



North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

Southern California Chapter

So Cal Chapter News

April 2011

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Our April training day was a beautiful spring day and a great day to spend with your favorite hunting partner. Our home training facility was still retaining storm runoff from this year's winter storms so we were directed towards the hill above the large pond we usually park near. Prado management had harvested the crop grown on the hillside and it left us with a great area for training. With a little cross country driving we were able to position our group just above the pond which also gave us a water area for some water work.

In putting your April newsletter together and going through the many photos taken during the training day I came to this photo of Guido, Jon and Wes. The three members are working *Lexi* on the training table and the photo inspired me to

get out my "Green Book" and turn a few pages to see just how important this work is to the development of the versatile hunting dog. I have always thought this work was the back bone to this development and wanted to read what authors Winterhelt and Bailey had to say. I hope all members have this book and I strongly advise you getting one if you don't.



I remember when my dog was just a puppy and I was running her up one side and down the other and calling “whoa” as she came to the middle of this platform. I remember how the instructor in her puppy obedience class thought I was missing something when I used “come” as a release word. This was what I was following from the “Green Book’s” teaching at this phase of her development. You are building and working on as stated in the book “Confidence in and respect for the trainer. The trainer must cultivate this confidence and respect in order to bring out the dog’s innate desire to please. The success of future training and field performance depend on it”. This was the connection I was working on with my dogs first adventures on this board.

For those members who have never heard of this book, the title is “The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog” by Sigbot “ Bodo” Winterhelt and Edward D. Bailey. It can be purchased from the NAVHDA store. The book in it’s opening pages talks about how to use the training lessons and suggests reading through the hole book as many lessons run together. It is a great book to go back to when you are having a training problem that is difficult to overcome and it may shed light on a step your student is weak in or missed. I have noticed how some members seem to disappear when they are teaching the “ Force Fetch” as though only one thing can be worked on at a time. The book states “retrieving lessons go on at the same time as lessons in whoa and come and proceed simultaneously and in conjunction with them”. It may be time you introduced your dog to this teaching tool because the “Forced Fetch” is the back bone of versatility.

Our work day at our Prado training facility has been changed to June 26th. The hope is that water levels will be such that cattail planting will take. Make room for this event on your calendar as areas for water training become harder and harder to find.



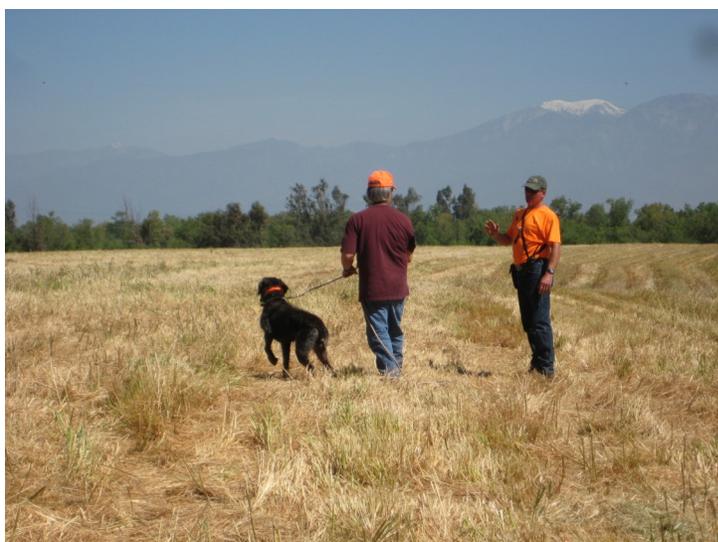
TRAINING DAY PHOTOS



New member Anthony Mennillo with
His young Bracco Italiano



Kirt Gilliland & *Jager*



Dan Disanto & *Niko* working with
Bob Worrell



Kim Gentner making a puppy delivery

TRAINING DAY PHOTOS



Bob Worrell working with
Rocky Herbert & Chase



Cover Girl Cora



Jeannette & Jim McCarroll
Herb Schoderer
Ruth Weiss



Lunch is coming up

EVENT CALENDAR FOR MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNSDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 TRAINING DAY	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 SoCal Chapter Fun Hunt	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Southern California Chapter



So. Cal. Chapter 6th Fun Hunt May 22, 2011

Come join us at the Prado dog training facility in Chino Hills for a day of fun and getting ready for the upcoming hunting season.

