

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

Southern California Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

AUGUST 2010

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TRAINING DAY NEWS FOR AUGUST

There was a good turn out for a training day with temperatures forecasted to reach the high 90's. Members got right to it with Tyler Mitchell quick to set up the "Whoa Board" and with a tethered bird he went right to work. The field sign up board was quickly filed and rotations went fast. I had the

number ten spot that seemed to quickly come up. We used the first large field as you come through the gate. The Prado management had mowed the upper portion making two nice fields for our training. News is that our normal field next to the pond is under grass planting. You could see the sprinklers running as you drove by. The management at Prado has planted a grass that will grow eighteen inches high and require very little maintenance. They also are talking about a new pond on the East side of this field near the tree line. The new grass is a quick grower and is expected to be ready for our fall test.

Rattlesnake avoidance clinic was a big reason the members were willing to brave the heat. Some twenty dogs had been signed up for the clinic with even more that took advantage of a great clinic. Richard Andrews (AKA- Andy) care taker for the Etiwanda Game Association schooled the dogs using three senses: sight, hearing and smell. The young dogs where quick to learn that the snake smell meant business. Then Andy would kick the cage and cause the snake to rattle for sound, and that meant business too. And finally he would put a rattler right out on the road so the dogs could see just what that was that meant business. He then called the owner and gave the leash over with instructions to walk by the coiled rattler. Owners quickly saw their dog's new avoidance body language as dogs always put themselves on the outside with the owner between them and the snake.



RATTLESNAKE CAUTION

A rattlesnake caution from Andy for the months of July, August and September: Andy warns us these months are when young snakes are hatched and the snakes have no rattles. The young snakes are very poisonous and seem to strike curious dogs in the face and nose. He reported two dogs received bites at the EGA Hunt Club this year with one dog's vet bill running in the thousands. **Be careful where you let your dog run!**

Isaiah with *Zola* and learned avoidance

After a great lunch thanks to Jon Vesely we got right to business. Guido with the help of our president Bob Worrell and Steven Loeffler started opening ballots for the new Chapter Officers. A big thank you from the members to out going officers for their commitment and dedication to our Chapter. Garo Massakian out going Vice President, Chris Gentner Training Day Coordinator, Claude Trincale Secretary/ Newsletter Editor. The August 15th 2010 election consisted of a total of 44 ballots, which counted for 59.4% of the total membership. This percentage made a valid election according to our bylaws. Chapter members are looking forward to working with the newly elected officers to bring new ideas and improvements to our chapter.

Current So. Cal. NAVHDA Officers

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

Bee Attack at Training Day

Just as chapter members were setting up for a full day of training on the front field at Prado they struck. Rick Jordan was pounding in his stake out for his young dog *Bella* when it started. Rick thinks the bees had a ground hive and the ground vibration setting the stake was what set the bees off in their defense mode. He said it started with just one on the back of his hand and next they all hit. He said he was having trouble getting his dog free from the leash so he just pulled the stake out and ran to free his other dog who was locked in its kennel. Rick said it was every man for his self after that. Both dogs and Rick got hit pretty bad.

Members came to the rescue as our new “Hunters First Aid Kit” was put into action. Jeanette McCarroll administered an injection of Benadryl to *Bella* with the effects of the drug going to work immediately. Rick was worried about his dogs safety so he left the training early with a possible vet visit ahead. A call by your editor later in the day found Rick at home with both dogs doing fine. Rick said he pulled off the road twice going home to check on the dogs. Although both dogs where OK later that day. Rick said he wasn’t feeling so great. He said his wife dug seven stingers out of the back of his neck and he got bet about seventeen times. An e-mail the next day said he’s doing fine after his attack from “Giant Africanized Killer Bees (Chino strain)”.



Members gather around *Yager* to help Rick Jordan

CHAPTER TEST

Southern California Chapter of NAVHDA is gearing up for its 2010 fall test. Guido Dei as Test Secretary has test entries in place with a full capacity of dogs to be tested each day. With a Friday start to a three-day test; September 24 through the 26th. Using two locations to meet the NAVHDA test criteria, Prado Regional Dog Park and Mike Raahauges Shooting Enterprises. The two locations will give the Judges “an environment that reflects actual hunting conditions and situations”. Dogs entered in the Natural Ability test will complete the test at Prado and dogs taking the Utility test will use the large pond at Raahauges for the “Duck Search” portion. The Raahauges pond with its dense marsh grasses will test a dog’s ability to penetrate cover in search of wounded waterfowl.

