



North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

Southern California Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

June 2012

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What a good day for dog training it was at our June 10th meeting. The weather was perfect for our dogs to show great field searches. Now with that said lets talk about the training dates coming up, they are going to be hot. You as a trainer will need to be prepared when entering the field and that means have some water with you and keep a close watch on your best hunting partner (your dog). Remember your dog is closer to the ground where the temperature will be hotter, and watch to see if your dog is breathing out of its mouth, call him back to you and cool him down. Even a dog with the greatest nose isn't using it when running with his mouth

open and tongue hanging. Remember it's your job as handler to watch for these things. Many young dogs are so excited they don't even want to take time out and cool down. It is your job to teach this and take care of your hunting partner.

Shooting those training birds you bought is a lot of fun and it's pretty hard to be a dog handler at the same time. Get a few partners and trade off. With two gunners it's a sure bet your dog will get the reward he was pointing, and you can get in the training you wanted. Just in case no shot is called, a carried bird is a good idea. Good training and I hope to see you all at next training day.



SoCal NAVHDA June Training day

TRAINING DAY PHOTOS



PRADO DOG PARK'S NAVHDA POND



Mr. Ralph Goldsberry
And his floating backhoe

The NAVHDA pond got quite the make over this month thanks to the Prado Dog Park management. We had heard of Mr. Goldsberry's floating backhoe for a time now and just imagined what the pond could look like with the aid of this equipment. Word came on the Friday before our monthly training day from the park management that the equipment was to be at the pond on Saturday and we were asked to have some helpers there. You may have gotten an E-mail that helpers were needed as the chance to get the use of this equipment came fast. Changes to the pond had one major goal in mind, as Guido put it "A Dream", to some day hold a Utility

Duck Search on this pond. SoCal Chapter members Tyler Mitchel, Jon Auer, Jon Vesely, Rodge Fradella and NAVHDA Judges Ruth and Greg Weiss were at the pond bright and early as requested helpers.

When meeting with the park management I posed a question. Could we change the land spit that reaches into the pond where the damaged cattails are? With an OK for these changes professional landscaper Jon Vesely went to work on a drawing. As NAVHDA Judges Ruth and Greg Weiss looked over his shoulder the "Dream" was taking shape. The break up of the land spit and the deposit of that material in deep water gave us nine islands for cattail growth. From our transplanting experience last year we knew that cattails will not grow in deep water. This will confine the growth to these islands and not over run the pond.

With the drawing and plan presented to Mr. Goldsberry we got his nod and he went to work with his equipment. In just a few short minutes big changes took place. With the new islands I could see we were going to have a lot of work transplanting, when I noticed Mr. Goldsberry moving the equipment towards the other side of the pond. He scooped up a backhoe



full of cattails and headed back to deposit the load on one of the islands. In last years transplanting we made a concerted effort to keep the roots covered with mud and his equipment was doing a perfect job of it. With our new islands doted with transplanted cattails Mr. Goldsberry asked what else do you want? I was so impressed already with the changes I couldn't think that we had an answer, but Jon Vesely said if you could deepen the water were we test our Natural Ability dogs when taking the swim portion of the test that would be perfect. And perfect it is with a gradual slope to swimming depth water just like the "Test Rules" call for.

Thanks to the Prado Management and Mr. Goldsberry and his equipment, soon all NAVHDA Utility dog testing can be done at Prado. This will keep continuity to the test as members will not need to leave the facility to satisfy the "Duck Search" portion.



With a big step towards satisfying a dream, why not dream big and maybe some day the Invitational will come West. I hope these changes to the pond will encourage more members to train their hunting partners to test at this level and I hope soon to see another contingency of West coast dogs at the Invitational.

BIG GAME AFRICAN HUNT



SHARED BY: Claude Trincale

You are calling me from Africa to tell me that I won a trip? Really! What kind of a scam is this?

My cell phone rang and I picked up on a strange European looking number I answered because I had been travelling to Switzerland and thought

maybe it was a colleague. The heavily accented voice on the other end informed me that I had won a contest and the prize was a 3 days - 2 animals trip to Namibia, Africa. Really?

After a few more questions and since she was not asking for money I decided to investigate further, and guess what it was legitimate! Who knew? I had inadvertently entered a contest while surfing the web on possible destination for a hunting trip to Africa.