All proceeds go to the So. Cal. NAVHDA Chapter. Non-members welcome.

Lunch will be available at the site for a small charge

Raffle prizes

Field cleaning option

Bird cleaning available (\$2 per bird)

Bobwhites will be used for the Fun Field

Trophies in each Division

You must be at the gate by 7:30AM, the managers will open the gate and let us in (\$15 fee applies as usual) then the gate will be closed. The Dog training facility is closed that day and they are doing this as a favor to the So Cal NAVHDA. If you are late you will not be able to get in.

The Teams running order will be determined at the field site.

Volunteer if you can

**Three events: Fun Field, Fun Water Retrieve, Fun Blind Retrieve
Questions? Call Claude 714 290 7500 or Guido (562) 481 6897**

Fun Field:

\$60 per run

3 birds (Bob Whites), 15 minutes runs

Dog must point for 3 seconds after the handler calls point (voice or hand raised) 10 points

Hunter shoots the bird, you start with 6 shells -2 ¾", 7.5, no magnums. Only hinged frame break-open shotguns of conventional gauges can be used.

Dog must retrieve to within 1 step of the pivot foot

Team (Hunter-Dog) may enter/run twice

Fun Water Retrieve:

\$20 per run

1 bird in auto launcher across the pond

Dog on whoa/sit/down/stay by the blind

Hunter gives command to launch the bird (time starts)

Hunter shoots the bird

Dog releases on its own or by command

Swims across pond to fetch and retrieve the bird to 1 step from pivot foot

Time is started by the judge upon launching the bird

Time is stopped once the bird is in the hand of the Hunter

Time is called – lowest time wins – ties broken by re-runs

Team (Hunter-Dog) may enter up to 3 times

Fun Blind Retrieve:

\$10 per run

5 minutes

2 dead birds, 50 yards one at 10 o'clock and one 2 o'clock

Hunter brings the dog to the start area releases the dog (time starts)

Time is stopped once the two birds are in the hand of the Hunter

Time is called – lowest time wins – ties broken by re-runs

Team (Hunter-Dog) may enter up to 3 times

Fun Field Technical rules and Points earned:

The Hunter is ultimately responsible to take *only safe shots*

Safety can be called by either the Hunter or the judge on the dog or other unsafe shot

Safeties will earn full points minus 2 points unless the dog did not point the bird (3 seconds)

E-collars are allowed but cannot be used to establish Point

Hunter cannot Whoa the dog on point

Birds must be found in-bounds but the dog may retrieve out-of-bounds

Hunter must remain in-bounds at all time

Hunter cannot go out-of-bounds to flush a bird but may throw an object (not a live shell)

Dog can be out-of-bounds but may not interfere with another field

Voice, hand, whistle commands are allowed but not to establish a Point

To establish a Point the dog must remain in a fixed position for 3 seconds

A bird must be produced from that Point to earn the points for the Point

Hunter may Whoa the dog after point is established

The Hunter may not shoot the bird on the ground unless directed by the Judge

Retrieves must be to hand or within one step of pivot foot

No gun or other extension may be used to reach and retrieve the bird

If the bird wild flushes while the dog is establishing a Point and the dog remains on Point for the 3 seconds the point will be considered “established”, the hunter may complete the sequence for full points (i.e. shoot the bird etc)

Anything not specified is just something that happened and will not earn points

Safeties earn 28 points and forfeit a shell (38 points if the dog was on an established point)

Non-performing birds will be scored as a Safety and must be taken out of the field

Each established point is worth 10 points

Each Full retrieve is worth 10 points, 5 points for a partial retrieve

Each bird in the bag is worth 20 points

Each remaining shell is worth 10 points

Trapped bird Minus 5 points (all other points apply as appropriate) and a shell is forfeited

Each remaining minute earns 2 points (round down)

