



## North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

### Southern California Chapter

# So Cal Chapter News

March 2011

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A group of dedicated chapter members met for our March 20<sup>th</sup> training day. With all eyes keeping a close watch on the sky above we were able to get in a pretty good day of training. The local forecast was for a break in the rainy weather for the morning and then starting up again in the afternoon. I was wondering if our Chapter President, Bob Worrell, was going to try and come down from his home in Gorman for the training day. It was a good thing he didn't as latter news reports showed pictures of the stranded motorists that tried to make it down to the LA area.

With a group of dogs that qualified as “experienced”, a training exercise in backing was worked out by our training coordinator Jon Auer. The plan was to use five birds hidden in the field and five dogs that rotated through turns as search dog and backing dogs. With gunner Kirt Gilliland bringing down the flushed birds for the searching dog's retrieve. It was quite a sight when these experienced dogs locked-up on point. Juan Hernandez's dog *Cora*, a 2010 prize one Utility dog, looked like she was frozen in time with her intense point and leaving no doubt about what the other training participants were seeing. It was almost not fair for Jeff Derbes' *Ace*, A 2010 Versatile Champion, with his first turn as one of the backing dogs he only took ten steps into the field and stopped on honor some fifty yards away from the other dogs. It was a good exercise and handlers that go on to the Invitational or participate in AKC Hunt tests can use it to make a most respectful hunting partner and a successful testing entrant.

With the threat of rain on its way and the aroma of a great lunch, thanks to Jon Vesely, trainers gathered under our easy-up shelter to conclude a good training day. With everyone present it was a good time for our “Board Meeting”. A very important opportunity has made itself available to the dog training community and discussed at this meeting. We have the opportunity to transplant marsh grasses ( Reeds) from the Raahauges ponds we use for testing and training to the large pond at Prado. This might be a good time to put this into perspective for a new NAVHDA member. You are developing a versatile dog that will per-



form for you on both land and in water. Your dog will learn as stated in the NAVHDA book titled *Aims, Programs and Test Rules*, that regarding the duck search a testing dog “ is expected to intelligently and diligently search the area for the duck”. And this means taught to penetrate the reeds as part of a good search. Also important to note here is the fact that to receive a prize one score you must get a four in this portion of your test. That means a perfect score for the search and a lot of time training. I personally have spent many hours with my rowboat hiding birds in the ponds at Raahauges to achieve this score and would welcome this training improvement for the Prado facility. That means sign up for the May 1<sup>st</sup> workday and let’s make our training facility meet the demands of the versatile dog trainer. That’s **MAY 1<sup>st</sup>** So put it on you calendar, sign up, and I’ll see you there. The next training day is April 17<sup>th</sup> and the forecast is for a beautiful day in the high seventies with an early morning breeze, so see you there and don’t forget your sun block.

**TRAINING DAY PHOTOS**



Dan Disanto & Nako



New member Michael LePenske with  
*Olive & Magnum*



Jon Vesely & Ripley



Dick Byrne & Ave



Pat Beaver & *Henery*



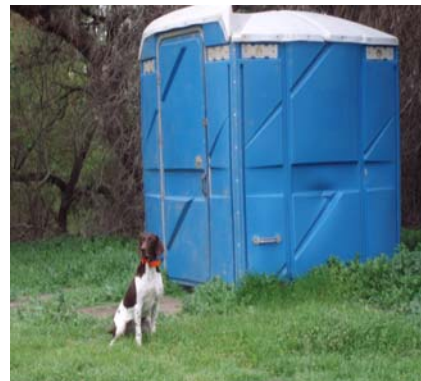
*Aristide* getting his water work



Guido & *Aristide*



Are there any sodas left Chris?



Daddy called time out

**Board of Directors Meeting  
Prado Dog Training Park  
March 20th, 2011**

**I. Call to Order** – The March 20th, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM. Those members in attendance were:

Chris Gentner, Vice President  
Rodge Fradella, Director of Publications  
Jon Auer, Training Day Coordinator  
Jon Vesely, Director of Promotions  
Guido Dei, Secretary & Treasurer

**II. Meeting Agenda** – It was moved by Guido Dei.

- 1 SO.CAL.NAVHDA FALL TEST
- 2 SO.CAL.NAVHDA 6<sup>th</sup> FUN HUNT
- 3 SINGLE SHOT SHOTGUN PURCHASE
- 4 CATTAIL PLANTING WORKDAY

**III. SO.CAL.NAVHDA FALL TEST**

- 1 *It was unanimously approved by the Board as a three days test – Steven Loefler accepted to be the Test Secretary.*
- 1 *The dates for the test were approved to be on September 23-24-25 2011*
- 2 *Location to be Prado and Raahauges.*
- 3

**IV. SO.CAL.NAVHDA FUN HUNT**

- 1 *Claude Trincale has volunteered to be in charge of the VI So. Cal. NAVHDA Fun Hunt.*
- 2 *The Board approved the Fun Hunt for Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011*