I had 10 days to give an answer, so I contacted various individuals and organization that may have knowledge of this outfit: Keerweder Safaris in Namibia. All the references, either provided by them or dug up by my friends and I, were very positive. So the answer was yes I'm coming. No Scam!!! Ten months later, I boarded a plane in LAX and 33 hours and 2 stops later, I disembarked in Windhoek, Namibia. My rifle, a Remington 700 chambered in .300Win Mag, topped with a Leupold 3X9, Barnes 180gr Vortex TTSX ammo and other essentials all made it with no problems. I was picked up by my Master PH at the airport. This was going well.

The lodge was just under 2 hours away; the last part was on 50 kms of unpaved road. After a nice reception and meeting everyone we had a light dinner and went to bed so we could get up early (7AM) for breakfast and sighting in the rifles.

We hunted all week. We saw lots of animals: Baboons, Austruches, Warthogs, Blesboks, Springboks, Kudus, Steenboks, Gemsbok, Elands, Zebras, Red Hartebeest, Blue Wildebeest, Black Wildebeest, Steenbok, Leopard (tracks only). We hunted in the morning and evening with a nice long lunch break. After all the animals need their mid-day nap.

The hunts consisted of our party of two hunters and one observer/photographer, two trackers/Spotters with awesome eyesight and our Master Professional Hunter (PH). Most of the hunting was done from the truck, spot and stalk, or stalking on foot or using a ground blind. The truck was set up with a set of bench seats on a heavy metal frame nice and high so you have good visibility. One of the Trackers would drive the 4X4 truck while the rest of us sat or stood on the elevated platform.

Once the quarry was spotted and evaluated we would start the stalk and try to get in range. Namibia does not allow chasing the animals in a vehicle (the movie Matahari with John Wayne comes to mind) but it does allow shooting from the truck. So we had our choice of stalking on foot or taking

longer shots. When shooting from the truck make sure that the truck's engine is off otherwise there is a lot of shaking going on. Many people think that shooting from the truck's platform is poor sportsmanship, others see it as more a moving blind that give you a great steady platform from which to make a clean one shot kill. It's up to you to decide. Some of you may have physical needs that require a less strenuous stalk so this may be a good option. Of course after you have had a few run-ins with several thorn bushes and are bleeding profusely from the gashes in your hands, you may reconsider where you want to shoot from, physical need or not, LOL. Certainly spotting from the truck did give us the opportunity to cover a lot of ground and see many animals of many species and be very specific as to the quality of the game taken and be very discriminating.

I took 6 trophy animals and a few Sand Grouses and a duck. I also shot a Springbok to be donated by Keerweder Safaris to the local church for a fund raiser for the poor. As you may already know Hunting, as strange as it sounds to some, is good for conservation. In Namibia alone, hunters contributed N\$50M (US\$1 = N\$8.5). This money goes to the local economy, the communities (including the meat), anti-poaching effort, education and the tax base. As a result, Namibia has had a strong recovery on the game front. Namibia is the least populated country in Africa 2.2 persons per square Kilometer, and claims an 85% literacy rate, 2.1M people in the whole country and 240,000 people in the capital city of Windhoek. The economy is fueled by mining, tourism and hunting.



Namibia has a very good system to ensure that the hunters have a great experience. There is a minimum requirement for each animal and if the Professional hunter misjudges the animal you don't pay for it. The medal system is recognized by SCI, it starts with Bronze, Silver and Gold medals which you can buy, if you want, from NAPHA (NAMibia Professional Hunters Association). If you go to Namibia make sure that your PH is a member of NAPHA or there may be trouble. The trophies that I took were:

- Kudu, Bronze medal
- Red Hartebeest, Silver medal
- Springbok, Gold Medal
- Gemsbok, Gold medal
- Blesbok, Gold medal
- Blue Wildebeest, Gold medal

We were not "roughing it". The lodge was very nice and comfortable, big rooms, private bathrooms with all the necessities. This was "family style", we ate with the owners which became friends, and our dirty clothes got washed and ironed daily. Available was beer and wine, sodas and water (bottled) and liqueur. The water (other than the bottled water) was from the house's well and was



very good, neither my friends nor I had any problems with it. The food was excellent. While we did not eat the meat of the animals we shot (they like to age the meat one to two weeks), we had the meat from prior hunts so we ate Springbok, Kudu, Blesbok, and Gemsbok but also beef from the farm. It was winter and the temperature was about 34 degrees F at 7AM, warming up to the low 50s by mid-day We had full access to the Living Room, Dining room and kitchen in the main part of the house/lodge. Of course the patio/veranda was also very comfortable with the fire pit and grill (BBQ).