Highest points win

1st tie breaker is lowest time including seconds, 2nd tie breaker 1st bird in the bag, 3rd tie breaker flip of coin

Hunters can be DQ for

Mistreating their dog

Taking an unsafe shot

Being verbally or physically abusive to anyone including the Judge

Any external assistance received to find birds (cheating)

Alcohol or non-prescribed drug use on the field prior to or during a run

(a grievance committee of 3 board members will decide)

San Diego NAVHDA Chapter's Spring Test Report

By: Jeff Derbes

We camped at Lake Henshaw and ferried to the test grounds each day. Your editor had a cold so I drove from home each day. Consequently I cannot report on any shenanigans that occurred in camp. So “what happened at Lake Henshaw stays at Lake Henshaw”.

We had nice cool days ideal for field work. We want to thank all the volunteers that took time out of their busy schedules to contribute their time to a successful test. We also want to thank our judges; Senior Judge Tracy Nelson that came all the way from Iowa, Ruth and Greg Weiss, Jim Carpenter from Flagstaff, Herb Schoderer, and Apprentice Gabby Awbrey.

We want to thank Tracy Presson for arranging the grounds. We had good cover and great water, and those in attendance were not charged an entrance fee!

We had several members run in the test, and their scores/prizes are listed below. The scores are not on the International's web site as of press time so there are some scores not reported to me. Once the International posts scores we will post all the scores on the San Diego chapter web site testing page.

Juan Hernandez with Cora UT 200/prize II
Richard Thomas with Sarge NA prize II
Ellen Kincaid with Gelati UT 200/prize II
Ed Gebelein with Rocco NA 84/ no prize
Ericka Dennis with Beppe NA 112/prize I
Garo Missakian with Ace NA 100/prize III
Tracy Presson ran seven dogs in NA and I do not have any of their scores.

The So Cal chapter had four members run in the test.

Rick Jordan with Bella UT 166/prize III
Rick Jordan with Jagar UT 191/prize II
Christopher Larrison with Garbonita Brave Little Indian NA 112/prize I
Vicki Lepenske with Magnum, I do not have a reported score

Those of you looking forward to testing in the future get ready for the So Cal chapter test in September.

SPRING TEST PHOTOS



HUNTER'S CORNER



Our California quail hunting season starts each year with an early opening in the Northern portion of the state for Mountain Quail. These birds have also been called Mountain Partridge, Painted Quail and Plumed Quail. The bird has a straight "Topknot" consisting of up to three feathers that look like one standing straight up from the top of their head. Unlike many of nature's birds, the male and female Mountain Quail have very similar coloring. Much is not known about these birds that appear to differ in many ways from other North American quail. Naturalists that study these birds have called them secretive because of their habit of staying on the ground under dense cover. The birds have a varied diet and use foraging strategies to utilize different seasonally

abundant food sources with plant matter being their main food. Invertebrates make up less than 5% of an adult bird's diet and young birds consume up to 20% animal matter for a protein source. In the summer these birds have been known to dig in the ground for bulbs and forage in trees and shrubs for fruits and seeds. They seem to specialize on locally available food so their diet of plant matter may very considerably form area to area. Found in the crop of birds I have harvested was a pasty matter I think came from them eating acorns. It is reported that the autumn diet of Mountain Quail found in the High Desert areas of the Joshua Tree National Monument, consist in a major degree of acorns from scrub oak. Naturalists have seen acorns where the birds have been feeding that are soft and green at the base. These acorns were found with cuts in the green base that fit the cutting edge of the top and lower mandibles. It is believed that they cut into the shell at the base, open a hole, and split or cut away the remainder of the covering.

Mountain Quail regularly migrate short distances, usually descending to lower elevations for the winter, staying below the snow line. It is strange that they make these migrations as a covey but return in the spring singularly or in pairs. Mountain Quail are not seen in large compact coveys like Valley Quail or Gambel's except when they are moving to water. The covey seems to be looser with each bird often as much as ten feet from its nearest neighbor. When alarmed they usually run, but flight is not rare. When a covey does take to flight it

tends to scatter in many directions in an open spread pattern. The use of flight when not pressed is very limited and usually seen along steep canyon walls when birds will cross the canyon.

