



North American Versatile
Hunting Dog Association

Southern California
Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

September / October 2013

President's Message

I am so grateful to all of you for all your help in getting Walter ready for the Invitational. You are what NAVHDA is all about. You planted birds, you shot birds, you drug birds, you launched ducks, you let me use your dogs for backing and you did anything else that was



needed. I think on test day Walter knew the work we had put into him and he performed beautifully!! I am so proud of him and so very grateful to all of you. I am absolutely certain he would not have passed without all of you behind us.

To Chris, Guido, Kim, Kristin, Rodge, Irene, Greg, Ruth, Jim, and Adam; a very special thank you. You guys were there weekly to help with whatever I needed, even if sometimes it was just emotional support.

Guido, there is not enough words to express my gratitude to you. You have done so much for Walter and I. Also, I was so thankful you were there on test day. You and Annamaria kept me calm and you kept reminding me of the little things I needed to remember. Thank you for everything.

Chris, you are the best! I am grateful every day for Walter. Well, except on the days he has torn up something or dug up the lawn. In spite of my inexperience, he and Bodie got a NA prize 1, a UT prize 1 and an invite to the Invitational at only 2 1/2 years old. There were only a couple of dogs younger than Bodie & Walter at the Invitational. This just proves the quality of the dogs and the breeding. Thank you again.

Enough of the mushy stuff! Hunting season is upon us. Please make sure to check you first aid kits. After Kim and Shelby's experience with the porcupine I think we might want to add a pair of pliers to our kits. I have seen several rattlesnakes this year (including one at Prado) so please be careful. Happy hunting!!

Inside this issue:	
President's Message	1
Fall Test	2-3
Training	3-5
Invitational	6-8
Mike Shepard	9
Elections	9-11
Closing	12

October Dates to Remember
10/11-13/2013 So. Cal. NAVHDA Fall Test
10/19/2013 CA Quail, Chukar and Duck Opener

So. Cal. NAVHDA Fall Test

Our Fall test is happening next weekend, October 11-13 at Prado. Many of you have entered the test and have worked very hard to prepare both yourselves, as the handler, as well as your dog. To each of you, good luck and enjoy the experience. Thank you our amazing volunteers - we would not be able to facilitate a test without you! Below is a listing of all volunteers for the three days - if you have any questions, please contact Pat Beaver.

Jobs/Duties	Friday # Running Dogs	Saturday # Running Dogs	Sunday # Running Dogs
Test Secretary	Pat Beaver	Pat Beaver	Pat Beaver
Test Marshall: inform handlers when they're up. Makes sure that everything is ready for the next session.	Rodge	Guido Chris Getner	Irene
Gunners: read NAVHDA Aims booklet (mandatory)	Jeff Derbes Kirt Gilliland	Jeff Derbes Cliff Fleming Mark Miller Richard Cook	Not needed
Bird Planters: plant field between dogs, 1 st dog plant five birds, every dog afterwards receives three birds	Juan Jon Auer	Kim Gentner Kristin Cook Adam Salazar Scot Douglas Michael Rizzo Jim McDonald	Ruth & Greg Juan/Rafael
Bird Steward: water feed & care for birds dispatch birds for UT drags & retrieve of duck (fresh chilled)	Ty/Pat/Jon	Ty/Pat/Jon	Ty/Pat
Duck Thrower: throw duck during mark retrieve sequence, only when instructed	Guido	Pat	Not needed
Distraction Shooter: gunner for NA dogs, shoot only when instructed, two shots only, UT shoot only when instructed (two times)	One of the gunners	One of the gunners	Kristin Cook
Lunch Crew: set up lunch for chapter & clean up area	Linda/Annamaria	Linda/Annamaria	Linda/Annamaria
Judge's Hostess: provides snacks & drinks in between activities	On truck w/Bird Steward/Pat	On truck w/Bird Steward/Pat	On truck w/Bird Steward/Pat
Set Up Crew: water portion of test, provide NA bumpers and rocks; set up UT walk at heel stakes, duck blind, winger-zinger & six decoys Tear Down	Guido Dei Thurs Night All of us help -Set u & tear down	NA	Kim Gentner All of us help-Set u & tear down
Breakfast Crew: set up morning drinks/donuts	Pat	Pat	Pat
Postman: set up directional signs& take down.	Juan	Not needed	Juan
Chauffer: drives the judges from airport to hotel and to field & water	Airport-Pat Ruth	Ruth	Airport-Pat Ruth
Raffle Person: sell tickets for raffle and auction off the bird field	Pat/Kristin/Kim	Pat/Kristin/Kim	Pat/Kristin/Kim

Fall Test (cont.)

