



North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

Southern California Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

February 2011

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This was the first meeting of the SoCal Chapter of NAVHDA for the 2011 training season. With anticipation in meeting up with returning chapter members and meeting new ones I turned off the expressway towards the Prado training facility. I was rewarded with a clearing view of the Inland Empire as the night's weather had left the San Gabriel Mountains covered with fresh snow. This was my first time back to the training facility since our Fall Test and I noticed changes the minute I passed through the entry gate. There was new fencing being installed at the front field and the field was very wet with

some areas under water. Coming to the first hill going towards the office, I saw the aluminum boat the management uses to tend the ponds on the side of the hill above the road. I thought this was strange since this was so far from the ponds. I later learned the boat was left at the edge of this year's storm run-off high water mark.

As the office came into view I noticed there wasn't the line up of waiting trainers to get in and I thought I was getting there late. The one truck ahead of me belonged to our Training Day Coordinator Jon Auer. After exchanging hello's Jon asked if I had four-wheel drive and I said no. Jon thought the fields he had reserved for our training day may be under water or unreachable. It was agreed he would go ahead and see how things looked and I would hold back. We ended up using the first field just down from the office, which worked great since it was close to our trailer and its cargo of training gear.



After arriving members had a chance to exchange hunting stories from this past season, and expand on some of their bird counts we got to work. Like the start of any athletic season, it was back to basics. The whoa board worked perfect for just that start. Many members including your editor knows that steadiness is easily lost when you start hunting and letting bad habits get over looked. The obedience command of whoa was quickly recalled by dogs that moved off the training board, and for new members it was a chance to see the teaching technique in action.



The training day went smoothly as handlers moved dogs from the whoa board to their work in the small field we all were sharing. The problem with the short grass in the field was overcome by the use of weed piles made by trainers to better hide their planted birds. It was nice to see the spirit of NAVHDA coming to the surface at our first training day! With experienced members evaluating the stage of a dogs development and helping handlers to develop a better hunting partner. As the mud caked and boots got harder to walk in members started to pack up for home, but we all knew we had homework to do and we all looked forward to our next training day.

TRAINING DAY PHOTOS



Whoa Board work



Training Cordinator Jon Auer



Can't fool us Diana that's *Shooter* not *Cayenne*



Kirt Gilliland & *Jager*



Guido getting young *Jager* all excited about being a hunting dog



Kristin & young Richard Cook with *Shooter*

TRAINING DAY PHOTOS



NAVHDA Judge & SoCal member
Hebert Schoderer with *Pirate*



Jeannett McCarroll working a whistle
whoa with *Megan*



Pat McCarroll & *Megan*



Guido didn't forget the water work



Relitives and a reunion

TOURNAMENT NEWS



Report by: Claude Trincale

The Tournament Circuit is Going Strong

There are changes expected in the management and ownership of the BDC, if you want more info please contact me directly.

NAGDA has re-launched their web site with updated information you can get results at www.NAGDA.com.

Starting with NAGDA, both Marcel and I have qualified our dogs (3 Bourbonnais and 1 GSP) for the Nationals. The NAGDA Nationals will be held in Colorado on April 6,7,8 and 9th. At this time we are planning to participate.

On the BCD side! It has been a very busy year with several tournaments in many locations (Nevada, Iowa and California). Nothing to brag about on the results but we are holding our own and qualified for the BDC Nationals at the end of March in Michigan: we are not going, it's too cold and too far to travel. It's interesting to see the level of competition at these National tournaments, there are many professional handlers and what I would call professional tournament dogs. There is money to be won but it's not easy. The entry fees are high by my standards but that doesn't stop the hard-core tournament hunter. For example I



attended the BDC World Championship (*Fletcher* was qualified) last November, the fees were \$395. You got two runs minimum, and up to five if you made the finals. I was in the general area so I went. The next tournament is a BDC in Lovelock Nevada and *Fletcher* and I are entered. After that, it's a local one at 4-Winds near Lake Perris on March 19th. This tournament will use pheasants and is usually a "friendly" event with no payout but some nice prizes by Canidae Dog Food Company who is the sponsor for this and other events.

HUNTERS CORNER



THAT LAST SATURDAY MORNING

It was the last Saturday of the California Upland Bird Hunting season and I was running late. My GSP Heidi Rose was standing on the open truck tailgate with an impatient and worried stare. You would think by now she'd know I wouldn't leave without her. She knows from the filled canteens and gear we're going hunting. It's the biscuits! I was running

late because I was trying to perfect my camp-baked dutch oven biscuits and they were giving me fits.

With my biscuits done and camp cleaned up we set out. My plan was to four-wheel into a sand wash I usually get to with my dirt bike. I had heard chukar calling from the rocky outcroppings above last time I was there but had no idea how to get up there to hunt them. When we reached the wash I saw sand as white as any beach in the Caribbean and the blue-sky morning was beautiful. How fortunate I felt to be outside doing what I love to do with my best four-legged friend. I especially felt lucky when the rest of the country was getting ready for another round of snow and ice and facing one of the worst winters on record.

