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 (860) 684-7890  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Jim Levins, 20 Susan Ct, Wolcott, CT 06716 (203)-879-4199  
**SECRETARY:** Mike Mularczyk, 94 Allen Road, North Easton, MA 02356 (508) 230-5565  
**TREASURER:** Neal Cunningham, 153 Monson Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 860-684-4856

**Board of Directors**

<b>Director of Testing:</b>	<b>Boyd Cooke</b>	<b>Director of Promotions:</b>	<b>Ed Pontacoloni</b>
<b>Director of Training:</b>	<b>Mark Snyder</b>	<b>Delegate at Large:</b>	<b>Lon Ruddock</b>
<b>Director of Judging:</b>	<b>Darrell York</b>	<b>Delegate at Large:</b>	<b>Susan Dahl</b>

Newsletter Information: The Southern New England Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis. It will be posted to our website on or around the 15th of each month. We would like to publish it at least 6 times a year, but that depends on YOU!!! Without your contributions we can not make this happen. Please submit your articles, brags, calendar items and pictures via email to Mike Mularczyk [mmularczyk@mms.org](mailto:mmularczyk@mms.org). I will do my very best to get them into the next issue.

NAVHDA *Southern New England*  
NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MODERN SKEET FUN DAY**  
*(and small chapter fundraiser)*

**June 14, 2008**

9:00 AM to whenever at Pomfret Rod and Gun Club

**{Part 1}**

Individual attention 9:00 AM to noon

\$30 for a half hour of individual instruction, help, or just practice.

Ideal for beginners or people who don't shoot often.

Kids too-this year we'll have a youth size 20 gauge available.

Darrell York and Neal Cunningham will give as little or as much help as needed...

To sign up, e-mail Neal at [nealac@cox.net](mailto:nealac@cox.net)

**{Part 2}**

Fun Shoot for all

after lunch 'til we're sick of shooting

\$5 per round of 25 targets

**{Part 3}**

Shoot off—at the end

So you think you're good with a shotgun?

\$10 \$20 and \$50 rounds if we can fill 'em

Winner gets half, chapter gets half

no ringers...sne chapter members only



**What to bring**

Your shotgun(s) any gauge ok. Skeet, Cylinder or IC chokes best

As much ammo as you care to shoot (#8 or #9 Lead) **Eye and Ear protection is required.**

A dish to share for lunch—cold or to grill

**Who to leave at home**

Your dogs, especially puppies. Way too much gunfire.

**What is modern skeet?**

It's a clay target game shot on a regular skeet field with regular skeet stations. The difference is you can't mount your gun until you see the target, and the traps are set on mechanical rockers, so you have no idea what angle the clay will fly...even if you can run 25 at regular skeet, this game will tie you in knots...oh, and it's all doubles...

**How to get there**

Rt. 395 to Dayville exit (93) go west on Rt. 101 to Wrights Crossing Rd. (approximately 3 miles from 395) follow Wrights Crossing to River Rd. and follow River Rd. to Pomfret Rod & Gun Club. Park in the big gravel lot on the right across the street from the clubhouse.

**Questions? Contact Neal Cunningham at (860) 684-4856 or [nealac@cox.net](mailto:nealac@cox.net)**