

# ***SOCAL NAVHDA***



## ***ON POINT***

**NEWSLETTER September- 2015**



**"Roy" on Point**

**VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY**

**NAVHDA NATIONALS WHOA!**

**Porcupines Honoring**

## **ATTEND THE SOCAL NAVHDA POTLUCK—Sat. Oct 3**

**Immediately after test about 4 p.m.**

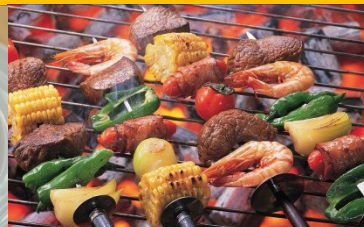
Every family has that one dish everybody loves!!! Please bring that dish, yourself, your kids or(grandkids) and your dogs to Prado on Saturday October 3. **Hint: Many people love dessert!!!!** If you want to run your dogs for awhile in an open field, get them in the water or just enjoy the company of many of the people you have met through SOCAL NAVHDA, we would love to have you attend. If your idea of cooking is a local drive through, or frozen pizza simply visit COSTCO or your local market and pick something up from the deli. If you don't have time to pick something up **SHOW UP ANYWAY!!! Sometimes that's the best way to POTLUCK** (see Wedding Crashers). **The most important part of any POTLUCK is not the food IT'S THE PEOPLE.** I have never organized a potluck before and some hinted that it just might be beyond my capabilities (it probably is!!). However, I strongly believe in our SOCAL NAVHDA members and believe they will show up in force to have the **BEST POTLUCK EVER HELD AT PRADO ON OCTOBER 3RD.** Some ulterior motives might be A). Finalize or begin hunting plans for this season B). **FREE FOOD** C). Great excuse to get out of the house and run your dog D) **FREE FOOD** E). Support friends running in test F). Bird field will be full of chukar after the test G). **Who else tells you to bring your DOG!!!** H). If new, see what the test actually looks like \*\*\*It is probably true I don't know how to run a potluck. I will provide electricity to keep things warm, a gas barbecue grill, shade and ice chests

If you know what your bringing shoot me an email as to what your bringing ,keeping a list might be helpful so we don't have 20 versions of baked beans and **NO DESSERT (hint: people REALLY like dessert).** If you have any questions text/call me at 760 559 3173 or email me at [gary\\_johnson@busdk12.com](mailto:gary_johnson@busdk12.com)

Look forward to seeing you there, Gary Johnson

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# WHOA!

By Gary Johnson

Whoa is one of the most important commands for pointing dogs. Before we get started do not be very assertive with "whoa" around a young or beginning dogs when around birds. Sometimes this will transfer into not liking birds or wanting to be near them. You want your bird dog to be crazy about birds BUT have the patience to STOP and WAIT for you!! You can begin by having your pup stand still as you stroke them and say whoa. An occasional treat will keep them interested. Don't overdue it. A few repetitions before nightly feeding is plenty. Try to get them to extend and wait a little longer each week before you pet them or give treats. Eventually they'll stand pretty good for you (lunch time is waiting!). Now put a half hitch and check cord on them and walk and stop with the whoa command. The pressure on their belly with the check cord will teach them to pay attention. Don't overdo it 5-7 repetitions is sufficient. As they get 4-6 months old you may want to continue the first drill but have them stand on a barrel. Many feed stores have used ones cheap. Or you can find one on Craigslist. Set your pup on the barrel. Have the barrel propped between 2 rocks/bricks. After the first day jitters start your program again saying whoa. If they fall off it's OK they are learning to concentrate with some pressure. Once they have mastered this game (week or two) remove one of the bricks. The barrel will not be stable in one direction. As they learn to stand steady with this give the barrel a nudge with your knee. You do not want them to fail, but rather struggle for success. Don't forget to stroke them as you repeat whoa. Give treats once or twice per session to keep them eager. End with lots of affection and praise and of course FOOD IN THE BOWL. When this is mastered remove both bricks, now the barrel will be unstable in both directions. Your pup can do it though and will look forward to the challenge. After the pup has mastered the whoa with the barrel you can probably put it away for a few months. When you start working on steadiness at a year or year and a half you can use whoa on the barrel again and have a bird on a pole and tease them with the bird to teach them to remain steady. Of course, there are many ways to teach whoa and steadiness, possibly this method may help you in your training. **HAPPY TRAINING.**

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**Is that the pheasant from the N.A. Test?**



## **Santa Barbara**

### **Dog Show**

Kevin and Staci Billy's dog Mika has been participating in AKC Conformation events in addition to NAVHDA. Mika is pictured to the right with Breeder Jeff Olson of Firemountain Vizsla's. Staci is pictured with Mika above. Many of our NAVHDA MEMBERS have GSP'S. The top show GSP in the nation is pictured top right and at bottom.