Raffle Items / Potluck

We are in need of raffle items! Our raffle (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after the test) helps to offset some of the costs of the test and helps to raise money for our chapter. Raffle items can be dog or hunting related (really, we will take anything). Please consider donating an item for our raffle.

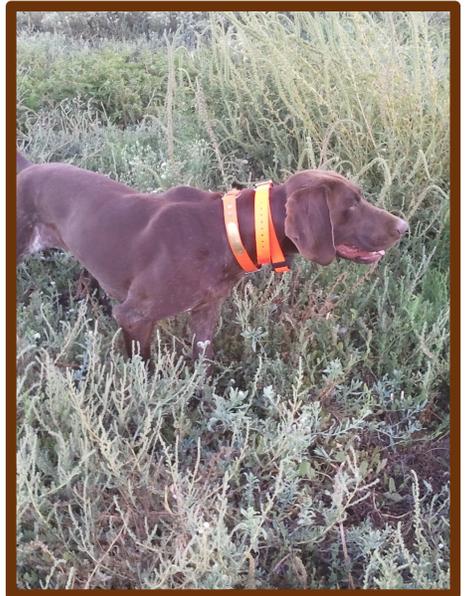
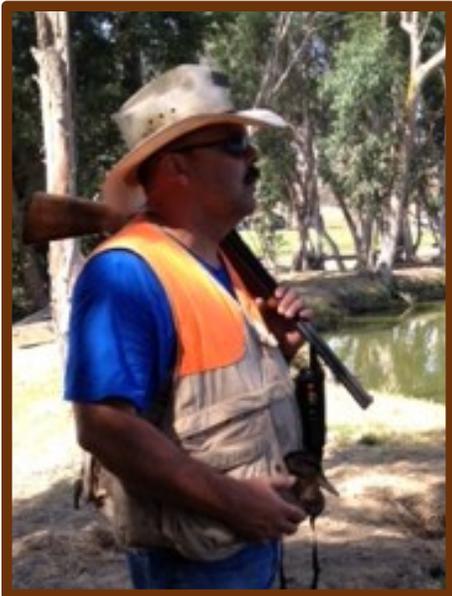


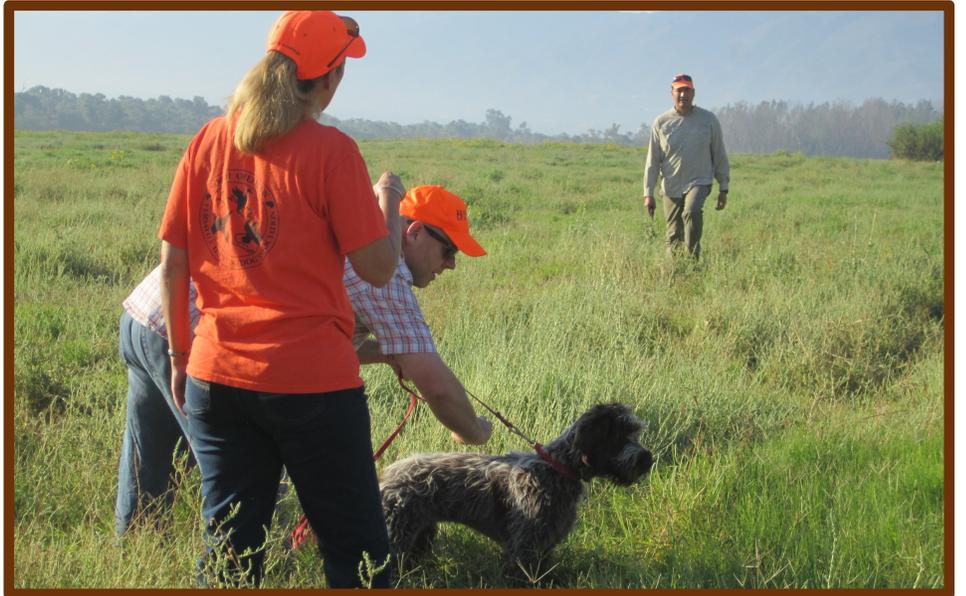
Potluck - over the past few years we have had a potluck after the test on both Friday and Saturday night. These potlucks have been very successful and are a lot of fun! This year we will be having an Oktoberfest theme on Saturday night (no theme for Friday night, your choice). If you are interested in staying for our potluck, please email Pat pabeaver2@aol.com with what you will be bringing. Remember, Oktoberfest - think Bratwursts, Sauerkraut, Jagerschnitzel, Pretzels (or just Google it).

