



North American Versatile
Hunting Dog Association

Southern California
Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

February 2013

President's Message

With hunting season over, we are all getting back into training. Our January training day was a successful event. Thank you Juan for coordinating everything and Linda for bringing us lunch. There were several new members in attendance. I am glad you could join us.

I just wanted to comment on something I observed during our training day. Many of us used our time visiting and waiting around

until it is our time in the field, water, etc. I know from experience that there is an abundance of information to be learned by simply following experienced handlers into the field as they work their dogs. Most of us that have been training for awhile are happy to have a few extras in the field with us so our dogs get used to working around people. Just ask if you can join us.

For new members, get familiar with what is required from NAVHDA for testing. That is a great basis of what is needed to make your dog a good hunting companion. When walking in the fields or watching water work you can see the different steps in training that help accomplish your goal. Having that understanding is very helpful when you are training your own dog. Hope to see you all next training day.

Pat
-Pat Beaver



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 Future Dates to Remember	
2/17/2013	Training Day - Prado @ 7:30am
3/17/2013	Training Day - Prado @ 7:30am
4/21/2012	Training Day - Prado @ 7:30am



**The Next So Cal NAVHDA Training Day is coming up:
02/17/2013**

Tracking in Natural Ability

Normally pheasants are used for this test, but chukar might be also used.

In my opinion tracking a live pheasant has nothing to do with Natural Ability therefore I'm a very maniacal to train puppies for this test.

Tracking is the section with the highest percentage of dog failing to pass the Natural Ability test.

You must teach your young dog two important lessons:

1. Tracking is a very cool, calm job, where no nervousness or excitement is tolerated.
2. All dominance between dog and master ceases, i.e. you are now equal partners! As trackers, we never loose our temper and never punish the dog (remember: we can't make him track!). We move in slow motion and have endless patience, even if it takes us 3 hours to complete a 100 yard trail.

I start teaching tracking after I teach my dog the down position. For many times I do drags with dead birds, pigeons, chukar, pheasant before attempting to let a live pheasant go.

I start with rubbing the dead bird on a spot in the field, then pulling out feathers and leave them in

the same spot. The first time I drag the bird, and leave it on the ground after a maximum of 20-30 yards. I pull some of the feathers out of the bird every 5 yards or so; nearby the feathers I use flags; you must mark each track carefully, so you know the exact location of it - you can't help if you don't know where the track is. Also I put some dog's treats by the flags and let the dog eat them. I use pieces of cooked beef liver. You can use any treat that you know that your dog loves. I will not feed my dogs the day before the tracking lesson is done.

Always remember to put a sign or a flag at the beginning of the drag also.

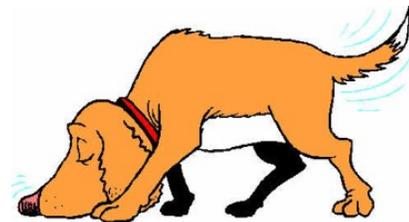
Then you take your dog with a tracking leash 24-36 ft long, attached to a soft, pliable collar.

You take your dog about four ft. in front of the starting spot and you command him the down-position order. After the dog is in the down position he cannot move until ordered. You start touching the feathers with your hand then you command him to track. I use the word "Track" as the order for the dog to track. You can use any other word or command, but this word or command is used only for the tracking section.

When the dog starts the track you need to be able to read him and handle the leash accordingly. You must know exactly where the bird has been dragged.



Tracking in Natural Ability (continued)



Tracking with a long leash is a bit like holding the reins of a horse - it is the telegraph between you and your dog. With some experience, you will learn to "feel" your dog and "read" some of the difficulties he faces on the trail. But before you reach this level, you must spend a bit of time teaching your dog.

All these preparations must be identical every training session. The dog needs to establish a routine in his mind so he understands: This is a tracking time not hunting time!

If your youngster shows interest in other scents than the track or loses the track you just stop, leash firmly in our right hand. Since we're not moving anymore, young dog now may start to swing "like a pendulum" in front of us. The moment he crosses the track you gently give him some "rein" and help him along onto the track. If, however, he's too far off the track already (this shouldn't happen unless you're asleep!) - make him lie down to rest and cool him off and you can then take him by the collar and put him back on the track where he lost it, touching the ground with your hand. The same applies to a dog that gets excited or starts pulling strongly on the leash. By pulling the dog expends a lot of energy and furthermore "fights" the handler. Both is counterproductive and must be stopped early on.