### **Best In Show 1291 entrants**

**GSP— GCh Vjk-Myst Garbonitas California Journey** Handler: Valerie Nunes-Atkinson  
Owner: V Atkinson, A Manning & Y Hassler-Deterding Breeder: Alice Manning, Anita Weiss & Valerie Nunes Atkinson Some of you may recognize the name Anita Weiss, she is a NAVHDA MEMBER and tests in NAVHDA at PRADO semi-regularly. She is from Arizona.



**Kevin and Staci Billy's Mika was selected best Vizsla bitch at the Santa Barbara Kennel Show. Can you identify which photo's are from that dog show and which are from a NAVHDA TEST OR TRAINING DAY?**





**Guido Dei and his family went hunting in Montana and shared these photos of their trip. Beautiful country. Steven Loeffler and Chris Gentner were also in Montana for part of this hunting adventure. Thanks for sharing Guido!!**

### **You are Invited!!**

**Please attend the world's best NAVHDA POTLUCK many NAVHDA members are bringing their family's favorite dishes to Prado on Saturday, October 3 . We will begin serving immediately after test ends at approximately 4 p.m. .**





**DO NOT  
TEACH  
WITH THE  
E-COLLAR  
USE A  
CHECKCORD**



**3 D's of Dog  
Training  
Distance  
Duration  
Distraction**

**WHERE  
MEMBERS  
TEACH OTHERS  
HOW TO TRAIN  
THEIR BIRDDOG**



**KBILLYPHOTO**

# INVITATIONAL BOUND

## Ralph Martinez & Citori



My journey began back in 2009. My first hunting dog Mia had gotten injured at the beginning of the hunting season, for the second year in a row. This year she stepped on a shard of glass which split her pad wide open (the previous year she fell off a small cliff chasing a wounded chukar). As most of us know, hunting without a dog is just not the same. So, I decided I needed a backup. I searched the internet for breeders. This is when I discovered NAVHDA, a testing system that assessed the versatility that I expected from my hunting partner. I researched dogs, the NAVHDA testing system, and test scores of individual dogs. However, acquiring a dog became more difficult than I expected. My wife and I had our first child. An artificial insemination breeding with a kennel in Arizona fell through. I finally contacted Juan and Carlos Hernandez about their first litter, but I was too late. Early in my search, I had come across Gabby Awbrey's kennel. He had numerous videos posted on YouTube displaying great dogs at work, but he did not have any puppies available. So my search for a dog was delayed until 2012. **In 2012 one of Gabby's dogs Great Oaks Take Aim (Sugar) was being breed to Mio vom Beaver Creeks. As I had already researched both dogs' pedigrees I made the call. I was put in contact with Sugar's owner, Dennis Zamora, and a few month later I brought home Citori.** In the beginning I had no desire to test my dog. I just wanted a dog to hunt, but Citori showed so much promise I felt obligated to test her. We passed the Natural Ability test with a 112 (a week after she was hit by a car!) and the Utility Test with a 201. Now we are off to the Invitational in Ohio on September 12. **Firstly, I would like to thank my wife Kelly and my kids for their endless support. I would like to thank Gabby and Dennis for breeding an awesome dog and giving me valuable training tips. Thanks to Guido, Pat, Cliff Fleming, Mike Shepherd, Brett Marek, and Jim McDonald for all their advice on running the Invitational. Thanks to Gary Johnson, Ty, and Mark Matteson for their willingness to help us prepare. Without the SoCal and Inland Empire NAVHDA clubs my dog would not have been able to reach this level. My hope is that Citori and I can represent these Southern California chapters well and return with the VC title.**

## 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. **Members holding a gun in the field must 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.

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## SOCAL NAVHDA ON THE ROAD



Gary Johnson, Kevin Billy and Clint Lager are pictured after the hunt test in Northern California. The dogs left to right are: Mojo, Griffin, Mika and Duke. These SOCAL NAVHDA dogs performed well and everybody had a great time. Camping facilities were available at the hunt club. The testing site was fantastic and the restaurants in the area were excellent. After testing all went to a local winery that allowed dogs in the vineyard and river that flowed through it. The one thing that could make the experience better would be if several more of our SOCAL NAVHDA members participated.

