



President's Message...

Happy hunting days to every one! Fall is finally here and it is time to make the most of it. I have just returned from a moose hunt in New Hampshire with a buddy of mine from the Firehouse. He drew a moose tag and asked me to go along as his subpermittee.

On the second morning, we were lucky enough to walk in on a nice bull that was 100 yards across a bog and my buddy dropped him where he stood. That was the easy part. 2 hours of gutting, 3 ½ hours of hauling to the trailer, and a total of 34 hours of skinning, deboning, and cutting and packaging and we were finally done. He was aged at 3.5 years and weighed 690 pounds dressed. I loved every minute of it and I hope that I can get lucky in the draw next year. Of course when we were out scouting for moose, I was scouting as hard for grouse. We flushed only a few in some very good looking cover so it appears that their numbers in that region might be down some.

Whether it is a trip north for grouse and woodcock or locally for pheasant and some migrating woodcock, we should be striving to get out with our dogs and enjoy them. Nothing beats watching a dog hunt and the excitement of a bird flushing. It never gets old. Let's get out as often as we can.

I want to give a great big thank you to every one who contributed this past year towards our Chapter's tests, clinics, and fundraisers. The success of all of these events is the direct result of a lot of hard work by dedicated Chapter members and I appreciate your efforts. Let's keep it rolling into next year if we can.

In addition to next years tests and clinics, mark your calendars for the Judges workshop on July 12th and 13th. This is put on by the International office but our Chapter will be relied upon for manpower for the two days. You don't have to be a Judge or an Apprentice to help out and there are great opportunities to network with other NAVHDA members.

Successful and safe hunting to everyone!

Mike O



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Members in the News...

Jim Levins wrote in to tell us **Jimmy Levins** harvested a 165 lb doe with a bow. The shot was 20 yds broadside. The doe was his first deer, and like dog training he claims he is now hooked for life!!!

Since Jimmy is too young to drive, here is a picture of him bringing his deer home. Can you believe Jim said, "You shot it, you get it home," as he took this picture out of his pickup? Talk about tough love!



(Just kidding obviously)



Vicky Foster ventured to northern Maine for a week of grouse hunting with 4 of her Griffons!

"I stayed in the Eagle Lake area and hunted everyday in the warm weather," she wrote. "The dogs worked very well and had tons of bird contact. Could not have had a better week!"



Lon Ruddock wanted to remind everyone that the chapter still has 4-5 35% off discount coupons for any Tritrionics products. Chapter members interested should contact Boyd Cooke.



v.W. Akira vom Staatsforst – Large Munsterlander

Pia Castelline wrote in that a week after Kira's UT we went to Germany for 3 weeks to participate in German Hunt tests. The day we arrived we went directly from the airport to the sugar beet fields to get her used to search for game in them and to do a quick fur drag. The next day Kira passed the test with great scores(186pts), the silver medal and qualified to participate at the national test. Two weeks later her showing at the national test earned her a couple of initials in front of her name v.W. Akira vom Staatsforst – though more important for her the area the test



was held at had an abundance of hares and pheasants, quite exciting to test on wild game for dogs, handlers and judges. The third test we participated in showed her talents in areas foreign to our NAVHDA tests such as bloodtracking and retrieving fox over hurdles and via long drags (400yds). She had some pretty awesome performances for a pup barely a year and a half old running in 4 tests within 5 weeks. Now we're off on a well deserved vacation to do some hunting in the Dakotas!



Kathy Flemming sent these pictures in and reported that she ran Cady Falls Amazing Grace JH SH CGC and my new star Artemis Vom Stillwater NA prize I 112 UT prize III 148 with me owning him only 2 weeks



These 2 did a amazing job for the childrens hunt on 10/13/07.

From the editor... NAVHDA Elections

This year is an election year for the new Board of Directors for NAVHDA international. I have had several members write in requesting that I pass along their support for Roland Drew, who is running for president.

Darrell York - I would also like to support Roland for 2 reasons 1) New England needs some representation on the board. 2) Roland is just a little younger than Moses and this fall he has hunted moose, mule deer, antelope, elk and the last time I spoke to him he was on his way to northern ME grouse hunting

I think if he can handle that at his age he is A my hero & B more than qualified to be our president.

Also **John DeSandre** - I would like our chapter members to show support for Roland Drew, I have apprenticed under him and I have Judged with him, I have seen him work to make test-

ing with the navhda rules a great and enjoyable test. I have seen him reach in his heart and his pocket supporting local chapters. The one test in Vermont chapter some local farmers who were letting us use their land for testing, and doing the lunch for a food donation for one of the womens son who was injured on duty over in the mid east. I don't know what he gave them for lunch but I do know he made their day. He has the credentials and the knowledge to make a great President, so lets all support in his run for President

I have also know Roland for a very long time and I call tell you both the International organization and our local New England chapters would be well served if Roland were elected president. So please remember to send in your ballots by the November 15th deadline.