[Visit](#) I'll be going back soon.

Live slow, Hunt hard

Claude

HUNTER'S CORNER

Upland hunters gear report

It seems every year I tweak my upland hunting outfit to try and carry more water or feel more comfortable with the fit. Through the years I have added or subtracted military style belts, canteens, shoulder straps, butt-packs and hydration systems and after last year I'd had it. My final outfit carried all the water I needed but to put game in my bag I virtually had to stop and take the outfit apart to put the game away. I think my desire to carry a side arm made changes even harder.

These photos of my last year's upland outfit consisted of a wide padded belt by Black hawk. A 5.11 butt-pack, GI canteen with the cup insert I use to give water to my hunting partner and a 5.11 canteen cover with a 32 oz. Plastic canteen, a 5.11 drop bag I use for shells and a holstered 380 PPK. This all held up with a GI shoulder harness. And I'm not done yet! Over all this I carried a one liter Black Hawk Hydration system with a zip tied connected military style butt-pack for a game bag. Now you know why I've had it.

After seeing the "Wing Works" hunting vest which is a blend of backpack and bird vest, I found what I was trying to create. The builder of the vest was even able to take care of my desire to carry my side arm with the addition of a velcro holster sewn on the cover of one of the shell bags. The vest is fitted with two 32 oz. water bottles and the addition of a plastic 54 oz. canteen that fits in a nice poach inside the game bag. This amount should cover my water needs. I have to admit! I went through denial for awhile because there are no "Mole" attachment slots to add more small poaches. The vest is built from modern lightweight materials and I must say built well. The maker of the vest is also there for you, to answer questions and make a product to fit your needs.



“Wing Works” vest review:

By: SoCal Member Steven Woodard

I had several situations afield with my dense coated Small Munsterlander, High On Kennels *Simon* the Wonderdog, where I found myself needing more water than I could easily carry. Along with that I have a bad back that can get quite sore while hunting the hills and dales. As we know when afield it is rare to get a step on smooth ground and that takes its toll on my back. So I began to research a hunting vest that could help me carry plenty of water and give my back the support it needs. After looking at many vests I focused on a vest made by a former Southern California hunter that has since relocated to Idaho living the dream.

With this vest I can carry 100 oz of water. On some of the early season hunts *Simon* and I use it all. The vest even with a couple boxes of shells and all that water feels very light with the “Back Belt” cinched tight and the shoulder harness adjusted correctly. The catch bag is easy to load game in and I am able to use the straps on the back to tie up and store my early morning jacket. At the end of the hunt I roll my snake chaps up and conveniently store them in those same straps. One feature I especially like is that the straps come plenty long. Being a big fellow I like to have plenty of strap on that back support so I can get a good hold of it and cinch it tight. This vest has really helped my back and I am glad for that.



“Wing Works”
Hunting backpack



Holster sewn on side
Shell bag

“ Wing Works” vest review.

By: SoCal Member Chris Gentner

Last year was my first season hunting with my new “WingWorks” upland hunting vest, and I was very pleased. The vest seems sturdy and very well made. The shoulder straps and waist belt are very adjustable, enabling one to carry most of the weight of the vest and water on your hips – as opposed to your back and shoulders. There are two features of this vest that I really appreciate

1. The game bag portion of the vest is roomy enough to carry a limit of pheasant anywhere but in Mexico. The best feature of the bag is the way it rests open when being worn due to the rigid side panels inside the bag. This makes it very easy to place birds in the bag without taking the vest off or contorting yourself into a pretzel.

2. The pockets of this vest are deep and easily accessible. You can cover the pockets with a flap when you are climbing/crawling or are in inclement weather. When not needed, the flaps Velcro to the inside of the pocket for quicker access to shells. This really is a great design.

I would say that the only drawback I seem to have with the vest is the lack of an integrated H2O bladder. Two 32 oz. water bottles are included with the vest. I purchased an additional 54 oz. bottle for a mere \$8.00. I seem to go through water quite a bit faster with bottles than I do with a bladder system. Ideally for my purposes I would like to have the 32 oz. bottles on the outside of the vest with an integrated H2O bladder internally.

Overall I am extremely pleased with this vest and would enthusiastically recommend them to anyone interested in a highly functional upland vest. I can’t wait to get the game bag a bit bloodier!

[What is WingWorks?](#)



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF NAVHDA**

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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.