Once he reaches the end of the trail you're always extremely happy about this "find" - to the point of being silly. I personally like to make quite a show of this happiness by rolling on the ground, playing with the dog! Give him plenty of treats! The purpose of this is twofold: first, we simulate the excitement of the "kill" within the pack, and second, we praise our dog's work. We take some time to sit with him, watch him eat and enjoy the companionship.

After your dog consistently does good short and straight tracking you keep increasing the length and add bends and angles making it a more and more difficult.

How much tracking work should you do? The best is to start early with a pup, but be careful not to overwork the dog. Once he's lost interest in tracking, you lose more than a few weeks correcting him (if possible), so it pays to take it slow. And always work the dog when he's hungry!

When the dog has assimilated the tracking work with drag birds you may start work with a live bird and you'll see how well he'll do it!

You should need no more than a couple of months before the N.A. test for your dog to become very proficient in this section of the test.

When your dog is trained for this section of N.A. he will be also ready for the drag section of the Utility Test.

- by Guido Dei

So Cal NAVHDA Training Day!

So Cal NAVHDA's first training day of the year was held at Prado on January 20th. I was pleased at the number of members that were present, which included several new members to our chapter. Our training day coordinator, Juan Hernandez, did a great job briefing everyone in on the activities planned for the day. Dogs were divided into two fields - one for dogs preparing for the Natural Ability test, and the other for Utility and Invitational dogs. In addition to the training activities, we also had a professional photo shoot in progress by Jack Hancock of Jack Hancock Photography - I can't wait to see the pictures, Rodge!

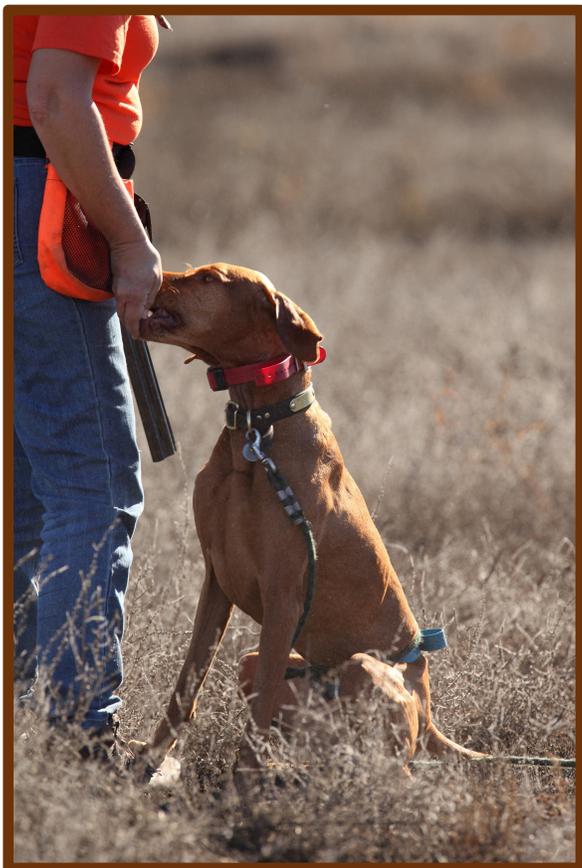
Our February training day will be held at Prado this Sunday, February 17th at 7:30 a.m. Linda Mitchell will again be providing lunch for \$5 per person (Thank you Linda!). Members that need birds will either need to bring their own, or purchase them from Prado when they enter the gate as our members who normally have birds for sale will not be able to attend Sunday's training day. I hope to see everyone on Sunday!