- *Mike M.*

Success for Jack...

by Joe Durning Oct. 2007

I'd left the old boy, Brownie home since he had worked on Friday and I figured the rest would do him well, plus I wanted to see how Jack would do without Brownie on the hunt. The plan worked. In the past, Jack had been known to run wild and bust birds, usually out of shooting range. Not today.

We had started our hunt on Center Bridge Road off Five Corners - Rt. 110 in Lancaster, MA at the very southwestern side of the Bolton Flats WMA. We were into the hunt about 45 minutes to an hour and Jack had already run off some steam and was working fairly well, i.e. reasonably close and occasionally attentive to where the old man was.

Jack started to look birdy in an open field, working intently and suddenly locked up on point. To my delight, he steadied to my "whoa" and let me walk up when a hen busted to the sky. Some stellar shooting followed as I emptied both barrels of my little 28 into the air while I watched in amusement as she flew off untouched. She had escaped left to a large overgrown



thicket. We chased for the next 15 minutes or so to no avail. As we exited the opposite side of the thicket I found myself on the familiar access road from the "white barn" parking area. Looping back towards the same field, I worked Jack on the same plot expecting him to point at the spot of the old scent. Instead, he locked up again at the edge of the field near some newly plowed soil. The whole area had seen quite a bit of farming in past few days with dewatered sludge fertilizer being spread throughout most of the harvested corn fields.

Again, Jack steadied as I walked up for another flush on a second hen. The young bird fell to my fourth volley of the day after no. 3 went as another missed shot. Despite my typically

poor shooting, Jack's reward was a mouth full of feathers. He does not, however, retrieve to hand. He must have a terrible trainer. He was

praised grandly for his efforts regardless.

We finished out the hunt with another hour's walkabout with no results, but a gratifying day in the field with my five year old "pup." Perhaps that dog hunts after all.

Joe Durning lives in Sudbury, MA with wife, Posy and three daughters and is the owner of two pudelpointers. He writes: "I've been busy coaching soccer with my three daughters and have been away from any and all activity with SNE-NAVHDA for several years. However, I have not stopped hunting with my two pudelpointers, Brownie (13-1/2) & Jack (5)."

**North American Versatile Hunting Dog
Association
Southern New England Chapter**

**Water Clinic and Semi-Annual Meeting,
July 15, 2007
Hancock Brook, Plymouth Connecticut**

Chapter President Mike O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 12:17 PM with 21 members present. Mike welcomed new members and guests, and asked everybody to introduce themselves.

Mike entertained a motion to accept the January 2007 general membership meeting minutes from the annual meeting as published in the newsletter. Motion made by Boyd Cooke, seconded by John DeSandre. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike noted in general that he was very happy that things were going well for the chapter so far, and would like to see it continue.

Officer and Director Reports:

Secretary Report / Correspondence:

Mike Mularczyk said he had no recent updates / correspondence from the INTL office.

Treasurers Report:

Neal Cunningham handed out a detailed financial report with an accompanying financial sheet to provide a snapshot of where the chapter stands financially. Neal stated that in his opinion the chapter is doing very well, and reviewed some of the highlights and revenues from the balance sheet from the year to date.

Director of Judge Development:

Darrell York said that Ray Dyer pulled a moose tag so he would be unable to judge our fall test. Unfortunately we are required to have two out of chapter judges, but he said because we have tried very hard to find someone else and basically this was out of our control, the INTL office has allowed us to supplant Ray's position with some of our own chapter judges. He said this was a good break for us and will also save the chapter some money.

He also reported that our spring test went very well and that Marilyn Vetter has commented to him that she really liked what she saw out of our chapter and its members.

Director of Training:

Mark Snyder reported that so far things were going very well and that he was pleased to see

that his "we are here to train you as well as your dog" approach seems to be working well.

Mark also noted that for the August training clinic at Bristol we would not be able to use the water at Jackyln because they have an event going on, but we would be able to use the water at Bristol. He also said that Bristol would be having an archery 3D shoot that day, and they would be selling hot dogs and burgers, etc... at the pavilion and it would be good if we could support them because they have been very good to us over the years. Mark also stated that because of lack of water and heat, that we would be doing a forced retrieve clinic in the afternoon.