With a short scouting walk around the truck I saw bird tracks all over in the sand. I thought by hunting the edge of the wash I might find some of these birds. After setting Heidi up with her bell and E-collar we got going. It was no time at all when we were into a covey of gamble quail. With Heidi out front and the big runner that she is, whoa was called so I could catch up. As I hurried ahead to catch up a gamble flushed and I was able to bring it down with my first shot. I waited to freshen the spent barrel in case another bird flushed. There has been too many times in the past these little guys have caught me with my gun broken open and it's a helpless feeling. After what I thought was a safe time I reloaded and took one more step and another bird flushed. This bird took to the air going the other way. I guess the stars were lined up because that bird also went down with my first shot. By now Heidi had come back to see if she had any work to do and she did. I didn't know if she saw any of this so I sent her in the direction of the first bird with a fetch command. This is that special moment spent with a well-trained dog, because there is no way I could find these two birds without Heidi. In no time at all she stuck her nose in a bush and came back with my first bird.

For that second shot bird it was the same and a happy hunter was I.

We hunted ahead with the same idea about working the edge of the sand wash below the rocks. We took a turn up a short draw when a chukar flushed ahead out of range. I guess the covey was on the move when we caught them. Then a chukar flushed in range and it was like shooting at a blimp compared to those rocket ship gambles. It fell with my first shot, a 71/2 from my twenty, and how proud I was to see that bird laying on a big rock up the hill. I yelled fetch for Heidi to go into action as I waited for her retrieve, but just as she got to the bird it got up and took off running. With Heidi in close pursuit this wounded bird had no chance of getting away from my hunting partner.



We worked the center of the sand wash on our way back to the truck hoping we could catch a single bird that used that direction for cover. It was a slow walk up the deep sand towards the truck. When it came into view I started thinking about this being the end of the season and my last hunt. I was already starting to miss the time I would spend out in this quiet setting of the California desert. I realized the team work Heidi and I had as we hunted together, and how rewarding the time we spent together training her

to a prize one utility dog and what that meant to me. It was this beautiful Saturday morning filled with memories and that kind of day I hope you all had a chance to experience this hunting season.

NAVHDA MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY



NAVHDA Judge Greg Weiss and young Mathew

Bob Smith of the San Diego Chapter of NAVHDA was given the task of organizing the dog handlers for this year's San Diego Junior Pheasant Hunt. With many of the dogs coming from the NAVHDA program proving again to be a good source of quality sport dogs. The yearly event thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and help from the Bill and Ingrid Poole Foundation, which was set up to provide fishing and hunting oppor-

tunities for deserving youths was a big success. With some seventy-five San Diego area young people that qualified by taking and passing their hunter safety test. The attending youth participants were cycled through events such as archery, clay target shooting, small bore target shooting and the chance to hunt pheasants over a pointing dog.

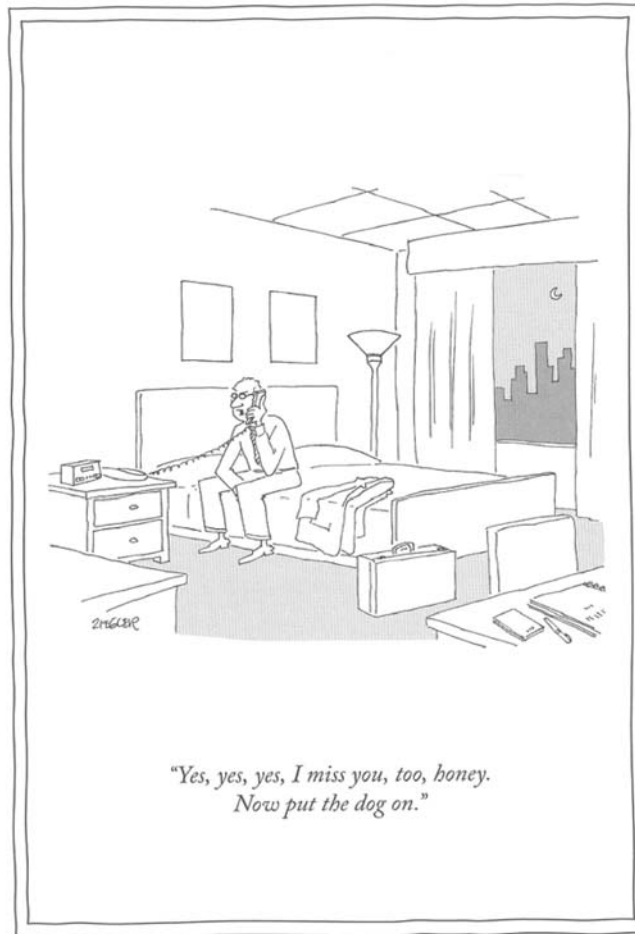
It was a perfect clear day for the event with a strong breeze. This gave handlers the opportunity to work their dog toward planted birds and explain how a hunter watches his dog's movements. With this new knowledge the young hunter could watch the dog as it caught the pheasant's scent and went on point. This gave the young hunter a quality experience of hunting over a gun dog as he was then positioned by the handler for a good safe shot at a flushed pheasant



Dog Handlers Carlos & Juan Hernandez from the SoCal NAVHDA Chapter

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

IF YOU KNOW THE CHECKS IN THE MAIL
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE



**NEXT TRAINING DAY IS
MARCH 20th.**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF NAVHDA**

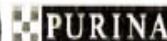
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Training Days Guidelines & Procedures

- (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.**
- (4) No alcohol on premises.**



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