January 2013 Training Day Photos



January 2013 Training Day Photos



2012 End of Year Treasurers Report

Year End Summary

Expenses	(\$12,037.63)
Donation	\$609.24
Dues (Test Entries and membership)	\$9,579.00
Foods	\$557.00
Raffle	\$1,710.00
Sales	\$392.50

Year End Balances

Balance on Checking Account	\$5,826.30
Balance on Saving Account	\$3,581.16
Assets (Estimated)	\$4,974.53

2012 End of Year Assets

Quantity	Items	Manuals	Cost	Location of the items
1	Trailer		\$1,500.00	Prado
2	10'x10' Easy Up canopies	1	\$450.00	Trailer
1	Winger Zinger Hunt Tester	1	\$624.00	Trailer
1	Winger Zinger spare rubbers & pouch		\$105.90	Trailer
1	Folding Canoe	1	\$330.30	Trailer
1	Canoe Paddle		\$29.09	Trailer
1	Kayak Paddle		\$70.00	Trailer
2	Bird crates		\$210.00	3in the trailer
3	Bird Bags		\$60.00	1 at Guido's, 2 in Trailer
1	Heeling stakes		\$70.00	Trailer
1	Blind		\$35.00	Trailer
2	So.Cal.NAVHDA Banner		\$240.00	1 at trailer; 1 at Chris Gentner
10	So.Cal.NAVHDA Road Sign		\$60.00	Trailer
1	Dry-eraser board		\$65.00	Trailer
2	Plastic Pools for dog water		\$30.00	Trailer
1	Dog bath tub		\$25.00	Trailer
2	Plastic foldable table		\$60.00	Trailer
1	Training Table		\$100.00	Trailer
1	NEF Starting Pistol with 22 blanks		\$125.00	Trailer
2	Birds releaser (Tip-up)		\$78.00	Trailer
2	DT bird launchers with transmitter		\$478.00	Trailer
6	Motorola MH 230R 2-way radios	1	\$109.24	At Guido's
8	Duck Decoys		\$0.00	Trailer
2	Manual bird launcher (quail and pheasant)		\$80.00	Trailer
1	Check cord		\$20.00	Trailer
1ea	Steadiness pole and platform		\$20.00	Trailer
12	Aluminum Boat		\$600.00	At Prado
2ea	Oars and locks for boat		\$116.29	Trailer
1	Winger Zinger Hunt Tester	1	\$539.98	Trailer
1	Winger Zinger Remote Control	1	\$120.00	Trailer
2	Winger Zinger Remote Receivers	1	\$226.60	Trailer
	Total Assets		\$4,974.53	

"In the News"

- In the Field by Field and Stream

Outdoorsman can be an innovative group. They often find items intended for other uses, making it easier to cope with conditions ranging from backyard to backcountry.

Indeed, the manufacturer of Bounce, a fabric freshener and softener designed for the dryer, probably didn't envision the myriad uses that hunters, fisherman, hikers, runners, et al have found for this Proctor and Gamble product. While people most commonly toss them in their dryer to keep clothes soft, tried and true outdoorsman have found numerous other uses for this commodity containing biodegradable catatonic softeners and perfume. Varied usage includes the following:

- Fisherman can place a sheet of Bounce in their vests, fanny pack, shirt pocket, or tie a loop around their belt to keep bees, yellow-jackets, wasps, mosquitos, gnats, or flies away. It will also repel ants when a sheet is laid near them.

- Spreading sheets around foundation areas or in trailers, cars, or campers deters mice from entering.

- To freshen the air in a tent, motorhome, or camper, hang an individual sheet of Bounce inside. In your car, place a sheet under the front seat.

- Prevent musty suitcases or duffel bags by placing an individual sheet of Bounce inside empty luggage before storing.

- Clean baked-on foods from a cooking or frying pan. Put a sheet in the dirty pan, fill with water and let it sit overnight. In the morning, sponge it clean. The anti-static agent apparently weakens the bond between the food and the pan.

- Collect and remove cat or dog hair from car or truck seats. Rubbing the area with a sheet of Bounce will magnetically attract all the loose hairs.