Mark announced that he is working on plans to conduct force retrieving clinic over the winter in Jan and Feb. He is envisioning a mentoring program where people are assigned a Senior Field Advisor (SFA) who they can work directly with. Each participant will have the SFA to help them through the process, answer questions, monitor their progress, and they will meet every few weeks to maintain consistency and mentoring. Mark said he is still working out all the details so more to come.

Finally Mark said that he is working with Darrell on getting Clyde Vetter to come back and host another clinic maybe next July, and that we are on their tentative list.

Director of Promotions;

Ed Pontacoloni said he'll have Boyd talk about LL Bean, and that he is staying in touch with Cabelas. Right now they really don't want to get into the details until they are closer to the grand opening this fall.

He also mentioned he really hasn't done anything about sponsors for the web site because Renee has been very busy working on a book project, so he put it on the back burner for now. He also mentioned that we have some old chapter clothing still left over for sale; however most of it is odd sizes and ugly colors so he doesn't expect it to sell. He said he would like to look into ordering some new clothing that would be more popular size and style wise.

Director of Testing:

Boyd Cooke said that he was happy to hear about Marilyn's comments regarding the spring test. He said we had a lot of help and it was nice to see some of the newer members pitching in. He mentioned that he will be looking for volunteers to help out with this fall's pre-test and test. We will be running a three day test so we will need volunteers for

all three days.

Regarding the LL Bean demos, he said the first one is slated for August 11th and 12th in South Windsor, CT from noon to 5pm on both days. He is looking for volunteers to bring their dogs and help with the setup. There will be another LL Bean opportunity in Mansfield, MA in November and we will get that info out when we have more details.

Lastly Boyd mentioned that he will be looking for chapter members to help participate in the CT Junior Hunt Day on September 30th at Budinhill Rod and Gun Club. He is looking for handlers and any UT qualified dogs that are steady to help introduce kids to hunting.

New Business:

Selecting testing and meeting dates for the first part of next year. They are as follows:

Spring Pre-test - May 17, 2008 at Millstream (no objections)

Spring Test - May 31- June 1, 2008 at Millstream (no objections)

Fall Pre-test - September 7, 2008 at Bristol (no objections)

Fall Test - September 19-21, 2007 at Bristol (no objections)

Addendum - The following dates were discussed amongst BOD members via email after the meeting. They are unofficial but I include them for informational purposes and further discussion at the annual meeting:

July 12th & 13th - Judge's workshop hosted by our chapter.

July 19th - 20th - Clyde Vetter clinic / Semi-annual meeting. We would like to have a Saturday night dinner/meeting on the grounds.

Water Clinic in August, date and location TBD

Neal Cunningham mentioned that we are getting low on poppers and that he would like permission to purchase some more for the chapter to use for our test and clinics.. The motion was made by Mark Snyder to do so and seconded by Mike Mularczyk and John DeSandre.

Discussion: We have always provided poppers at clinics for those members to use if they did not have any. The question was raised that some members bring their own, other do not, so should we charge people for the poppers to avoid burning through them? There was discussion back and forth and it was decided that

Pheasant Chili

Say what you want about chili, there's no better cold weather meal, and if there's better fare for a Super Bowl party or any ballgame, I haven't found it. The good news is this is the best chili I've ever tasted. This is a WHITE chili. This recipe makes about eight quarts, enough to serve a pretty good group. In fact, I make it every year for ice fishing. - Mike M.

INGREDIENTS

One half cup olive oil
 Four 15 oz cans Cannelini beans
 One 15 oz can kidney beans
 Three bell peppers, one each of red, yellow and orange, diced
 Two large diced onions
 Three dried ancho peppers, rehydrated and diced
 One quarter cup chopped garlic
 One half cup sliced celery
 Two quarts chicken or pheasant stock
 One pint whole whipping cream
 One and one half cups flour
 Pheasant breasts – Two pheasants, cubed
 Two fresh bay leaves
 One and one half TBSP chili
 One and one half TBSP cumin
 Salt and white pepper to taste
 Nacho chips and a bit of fresh cilantro

PREPARATION

Heat a stock pot until it is very hot, then add olive oil and quickly brown the pheasant pieces. Add cumin and chili powder, cook a minute or two, then add the garlic. Add peppers, onion and celery, then stir. Add two fresh bay leaves, the flour, and then stir.

Add the pheasant or chicken stock, beans and whipping cream, then stir. Add the ancho chili, and simmer for 45 minutes. Finally, add salt and white pepper to taste.

Garnish with nacho chips and a bit of cilantro. Best enjoyed with a frosty adult beverage.