Training, Training and Even More Training...

Members have been busily training their dogs in preparation for the Fall test. Below are pictures from our August and September training days, as well as a few others that members have submitted from other training activities. A big thank you to Ana and Guido Dei, Rodge and Irene Fradella and Pat Beaver for submitting photos.







2013 Invitational by Guido Dei

Including this year I've run five dogs at the NAVHDA International Invitionals: one in 2008 Minnesota, two in 2012 Iowa, and two in 2013 Ohio. Three very long trips and all three pulling my trailer. This year to Bloomingdale, OH was the longest of all: 2,403 miles from home!

Amazingly this was the best trip of the three, beautiful weather both ways and no problems with the truck or the trailer; my truck has now over 250,000 miles.

I was expecting to blow a tire on my trailer as has happened several times on my previous trips, so I was crossing my fingers the last 100 miles to home.

We left home on September 3rd at midnight and we arrived at the campsite on September the 8th at 11 am.

We found a beautiful RV campground with full hook-ups at Lake Austin that was not advertized by the NAVHDA Invitational Event and it was about 35 minutes drive to the test site. This made my wife Annamaria very happy and I was thankful to her for her support and help throughout the year of training, the trip and the test.

I had 5 days to finish the preparation of Aristide and Bodie.



At the test site nobody gave us any indication of where we could train our dogs. This was very different from my two previous experiences where signs for training fields and water were posted several days prior to the beginning of the first test day.

I brought with me several frozen ducks so training in the water was not a problem. The problem was that the training fields and water were not posted until Wednesday and the 10 chukar that I'd ordered showed up Wednesday afternoon - one day before the Invitational started. Because of that I canceled my volunteering at the Invitational.

The weather for the first three days was awful: very hot and very humid. I kept running the two dogs to increase their stamina as much as possible. At the beginning they both looked very hot and tired after 15-20 minutes in the field. I ran both dogs a lot in the water to many blind retrieves and double marks in ponds where no trespassing signs were posted! We met with Pat Beaver, Brett Marek (accompanied by Gabby Awbrey) and Mike Shepherd, so that Wednesday and Thursday we ran all the dogs in the field training for search, pointing and backing.

2013 Invitational (Cont.)

The dogs were doing really well. Gabby asked me "Do your dogs ever make a mistake?" Fortunately the weather changed to cool, rain and breeze.

On Thursday Mike ran Daisy with no luck as she missed the double marks and the blind retrieve. On Friday Pat Beaver and Brett Marek ran Walter and Beau as a brace. I accompanied Pat and Walter on the way to Walter's Invitational Title with 197 points and Brett and Beau with their Invitational Title with 193 points.