A good water source is very important to Mountain Quail with them making two to three trips to drink per day. The availability of water is a limiting factor in the drier desert ranges and reproduction is strongly linked to the amount of rainfall in those regions. Dusting holes can be found near watering sources, and it has been questioned, is damp sand and the coolness it affords actually sought for "dust-bathing" by this species? Or is it only the result of this birds frequent trips to water.

Nature has its threats to the safety of a Mountain Quail, but habitat destruction especially from human development seems to be the biggest threat. Urbanization in the mountain ranges of Southern California and the habitat changes that this has caused seems to be the cause for this birds population decline, not hunting. Protection and conservation efforts in Idaho and Eastern Oregon where hunting Mountain Quail has been banned still has seen a decline in bird numbers. This seems to suggest that habitat loss rather than excessive hunting is the cause. Mountain Quail populations in the Sierra Nevada and the Costal Ranges of California appear to be stable.



Diagram of green scrub oak acorns showing method Mountain Quail use to open base of shell

My hunting success for Mountain Quail has not been an easy task. Limited vehicle entry to areas where I have found Mountain Quail has caused me to plan my hunt carefully. The long hike with needed water to keep my hunting partner safe means much of the time is spent keeping my dog in check to conserve the needed energy when we get to the hunting area. At a spot in the Mojave high desert where I have found these birds all of what I have read seems to ring true. I have not found their water source yet, but I know it is there. They feed on acorns from scrub oak and I have found dusting holes in the sand. I use my dog to search the steep canyon walls with my shots taken as the birds take to flight crossing the narrow canyon to reach the other side. I could not imagine having success hunting these birds without a gundog and have felt so rewarded when I have harvested such a challenging bird to hunt.

LITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Legacy Kennels

A NAVHDA REGISTERED KENNEL

Sire: VC Garbonita Weissbier Eckhard (aka Ace)
Versatile Champion 200 points OFA Good
NA 110 points prize 1 - UT 199 points prize 1



Height - 24 inches, Weight - 65 lbs. Coat - dense medium harsh, whelp date 1/16/2007.
Ace is a hunter first, and an excellent family dog. His great desire is only overshadowed by his cooperation and willingness to be a team hunter. Ace is a very easily trainable dog. He excels both in the field and the water. He has hunted wild pheasants in the Dakotas, quail in the Southwest, ducks from the blind, and dove.

Dam: Heidi Rose Legacy Fradella (aka Heidi)
NA 112 points prize 1 - UT 202 points prize 1 OFA good



Height 22.5 inches, Weight 47 lbs. Coat: medium dense medium harsh, whelp date: 7/11/2006
A truly versatile hunting companion with a history of hunting ducks, dove and Upland birds She is a very good community member with daily down town city walks that demonstrate her polite and obedient manner. She is a true desert-hunting machine with drive and determination to find game.

Expected whelp date June 2011

Contact Rodge Fradella delta@tstonramp.com

Phone: 909-625-7264 Mobile: 909-399-5810

More info. - <http://home.earthlink.net/~derbes/>

Weimaraners:

Breeder: Meredith Wadsworth and Anne Taguchi

Contact Info: 310-944- 0884 anne@touchstoneweimaraners.com

DAM: Westweim's Southern Style NA III/98 (pointed towards her FC), OFA-G PennHip 0.27/0.29.

SIRE: DC Outdoor Life of Riley CD SDX RDX VX2 UT III/159, OFA-E, thyroid normal (MSU), elbows normal. (SDX = Shooting Dog Excellent; RDX Retrieving Dog Excellent. These are both Weim Club of America Test for Weimaraners only and both indicate testing and passing at the highest levels.) Riley is also a retired certified therapy dog (TDI).

Whelp Date: Pregnancy confirmed by ultrasound, puppies due around April 30th.

More info: [Announcement](#);

<http://southpawweimaraners.com/>

*5 girls and 3 boys
Born April 28th*

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF NAVHDA**

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Visit NAVHDA International at:
www.navhda.org

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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**



**Please support all of the NAVHDA
official**