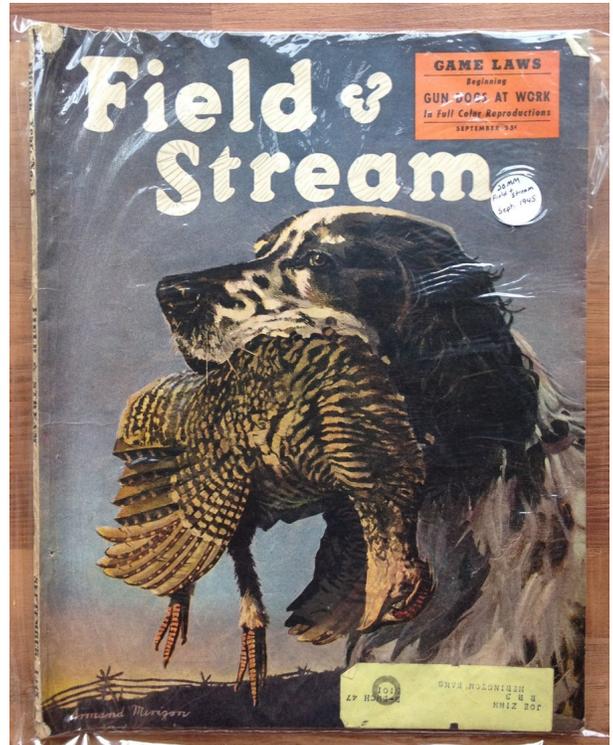
- Eliminate odors in dirty laundry. Place an individual sheet at the bottom of a laundry bag or hamper.

- Deodorize shoes or sneakers by placing a sheet in them overnight.

- Put a Bounce sheet in your sleeping bag or tent before folding and storing them. It will keep them smelling fresh and will deter nuisance pests.

- For removing dried on bugs glued to your car, set a sheet, hose down the vehicle, then easily wipe them off.

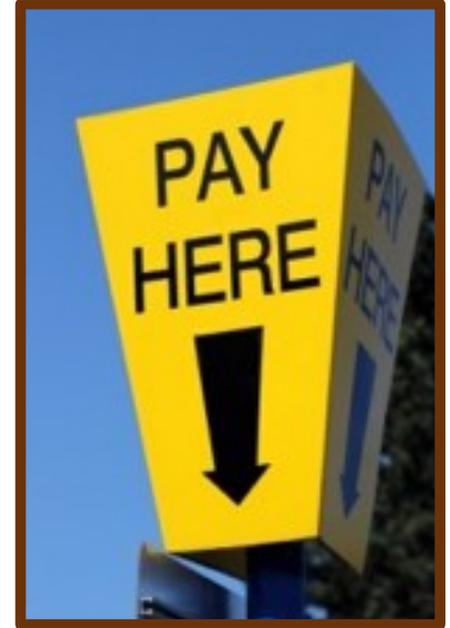
- Keep a sheet in your suitcase or duffelbag, even after you have unpacked, to prevent bugs from nesting in it.



Don't Forget to Pay your 2013 So Cal NAVHDA Dues!

It's that time of the year again for members to pay their annual membership dues for their So Cal Chapter membership. Individual membership dues are \$25, while family memberships are \$35 for the year. Please take a minute to mail your check to Guido to keep your membership valid. Remember that your Chapter membership dues are due on January 1st of every year. There will be a \$10.00 late fee charge for all dues paid after March 1st and members will be considered delinquent and dropped from the chapter roster if dues are not received by April 1st. Please make your check payable to:

So. Cal. NAVHDA
2731 Copa De Oro Dr.
Los Alamitos CA, 90720



Swamp Seasoned Fried Duck

Ingredients

- By Duck Commander

- Filleted duck breasts, no skin
- Water
- Milk
- Flour
- Oil
- Phil Robertson's Smokin' Swamp Seasoning

Instructions

Soak duck breasts in fresh water for three days in the refrigerator. Change water several times.

After three days, meat should look gray instead of dark red.

Beat the breasts with a meat hammer as you would beef.

Season flour with Phil Robertson's Smokin' Swamp Seasoning

Soak breasts in milk then roll in the flour.

Add to heated oil and fry like chicken fried steak.

Serve, say Grace and Enjoy!



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Produced for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for Ad campaign. Licensed music by Kenny G.. This short video won Grand Prize - Best of Show at International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula Montana! The majority was shot on location in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and The National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Visit:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=BUOQ_yPW_0s

- Scott McKinley Productions 2012

Do you have an article, story, or recipe that you would like to share?
Please send to kristinhcook@gmail.com to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Quote of the Month

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful!"

- Ann Landers



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:



PURINA



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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