This is a chance for members to come out and support their chapter by volunteering to help put on a great test. Guido has put a list of jobs on the website, so pick one and sign up. This is also a chance for you to expose your young dog to the “test atmosphere”. And what is that! It’s the bundle of emotions that fill the air at test time, and I think the dogs can sense it. It’s an opportunity for maturity development in a young dog. In the June issue of our VHD magazine the article “Take The Mystery Out of Testing” Mr. Drew states “until I could observe an actual dog going through the necessary motions of the various components of the test, and until then, I would be confused and not able to help my dog obtain his full potential”. So come out and learn about testing, support your NAVHDA chapter and have some fun.



Judging Team, dog and handler at Raahauges pond 2009 testing

August 2010 Training Day Photos



Jorge and Caezilia Racano with *Hannah*



Wes Beavers and *Lexi*



Tyler Mitchell and *Bull*



New member Brian Fraser and *Chase*
with
Scott Burns, *Apolo* and his new puppy
Carson



Dick Byrne with *Duecee*



Jeanette McCarroll making a "Whoa"
correction to *Megan*

August 2010 Training Day Photos



Isaiah and *Zola*



Rocky Herbert and *Chase*



Steve Woodard and *Simon*



Carlos Hernandez and *Mio*



Tim Cooper's Support team Tom, Shelia
And Jody with *Gunter*



Bob Boatman with *Barkley & Gracey*

August 2010 Training Day Photos



Jim Bellmayer and *Liberty*



Ellen Kincaid and *Gelati*



Richard Bergeron and *Pepper*



Jack Johnson's *Bell* forgot to say goodbye



Steven Loeffler and *Stella*



Tyler & Isaiah working *Zola* on the whoa board



**So. Cal. Chapter's new Training Day Coordinator
Jon Auer**

With our next training day coming up September 19th and our Fall Test that same week, Jon's thoughts about training that Sunday are more about evaluating were your dog stands in its training. We usually hold what we call a mock test on that training day, but because of time members can't complete their total test. It would be best if testing members concentrate on the weak areas where they think work needs to be done. Jon thought by making himself available for members that are having a particular problem would be the best approach. Also! A heads up to Jon about what equipment you may need from the trailer will speed your day along. Jon can be reached by e-mail at; jonolddog@aol.com and Cell # 714-342-8380

TEST TIP

Testing tip for the handler! Be aware of the wind direction before you start your fieldwork. Knowing the wind direction will give you a plan for working your dog into the wind as your dog searches the field. By working your dog into the wind the dog will have its best chance to use its nose to make quality contacts with planted birds. This also will help to avoid the "bumped" bird event; "While running a dog causes the bird to flush without giving any indication that it was aware of the birds presents". Important to note here; When a "bumped" bird event happens when a dog is running with the wind it is (not) considered a fault. So! If this happens and you know the wind direction the judging team would be happy to have this pointed out.



HUNTERS CORNER

This year could be a repeat of 2005! As reported by Jim Mathews in his 'Western Birds' newsletter. With all the rain we had this winter and on into spring, reports from desert areas look promising. Jim speaks to Dick Haldeman, Quail Unlim-

ited's regional director who said from Fresno to San Diego quail broods ranged from 10 to 12 young birds per pair. This he says is about double the normal. Your editor has also been out scouting and has seen birds that look like they came from double clutches, with the fuzzy young birds trying to keep up with the covey. With all the bugs from those late spring rains the brood survival rate should be high.

Local Hunt Clubs also are giving upbeat reports for this year's season. As reported in "Western Outdoor News". The clubs are happy with their planted fields and the quality of natural cover, with some clubs looking forward to a growing population of resident Valley Quail.

Now that report should get you up and out of your easy chair. Remember! It's not too late to get your four-legged hunting partner ready for a good days quail hunting, and a little work on your end might get you in shape for that next hill where you hear all those quail calling.

California General Quail and Chukar season opens on the third Saturday in October. Good luck and good hunting.

Updates

TICK WARNING

A tick infestation has been spotted near our training field. The bugs are in the dry brush on the hillside just above the road used to get to field one. This is the area just above where we conducted the snake avoidance clinic. This area is also home to many ground squirrels that can be seen running from the training field as you approach. A curious dog that follows these rodents into this brush will be covered in ticks by the time it comes out.

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF NAVHDA**

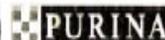
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Visit NAVHDA at
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Training Days Guidelines & Procedures

- (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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