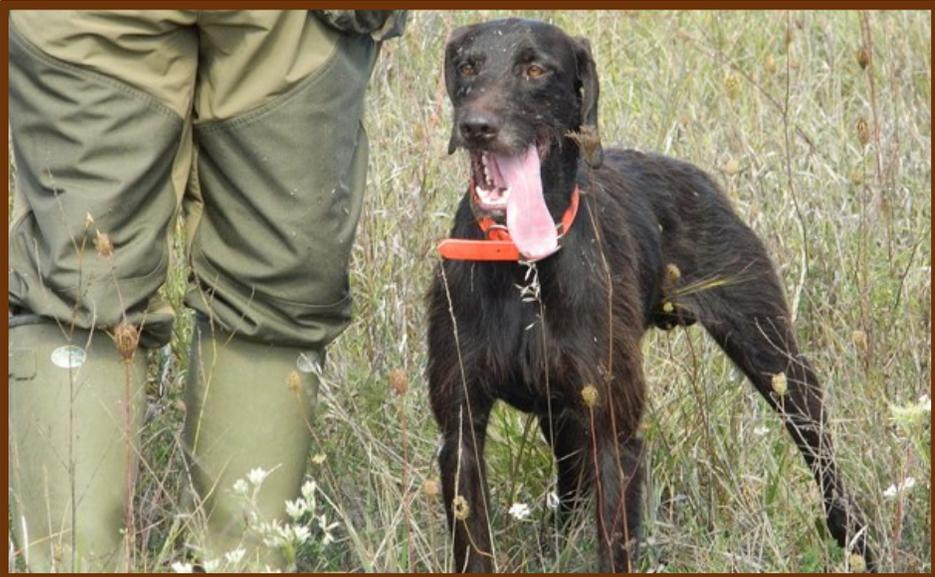
On Saturday I ran Aristide and Bodie. Aristide got his Invitational Title with 196 points. Bodie broke my heart. He did not pass. He had a zero in backing. I was happy to see him braced with a French Spaniel since two days before I trained him with another very similar French Spaniel and he did perfect in backing. After five days of training on every section of the test I considered him perfectly ready for his title. I'm still debating in my mind what went wrong at the test. After the best search I've seen and finding and handling 10 chukar perfectly, he became unglued and totally forgot about backing the other dog. The only thing that I can think of is that his mind was totally concentrated in finding birds and forgot to honor the other dog on point.

There were things that did not make sense to me on some of the judges scoring. For example, I saw Walter and Beau backing each other and in my opinion perfectly, they both got a 3 in backing. How did the judges score backing? After we asked they did not have a clear answer. Aristide had 3 in heeling and 3 at the steadiness in the double mark. The 3 in heeling is a mystery to me. I thought his heeling was perfect. On the steadiness he moved two steps on the second duck throw; I waited many seconds and then command him to fetch. I saw dogs that moved into the water and got 4. I guess that different judges have different opinion.

Our Chapter has now 10 Versatile Champions. I think that we all should be proud to belong to such a successful Chapter!



2013 Invitational (Pics)



Mike Shepard

As a lot you know, Mike Shepard's daughter Brook, is in the hospital in Vermont with a serious illness. She became ill on a trip to visit family after they attended the NAVHDA Invitational. They're a long way from home so we've opened an account to help with the family's expenses. We all know how it feels when a loved one is hurt or ill. If you'd like to help Mike & his family out in their time of need, Brett Marek has set up a account at Wells Fargo Bank and you go to any branch and can donate any amount to: The routing number for this account is: 122000247. The checking account number is: 8252860476.

Anyone may deposit funds to this account but only Shep or Brett may withdrawal or alter account in anyway. Or you may send a Check to Brett Marek

Please donate generously. As of today, October 3, 2013, Mike's daughter is still in the ICU – she has slightly improved but is still very weak. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Shepard family during this difficult time.



NAVHDA International Elections

All NAVHDA International members will soon be receiving a ballot in the mail to vote for the next NAVHDA International Board of Directors. The So Cal NAVHDA Board would like to specifically endorse the following two candidates for President and Secretary:

David Trahan – President

NAVHDA's past leaders have created a strong organization that continues to grow. From that strong foundation, I believe we can take the organization to the next level. I am running to be the next NAVHDA International President and am seeking your vote of support. I hope to bring to this office the value of working together. I plan to work as a team with the Executive Council, in developing more chapters and to increase our overall membership.



NAVHDA International Elections (Cont.)

David Trahan – President (cont.)