Semi-Annual Meeting Mins (con't.)

we should have them on hand to use for safety reasons to avoid people using live ammo instead. Neil also mentioned that he can get poppers for \$250 a case, which is the best price anywhere, so it is not a big deal if we use some of them for training. He was more concerned about running out.

The motion was amended by Mike O'Donnell to allow Neal to purchase 2 cases of poppers for chapter use at \$250 per case. Motion passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn by Neal Cunningham, seconded by numerous.
 Motion passed unanimously

President O'Donnell adjourned the meeting at 12:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Mularczyk

President Cooke adjourned the meeting at 2:48 PM

Winter Training Clinics

We will run a forced retrieval clinic this winter during the end of January beginning of February. The clinic is open to SNE members only. The clinic will involve 3 meetings. During the first meeting, 1 - 2 handlers with dogs will be paired to a senior trainer. Times and dates of the next 2 meetings will be determined at this time between this smaller group (we will split up). The idea is that your senior trainer will help you/the 2 of you, to develop a plan from start to finish. Homework will be given and proficiency proven to move to the next step. Pairing of handlers and Senior trainer will be such that the 3 meetings can occur quickly and your dog will be force broke properly. Members desiring to participate as handler or senior trainer should contact Mark Snyder by the Annual meeting.

Warning: this clinic is not for casual trainers! If you fail a quiz (beginning of the 2nd and 3rd meeting), you and your dog will be excused from the remainder of the clinic(s)! Cost - not sure yet, should be minimal I am only looking to cover any expenses like fire hall for first meeting...

FORTS

By Mike Mularczyk

I love building forts. Ever since I was a little kid, I was always building them. I remember pulling all the cushions off the sofa, stacking them up and around the coffee table, covering the top with a blanket and staying inside for hours.... Probably to get away from my two little sisters.



Perhaps that's why I love duck blinds so much. It's merely an extension of my youth (not like I've ever grown up much.) They are, however, somewhat of an adult excuse to go out and build yourself a fort.

They say that a man's home is his castle, but I've got to disagree. For we all know that the queen runs the castle, and you can't be tracking in mud and a smelly old dog in the castle, otherwise you might end up in the dungeon.

But... if you've got yourself a fort. Better yet a bunch of forts - you've got yourself a kingdom. Here you truly are the king of your domain - free to do whatever you please. Get as dirty and smelly as you want, pass gas whenever you feel like it, spill coffee on yourself and get crumbs everywhere - it doesn't matter.

Plus, you'll always have loyal subjects in your forts. Of course you have your dog, the loyal vice president who will always agree with you unquestionably.... And, if you ever have a subject pay a visit to one of your secret spots, they must pay homage and tribute to you - for this is your domain. As commander in chief, these subjects must listen to your wisdom and share in the beauty of your fort, or pay the consequences - banishment, sent away from the area by the king, never to return without your blessings.

I've got forts build all over the place. Some of them have never even produced a duck, but they're really cool....and I love the time I've spent building them.

I do think a duck blind really is a special place. In a world where things are so hectic and it always seems your life has become one big rush (Where are we rushing to anyway?) it's very easy to let life slip on by, and before you know it, you find yourself wishing you'd taken the time to enjoy the smaller things in life.

In the end, there is one thing we can never have enough of - time. You can't buy it; you can't make it up, once it gone, it's gone forever - so make the most of it

A duck blind, for me, is one of the places where the crazy pace of life slows back down to a manageable level. Perhaps because I've build some of my blinds in unproductive spots that's why I have so much time for reflection.

Sitting there on a chilly morning, listening to the marsh wake up with the orange sunrise reminds me of just how insignificant I am in relation to the world. It makes me humble and appreciative of the things that I do have - good friends, a loving wife and family and, of course, my dogs.

Coffee always seems to taste a little bit hotter and better in a duck blind. Much better than the Joe I sip from a travel mug as I crawl along in traffic everyday to work.

I've had some great conversations in duck blinds, even if they were only with myself or my dog. I have time to sort things out in my head, unclutter my thoughts, refocus my priorities....

My wife often wonders why, when I do emerge from my forts, I seem to be much more relaxed, calm and generally in a much better mood despite having been out in cold, rainy/snowy weather since the wee hours of the morning. I just smile and tell her she should go build her own fort.





Upcoming SNE Events

December - BOD Meeting
Date and location TBD

January 2008 - Annual Meeting
Date and location TBD

I will be publishing a December / January Newsletter right around the holidays so I will have more details on these dates when they become available.



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
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Board of Directors

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

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. I will do my very best to get them into the next issue.