## AKC Hunt Test Hastings Island Hunt Club





## WHERE MEMBERS TEACH OTHERS HOW TO TRAIN THEIR BIRDDOG



Thank you to **Shirley Olsen of VannOlsen Photography**, **Dan Mick**, **Kevin Billy**, **Guido Dei**, **Irene Fradella** and **Kevin Billy** for the terrific photos this month



## Steve and Ty work on tracking with Cory



Raffi Barbarian's new pup Alaska is pictured above. Alaska is a DK . . . the German model of the German Shorthair. Pictured to the left is Jim McDonald's Large Munsterlander, Ryder. Ryder has received the UT 1 Prize - 2 times.

If you have any unique, memorable moments while training, hunting or when you are in the midst of a local adventure please snap a photo and email it to us. We would love to share that memory with your fellow members. Email these memories to [gary\\_johnson@busdk12.com](mailto:gary_johnson@busdk12.com).

KBILLYPHOTO

# Breed of the Month

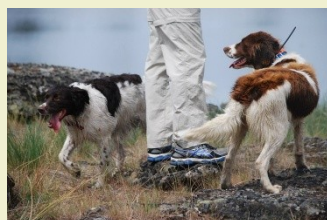
## Drentse Ptrijsmond

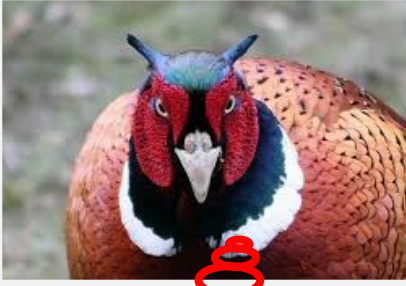


The province of Drenthe three hundred years ago was unusual, in that it allowed the common gentry the right to hunt. The local mayor, the farmer, and landowners in general developed dogs to support their pursuit of various small game. Unlike many other hunting breeds, which were developed by, and for, the elite or nobility only to hunt, the Drentsche Patrijshond was expected to hunt all game, and also pull duty as watch dog, child playmate, etc. Some were even used to pull the dog-carts of the day. For over 300 years, the Drentsche Patrijshond type has been an all-around dog.



Perfectly suited to the walk-up (upland) hunter, the Drent is thorough, in order to find all the game on the smaller plots available in Drenthe. It hunts with good speed, within reach of the gun. As with most European versatile breeds, the Drentsche Patrijshond points and retrieves, and will hunt both birds and small mammals, including rabbit, hare and fox. Today, the Drent is a favorite gun dog throughout its native country of the Netherlands, with approximately 5,000 dogs registered with the breed club. In the 16th century the breed originated from the Spioenen (also called Spanjoelen) which came via France from Spain. In the Netherlands they were called Partridge dogs. In the eastern part of the country, especially in the province Drenthe, these dogs were kept purebred and were not mixed with foreign breeds as done elsewhere. The rural Province of Drenthe was unusual, in that it allowed "even" the common gentry the right to hunt. Thus, the local mayor, the farmer, and the "landed" population in general needed a dog to support their pursuit of various small game. For over 300 years, the Drent was that dog. Unlike many other hunting breeds, which were developed by, and for, the "upper crust" only to hunt, the Drent was expected to hunt all game, (and even varmints), and also pull duty as watch dog, child playmate, etc. Some were even used to pull the dog-carts of the day. The Dutch Drent breed club has founded the Drent breed on three "pillars": hunting, pet qualities, and watch dog. During the breed's long history, the Drent had to pull "triple duty". Not only was the dog expected to help put meat in the pot, it was expected to warn of visitors to the farm or estate, and to be a pet "par excellence" for the family. This is what makes the Drent such an ideal hunting dog for us in the US. Not only are they intelligent enough to be useful in hunting a variety of game, they are also marvelous additions to the family. The Drent is a true versatile hunting dog.





WHAT'S IN  
YOUR MOUTH!!!!