I will have an open door policy, with communications to all members. I want chapter leaders, and their members, to feel they have a voice on how the organization of NAVHDA moves forward in these coming years. It's important for all our members to know they can talk with the officers of the executive Council on any issue, and feel they are being heard. I will encourage more chapters to send delegates to NAVHDA's Annual Meetings so that we have a broad base of participation in our mission of moving forward. I would like to expand on our sponsorship base to make sure NAVHDA stays financially sound. I also believe we need to expose other breed clubs to the value of training, and they can realize the full potential of their dogs in our training and testing system.

I have been an active member and advocate of NAVHDA for 20 years. I am an involved and hands on member, and I sit on the Board of Directors for both the Yankee and the Merrimack Valley Chapters. I am a founding member of the Merrimack Valley Chapter and am proud that it has followed in the footsteps of the Yankee chapter, by becoming another strong chapter in New England. I plan to continue working at the local level, helping members move forward in testing and producing quality hunting dogs. My passion is hunting with my wife, my family and our dogs.

While NAVHDA is doing very well, I believe change is good. Change allows for creative new ideas and approaches, which can inspire people to participate in the leadership of the organization.

Personal accomplishments:

- Have been hunting on my own since I was 15 years old.
- Have been married to my wife Carol for 40 years. We have two sons, two grandsons and another is on the way.
- Am a NAVHDA Senior Judge, Clinic Leader and Invitational Judge.
- Have held board position in two NAVHDA chapters including being President and the Director of Judge Development.
- Have handled 36 dogs in all levels of NAVHDA's testing system.
- Am a lifetime member of NAVHDA, NADKC and the NRA.
- Am a Justice of the Peace, a Mason, a New Hampshire hunting guide, and a NRA certified firearms instructor.
- Own On Point Kennel--a web store and am a pro trainer like our founding fathers Bodo Winterhelt and John Kegel were.
- Am a JGHV Judge and a breeder of Deutsch Kuzhaars.
- Have handled in the German testing system in the following venues: Derby, Solms, AZP and VGP.
- Have worked with Ducks Unlimited for 30 years from being prize chair and state chairmen to national trustee.

NAVHDA International Elections (Cont.)

Gabriel Awbrey - Secretary

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my father David Awbrey for passing on an incredible legacy through the world of bird hunting and dog training. He introduced me to NAVHDA as he did with everything else in my life and as I will do with my son Gage.

Like many members, my early years involved planting birds, gunning, and being mentored by great people. I have been a member of the San Diego chapter since 1996. I have served as President, Vice

President, Training Coordinator, Test Secretary, and Bird Steward. My experience and service to others has taught me a lot about training dogs, testing, hunting and I continue to learn from my four legged friends. I have been fortunate to train with my neighboring chapters, So Cal and Grand Canyon and passed the 2009 & 2011 Invitationals with my German Shorthair Pointers.

Recently, I was a member of the San Diego committee to host the 2012 NAVHDA Annual Meeting. I also mentored the new chapter Inland Empire to get them up and operating. Being a NAVHDA judge has allowed me to build new friendships and continue to learn about dogs and our great organization.

I believe in the NAVHDA Mission Statement and our testing system. I believe it must remain relevant and rigorous. Any position I advocate as an officer would involve adhering to the values in our Mission Statement and maintaining the integrity of our testing system. My goals are to help NAVHDA grow beyond the current membership numbers, increase the number of apprentice judges, and facilitate the conversation of adding an additional location to the current Invitational venue.

These are certainly new horizons for me and for NAVHDA. I hope in the coming election I can earn your confidence and vote to serve with integrity in the next term as Secretary of NAVHDA International.

We firmly believe that these two candidates will help the NAVHDA organization to improve, and make some necessary overdue changes. Please remember to vote to ensure that our voices are heard in Southern California!





North American Versatile
Hunting Dog Association

Southern California
Chapter

Kristin Cook
12851 Del Rey Drive
North Tustin, CA 92705

Thats All Folks...

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.
- (5) "Boat Safety", persons under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket when in the boat.

Please support all of the NAVHDA official
sponsors:



Officers

Pat Beaver
President

Kin Gentner
Vice-President

Guido Dei
Secretary and Treasurer

Jon Vesely
Director of Promotions

Kristin Cook
Director of Publications

Juan Hernandez
Training Coordinator

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Please let me know your thoughts, or share your stories. Ideas are always welcome!

Thanks,
Kristin