**V. SINGLE SHOT SHOTGUN PURCHASE**

*The merit to buy one or two single shot shotguns to be used during tests was discussed. Couple of issues were brought up: the registration of the gun(s) and the location where to store them.*

*Jon Auer has volunteered to check gun registration law to see if a club can register guns and if the NRA will sponsor guns for the chapter.*

**VI. CATTAIL PLANTING WORKDAY**

*The benefit to have a pond with cover at Prado to run a duck search was unanimously welcomed.*

*Steven Loeffler has contacted Mike Raahauges to ask for removal of cattail bulbs from Raahauges's*

*Guido Dei has asked approval from Prado owner to allow us to plant cattails at Prado.*

*Both owners agreed on our request.*

*The board approved Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> as Cattail Planting Workday.*

*Jon Vesely to be in charge of the whole operation.*

*We shall need about fifteen, twenty volunteers to participate in this workday.*

*Jeff Derbes will extend the invitation to get volunteers from the San Diego Chapter.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.**



## HUNTERS CORNER

### NATURE'S WAY

It's beautiful in our California desert at this time of the year. The hillsides have a green tinge and purple wildflowers are starting to appear. It's the green tinge that we are interested in! Our local quail relish the green growth and the vitamin A provided by this growth trigger the bird's sexual activity. On my recent visits to my favorite desert areas I have seen birds feeding in the late afternoon as if it were date night with a male coming out from cover and then a female following behind. If it were but one pair I would have thought nothing about it, but this evening six pairs walked by in this same order. This might be a good time to recognize just what bird I'm talking about, it's the Gambel's Quail named after Dr. William Gambel who was the first naturalist to visit the Southwest US and classify these birds. It seems my computer likes to put a red line under this spelling but I have noticed that birds raised for sale are spelled gamble and the ones we hunt are gambel's.

Getting back to date night! I may have been witnessing *tidbitting*. This is when males offer small bits of food during feeding to a female and the rate of this process is the basis for a female's mate selection. Gambel's are considered to be *monogamous*, but sometimes a mature female will leave her young with the male and seek another brood with another male. Gambel's can begin breeding as early as February and later for birds found at higher elevations. Nesting begins shortly afterward and peaks in mid June. Incubation lasts from 21-24 days with an average of 10-12 eggs laid. The young hatched birds are said to be *precocial*, meaning the birds are relatively mature and mobile from the moment of hatching and will leave the nest with their parents within hours of hatching. It's a tough life from then on with a 60 to 70% mortality rate with an average life span of a year and half. During nesting insects are eaten as a source of protein and eaten by the young chicks that need the protein for their development.

Gambel's are not *migratory*, with their annual movements typically less than two

miles. When a covey is foraging for food they will post one or more sentries to sound the alarm when danger approaches, and there are many. A quail's eggs are eaten by rodents, reptiles and other birds, and the mature birds are preyed upon by owls, hawks, coyotes, bobcats and hunters.

I have felt comfortable working my dog in desert areas of higher elevation at this time of year with temperatures too cold for snakes. We work on obedience to the whistled whoa. This is the time of year my dog will bump most birds she comes across without knowing they were there. I guess the naturalists that study and write about these birds don't use a bird dog to find them, because none that I could find has ever mentioned that the birds will lose their scent. The loss of scent must be nature's line of defense for the birds while they are breeding. So, when you think your good bird dog has lost it's nose because it just can't find those quail you know are just ahead of you. Remember it's that time of year! And that's just nature's way.



Male Gambel's



Female Gambel's



**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

San Diego Chapter of NAVHDA has changed their test location. From Prado Dog Park to the Lake Henshaw area. Test Dates are April 22-24. Contact Test Secretary Lance Lauricha for full details  
Ph. No. 760-749-1937

Reported in the March 18, 2011 edition of Western Outdoor News.  
DFG Q&A section by Carrie Wilson.

Question: My dogs keep running into skunks. I always hear about using tomato juice to cut the smell. Do you have any suggestions for a natural method of de-stinking my dogs?

Answer: There are many recipes that people use, but here's one from assistant Chief Doug Huckins:

Take one quart of three percent hydrogen peroxide, a quarter cup of baking soda and one teaspoon of liquid soap.

Mix together and wash sprayed animal for five minutes, keeping mixture out of eyes, nose and mouth. Rinse with tap water.

This recipe is listed as a suitable quantity for a small dog. Double it for a medium size dog, and triple it for a large dog.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
CHAPTER OF NAVHDA**

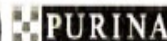
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Position	Officers
President	Robert Worrell
Vice President	Chris Gentner
Secretary	Guido Dei
Director of Publications	Rodge Fradella
Director of Promotions	Jon Vesely
Training Coordinator	Jon Auer
Treasurer	Guido Dei



**Training Days Guidelines & Procedures**

- (1) Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly when he/she is not working on a drill.**
- (2) Everyone in the field must wear blaze orange hat, t-shirt or vest and have completed a hunter safety class or have a hunting license.**
- (3) Children are to be supervised and remain in the designated parking area at all times.**
- (4) No alcohol on premises.**



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