This is a beautiful dog that looks very similar to a Large Munsterlander only with Liver & White. It is very rare in the United States

For the sportsman who wants to hunt leisurely without too much physical effort in the varying fields, this is the ideal dog. The dog hunts within range of the gun and searches the game without going too far away from the hunter. Keeping in touch with the hunter seems necessary for him. When approaching the game he points as firm as a rock and impeccably at a moderate distance. When pointing, the dog is waiting for the hunter to come near; when this takes a long time, he will look back for his master. Since his North American introduction, the Drent has proven to be an excellent choice . Even though a day of hunting may include birds as varied as sage grouse and chukars, and terrain as varied as high desert sage brush and aspen thickets, the dogs are capable of switching gears as fast as needed. Best of all, they enjoy it all. He has the adaptability needed to hunt all manner of upland game and waterfowl. After the shot, he retrieves from land and water and has a reputation as a determined and efficient finder of lost game. These characteristics are innate, therefore he needs little training. Because of his gentle character, it is wrong to train him with force. The Drentsche Patrijshond is a versatile spaniel-type hunting dog from the Dutch province of Drenthe. Called the Dutch Partridge Dog (or "Drent" for Drenthe) in English, approximately 5,000 dogs are registered with the breed club in the Netherlands, and breed clubs operate in Belgium, Denmark, Scandinavia and North America. **The Drentsche Patrijshond bears some resemblance to both spaniel and setter types of dog. An excellent pointer and retriever, this dog is often used to hunt fowl and adapts equally well to the field or marshes. In the Netherlands, these dogs were called partridge dogs.** In the painting, the partridge dog leans against the hunter's knee, as the man is handing a woman a partridge, which was a double entendre at the time. In November 2010, the AKC recognized the Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America (DPCNA) and the Drentsche Patrijshond was added to the AKC Foundation Stock Program, allowing owners of registered Drents to participate in AKC sanctioned events such as hunt tests and agility competitions, starting in 2011.

**Though the breed shows a strong hunting instinct in the field, and can be quite driven, these dogs tend to be more relaxed in the home than many of the hunting breeds. They are strongly attached to family members, loyal, and of sweet disposition, particularly with children.** Happiest when working alongside a hunter, the Drent enjoys the company of humans in the great outdoors. Several brisk turns around the park will satisfy it as well. Although it will come home and quietly assume its position on its bed, it should not be mistaken for a sedentary dog - the breed will suffer if insufficiently exercised.



## **HUNTING WITH DUKE**

VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY

**Clint Lager's Duke slams into a point as he catches scent of a chukar.** One of the great things about training at Prado is that there almost always is a field that is perfect for whatever training you are doing. **On this particular day Duke was working on backing**, also called honoring, and it was helpful to have a field with short cover so that the other dogs could see and identify that a dog was on point. The other dogs then need to recognize that a dog is "on point" and must stop their own hunting, and point at the other dog to respect the fact that he has found a bird. Once the bird "has been worked" hunting will resume for all dogs. Pointing dogs that "honor" or "back" are pure joy as the dogs seem to be in a free-lanced choreography searching for birds. **They are independently hunting yet ever mindful of the other dogs and handlers.** If you have never seen bird dogs backing imagine Olympic figure skaters on the ice simultaneously doing their spectacular routines and then without notice all suddenly stop skating to observe one lone skater that has found the ultimate success. For our Versatile Dogs this success is usually finding a Quail, Pheasant or Chukar.



**Clint and Duke** finish a recent test in Northern California. One of the judges is giving an explanation after the brace.



Above **Buck**, **Ty Mitchel's GSP**, finds the planted bird and **Duke**, **Clint Lager's Vizsla** backs him. Ty and Clint discuss in the background how they will "work the bird". This may entail which way to flush the bird. Who will be the gunner. Will both dogs be "allowed to retrieve"? A dog that does not show good manners generally is not allowed to retrieve the bird. This encourages them not to be greedy and try to "steal the point". These dogs will wait in this position until Ty and Clint decide to move forward and flush the bird. If both dogs are steady through the flush, shot and fall they will be rewarded with a retrieve and possibly even an ice cold sip of water!! Some dogs learn this surprisingly quickly as it almost is a part of their DNA like the pointing instinct. Both dogs usually improve their steadiness and manners. **When should we begin practicing this skill?** It's best to wait until your dog is steady to flush, shot and fall while also having a very dependable retrieve to hand. After finishing the force fetch process and taking the UT test might be a good time to consider training this skill. The force fetch not only will significantly help your retrieve but your dog's obedience will generally improve as well. It is helpful to have a very obedient dog before you decide to turn 2 or 3 loose in a planted bird field.



# MEMBER PHOTOS



**VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY**



# TRAINING AT PRADO



# training day



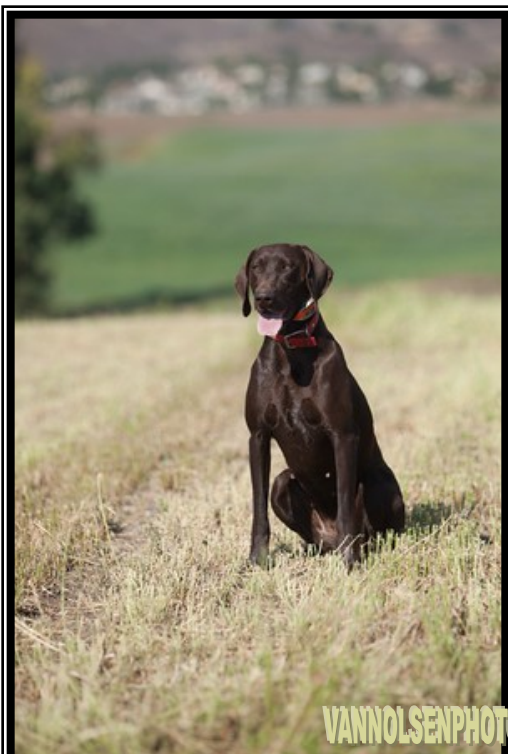
VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY



KBILLYPHOTO

In the UT test the “Steady by the Blind” Sequence has many different components. All of them are critical to scoring well. You will start out with your dog heeling next to you through heeling stakes as seen at the left. Your dog should walk at or behind your knee. Most people use the left knee but either is fine. Once through the heeling stakes you will have your dog sit behind a “blind”. You will now walk into the woods where the dog cannot see you and fire two shots. Your dog is not allowed to move. You now leave the woods, walk to your dog, lead him away from the blind and command him to sit, down or whoa. YOU now walk into the blind and someone fires a shot from across the pond you shoot, THEY shoot and NOW a duck is launched over the pond. You will aim at this duck and fire your shotgun again. That’s a total of 6 shots without your dog moving. You will now walk to your dog and command him to fetch the duck that is now in the pond. He must swim through 6 decoys and return the duck to you. The duck needs to be returned to your hand. If all goes well you will receive a “4” on this portion of the test. Many parts of this can be practiced at home. Heeling, patience, etc. Good luck!

Having access to birds is very important when training a bird dog. Pigeons are usually cheapest and most available.



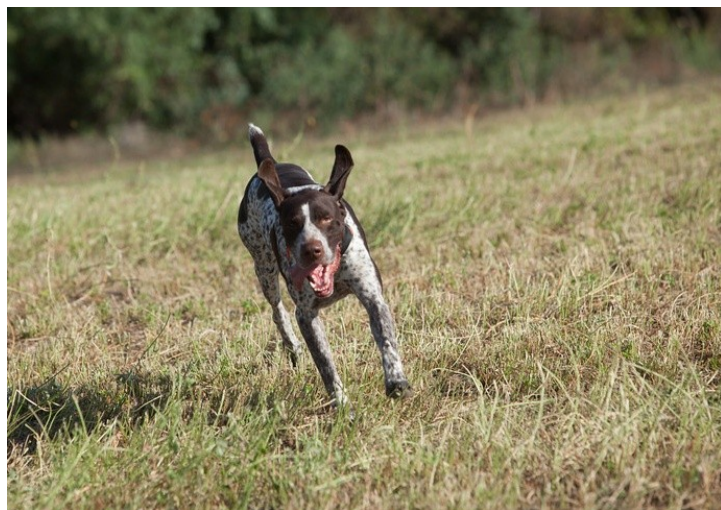


VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY

While at Prado take advantage of training in other fields. This is a freshly cut alfalfa field located above the NAVHDA POND. It is easy running for the dogs and easy walking for the handlers. You can also "read your dog" better as they are much more visible than when the cover is belly deep. Multiple dogs is also nice so your dog can catch a rest and cool down between runs.



VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY

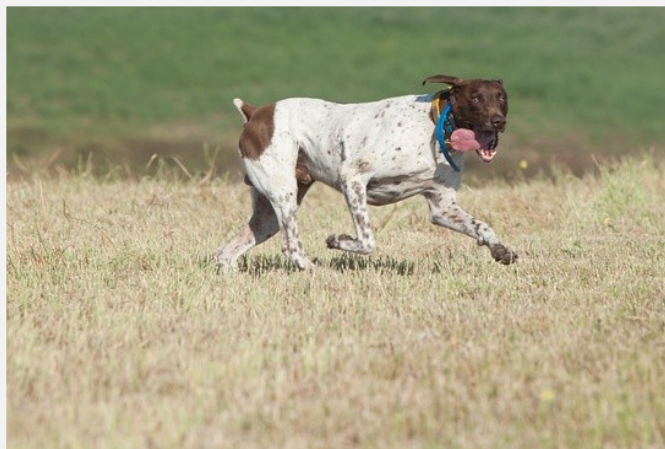


VANNOLSENPHOTOGRAPHY



**WHERE MEMBERS TEACH  
OTHERS HOW  
TRAIN THEIR  
BIRDDOG**

**Buck works the field looking for the birds.  
In the picture at the right he is getting  
“birdy” and almost ready to go on point.**



**Griffin, below, on point.**

**Mojo, at right, on point.**



**Ty Mitchel and Clint Lager gunning as Griffin  
waits for the fall, and the release to retrieve.**



# SOCAL NAVHDA



**WHERE MEMBERS  
TEACH OTHERS  
HOW TO TRAIN  
THEIR BIRDDOG**

## SOCAL NAVHDA MEMBER BENEFITS

1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
2. Have your unlimited webpage site within the [www.Socalnavhda.com](http://www.Socalnavhda.com) website for 10.00\$/year.
3. Access to the Members Forum in the Chapter Website Password: "best dogs" with a space between the two words.
4. Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers.
5. Participate in a monthly training day.
6. Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
7. Have access to the So.Cal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
8. So.Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

## *NAVHDA SPONSORS*





## September Training Day Prado

**Guido Dei's dog Blake is pictured at the right after saying hello to a porcupine on their Montana hunting trip.** Porcupines are abundant in the Midwest and hunting dogs have no trouble locating the slow moving rodent. **This is exactly why you should always have a needlenose pliers or leatherman with you when hunting.** There are many theories on what to do in this situation . . .vet/no vet, snip the end and pull or just pull. **Most locals will pull all that they can see as quickly as possible and then go to a vet for a follow up.** It is easy for the average owner to miss a few, especially those in the mouth and nose. Quills that break off or penetrate will migrate through the dogs body causing other problems along the way. Occasionally they will pop out in other areas after migrating. Notice that he also has quills in his left foot and there is another dog with quills in the bottom right of the photo.

**If you and your dog have a porcupine encounter have a plan! It is very helpful to have a hunting partner hold your dog while you pull quills. Try not to let your dog roll and break them off. Pay extra attention to eyes, ears, nose and mouth.**





Kevin Billy & Mika (below on left) Clint Lager & Duke (on right) exit the field after running in the same brace in the Sr Hunt Test at Hastings Island Hunt Club. Most people train to pass 2 NAVHDA tests (there are 4), yet you hopefully will own your dog for 10 years or more. When you are not hunting or NAVHDA TESTING it is enjoyable to participate in other activities with your dog. Hunt tests with other organizations are an excellent choice for you and your dog. Many times you will find that NAVHDA dogs are much better prepared than the dogs not involved in NAVHDA. They almost always are more VERSATILE. It's not unusual at these tests to meet several people that have sent their dogs to a trainer to learn how to hunt. Sadly, many of these dogs don't perform well at the tests as the OWNER is not the TRAINER, and the dog knows it. **NAVHDA dogs will hunt. NAVHDA will help you and your dog become a team.**



Interestingly, Clint had a brace the previous day where he and the other handler used the same whistle type and Clint's Whoa command was the other handlers Go or Hunt command. This left both handlers frustrated and their dogs confused. Do you have a Plan B ready if you end up in this situation?

# SCHEDULED EVENTS

OCTOBER 2,3,4 7:30a.m.—6p.m. Testing at Prado

OCTOBER 3 *World's Best Potluck Ever at Prado on Oct 3*

OCTOBER 11 Training Day at Prado

NOVEMBER hunting season, those not hunting may train individually or in small groups

DECEMBER hunting season, those not hunting may train individually or in small groups

JANUARY - TBD

FEBRUARY- TBD

MARCH- TBD



Kevin Billy and Mika, Sep. 5, AKC Hunt Test, Hastings Island.

